



### BRIEF



CM Bhupesh Baghel addresses a press conference during the first phase of the state Assembly elections, in Raipur, Tuesday.

### Show cause

**New Delhi:** Aviation watchdog DGCA has issued a show cause notice to Air India for non-compliance with norms pertaining to facilities that are required to be provided to passengers. Last year, the regulator imposed a penalty of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for not complying with the provisions of Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on denied boarding of passengers.

### Mishap

**Thane:** Three persons died and two injured when their car fell off a bridge onto a moving goods train between Karjat and Panvel railway stations in Maharashtra on early Tuesday morning, police said. The accident took place between 3.30 am and 4 am as the car was heading for Neral on Mumbai-Panvel road, said an official of Panvel police station.

### Suspension

**New Delhi:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday recommended to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena the suspension of DPC chairperson Ashwani Kumar for allegedly stopping a study to ascertain pollution sources in Delhi and shutting down an anti-smog tower, government sources said. The file recommending the suspension of Kumar, a senior IAS officer and principal secretary (home) in the Delhi government, has been sent to Saxena, they said.

### Service

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Malaysian carrier Malaysian Airlines will launch a direct flight service between Thiruvananthapuram and Kuala Lumpur from November 9. Malaysian Airlines would be operating the Thiruvananthapuram-Kuala Lumpur flight with Boeing 737-800 aircraft with a capacity of 174 passengers including business class, a TIAL spokesperson said in a statement here on Tuesday.

### Restrain

**Chennai:** The Madras High Court on Tuesday restrained expelled AIADMK leader O Paneerselvam (OPS) from using the AIADMK party's name, flag, symbol and letterhead. Justice N Satishkumar granted the interim injunction on a petition filed by AIADMK general secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), which sought to restrain OPS from using the party's name, flag, symbol and letterhead.

**Weather**  
High 32 Low 17

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,406.70  
SENSEX 64,942.40

**BULLION**  
GOLD 60,310  
SILVER 70,725

## BASTAR VOTES: VOTER TURNOUT 71%

Raipur, Nov 07:

A provisional turnout of around 71 per cent was recorded in the first phase of Chhattisgarh assembly elections for 20 constituencies on Tuesday, voting for which was held in separate time slots, amid Naxalite violence and the call for boycott, officials said.

Voting for 10 constituencies was held from 7 am to 3 pm in 10 seats and from 8 am to 5 pm in the rest 10 segments under a thick security blanket of police and paramilitary personnel in the Naxalite-hit Bastar division.

Notably, nearly 1 lakh security personnel have been deployed for the first phase of polls. "A 70.87 per cent voter turnout was recorded till 5 pm in the first phase of the Chhattisgarh elections on Tuesday. However, this figure may go up as the final data from several booths was yet to be received," a poll official said.

Of the 20 seats for which polling was held on Tuesday, 12 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes.



Voters show their identification cards as they wait in a queue to cast their votes for the 1st phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, at a polling station in Jagdalpur, Bastar district, Tuesday.

### Naxal encounters, IED blast mars 1st phase of polling

**Kanker:** An IED blast triggered by Naxalites and three different encounters between them and security personnel marred the first phase of polling underway in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, officials said. A commando of CoBRA, an elite unit of CRPF, was injured in the improvised explosive device (IED) blast triggered by Naxalites in Sukma district while his unit was undertaking an area domination operation to ensure security during the polls, they said. An AK-47 rifle was recovered after an encounter between Naxalites and security personnel in Kanker district, where polling is being held in the first phase of the state assembly elections, the officials said.

A total of 223 candidates, including 25 women, were in the fray and as per electoral rolls, 40,78,681 voters

were eligible to exercise their franchise in the first phase.

Out of the total 20 con-

stituencies that voted on Tuesday, 17 were won by the Congress and two by the BJP in the 2018 assem-

### Four security personnel injured in encounter

**Sukma:** Four security personnel were injured on Tuesday in an encounter with Naxalites in the forest between Minpa and Duled villages in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, where polling for the first phase of the assembly elections was held on Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred around 2.20 pm under Chintagufa police station area when a team of Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) 206th battalion, an elite unit of the CRPF, was out on patrolling to ensure security during polls, a senior police official said.

bly polls. Last time, the Congress had won 68 out of the total 90 seats in the state decimating the saffron party, which was in power that time, to 15.

In the previous assembly polls, a voter turnout of 76.47 per cent was recorded on 18 seats in the first phase. This time, two more constituencies were included in the first phase.

## 'Naxalites and terrorists get emboldened whenever Congress comes to power'

Surajpur, Nov 07 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the Congress for failing to contain Naxalism in Chhattisgarh and said whenever the party comes to power at the Centre, Naxalites and terrorists get emboldened.

Addressing a rally in Surajpur district of Chhattisgarh, Modi also targeted Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel over the alleged Mahadev betting app scam with the slogan "30 take kakka, khule aam satta" (30 per cent commission government,



openly operating betting). CM Baghel is popularly called 'Kaka' (uncle) in the state. Modi said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will bring out the truth of the Mahadev app scam and no matter how big anyone (involved in the alleged scam) is, will be sent to jail.

### 30 Take Kaka, Khule Aam Satta...

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### Nitish wants to raise SC/ST, OBC reservation to 87%



Patna, Nov 07 (PTI):

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday told the state assembly that he was in favour of raising the quotas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the state. Kumar made a statement to this effect while taking part in a debate that followed tabling of a detailed report on the caste survey commissioned by his government.

## 'Country's assets are being given to corporates'

Balod, Nov 07 (PTI)

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday claimed the BJP-led Centre has handed over assets of the country to big industrialists.

Addressing an election rally in Balod district of Chhattisgarh, she said the caste census will help in giving equal representation to every section of societies and draft policies for their welfare. She said violence, misrule and poverty prevailed when the BJP was in power in Chhattisgarh under Raman Singh.

"The Congress government in Chhattisgarh worked for the public welfare for five years, but what did the Central government do? Two aircraft each worth Rs

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RECORD HOLDER

## People in 126 villages of Bastar division vote in newly setup polling stations

New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI)

People of 126 villages in the Naxalite-hit Bastar division of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday cast vote in polling stations which were set up there for the first time since Independence, the Election Commission said. The poll panel described the 126 new polling stations in the left wing extremism-affected areas as "triumph of ballot over bullet" with a functionality recalling the recent remarks of Chief Election

Commissioner Rajiv Kumar that participation of everyone from every region in democratic process will be ensured and sufficient security forces will be deployed to ensure the security during the elections. Amid an encounter with Naxalites in the Chintagufa police station area of Sukma district in which four security personnel were injured, the poll panel described the first phase of assembly polls in the state as "free, fair and largely peaceful".



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

8,000 crore were procured for Modi ji. A new Parliament building was built spending Rs 20,000 crore. "When this was announced, I was in Uttar Pradesh and sugarcane farmers there were on the streets seeking their dues running into Rs 15,000 crore. Modi ji has money for Parliament building and aircraft but not for farmers," Gandhi Vadra alleged. She said the caste census

is necessary to give proper representation to all sections and frame welfare policies.

"Modiji says he comes from the OBC category but he rejects our demand for the (caste) count. BJP leaders have become frustrated with our demand," the AICC general secretary said.

Targeting the Centre, Gandhi Vadra said, "They had promised crores of jobs to youths and to double the income of farmers but didn't fulfil these promises. The farmers are crying. They (the government) also destroyed institutions where youths used to get jobs. They destroyed small businesses which were the engine of the country by implementing demonetisation and GST rollout".

## Delhi's odd-even scheme 'all optics'

New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI)

The Delhi government's odd-even car rationing scheme to curb air pollution Tuesday came under scrutiny by the Supreme Court which questioned its effectiveness and termed it "all optics".

The apex court, which was hearing a matter pertaining to debilitating air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), asked the counsel for the Delhi government whether the odd-even scheme had succeeded when it was implemented earlier.

"These are all optics, this is the problem," a bench of Justices Sanjay

Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia observed.

The court's observation came a day after the Delhi government announced its decision to implement odd-even car rationing scheme from November 13, a day after Diwali, when pollution levels are likely to shoot up even further.

The apex court is seized of a plea filed in 1985 by environmentalist M C Mehta on air pollution and the issue of crop residue burning had cropped up during the hearing of the matter.

## 'Ban on barium firecrackers binds every state'

New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI)

The order banning firecrackers containing barium binds every state and is not just limited to Delhi-NCR region, which is reeling under severe air pollution, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

The clarification by the top court, which had in 2018 banned the bursting of conventional firecrackers to curb air and sound pollution, will have ramifications across the nation.

The court also sought the response of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on stubble burning,

after it was told that farm fires in states adjoining Delhi were affecting air quality in the national capital. A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and MM Sundresh asked the Rajasthan government to comply with its earlier directions on bursting of firecrackers during Diwali.

"Sensitising common people about the harmful effects of firecrackers is the key. Ironically, nowadays children don't burst many firecrackers but elders do. It is a wrong perception that it is the duty of the court when it comes to pollution and environment protection. People have to come forward. It is for everyone to manage air and sound pollution," the bench said.

## Aditya L1 captures first high energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares

Bengaluru, Nov 07 (PTI)

ISRO's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, has captured its first high energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares.

During its first observation period from approximately October 29, the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) on board Aditya-L1 spacecraft has recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, the space agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

A solar flare is a sudden brightening of solar atmosphere. The recorded data is consistent with the X-ray light curves provided by National Oceanic and



Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES).

"Commissioned on October 27, 2023, HEL1OS is currently undergoing fine-tuning of thresholds and calibration operations. The

instrument is set to monitor the Sun's high-energy X-ray activity with fast timing and high-resolution spectra," it said.

HEL1OS data enables researchers to study explosive energy release and electron acceleration during impulsive phases of

solar flares. HEL1OS was developed by the Space Astronomy Group of the U R Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO, Bengaluru, the agency added.

HEL1OS, the hard X-ray spectrometer on Aditya-L1 Solar Mission by ISRO, is the harbinger of flaring activities on the Sun, with the ability to capture the early impulsive phase of the solar activity.

According to ISRO, flares produce enhanced emission in all wavelengths across the electromagnetic spectrum radio, optical, UV, soft X-rays, hard X-rays and gamma-rays. Flare emission consists of emissions from accelerated particles and hot plasma.

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# Central Observers review election preparations

Bhilai, Nov 07:

Central General Observer DS Gangwar and Central Special Expenditure Observer Rajesh Tuteja reviewed the preparations for election work done by the District Administration and Police Administration and gave necessary guidance to the officers during a meeting held the other day. In the meeting, Central Special Observer DS Gangwar discussed with the concerned Election Observer and Returning Officer about the polling stations with low voting percentage in various constituencies of the district and took information about the reasons for the low percentage. He said that the district administration should take necessary initiatives to motivate voters to vote as per the guidelines of the Election Commission. Proper arrangements should be made in the polling centres, special attention should be paid to



ensure that voters do not face any kind of inconvenience in the polling centre. He said that relationship management should be developed with the people who do not come to vote. Repeated messages should be sent from the election call center to the voter's mobile number to motivate him to vote. Gangwar said that information should also be taken from the candidates of the constituency

regarding the efforts being made by them to increase the percentage in the centers with less voting. He also asked all the returning officers about the special efforts being made by them to increase the voting percentage in the centers with low voting percentage. In the meeting, Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Kumar Meena informed about

the preparations related to elections in the district and all the measures taken so far regarding the prescribed action plan. He said that there are six assembly constituencies in the district - Patan, Durg Rural, Durg City, Bhilai Nagar, Vaishali Nagar and Ahiwara respectively. Apart from this, Saja of Bemetara district and partial areas of Bemetara assembly are included in this district. There are

1485 polling stations in the district, 40062 voters will use their franchise for the first time, 80 plus age voters are 14805, Divyang voters are 7752 and 4408 are newlywed voters. 60 Sangwari polling stations and 30 model polling stations will be established in the district. The first training of officers and employees related to voting has been done.

SSP Ram Gopal Garg informed about the security arrangements and restrictive actions in the district during voting. District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan gave information about the sweep activities being conducted in the district for voter awareness.

In the meeting, all the general and expenditure observers appointed by the Election Commission of India for Durg district, the returning officers of all the assembly constituencies and all the nodal officers associated with the election work were present.

# Training session organised for polling parties

Bhilai, Nov 07:

For the polling works under the Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections 2023, Presiding Officer, Polling Team-1, 2, 3 and 4 have been appointed for each polling station. These 1485 polling party officers were jointly trained in groups along with their teams at BIT College on Tuesday. During the training session of the polling officers along with the team members, detailed information was given about all the procedures to be followed for the election work. At the same time, the training was imparted in groups so that the polling parties get the opportunity to meet face to face with the officials of their party. In the joint training programme, the Presiding Officer, Polling party members - 1, 2, 3 and 4 were given information about their duties and responsibilities. Polling parties have been asked to work responsibly to conduct free, fair and peaceful elections.

Presiding Officer, Polling party members - 1, 2, 3 and 4 were informed about the procedure to be



followed during voting. Also, information was given regarding VVPAT's paper roll, compartment, ballot slip compartment, power pack compartment and container compartment. It is advised to turn on the power switch before starting the mock poll and turn off the power switch after the

mock poll and also to complete the mock poll process carefully at the stipulated time. During this, information was also given about the precautions to be taken in election work along with machine sealing, address track, signature of the agent, declaration form of the presiding officer.

# Cultural evening organised to spread Voting Awareness



**Bhilai, Nov 07:** A Cultural Evening as part of a voter awareness Campaign was organised at the Pioneer Monument, Civic Centre on November 06, 2023, to make the voters aware of their voting rights to strengthen democracy by massive participation in the forthcoming assembly elections. The programme was organised under the auspices of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant. Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A), Jageshvar Kumar Kaushal, Deputy Collector, Durg, and Pooja Pillai, Zone Commissioner, Durg, were also present on this occasion, along with JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD & CSR), Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), Dr Kaushalendra Thakur, CMO (M&HS), Sheeja P Mathew, GM (Pers-Works), JN Thakur, GM (Pers.-IR&CLC), Prashant Tiwari, GM (Public Relations),

Parvinder Singh, Gen. Sec. BSP-OA and other Senior Officials of SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant, and township citizens in large numbers. Various Film and non-film songs focused on voting awareness were presented by SCCA Employees, along with a Street Play focused on the same theme by artists from Sutradhar Cultural & Social Group. Two musical groups on behalf of the Durg District Administration also presented song performances based on Voting Awareness.

Abhijit Bhowmick, Asst Mgr (SCCA) compered the programme, while JN Thakur, GM (Pers.-IR&CLC) organized the programme. It is noteworthy that SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant Management is organizing several voter awareness programs in the Township and adjoining areas, to ensure maximum participation of voters in the forthcoming Assembly Elections.

# April to Oct performances: Bhilai Steel Plant breaks 12 year old Records

Bhilai, Nov 07:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has recorded new highs in almost all areas of production in the first seven months of current fiscal year from April to Oct 23. From oven pushing at Coke Ovens, production of Blast Furnace Coke, sinter, hot metal and crude steel production, blooms and billet production, special grade plates production and rails production to total finished steel and saleable production as well as loading and direct despatches of steel, the Plant has recorded all round high performances in the current financial year. In doing so, the Plant has smashed several records set as many as 12 years back.

Total sinter production of 5,061,340 Tonnes recorded during April to Oct 23 has been the best ever for the period, surpassing the previous best of 4,605,346 T recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2010-11. Total crude steel production of 3,296,837 Tonnes from the



steel melting shops as recorded during April to Oct 23 has been the best ever for the period, sur-

passing the previous best of 3,086,305 T recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2010-11.

Equivalent Oven Pushing per day at 804 numbers by Coke Ovens as recorded during April to Oct 23 has been the best ever for the period, surpassing the previous best of 766 recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2010-11. Dry Blast Furnace Coke production at 1,912,502 Tonnes as recorded during April to Oct 23 has been the best ever for the period, surpassing the previous best of 1,828,398 Tonnes recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2010-11. Total Hot Metal Production of 3,483,198 Tonnes recorded by Blast Furnaces during April to Oct 23 has been the best ever for the period, surpassing the previous best of 3,312,278 Tonnes recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2010-11. The Plant's Plate Mill recorded best ever finished plates production of 7,58,223 T during April to Oct 23 as against previous best of 7,45,048 T recorded in corresponding period of fiscal year 2007-08.

# DM passes order of externment against notorious goon

Bhilai, Nov 07:

Collector and District Magistrate Pushpendra Kumar Meena, on the basis of the report submitted by Superintendent of Police, issued externment order against a notorious goon Rakesh Ghughal alias Walia (31) son of Shankar Rao Ghughal, a resident of IMI Chowk Mohan Nagar Durg. Taking action against him under Section 5(b) of the Chhattisgarh State Security Act 1990, the District Magistrate has passed order of externment for a period of one year. Accordingly, the notorious goon Rakesh Ghughal has been ordered not to enter the borders of the revenue district Durg and its bordering districts Rajnandgaon, Balod, Bemetara, Raipur and Dhantari. He has been instructed to move out within a week.

For a period of one year from November 3, 2023, entry will not be allowed in the borders of the said districts without the permission of the District Magistrate. It needs to be mentioned here that Rakesh Ghughal has been found involved in 16 criminal activities so far. According to the information received, Rakesh

Ghughal alias Walia is a habitual criminal of Mohan Nagar police station area. Hooliganism, assault and illegal extortion by threatening the general public was his daily routine. He was involved intimidating the common people with weapons, beating them, abusing the common people and threatening to kill them, causing injuries by physically assaulting, molesting women, terrorizing people, extorting money by threatening auto / minidor drivers, taking away goods from hotels, bars and paan stalls around Mohan Nagar Colony and railway station, etc. It has been his normal tendency to beat the people who refuse to give money. Due to criminal tendencies, common people were in danger of life and property. All the legal action taken against Rakesh Ghughal did not bring any improvement in his criminal activities.

The action taken against Rakesh Ghughal under normal law had no effect. His criminal activities could not be curbed even by preventive action. Action has been taken against Rakesh Ghughal to control his criminal behavior and tendencies and to maintain law and order and peace among the general public.

# Candidate's vehicle along with campaign material seized

**Bhilai, Nov 07:** Static Surveillance Teams have been constituted in the district under Assembly Election-2023. Team No 18 on November 05 intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number CG-07 AQ 4696. On searching, election campaign material, banners, pamphlets, flags, caps and packet of Bahujan Samaj Party candidate Inder Lal Lahere were found in the vehicle. The estimated value of the campaign material was around Rs 40000. Since there was no bill for the said materials and no permit certificate for the vehicle to be used in election campaigning, the election campaign material along with the vehicle were seized and handed over to Jewra Sirsa Police Chowki for further action.

# Mar Theodosius Memorial Inter School MGM Fest 2023 gets a colourful start



Bhilai, Nov 07:

Fun, frolic and festivity unfurled on the MGM HSS Campus, Bokaro with a scintillating opening ceremony of 9th Mar Theodosius Memorial Inter School MGM Fest 2023. The hardwork of previous days culminated into beautiful cultural and sporting events that were organised at different venues in the school campus throughout the day.

The opening ceremony was presided by HG Alexious Mar Eusebius, the President of the institution. The Chief Guest of the function was Anand Shekhar, Additional Mission Director, NITI Aayog, the Guest of Honour was Bokaro District Commissioner,

Kuldeep Chaudhary and the special guest included Bhagirath Samai, Arjuna Awardee and Olympian and Fr Dr Joshi Varghese, Calcutta Diocesan Education Officer besides a galaxy of leaders and well-known personalities hailing from different parts of Bokaro.

The programme came to a mesmerizing start with a warm welcome accorded to all the distinguished guest and dignitaries by the Principal, V. Principal and other teachers and the talented dancers of the school at the reception and later on the stage. The reception was followed by flag hoisting by the Bishop. A bright and colourful tableau was presented on the occasion in which the tableaux of MP,

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha were presented. The tableau presentation was followed by a colourful march past by the MGM Fest contingents.

The Principal of MGMHSS Bokaro, Fr Reji C Varghese gave the opening address wherein he emphasized the importance of sports and games along with academics. A group song and a group dance was also presented by the MGM students to add to the cultural charm of the occasion.

This was followed by the Presidential Address Mar Alexios and keynote address by the Chief Guest Anand Shekhar. The fest was declared open by the District Commissioner of Bokaro,

Kuldeep Chaudhary. There are 23 schools participating in the 9th MGM Fest with more than thousand participants in different categories. There will be an array of cultural competitions and sporting events. The participants will be competing in the true spirit of competition and vying for the ultimate championship trophy which will be bagged by the fittest and the finest of all. Overall, the day witnessed many events like track and field events, cultural competitions, sporting events like basketball, volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi, chess, table-tennis and many more. It was a day to be remembered and will surely add another feather to the glorious crown of MGM Group.

# 51st Jubilee of Bhilai St Thomas Mission celebrated

## The 16th feast of Late Glorified His Grace Stephanos Mar Theodosius celebrated jointly

**Bhilai, Nov 07:** The 16th Memorial Late Glorified His Grace Dr Stephanos Mar Theodosius and the Golden Jubilee of the Bhilai Mission was jointly celebrated on November 04-05, 2023 at St Thomas Ashram, Bhilai.

On November 4, His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marheus III, the supreme head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church offered evening prayers at MGO Cathedral, Bhilai, and then a procession started from there to St Thomas Ashram. Devotees from Bhilai, Raipur, Bilaspur, Chandrapur, Rajnandgaon, Rajhara, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Nagpur and Korba along with priests and church representatives from all centers of the Diocese participated in this glorious function.

On the same day, after the procession and blessings of His Holiness, the fifty-first anniversary of St Thomas Mission was appropriately celebrated



where His Holiness was the chief guest. Mar Theodosius was the Founder Director of Bhilai St Thomas Mission and he had served as the director from July 03, 1972 to November 0 2007. His successor His Grace Dr Joseph Mar Dionysius led the Diocese and Mission from April 01, 2009 to November 02, 2022. His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, who took over as Bhilai Mission and Diocesan Metropolitan from November 2, 2022, presided over the annual meeting of the mission, Fr Dr Jossi Jacob, Principal, St Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur, Fr Shaji Mukudi, Managing Member, Bhilai Mission Vice President V Rev Thomas Ramban, Treasurer Fr Aju K Varghese, Mission Secretary Fr Dr PS

Varghese also participated in the said function. In his blessing speech on the occasion, His Holiness Baselios Marthoma III highlighted the committed work of Mar Theodosius. His Holiness enumerated the five virtues of Mar Theodosius of blessed memory:- Mar Theodosius was man with a Vision on Mission; Mar Theodosius Sincere in his actions; Mar Theodosius utmost fidelity to the church; Mar Theodosius had a great social commitment; and Mar Theodosius had abundant Faith and Hope in the crown of God. For this historic meeting Diocesan Secretary Fr Jacob Thomas welcomed and Mission Vice President Thomas Ramban offered a vote of thanks.

# Obituary

## Domendra Deshmukh



**Bhilai:** Domendra Deshmukh, son of Shyam Deshmukh left for heavenly abode at the age of 27 years. He was preparing for civil services exams in Bilaspur where he suffered a cardiac arrest. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at his native place in Janjiri. He was the nephew of Shadhev Deshmukh and Arjun Deshmukh.

## Baghel's jibe at BJP's claim of winning 14 seats in 1st phase

**Says Raman will not be able to save his own seat**



he said, adding that tribals have not forgotten this. 'During our tenure, tribals are roaming freely and incidents of Naxalite violence have declined. Now Bastar is also returning towards peace, said Baghel.

Regarding Naxalite attacks, Baghel said 'earlier there used to be more attacks but now incidents of Naxal violence have reduced'. Minor incidents of Naxal attack will not make any difference to the voting, he said. Regarding polling booths in the interior areas for the first time, Baghel said 'Election Commission set up a polling booth in the interior areas which is the biggest proof that we have restored peace in Bastar'.

## IT conduct raids against 45 locations of Som Distilleries'

**Including one in Bilaspur and in states of MP, Mumbai, Delhi etc**

**Bilaspur, Nov 07:** The Income Tax (IT) department conducted multi-state searches at 45 locations of prominent alcohol beverage maker and distributor Som Group for alleged tax evasion, "benami" directors in the group companies and infusion of foreign funds.

The searches took place in the background of Assembly elections in Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh

and in Madhya Pradesh and other states. The Som Group is reported to be close to certain politicians in M.P. and Chhattisgarh.

The taxmen raided and searched premises of Som Distilleries and Breweries at Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mumbai, Delhi and Karnataka including the promoter Jagdish Arora residences for tax evasion and infusion of foreign funds into the group. The IT sleuths are probing alleged "benami" directors in the group companies to divert funds and evade taxes.

Som Group with major business interests in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh is a key player in manufacturing, bottling and distribution of liquor in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The group is considered to be the biggest player in the liquor business in Central India. Earlier in April, Som Group had announced plans to invest around ₹300 crore in a new unit in Maharashtra.

Som Distilleries and Breweries is a leading manufacturer of beer, whisky, vodka, rum, gin, ready-to-drink beverages, and country liquor.

## EARTHEN LAMPS



The 'diyas' and other earthen items used in Diwali are high on demand these days.

## Congress govt will be formed again: Bajj

**Raipur, Nov 07:** It has become clear from the first phase of voting that Congress government is going to be formed again in the state, said Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) here today. PCC Chief Deepak Bajj said that BJP's

account will not be opened in the first phase. Congress is once again winning 12 seats of Bastar, he said, adding that this time Raman Singh is also losing the election from Rajnandgaon. The people of Chhattisgarh have voted on the basis of the

work of the Congress government in the last five years, he said.

Congress has fulfilled most of the promises of its manifesto, he said, adding that public trust in Congress

has increased further in the last 5 years. This is the reason why the public has once again voted in favor of Congress, he said.

Bajj said that Congress was running election campaign on the basis of its government's plans and the

previous works. BJP campaigned on the basis of negativity, he said. According to him voters also expressed confidence in the Congress manifesto. On the contrary, people are not ready to trust the manifesto of BJP, he said, adding that people

have rejected BJP in the first phase. Voters of the second phase are also going to vote in favor of Congress said that this time again Congress government will be formed with two-third majority.

## Woman duped of Rs 76000 on pretext of job as staff nurse

**Raipur, Nov 07:** A woman in the capital has been duped in the name of job as staff nurse. The incident took place around two years ago. Fraud offence has been registered against one Arpit Ekka. Purani Basti Police are currently investigating the matter.

Woman Aishwari Sinha, resident of Shitala Mandir Colony Kushalpur told police that in the year 2021 one of her acquaintances Arpit Ekka had talked of helping her get job as staff nurse in Jagdalpur division using his influence in health department. On this Aishwari had submitted

online application for direct recruitment of staff nurse. Subsequently Arpit took total 76 thousand 300 from her in three different installments by cash and account transfer.

Two years have elapsed since she gave money to Arpit but she did not get job. When she demanded him to return her money he started avoiding her. When she felt cheated of money she went to Purani Basti Police Station to lodge complaint against Arpit Ekka. Police registered offence under Section 420 against Arpit and started investigation into the matter.

## All the betting money is going to BJP: Bhupesh

**Mungeli, Nov 07:** The money of Mahadev App is going to Bharatiya Janata Party, said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel during his election campaign in Lormi Assembly Constituency of Mungeli district. He said that Government of India was unable to discharge its responsibility of arresting those involved in the app. This means that all the betting money is going to the BJP office, hence no action is being taken, said Baghel.

Baghel while addressing a gathering in Godkhamhi area of Lormi Assembly Constituency, appealed to the people to vote in favor of Congress candidate Thaneshwar Sahu. On this occasion Manish Tripathi, who was denied ticket from JCCJ Party from Lormi Assembly constituency, joined the Congress Party along with hundreds of his supporters.

Baghel appealed to the people of Lormi Assembly constituency to remain alert saying that people have to be cautious of vote-cutters who do not want development of Lormi. This time the Congress candidate has to win in Lormi also, he added.

## Vigilance Awareness Week observed at IIT Bhilai



**Raipur, Nov 07:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhilai observed the Vigilance Awareness Week as per guidelines from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), between 30 October 2023 to 05 November 2023. The theme of this year was "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation". On the inaugural day, faculty and staff members took an integrity pledge, led by Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai. Video clips were displayed on "Vigilance Awareness" to inspire the audience present.

Various events including a quiz and essay competitions were conducted during the week-long programme.

During the valedictory session, Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai addressed the audience. IIT Bhilai successfully celebrated Vigilance Awareness Week, and the number of participants will increase in the coming days. In the end there was prize distribution followed by a vote of thanks. IIT Bhilai is thankful to all the participants, winners and the audience present during the valedictory event.

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Mansi Honda - 9685010000.

## CBI Ch'garh organizes Vigilance awareness seminar

**Raipur, Nov 07:** A Vigilance Awareness Seminar organized by CBI Chhattisgarh Branch on Nov 4 under the chairmanship of Head of the Branch, SN Jat at CBI office premises, Airport Road. This is the first of its kind event organized by CBI in Chhattisgarh. HoDs, CVOs & representatives of almost all Central govt. offices, banks, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies of Chhattisgarh state were present for the event. A good number of 59 Officers from various Central govt. Organizations participated in this mega event.

Sanjeev Kumar, DRM, Raipur Division was the chief guest & Gaurav Garg, IPS, Regional Passport Officer was present as the distinguished guest for the event. Apart from this, Representative Officers of CGST, CPWD, CAG, Post Office, Doordarshan, Central Excise, Railways, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, The New India Insurance Company Limited, NTPC, SECL, EPFO etc. were notably present for the event.

Beginning the event, Chief Guest was welcomed by SN Jat, HoB, CBI, Chhattisgarh, while ASP Anil Kumar Singh & DSP AV Pawar felicitated the special guest and HoB by presenting a plant pot and CBI Memento. Programme was then formally started by igniting Deep by the distinguished guests. All the officers took the integrity pledge with SN Jat, Head of the Branch. JTO, Abhishek Prakash presented the brief history and establishment of CBI, Chhattisgarh branch before the introduction session.

Gaurav Garg, IPS successfully conducted the Vigilance Questionnaire of CVC, while Senior Public Prosecutor of the branch, Rajat Srivastava made the guests aware about the judicial aspects of vigilance and anti-corruption cases. Joint Director & HoD of Bureau of Indian Standards, Mr. Sumit Kumar gave a meaningful presentation on



Anti-Bribery Management System. During the programme, a short film on Public Interest Disclosure and Informer Protection (PIDPI) issued by the Central Vigilance Commission was also screened.

While interacting on a corruption free nation, HoB, CBI Chhattisgarh, conveyed and elaborated the connection between spirituality and corruption in a very unique and prudent way. He recommended everyone to develop a healthy mindset, quiet generosity, positive attitude & a habit to be cheerful. So as to develop oneself's character as a Karmayogi to be Corruption-free from inside. His words were extremely impressive and inspiring. He quoted that

CBI is not to scare anyone but to work with all for eradicating corruption, was grossly appreciated; exploring all to discuss their views on corruption prevailing in their departments and measures taken by them to counter it.

Chief Guest, Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, DRM, Raipur in his address, commended HoB Chhattisgarh for his spirited efforts in organizing this magnificent & meaningful vigilance awareness event and quoted that if everyone commits honesty and Integrity towards their duties, then the idea of a corruption free nation is not far away. The successful event was grossly hosted and concluded with a vote of thanks by JTO Abhishek Prakash.

Addressing the gathering, Sivakumar highlighted the glorious history of NTPC during the last 48 years and its contribution in the development of the country. He also spoke on the new initiatives and achievements of NTPC with focus on Renewable energy and adoption of new technologies. In his speech, the Chief Guest also spoke on accomplishment of NTPC Naya Raipur in the area of Commercial, Unified Shared Services Centre (USSC), Station Engineering, Corporate Operation Services, Ash New Initiatives, CSR, etc. Sivakumar also threw light on the performance of NTPC Power Plants in Western Region-II besides opportunities and challenges ahead. He also spoke on the initiatives like Ash Utilisation and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) to enrich the environment. During this occasion, the dignitaries Cut the cake and released balloon to mark the occasion. Later, all joined the Live Telecast of NTPC CMD's address.

## 49th Raising Day of NTPC celebrated enthusiastically



● At Naya Raipur

**Naya Raipur, Nov 07:** NTPC Raising Day-2023 was celebrated at NTPC Naya Raipur on November 07, 2023. Chief Guest of the occasion, Shri C Sivakumar, Regional Executive Director (WR-II, USSC and Ash NI) hoisted NTPC Flag, followed by NTPC Geet sung by all.

Arindam Sinha, Executive Director (OS); Mrs C Padmaja, President and other office bearers of Arpita Mahila Samiti; NTPC officials and their family members were present in large numbers on this occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sivakumar highlighted the glorious history of NTPC during the last 48 years and its contribution in the development of the country. He also spoke on the new initiatives and achievements of NTPC with focus on Renewable energy and adoption of new technologies. In his speech, the Chief Guest also spoke on accomplishment of NTPC Naya Raipur in the area of Commercial, Unified Shared Services Centre (USSC), Station Engineering, Corporate Operation Services, Ash New Initiatives, CSR, etc. Sivakumar also threw light on the performance of NTPC Power Plants in Western Region-II besides opportunities and challenges ahead. He also spoke on the initiatives like Ash Utilisation and Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) to enrich the environment. During this occasion, the dignitaries Cut the cake and released balloon to mark the occasion. Later, all joined the Live Telecast of NTPC CMD's address.

## Indiscriminate cutting of trees in Lemru range

● Forest department unaware

**Korba, Nov 07:** Wood smugglers and brick kiln operators are taking advantage of the election code of conduct and indiscriminate felling of trees is being carried out by them in the Lemru range. The Forest Department remains unaware of this matter even though the villagers have also informed the Forest Department about it!

Despite the presence of Forest Department office in Lemru range, felling of trees is going on without fear. Despite being informed to the department, no action was taken to stop it. It is said that due to the duty of forest personnel in the election code of con-



duct, wood smugglers are taking advantage of it. According to the villagers, trees have been cut by brick kiln operators on the road leading from Lam Pahad to village Sarva. The view of which can be seen by visiting the area but the forest workers do not have time for it and wood smugglers are taking advantage of it. The villagers have decided to complain about this to higher authorities.

## Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in several regions of the world

● Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine organises seminar for early diagnosis and treatment of sepsis

**Raipur, Nov 07:** Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine running a sepsis awareness camp all over India, in that series a seminar was held by Society for critical care medicine Raipur chapter on November 5 at Raipur where zonal member of society Dr Mahesh Sinha, Chairperson Dr Surya Prakash Sahu and Secretary Dr Pradeep Sharma along with all the renowned doctors and gen-



eral public was present. In this seminar emphasis was given for early diagnosis and treatment of sepsis because that is the only way by which one can be saved. And for early diagnosis it is very important for general public to know about sepsis and to know high risk population who can develop sepsis after a simple infection.

Sepsis, commonly referred to as "blood poisoning," is a potentially fatal complication that can result from any infection, including bacterial, fungal, viral, and parasitic dis-

eases. It is a dangerous side effect of the body's reaction to infection that can result in organ damage or even death. Despite its seriousness, sepsis is still largely unknown, which results in delayed diagnoses and higher mortality rates. We must increase public awareness of this silent murderer since information is our best defense.

Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in several regions of the world. Sepsis is a sickness that results from an infection that spreads to several organs.

Sepsis is diagnosed in one in six hospital patients, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to designate it as a global health priority in 2017. Every year on September 13th, World Sepsis Day is held to raise awareness of this important topic.

Sepsis may develop into septic shock, an unsafe condition when blood pressure falls to dangerously low levels and frequently results in death without aggressive intensive care treatment (ICU), if it is not swiftly controlled. The key to sepsis survival depends on obtaining antimicrobial medicines (usually known as antibiotics) early on and in seeking medical attention at the appropriate time.

## Make your contribution to development by voting: Sundarraj P.

**Jagdalpur, Nov 07:** Bastar IG Sundarraj P said that voting is going on in a safe and orderly manner in 12 assembly constituencies of Bastar division. The security forces are continuously giving a befitting reply to the conspiracy of Naxalites to carry out violent activities during the voting day. DRG, STF, Bastar Fighter, Cobra and Central Paramilitary Forces are continuously conducting search patrols in the interior areas. The border area is being guarded by special forces of Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Bastar IG Sundarraj P appealed to all the voters of Bastar region and said that it is the joint responsibility of all of us to strengthen democracy. To fulfill this responsibility, all voters should leave



their homes, reach the polling booth and exercise their franchise. So that by strengthening the foundation of democracy, we can make our invaluable contribution towards peace and security for the development of Bastar region. Again, there is an appeal to the citizens and voters of Bastar region to reach the polling booth in maximum numbers today and cast their vote.

It is noteworthy that today on Tuesday morning, Bastar IG Sundarraj P, Commissioner Bastar Shyam Dhawade stood in a queue at

polling center number 75 established in Shaheed Bhagat Singh High School of Jagdalpur city under the Assembly Elections 2023 and exercised their franchise. During this, he also took a selfie in the selfie zone created in the polling station premises. He encouraged the voters who came to the polling station to cast their vote. Bastar IG Sundarraj P, Commissioner Bastar Shyam Dhavde inspected three polling stations established in Maharani Lakshmbai Girls Higher Secondary School of Jagdalpur city, took stock of the voting situation and gave necessary directions to the officials. On this occasion, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Survey and police department officials were present.

## Ragini, Mansi, and coach honoured with cash prize



**Raipur, Nov 04:** Shri Gujrati Higher Secondary School students Ragini Yadav and Mansi Tandi, who secured gold and bronze medals at the recently concluded World Thai Boxing Championship in Hyderabad, were awarded a cash prize of Rs 30,000 along with their coach Tikeswari Sahu for their exemplary performance. Secretary duo of the Gujrati Shikshan Sangh, Tulsidas Patel, Ashok D. Patel, Vice President duo Ashok Bhai Patel and Vitthaladas Patel, Joint Secretary Dinesh Bhai Patel, and Executive Member Praveen Bhai Patel felicitated

both the players and their coach.

Anis Memon, President of the State Thai Boxing Association, stated that the Management Committee's decision to provide a "cash incentive" to all the players of Gujrati Shikshan Sangh's own school is undoubtedly commendable and praiseworthy.

This fosters a positive attitude towards sports among the players and their parents. It is worth mentioning that Mansi Tandi was previously honored by the Chhattisgarh Journalists' Association,

Raipur, with a cash prize of Rs 11,000 and a memento for her consistent sports achievements.

On this occasion, Tulsidas Patel, the Secretary of the Association, congratulated the students on the completion of 23 years of Chhattisgarh's establishment and extended advance Diwali greetings, assuring the students who have brought glory to the institution and school's name that the Management Committee will always provide every possible encouragement and support. On this occasion, Dr. Shailesh Sharma Principal of Shri Gujrati English Medium Higher Secondary School, Praveen Ganodwale, Yogita Tank Primary Department Incharge, Senior Teacher Kamlesh Rupareliya, Narendra Tarage, and Institution Administrator V.K. Mishra were present.

## Raghvi helps Utterkhand enter into T-20 final



**Raipur, Nov 07:** Utterkhand defeated Kerala by 8 wickets in the

Senior Women' T-20 tournament being organised under the aegis of BCCI at Naya Raipur-based Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday to enter into the final of the tournament.

Put into bat first, the Kerala team could manage to score just 84 runs with just Arundhati Reddy (22 runs) and Drishya (17 runs) being only major contribu-

tors. Amisha B, Raghvi and Prema claimed 2 wickets each for Utterkhand to restrict the opposition.

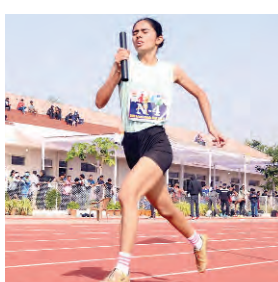
In reply, the Utterkhand team scored the required runs in just 14.2 overs to win the match by 8 wickets. Poonam Raut scored maximum 43 runs for the team whereas Raghvi excelled with the bat also scoring 28 runs. Raghvi was adjudged Player of the Match.

## Modern School from Shalimar Bagh emerge overall champions

● CBSE National Athletics Meet

**Raipur, Nov 07:** Modern Public School B Blk Shalimar Bagh won the Overall championship of the CBSE National Athletics Meet organized under the aegis of NH Goel World School in the Cluster 20 with 138 points. Similarly, Vijay Yadav from the host NH Goel School bagged 2nd Position in Javelin Throw, Under-19 Boys to win a Silver Medal in the three-day mega event.

Dev Kumar, from H S Public School was adjudged Best Athlete of the tournament whereas Manasa Devi S Senthil from Vellammal Bodhi Vellore, Kannampuzha from Sharjah



Indian School Juwaiza, Nethra M Murugadas from Vellammal Vidyalaya Chennai, Baljeet from Adarsh Sen Sec School Madina and Poojashree from Vellammal Vidyalaya Chennai followed him in the performance.

In the category wise performance, Boys (Under-14) from Our Own High School AL



Marqa Boys, Dubai were the leaders in the Cluster F6 with 14 Points whereas in Girls (Under-14) from P S B School Pudupakkam Siruseri Kanchi

Dt-TN, Cluster VI with 21 Points, Boys (Under-17) from Our Own High School AL Marqa Boys, Dubai, Cluster F6 with 26 Points, Girls (Under-17)

from Chinmaya Vidyalaya Vaduthala, Cluster XI with 34 Points, Boys (Under-19) from Sri Krish International School Kovur Kanchi TN, Cluster VI with 33 Points and Girls (Under-19) from Modern Public School B BLK Shalimar Bagh Delhi, Cluster XX with 72 Points were the other outstanding performers.

The closing ceremony witnessed a song sung by the Teacher's Choir and a solo dance performance by a little budding star Anushna Roy Chowdhury. A very motivational speech was delivered by our Chief Guest Himanshu Bharti, District Education officer Raipur. The winners were awarded with their medals and trophies.

# Collector ensures accessible voting in remote areas

**■ Polling stations upgraded to EC standards**

Mungeli, Nov 07: In a bid to enhance the electoral experience for citizens in remote regions, Collector and District Election Officer Rahul Dev has taken commendable steps to ensure smooth voting in the upcoming district elections. Dev personally visited the polling centers in the Vananchal area of Achanakmar to assess their facilities. He issued vital instructions to officials, urging them to provide basic amenities in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines. The focus was on ensuring access to drinking water, sanitation, and other essential services at all



polling stations. Recognizing the importance of timely information, Collector also evaluated the communication infrastructure at polling stations. To guarantee seamless data transmission, 13 static sets have been installed in the region, accompanied by a substantial tower to facilitate uninterrupted information flow. In addition to infrastructure enhancements, Collector made a significant effort to engage with rural communities in Vananchal. He passionately encouraged villagers to participate in the upcoming elections, emphasizing the simplicity of the voting process. Dev assured voters that they could establish their identity using

a range of documents such as Aadhaar cards, MNREGA job cards, driving licenses, PAN cards, passports, and more. Even pension documents with photos and passbooks with photos from banks or post offices would suffice. He advised citizens to reach out to their nearest Booth Level Officer (BLO) for voting-related information and assistance. These initiatives aim to ensure that voters in remote and rural areas can exercise their democratic rights without any hindrance. With the voting scheduled for November 17th and the counting of votes set to conclude on December 3rd, Collector Rahul Dev's efforts promise a more accessible and engaging electoral process for the district's residents.

# State-level mega jail Lok Adalat resolves many cases

Inspirational Legal Literacy Camp empowers inmates at district jail

Mungeli, Nov 07:

In a remarkable display of legal empowerment and justice served, the District Jail played host to a State-Level Mega Jail Lok Adalat and Legal Literacy Camp. This event was executed under the guidance of Chandrakumar Ajgalle, District and Sessions Judge, and carried out in compliance with the directives of the Executive Chairman of the Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority in Bilaspur.

With a strong commitment to justice, Reshma Bairagi Patel, Judicial Magistrate First Class, along with Mayank Soni, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority, and Shweta Thakur,



Judicial Magistrate First Class, graced the occasion. Also in attendance were Akanksha Shiksha Khalkhon, SDM, and Shekhar Patel, Tehsildar.

The event witnessed the establishment of three dedicated benches, each committed to resolving cases swiftly and fairly. In a single day, these dedicat-

ed benches successfully resolved a total of nine cases, providing relief and a renewed sense of hope to the inmates. Secretary Mayank Soni took the opportunity to educate the prisoners about vital resources, including NALSA's helpline number 15100, the concept of pre-bargaining for crimes, and the Legal Services Authority Act of 1987. Comprehensive information on various sections of the law was also made available to the attendees.

The event further benefited from the presence of advocates and prisoners associated with the Legal Aid Defense Council System, showcasing the collaborative spirit of legal professionals and inmates seeking justice.

# SECR launches 'Akshita': A safe place for women passengers



Raipur/Bilaspur, Nov 07: South East Central Railway has introduced a groundbreaking initiative, 'Akshita', aimed at ensuring the safety and comfort of women passengers at nine important stations. This innovative project creates designated safe bubbles for women on the platforms, providing them with seating and essential facilities while waiting for their trains. In a move to

empower women travellers and enhance their security, South East Central Railway has identified strategic locations on platform number 01 of stations including Bilaspur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Dongargarh, Anuppur, Gondia, Raigarh, Durg, and Bhilai. These areas are strategically located near the Railway Protection Force post and other railway offices, ensuring constant monitoring and safety. The 'Akshita' safe bubbles are enclosed with glass walls, making them visible from all sides, creating a sense of trust and camaraderie among women passengers. These areas are under the watchful eye of CCTV cameras and the Railway Protection Force Control Office, ensuring the safety of women travellers.

What makes 'Akshita' unique is that it leverages existing facilities without incurring additional costs, making it a cost-effective and sustainable solution. This initiative instills confidence in women passengers and strengthens their belief in rail travel, marking a significant step towards empowering women in the railway ecosystem.

# Exit polls banned from Nov 7 to 30

Korba, Nov 07:

In anticipation of the Chhattisgarh Assembly general elections, the Election Commission of India has taken a significant step to uphold the integrity of the democratic process. A ban on organizing and broadcasting exit polls has been imposed from November 7 to November 30, as outlined in a notification issued by the Commission.

Under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission has enacted this prohibition to maintain fairness and prevent the premature dissemination of election-related information.

The Commission has officially designated the period from 7 am on November 7 to 6.30 pm on

November 30 as a restricted time frame for conducting and telecasting exit polls in light of the assembly general elections in five states. During this period, all forms of exit polls are prohibited, whether in print or electronic media or any other medium.

Furthermore, the Commission clarified that under Section 126 (1) (b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, there is a ban on displaying any election-related content, including opinion polls or survey results, in electronic media for 48 hours leading up to the end of voting in the respective polling constituencies, both in general elections and by-elections. This measure aims to ensure a level playing field and maintain the sanctity of the electoral process.

# Rangoli competition and rally promote 100% voting

Kharora, Nov 07:

A dynamic initiative to boost voter awareness unfolded today at the Bharat Dewangan Government Excellent Hindi and English Medium School in Kharora. Under the dedicated leadership of Principal Rajni Minj, Harish Dewangan, Scout Guide Incharge, and NSS Incharge Shahina Parveen, a day filled with activities to promote 100% voting was organized.

The event included a spirited rangoli competition, where numerous talented participants like Anamika, Bhumika, Devika, Simran, Dineshwari Yadav, Chandrakala Sahu, Khushboo Yadav, Jyoti Yadav, Neelima, Tanu

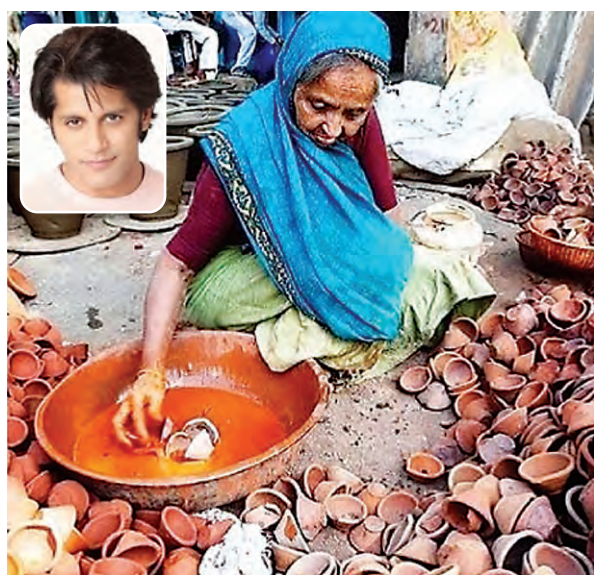


Sen, Pallavi Sonkar, Khushi Sahu, Amrita, Pragati Bandhe, Deeksha, Khushboo, and Dimple showcased their artistic skills. As part of the festivities, a public awareness rally took to the streets, with participants raising spirited slogans like "Happy Voting," "Will

Vote Happily," "Never Get Misled," "Press the Button Thoughtfully," "Go to Vote, Do Your Duty." The enthusiastic rally served as a beacon of civic duty and awareness, encouraging all to exercise their right to vote with pride and responsibility.

# Karanvir purchases 500 handmade lamps to support daily wage workers

Mumbai, Nov 07: As Diwali, the festival of lights, approaches, renowned actor Karanvir Bohra famously known for his portrayal of Viraj Dobriyal in Star Bharat's show 'Saubhagyavati Bhava: Niyam aur Shartien Laagu' has pledged for a heartwarming initiative to brighten the lives of daily wage workers and champion the 'Make in India' campaign. Bohra plans to purchase 500 handmade diyas to spread the joy of the festive season and contribute to the welfare of those in need. Karanvir Bohra, known for his stellar performance and versatility is now making a name for himself as a compassionate advocate for social causes. This Diwali, he seeks to make a difference by supporting daily wage workers, who often face economic hardships.



He says, "The essence of Diwali lies in spreading happiness and light in the lives of others. I wanted to do something meaningful this year and contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative while also assisting

**■ And promote 'Make in India' initiative**

daily wage workers who play an integral part in our society." "These diyas symbolize the spirit of Diwali - hope, prosperity, and a brighter future," Bohra added. "By sharing these beautiful lamps purchased from the daily wage workers, we're not only lighting up their homes but also warming their hearts. This initiative is to not only to purchase 500 handmade diyas, but also aims to encourage the local artisans who create these traditional lamps and promote the 'Make in India' campaign, which focuses on boosting indigenous manufacturing and employment opportunities. His efforts align with the spirit of Diwali, which signifies the victory of light over darkness and good over evil and sets an example for others demonstrating that small acts of kindness can make a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate.

# Manikanchan Center shines with colourful Diwali lamps

**■ Cow dung lamps radiate festive cheer**

Khairagarh, Nov 07:

In a bid to infuse the Diwali festival with vibrant colours, the Manikanchan Center No. 02, operated by the Municipality in Tikrapara city, is busy crafting colourful lamps. These delightful lamps, crafted from cow dung, have captured the attention of locals who are purchasing them to illuminate their homes with festive radiance.

Urmila Yadav, the in-charge of Manikanchan center, shared that this year's goal is to sell 10 thousand lamps during Diwali, and sales have already commenced with the festival drawing near. A stall showcasing these unique cow dung lamps has been set up at Campus-2 of the university, where Collector Gopal



Verma, Deputy Collector Abha Tiwari, Municipality CMO Pramod Shukla, and officials visited to witness the creative lamps and make their own purchases.

A resounding success from last year. Last year, during Diwali, a lamp stall featuring cow dung lamps was established in the SDM office and the Municipality's meeting

room, resulting in the sale of over 3,000 lamps. Stalls have also been set up in various cities across the state, including Durg, Bhilai, and Raipur. This year, too, a stall will be set up to showcase these colorful cow dung lamps. Collector Gopal Verma has directed the establishment of a stall at the Collectorate premises following the November 7 voting.

**Municipal guidance and artistic flair**

Under the Municipal Administration's guidance, cow dung lamps are being meticulously crafted. Municipality CMO Pramod Shukla and Coordinator Sharad Chandra Pandey provide special guidance for this creative endeavour. While cow dung lamps were crafted last year as well, this year's addition of colorful decorations by the employees has made them even more appealing, drawing the attention of eager buyers.

At the Manikanchan Center, dedicated efforts are underway to produce these eye-catching and colorful cow dung lamps, and the growing interest from the public suggests that this year's sales will surpass expectations.

# Manohar Gaushala's Diwali lamps shine globally

Khairagarh, Nov 07: In a heartwarming Diwali tradition, Manohar Goshala continues its annual practice of distributing free cow dung lamps. These Vedic lamps, crafted from the dung of the renowned Kamdhenu cow, known for its medicinal properties, will not only illuminate homes in India but also in countries around the world. Manohar Gaushala has dispatched these unique lamps via courier to various nations, including America and Brazil, spreading the joy of Diwali far and wide. Notably, cow dung lamps have also found their way to the offices of the President and Prime Minister of India, symbolizing the cultural significance of this thoughtful gesture. Akhil Jain (Padam



Dakalia), the Managing Trustee of Manohar Gaushala, shared that more than one lakh lamps have been crafted this year for free distribution on Diwali. Over the past four years, approximately four and a half lakh lamps have been distributed, embodying the spirit of giving and the cultural heritage of the festival of lights.

# Sunrest Lifescience to raise Rs 10.85 cr

Ahmedabad, Nov 07:

Ahmedabad-based Pharmaceutical company, Sunrest Lifescience Ltd is planning to raise Rs. 10.85 crore from its SME public issue. The public issue opens for subscription on November 7. The company has received approval to launch its public issue on NSE Emerge Platform of National Stock Exchange. Proceeds of the public issue will be utilised to fund company's expansion plans including meeting working capital requirements and General Corporate purpose. Mark Corporate Advisors

Private Limited is the lead manager of the issue. Public issue will close on November 09.

The initial public offering comprises of a fresh issue of 12.91 lakh equity shares of face value Rs. 10 each at a price of Rs. 84 per share (including a premium of Rs. 74 per equity share) aggregating up to Rs. 10.85 crore. Minimum lot size for the application is 1,600 shares which translates in to investment of Rs. 1.34 lakh per application. Retail allocation for the IPO is kept each at 50% of the issue. Market maker reservation portion is 65,600 equity shares.

# नाम परिवर्तन

शपथकर्ता ANJAMMA W/O ASHAIYYA निवासी व्वा. नं. 21/1, सड़क नं. 33, सेक्टर 10 मिलाई लक्ष्मी-दुर्ग, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) की रहने वाली हैं जो कि मेरे आचार्य का, जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में मेरा नाम ANJAMMA दर्ज है। जो कि सत्य एवं सही है। तथा मेरे पुत्र CHANDRA SHEKHAR S/O ASHAIYYA के कक्षा 10वीं के अंकपुत्री में मेरा (माता) का नाम M ANJAMMA दर्ज है एवं कक्षा 12वीं के अंकपुत्री में मेरा (माता) का नाम MANJAMMA दर्ज है। अधिव्य के सचरत शासकीय/अर्धशासकीय एवं अन्य दस्तावेजों में मैं अपना सही वास्तविक नाम ANJAMMA दर्ज करवाना चाहती हूँ तथा इसी नाम से जानी व पहचानी जाऊँगी। तथा मेरे पुत्र के अंकपुत्री में दर्ज माता का नाम M ANJAMMA, MANJAMMA का नाम को त्याग कर ANJAMMA रखना चाहती हूँ। यह कि, मेरे स्वयं के दस्तावेजों में दर्ज ANJAMMA एवं मेरे पुत्र के कक्षा 10वीं के अंकपुत्री में दर्ज माता का नाम M ANJAMMA एवं कक्षा 12वीं के अंकपुत्री में दर्ज MANJAMMA दोनों नाम मेरा ही स्वयं का नाम है अर्थात् मेरे पुत्र चन्द्र शेखर की माता का नाम है। ये सभी नाम एक ही महिला का नाम होने के प्रमाण में प्रकाशन हेतु यह श्राव्य पत्र सक्षम अधिकारी महोदय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत है।

शपथकर्ता  
अंजममा

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Branch Office: Shop No. - 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Talibandha, Raipur, CG 492001

**POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)**

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column (B) below on dates specified in Column (C) to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column (D) below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column (E) herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column (F) in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column (E) below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column (D) along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/s	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Details of Property Possessed	Date of Symbolic Possession
1.	Loan Account - HE01DHT0000030231 1A. Rajkumari Patel (Legal heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) W/o. Jagdish Ram Patel. 1B. Maya Patel (Legal heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) D/o. Jagdish Ram Patel. 1C. Leelu Patel (Legal heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) D/o. Jagdish Ram Patel, 1D. Ritup Patel (Legal heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) D/o. Jagdish Ram Patel. 1E. Sagar Patel (Legal heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) S/o. Jagdish Ram Patel. (Represented through his Natural Guardian Mother- Rajkumari Patel). 2. Rajkumari Patel, 3. Patel Sabji Market, All of Address: Ward No. 02, Palei Gali, Sitalpara, Dhamtari, Shilapara, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh-493773.	10.08.2023	₹ 31,10,054.00 as on 10.08.2023 and interest and charges thereon.	All That Part and Parcel Of the Property bearing Part of Khaska No. 7/39/4, P.H.N. 30, Area- 475 Sqft, situated at Dakbangla Ward No. 38, Dhamtari (C.G.) Bounded As: North- Gunderdehi Road, South- Property of Khurubai, East- Property of Amar Chand, West- Property of Gaukaran Patel.	07.11.2023

Date: 08.11.2023, Place: Dhamtari (C.G.) Authorised Officer/ Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

## Establishment of Facilitation Center in District Office

Bilaspur, Nov 07:

Facilitation centers have been established to ensure the use of voting rights of officers and employees engaged in voting duty. These centers have been set up at the second training venue of polling parties for all the six assembly constituencies including the district office and complete guidance including voting through postal ballot will be provided at these centers.

Collector and District Election Officer Avnish Sharan has called upon all the officers engaged in polling duty to exercise

their franchise through postal ballot. According to information received from the District Election Office, the convenience centers will remain operational from November 7 to 9 at the designated places for the second phase of training of polling parties and during this period, the work of filling and submitting postal ballots will take place every day from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Apart from this, a convenience center has been set up in the big hall in the district office premises from 10th to 14th November and voting and guidance will be given

through postal ballot here during office days. Postal ballot papers are issued only after filling Form 12 and submitting it to the officers engaged on polling duty.

Those on duty who have not got Form 12 issued can vote by getting it issued till the last date of 10th November. Apart from this, those workers who are voters of Bilaspur district but are on polling duty due to being posted in other districts can also vote at these convenience centres and every day after voting, the postal ballot box will be kept safe in the district treasury.

## BJP leader Pawan Kesari joins Congress



Kota, Nov 07:

BJP has suffered a major setback in Kota assembly constituency, as Pendra's Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha's hardworking worker, former student union president Pawan Kesari has joined Congress. Congress candidate from Kota assembly constituency, Aal

Srivastava, made Pawan Kesari enter the Congress wearing a gamchha.

It is noteworthy that Pawan Kesari was angry with the functioning of the BJP organization since the elections of 2018 and the dominance established by some leaders and the neglect of the grassroots workers of BJP and his anger was visible occasionally.

## Vigilance Awareness Week celebrated

Khairagarh, Nov 07:

Vigilance Awareness Week, prescribed by the Central Vigilance Commission of India, was celebrated in Government Polytechnic Khairagarh from Oct 30 to Nov 5 2023. With the slogan of "Be dedicated to corruption", an oath was taken to work unitedly against corruption with integrity and all the students present in the institute ensured their participation for corruption-free India through speech competition and the volunteers.

An effort was made to create awareness among the people by promoting honesty, transparency and accountability in their social life through street drama on the theme "Say No to Corruption".

This awareness program was organized by National Service Scheme program officers Anshu Preeti Kujur, Balwant



Singh Korram, Prakash Chand Khare, Ram Narayan Gond and NSS volunteers under the direction of the Principal of the organization, Shankar

Varathe. Seema Delhiwar, Sulekha Kujur, Ankit Kumar Meshram, Utkarsh Chandrakar and other members were present on this occasion.

## Ayurvedic awareness program organized in SSMV

Balrampur, Nov 07:

Ayurvedic awareness program was organized in Saraswati Shishu Mandir Vidyalaya (SSMV) Balrampur by Chhattisgarh Government Ayurvedic Department with the aim of making the students aware. Ayurvedic Medical Officer Dr. RK Singh posted in District Hospital Balrampur was the chief guest of the program.

Giving detailed information about Ayurvedic medicine system to the students from class 1st to 12th Dr. RK Singh said 10 medicinal plants - Neem Peepal Banyan Banyan Jamun Bel Moonga Arjun Mango and their medicinal properties and gave detailed information about



which diseases can be treated with these plants.

After from this, students from class 6th to 12th were given 20 medicinal plants - Tulsi, Aloe vera, Mandukaparni, Pipli,

Ashwagandha, Bala, Nirgundi, Shatavari, Turmeric and while giving information about ginger etc., he told about their medicinal properties and also gave detailed informa-

tion about how diseases can be treated with these medicinal plants and told that you and your family members should know about these medicinal plants. Through this, various diseases can also be treated at home.

Apart from this, to bring awareness about Ayurveda among the students, various aspects of Ayurveda were explained to them and from time to time, about the medicines used in Ayurveda and how to bring Ayurveda in home medicine, how diet in lifestyle, Bihar Yoga, Pranayam. Dr. Singh also gave detailed information to all the children about how to live a healthy life by adopting yoga etc. Staff and students were present in large numbers.

## Free health check-up camp organized

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Nov 07:

A free health check-up camp was organized in village Jogisar of Gaurela development block, in which a large number of villagers from nearby villages Jogisar, Belpat, Khodri, Banjhorka took advantage of it and got their diseases treated. In this medical camp organized under the leadership of senior surgeon Dr. Gambhir Singh, senior female doctor of Bilaspur, Dr. Vibha HariPriya, senior surgeon of Raigarh, Dr. Anil, and Dr. Yogendra Khare provided their services, and women participated enthusiastically in the camp.

Senior surgeon Dr. Gambhir Singh, who has been continuously organizing medical camps in Marwahi, said that even after formation of the



district, adequate medical facilities are not available in this tribal and rural area, due to which people face serious problems even in minor diseases. Through camps, we can identify such people and provide them proper treatment and their health improves when they get timely treatment, he added. Dr. Vibha HariPriya, senior female doctor of Ganpati Hospital, Bilaspur, said

that through the camp, we can provide treatment among such villagers who are not able to get treatment in places like Bilaspur or Raipur.

The free health camp was organized under the joint aegis of Sankalp Social Organization and Linesh Club Sanskriti Gaurela. Social organization President Tapas Sharma, Linesh Club President Jyoti Dubey, Jogisar Sarpanch Jaylal

Paikra, Belpat Sarpanch Likhan Paikra, Dugra Sarpanch Sangeeta Shiv Udde, Praveesh Tiwari, Bhavesh Kesharwani, Mahesh Rathore, Ram Bahadur Singh, Deepak Sharma, Shailesh Soni, Abhishek Gupta and a large number of public representatives and villagers including Moni Chattopadhyay, Jyoti Tiwari, Kamta Maharaj, Lal Singh from Linesh Club were present.

## Three accused caught transporting illegal liquor

Khairagarh, Nov 07:

A campaign is being run by the police to curb illegal liquor and gambling in the district and in sequence to the same, based on the informer's information, the police arrested accused Devendra Tode, S/o Balram Tode, age 40, and Gopendra Verma, S/o Jagdish Verma, age 24, R/o Kachari, who were illegally transporting liquor near village Dilippur. 48 quarter bottles of country liquor (plain) quantity 8,100 bulk liters worth Rs 3600 and a Hero Honda motorcycle serial number Passion Pro serial number CG 08 NB 2380 worth Rs 10000, total Rs 13600, were kept in a white coloured plastic sack in the possession of the accused.

Similarly, in another case, the accused Mahavir Kosare, S/o Beldas Kosare, aged 42 years, resident of



Pendrikhurd, was caught red-handed while illegally transporting liquor in Dharmapura near Khajiri Mod, the spot of incident, in a yellow plastic sack from the accused's possession. Action was taken against the accused under Section 34(2) of the Excise Act by seizing 60 quarter bottles of country plain liquor worth Rs 4800 and one Scooty CG 04 W 8955

**What officer says**  
Continuous action is being taken against illegal gambling, betting and liquor in the police station area. Action will continue in future also  
**Inspector Rajesh Devdas - Police Station Incharge Khairagarh**

used for transporting liquor, worth approximately Rs 10000, a total of Rs 14800. Section 34 (2) of the Excise Act was invoked against all the accused and taken into consideration. In the above proceedings, police station in-charge inspector Rajesh Devdas, assistant sub-inspector Komal Minj, head constable Girish Nishad, Constable Ramakant Upadhyay, Shaileendra Patel, Pradeep Yadav, and Vijay Kurre had special contribution.

## Observer inspects commissioning work



Balrampur, Nov 07:

Under the Assembly Elections 2023, EVM for assembly constituencies' 07-Ramanujan, 08-Samari of the district and the commissioning work of VVPAT machines was done in the strong room of Livelihood College, Bhelwadhi. The said commissioning work was inspected by the General Observer of Assembly 08-Samari, Dr. Jai Krishna Abhir, Collector and District Election

Officer Remijius Ekka and Superintendent of Police Dr. Lal Umed Singh appointed by the Election Commission of India. Representatives of political parties were also present in the entire process of commissioning. On this occasion, Deputy District Election Officer Amit Srivastava, Assembly Samari and Returning Officer of Ramanujan area, representatives of the candidates contesting the elections were present.

## Appeal for postal ballot voting by Collector

**■ Polling teams to reach 88 polling stations through 16 routes**

Korea, Nov 07:

District Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langeh, while appealing to the voters of 80 years of age and above and 40 percent or more disabled voters, starting from 7th November has said that to strengthen democracy, do vote through postal ballot along with the polling officers who reach there, and must remain at home from 7th to 9th November.

The Election Commission of India has provided the facility to the elderly and disabled voters to vote through postal ballot at home under a special strategy. In this series, from



November 7 to 9, 16 routes have been prepared for the voters of Baikunthpur assembly number 03 and Sonhat under Koriya district, aged 80 years and above and voters with 40 percent disability and above. Two polling officers, one police personnel, one videographer, one micro observer and one BLO will be present in 88 polling stations through these routes.

The polling stations are Charcha, Shivpur, Pulpur, Vishunpur,

Tilwandand, Nagar, Jagatpur, Chharchha, Murma, Katkona, Nandbhan, Patna, Sorga, Dakaipara, Karji, Tendua, Anjokala, Dummiraya, Budar, Sarbhoka, Amhar, Targwan, Kasra, Talwapara, Odgi, Sargpur, Baikunthpur, Rampur-J, Ani, Bhadi, Khedri, Dabripara, Salka, Salba, Jaliyadand, Robo, Potedand, Govindpur, Sos, Mandalpara, Narkeli, Deori, Modipara, Jamapani, Dubhapani, Patrapali, Badgaon, Khadhaura, Inderpur, Chhotesalhi, Patma, Bachra, Lotabahara, Bade Salhi, Baima, Tolga, Bharda, Jilibandh, Kanharbahara, Bade Kalua, Chhaparpara, Amka, Bari, Singhor Kurthi, Naugai, Damuj, Bhainswar, Chandaha, Sundarpur, Katgodi, Ghugra, Sonhat and Belia polling stations.

## EC introduces home voting for seniors and physically challenged citizens

Mungeli, Nov 07:

In a significant move to ensure greater inclusivity in the electoral process, the Election Commission has implemented home voting facilities for 40% of physically challenged individuals and senior citizens aged 80 and above. This initiative has garnered significant interest, with 50 senior citizens and more than 15 physically challenged individuals in the district's two constituencies opting to cast their votes through postal ballots. In the district, there are a total of 9,532 voters aged 80 and above, along with 5,738 physically challenged voters. The Election Commission introduced a new system that seamlessly connects senior citizens to postal ballots, from the inclusion of their names in the voter list to

the final release of the list. Officials reported that after the publication of the final voter list, information about 9,532 senior citizens and 5,738 physically challenged individuals in the district became available. Out of these, 50 senior citizens aged 80 and above have chosen to exercise their voting rights from the comfort of their homes. Additionally, individuals exceeding 40% disability have also submitted forms to vote via postal ballots. Interestingly, there was an option for COVID patients to vote from home, but there are no such cases in the district. Some senior citizens and physically challenged individuals independently approached polling centers to express their desire to vote from home, obviating the need to fill out forms.

We discussed with the first time voters, among

## Youth opine different views to vote for the first time

Rajim, Nov 07:

The awareness and eagerness is visible in the youth for the upcoming assembly constituency and the market is busy in election discussions. On one hand, preparations for Diwali festival are going on, while on the other hand, farmers are busy in weeding and harvesting the fields, meanwhile, election talk is also playing an important role as work and discussions roll on. Party workers have started spreading publicity by putting up banners and posters and this time, 12 candidates are contesting from Rajim assembly constituency, making it interesting.



whom Yamini Sahu, Ishwari Yadav, Akanksha Goswami, Anju Goswami, Bindiya Sahu, who are studying in college, said that they will vote for the first time, that's why there is some nervousness. Khushboo, Lalima, Deepika, Savitri, Lakshmi said that the religious area

Rajim is known in the country and abroad, but they are still lagging behind in the field of education and development. Durgeshwari, Deepti, Janhvi and Priyanka, who have left their studies, and they will vote in the assembly elections for the second time said that, this

time also we will give our valuable votes only to the candidate who thinks about the interest of the country and the development of all sections of the society. Khushi, Durga, Mohini, Harshita, Kamini, Kulwantin and Ekta, who are studying in the second year, said that due to bad roads, there is a lot of difficulty in commuting.

Officials and politicians are busy in elections and the general public is worried, they added. On discussing with some women standing at the square, they said that the tempting announcement is not right as putting the state into debt will only harm us. We are hard working people and we believe in hard work and not in free things.

## Collector ensures voter list integrity ahead of elections

**■ Thorough review of list conducted**

Bemetara, Nov 07:

Anticipation of the upcoming Assembly General Elections 2023, Collector and District Election Officer Padum Singh Elma has taken proactive measures to ensure the accuracy of the voter list. During a meeting held at the District Panchayat today, he diligently reviewed the voter list, paying special attention to the addition and deletion of voter names. Elma also gathered information about elderly and disabled voters aged above 80, ensuring that necessary provisions are in place to facilitate their participation in the electoral process. Furthermore, he

oversaw the verification of voter lists for specific assembly and polling stations, emphasizing the timely correction of any typographical errors. In addition to these efforts, the Collector closely monitored the distribution of Voter IDs to eligible citizens, ensuring seamless access to this essential document. As the district prepares for the elections, a total of 46 candidates will contest across three assembly constituencies, with Bemetara boasting the highest number of candidates at 18, and Saja and Navagarh each having 14 candidates vying for victory. A substantial 746,614 voters are expected to exercise their franchise, including 4,715 elderly voters above the age of 80 and 4,113 disabled voters.

## Next Pakistan PM won't be from Lahore: Bilawal Bhutto

Karachi, Nov 07 (PTI):



In an apparent dig at PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his hope that the next prime minister will not be from Lahore and hinted that his party will contest the polls "on its own" in the February 8 general election.

Former foreign minister Bhutto Zardari, 35, also clarified that his party PPP does not need to look towards anyone to emerge victorious in the upcoming polls, Geo News quoted him as saying.

"When it comes to elections, we [PPP] only look towards the people of Pakistan. We do not look or pin any hope from anywhere else the PM would only become that person, who is elected by the people of Pakistan. And I understand that this time the prime minister of the country will not be from Lahore," he told reporters.

Bhutto Zardari's comments came after PPP on Sunday won big in the by-polls held across 14 districts of Sindh and also weeks after a telephonic call between his father and former president Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif following the latter's return to Pakistan from a four-year-

long self-imposed exile, indicating chances of a poll alliance between the two parties.

A reported contact between Nawaz Sharif and PPP leader and former Pakistan president Asif Ali Zardari has seemingly failed to thaw the ice between the two former allies, with the latter sticking to its complaint of an uneven playing field in the run-up to polls, the Dawn newspaper reported.

On Monday in his first meeting of the PML-N's secretariat after his return, Sharif, 73, also directed his party leaders to begin their preparations for the national elections scheduled to be held on February 8.

Bhutto Zardari also termed PPP's success in Sunday's local government by-polls merely a trailer and said: "People proved [by voting] that they are with the PPP". The News International reported.

"Even if our [political] opponents unite [against

## PML-N, MQM-P to contest Feb 8 polls jointly

Lahore: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and a Karachi-based party, Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), on Tuesday announced that they would be jointly contesting the general elections scheduled on February 8, according to a media report. "The development comes following a meeting of an MQM-P delegation with the PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif in Lahore at the party's Model Town secretariat," Geo News reported. On Monday, top leaders of the PML-N and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) announced that they would work together for the

betterment of the country. It was declared after former premier Nawaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari held a telephone conversation and discussed the political situation among other things. The MQM-P had on Monday announced that PML-N leader and former premier Shehbaz Sharif contacted its leader Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and invited him to meet his elder brother Nawaz. Political campaigning has picked up in the country after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) last week announced that it would hold the next general elections on February 8.

us] they won't be able to defeat the PPP," he claimed.

While congratulating Karachi mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab for winning by-polls in city local bodies, he asked the party workers to take this fresh win as an opportunity to launch a campaign for the upcoming general elections, the Dawn newspaper reported.

In a separate statement, his father Asif Ali Zardari was quoted as saying:

"The sun of February 8 will rise with the news of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's victory. The days of suffering for the people are almost over, as the PPP will end their problems".

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

## 2023 Earthshot Prize Finalists



2023 Earthshot prize finalists pose for a picture on green carpet before start of the awards night in Singapore, Tuesday, Nov. 7. The finalists include a U.S. company that found a way to recycle polycotton fabrics; an Indian company producing solar-powered dryers to help farmers combat food waste; a scheme to plant, grow and digitally track trees in Sierra Leone's capital Freetown and an anti-smog movement in Poland.

## US is focused on 'ensuring, supporting' free and fair elections in Pakistan

Washington, Nov 07 (PTI):

The US has said it is focused on "ensuring and supporting" that free and fair elections are held in Pakistan in a manner that would benefit the people of the country.

Ending months of suspense, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced this month that it will hold the general elections on February 8.

"Our focus continues to be on ensuring and supporting that there are free and fair elections that are conducted in a way for

the benefit of the Pakistani people," US State Department's Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said in reply to a question about the forthcoming general elections in Pakistan.

Patel was addressing reporters during the department's press briefing on Monday. Responding to a question regarding elections in Pakistan and the doubts over jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairperson Imran Khan's participation in the polls, Patel said he did not have "an assessment

on the makeup of candidates or the representation of any specific political party."

"That is for the people of Pakistan to decide," he added. Khan, the former prime minister, has been in jail since August this year in connection with the cipher case.

Khan, the former prime minister and his close ally ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, were indicted on October 23 for the alleged leaking of a diplomatic cable (cipher) and violating the secrecy laws of the country.

There are several other cases lodged against Khan and his colleagues and supporters too.

Political activities have picked up in Pakistan ever since the ECP announced the date for general elections. There has been speculation that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif, who returned to Pakistan after a self-imposed exile of four years in London, has been blessed by the powerful Pakistan Army and that former prime minister Khan has been deliberately kept in jail.

## Nepal quake: 16 more people injured in quake aftershocks

Kathmandu, Nov 07 (PTI):

At least 16 people were injured after three tremors of over 4 magnitude hit western Nepal's Jajarkot on Monday, days after the country witnessed its worst quake in eight years that claimed the lives of 153 people and left a total of 266 others injured, security agencies said on Tuesday.

With those injured in the aftershocks on Monday, the total number of people injured in a series of earthquakes in Nepal has touched 266.

"Sixteen people were injured when three aftershocks with more than 4 magnitude hit Jajarkot in Western Nepal on Monday

afternoon. Ten people were injured in Rukum West and six others were injured in Jajarkot," said officials from the security agencies.

Nepal was jolted by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake just before midnight last Friday. Since then the nation has felt several aftershocks.

The earthquake, which hit Jajarkot and Rukum West districts in western Nepal, also damaged around 8,000 houses, both public and private, according to officials.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" has called an all-party meeting on Tuesday to discuss the aftermath of the

Jajarkot earthquake and the latest developments, said Saurya Kiran Sharma, the press coordinator of Prime Minister Prachanda.

The meeting will mainly discuss matters relating to relief and rehabilitation works to be carried out after the earthquake.

On Tuesday, President Ramchandra Paudel will be leaving Kathmandu on an inspection tour to the earthquake-hit districts, Jajarkot and Rukum Paschim, Tuesday afternoon.

In the wake of the Jajarkot earthquake, President Paudel also cancelled his scheduled 10-day visit to Europe starting on Wednesday.

## Israel will have 'overall security' role in Gaza indefinitely: Netanyahu

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), Nov 07 (AP): Israel will take "overall security responsibility" in Gaza indefinitely after its war with Hamas, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, the clearest indication yet that Israel plans to maintain control over the coastal enclave one month into a conflict that has claimed thousands of lives and levelled whole swaths of the territory.

In an interview with ABC News that aired late Monday, Netanyahu expressed openness to "little pauses" in the fighting to facilitate the delivery of aid to Gaza or the release of some of the more than 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its Oct 7 attack into Israel that triggered the war. But he ruled out any general cease-fire without the release of all the



Palestinians look for survivors of the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Khan Younis on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

hostages, and the White House said there was no agreement on US President Joe Biden's call for a broader humanitarian pause after a phone call between

the leaders. The war has come at a staggering cost. Airstrikes have reduced entire city blocks to rubble, and around 70% of Gaza's 2.3

million people have fled their homes, with many heeding Israeli orders to head to the southern part of the besieged territory, which is also being bombed.

Israeli troops have been battling Palestinian militants inside Gaza for over a week, and have succeeded in cutting the territory in half and encircling Gaza City. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and United Nations-run schools-turned-shelters are overflowing.

The Palestinian death toll has surpassed 10,000, the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said Monday, including over 4,100 minors. More than 2,300 people are missing and believed to be buried under the rubble of destroyed buildings, the ministry said. The ministry

does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, and Israel says it has killed thousands of fighters.

About 1,400 people in Israel have died, mostly civilians killed in the Oct. 7 incursion by Hamas. Israelis observed a moment of silence Tuesday in memory of the victims. The 30th day is a milestone in Jewish mourning, and memorial events are planned in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Israel has vowed to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities but neither Israel nor its main ally, the United States, has said what would come next. Netanyahu told ABC News that Gaza should be governed by "those who don't want to continue the way of Hamas," without elaborating.

## 40 people dead in Kenya and Somalia

● Heavy rains and flash floods displace thousands

Nairobi, Nov 07 (AP):

Heavy rains and flash flooding have killed at least 40 people and displaced tens of thousands in Kenya and Somalia, aid agencies have reported.

In Somalia, the government declared an emergency after the extreme weather killed at least 25 people and destroyed homes, roads and bridges. Emergency and rescue workers were trying to reach an estimated 2,400 residents trapped by floodwaters in the Luuq district of southern Somalia's Jubaland state.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned of a high risk of flooding along the Juba and Shabelle rivers and called for the evacuation of people living along the entire stretch of the Juba.

"The Somalia Disaster Management Agency is swiftly responding to the crisis, with plans to dispatch a flight to Dollow and transport two boats from Kismayo to Luuq and one to Bardhere to assist with evacuations,"

Hassan Isse, the agency's managing director, told The Associated Press.

"The magnitude of the current floods is likely to deteriorate in the next few days due to the emergence of more water from upstream in the Ethiopian Highlands," Isse said.

The heavy rains follow four consecutive years of drought that pushed Somalia to the brink of famine.

In neighbouring Kenya, the Kenya Red Cross said the death toll had risen to 15 since the heavy rains began Friday, with the port city of Mombasa and the northeastern counties of Mandera and Wajir the worst affected.

As of Sunday, flash floods had destroyed 241 acres of farmland and killed 1,067 livestock, and the Kenya Red Cross reported.

Weather forecasters in Kenya started warning in September that rains would be heavier than usual during the short rainy season between October and December.

President William Ruto contradicted the forecast, telling Kenyans that the experts had revised their advice and that "there would be no devastating El Nino flooding."

## Japan and UK to discuss deepening security ties

Tokyo, Nov 07 (AP):

Japanese and British foreign and defense ministers are to talk on Tuesday about deepening their military cooperation under a new security pact that allows their militaries to enter each other's turf for joint exercises.

Japan and Britain have expanded their cooperation in recent years amid concern about China's growing influence. Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has signed the Reciprocal Access Agreement with Australia and the UK so far, making them semi-allies.

The talks in Tokyo among Japanese Foreign

Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps are the first since the RAA took effect in mid-October.

They are meeting on the sidelines of the meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven advanced nations on Tuesday and Wednesday that are expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, the Russia-Ukraine war and tension in the Indo-Pacific region.

The four ministers' discussions on Japan-UK security ties are likely to include expanding joint exercises and cooperation in

new areas such as space and cybersecurity, based on the Japan-UK Hiroshima Accord reached between Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in May.

Kishida's government in December announced Japan's new mid-to-long-term security strategy to build up its security and defense including counter-strike capability in a major shift from the country's self-defense-only principle adopted after the last world war, citing growing threats in the region, including from China.

While strengthening military ties with long-

time US allies, Japan is rapidly developing ties with the Philippines to reinforce deterrence against China as it escalates tension in the Taiwan Strait.

In their talks last week in Manila, Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to start negotiations for a RAA, and announced that coastal surveillance radar would be provided to the Philippine navy under a new security grant program Japan aims to help strengthen the militaries of friendly countries.

Japan has had a longstanding territorial dispute with China over islands in the East China Sea.

## Russia finalises pullout from Cold War-era treaty

● Blames US and its allies for treaty's collapse

Moscow, Nov 07 (AP):

Russia on Tuesday finalised its pullout from a key Cold War-era security deal, more than eight years after announcing the intention to do so, the Foreign Ministry said.

The development came after both houses of the

Russian parliament approved a bill proposed by President Vladimir Putin denouncing the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Putin signed it into force in May this year.

The treaty aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later.

## Diwali celebrations across SA attract tens of thousands

Johannesburg, Nov 07 (PTI):

Tens of thousands of South Africans from all communities participated in Diwali celebrations across the country ahead of the festival of lights next Sunday.

The Durban Diwali Festival, hosted by the South African Hindu Maha Sabha (SAHMS), attracted the largest crowds over the three days that it was hosted, with a wide range of cultural activities, food stalls, Indian movies and



yoga sessions for the young and the old.

"Since 1998, the Durban Diwali Festival has been celebrated by not only the people of Durban, but from across South Africa, acknowledging a worldwide festival," SAHMS President

Ashwin Trikamjee told PTI.

A morning 'hawan' featuring pundits and gurus from all Indian linguistic groups was organised which was followed by bhajans and a special recital of the Ram Katha.

"Diwali celebration in South Africa is no longer confined to just the Hindu community, it has now become a national celebration of the entire community of South Africa. The Diwali festivals across the country attract people from all sec-

tions of society. "Different race groups enjoy the festivities that are celebrated during the time of Diwali. It is yet another indication of what the Rainbow Nation in South Africa can achieve bringing people together," Trikamjee added.

In Pretoria, Diwali celebrations on Saturday evening attracted over 7,000 people to the stadium at Laudium, the township to which the Indian community of the region were forcibly resettled in the apartheid era.



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### GPS Tracking for Terror Accused

Jammu and Kashmir Police's State Investigation Agency (SIA) has taken a significant step in the fight against terrorism by introducing Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker anklets for individuals accused of terrorism who are out on bail. This modern technology, previously employed mainly in Western countries, enables the Jammu and Kashmir Police to closely monitor the movements of these individuals. The primary objective of this measure is to prevent them from engaging in further anti-national and anti-social activities, influencing witnesses, or attempting to flee the country. The first person accused of terrorism to be fitted with a GPS tracker anklet by the SIA is a Hizbul Mujahideen activist involved in terror financing. This groundbreaking development underscores the SIA's commitment to leveraging advanced technology in the relentless battle against terrorism and the preservation of national security. In an age where technology is not just a luxury but a compelling necessity, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have consistently led the way in deploying advanced technologies to counter terrorism, particularly the terrorism sponsored by Pakistan over the past four decades. Despite Pakistan's ISI adeptly using modern technology to obscure terrorist activities, from planning to execution, the JKP and other security agencies have effectively thwarted these efforts with unwavering determination and expertise. The result has been the proactive dismantling of terrorist networks and the tracing of hawala funds intended for terrorist operations. Within this complex context, the JKP has apprehended numerous individuals directly or indirectly connected to terrorism. Once in custody, these individuals often apply for bail due to the passage of time and adherence to the law. However, these bail applications are often denied due to concerns about potential flight or tampering with trial witnesses. In response to this recurring scenario, the SIA has adopted cutting-edge technology in the form of GPS-enabled tracker anklets. This innovative concept, employed in only a handful of countries, such as the USA, allows for the monitoring of individuals on bail or parole. The anklet can be programmed to establish specific boundaries or perimeters, automatically alerting law enforcement agencies if an under-trial prisoner exceeds these predefined limits. The use of GPS tracker anklets marks a significant advancement in the fight against terrorism. It ensures that individuals accused of terrorism on bail are held accountable for their actions and cannot pose a threat to public safety. Accused individuals facing charges related to terrorism must adhere to rigorous standard conditions, including the mandatory wearing of the tracking device, the use of a basic keypad mobile phone, and the surrender of their passport. Vigilant oversight and unwavering bail stipulations are essential for those accused of terrorism. The Special NIA Court in Jammu has granted authorization to attach a GPS tracker anklet to the accused following due consideration. The JKP's pioneering use of this technology has the potential to be a game-changer on several fronts. Most notably, many accused individuals can be granted bail with confidence, as these GPS tracker anklets will safeguard witnesses against potential interference. This innovation will immediately alleviate the overcrowding of jails, providing much-needed space for other inmates. Accused individuals will no longer be able to evade law enforcement or exert undue influence over witnesses. The need for additional police personnel for the physical surveillance of terror suspects will diminish significantly. If this technology proves effective, it can be extended to other accused individuals as well. While the introduction of GPS tracker anklets for accused individuals is a welcome and forward-thinking development, it is vital to emphasize that this measure is rooted in the need for national security and the protection of innocent lives. It is not meant to undermine the rights of the accused or disregard the principles of justice. Rather, it is a proactive approach to ensure that individuals accused of terrorism do not have the opportunity to jeopardize ongoing investigations, intimidate witnesses, or pose a threat to society.

### LOK RANG AT JKK



Artists from Manipur perform Lai Haraoba folk dance during 'Lok Rang' at Jawahar Kala Kendra, in Jaipur, Monday night.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Air Pollution Crisis

Air pollution in the northern plains, exacerbated by stubble burning, demands immediate action. Unfortunately, the lack of political will and public pressure hinders effective solutions. The impact of polluted air on health is severe, leading to respiratory, cardiac, and even cancerous conditions. Vulnerable groups like pregnant women, outdoor workers, the elderly, and children face even graver risks. Moreover, air pollution harms the environment, causing acid rain, ozone depletion, and soil contamination. It is imperative that we address this crisis urgently to safeguard both public health and the environment.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Strategic Diplomacy

The forthcoming India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is pivotal for bolstering strategic and defense cooperation between these allies. However, a paradox arises in the statements made by US Assistant Secretary for Central Asian Affairs, Donald Lu, regarding US and India's efforts to contain the Israel-Hamas conflict. While both nations share interests in countering China, divergent stances on a Gaza ceasefire pose challenges to West Asian peace. A pragmatic approach is imperative to foster stronger ties between these leading democracies, as they navigate geopolitical complexities and seek to maintain stability in the region.

Gopal Das, New Delhi

#### Pollution's Toll

Recent research highlights that pollution not only leads to cancer and lung diseases but also causes anemia, particularly in children. Pollution, an unwelcome consequence of so-called progress, plagues major cities. In the past four days, Delhi and its neighboring areas recorded hazardous Air Quality Index (AQI) levels, surpassing 500, even reaching 990 in some places. Simultaneously, a neighboring agricultural state reported over a thousand stubble burning incidents in four days, with 1921 cases in just one day. Despite a decade of government efforts, public awareness about pollution's grave dangers remains lacking, despite studies linking it to reduced lifespan and economic hardship.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

## Toxicity of Social Media: A Digital Minefield

YASH PAL RALHAN



In an age dominated by digital connectivity, where social media platforms have become an integral part of our daily lives, the consequences of this virtual revolution are beginning to reveal themselves. While there's no denying the incredible benefits and opportunities these platforms offer, there's an equally compelling and concerning narrative emerging—the detrimental impact of social media on mental health. Time to delve into the complex and multifaceted relationship between social media and mental well-being, exploring both its positive and negative dimensions, and ultimately advocating for a balanced and mindful approach to our digital lives.

#### A Double-Edged Sword

Over the past decade, social media has transformed the way we communicate, connect, and consume information. What was once considered a novel way to stay in touch with friends and family has evolved into a global phenomenon that shapes opinions, fuels activism, and drives business ventures. The proliferation of social media platforms has brought people together across geographical boundaries, making the world feel smaller and more interconnected than ever before.

#### The Connection Paradox

One of the most compelling promises of social media is its ability to connect individuals across the globe. Whether it's rekindling old friendships, fostering new ones, or staying updated with the lives of loved ones, these platforms have undoubtedly brought people closer

together. However, this very aspect of connectivity has a dark side. As users, we have become increasingly reliant on the validation and approval that social media provides. The number of likes, comments, and shares we receive has become a measure of our worth in this digital realm. The need for constant affirmation from our virtual peers can lead to anxiety, depression, and feelings of inadequacy when our posts don't receive the desired response. We've begun to equate our online popularity with our real-world happiness, a dangerous fallacy that can take a toll on our mental health.

#### The Emotional Investment

A concerning trend in recent years has been the emotional investment that individuals pour into their social media personas. Many young people are using these platforms as a primary means of seeking emotional support, validation, and connection. While genuine connections can certainly be forged online, the expectation that social media will fulfill all our emotional needs can be a recipe for disappointment and psychological distress. The pressure to curate a flawless online image, complete with carefully edited photos and witty captions, can lead to a sense of inauthenticity and even identity crisis. Maintaining this façade requires constant effort and can contribute to stress and anxiety. The resulting emotional exhaustion can have profound implications for mental health.

#### The Silent Mental Health Crisis

take birth and multiply. Increasing numbers of these organisms can become a threat to human health. Every year, through Diwali, we follow the meaningful tradition of self-motivated cleaning of houses, shops, and establishments, giving them a new look by painting, decorating, and lighting, among other things. These acts eliminate most disease-causing agents and dust, greatly reducing the chances of various diseases caused by them.

On the other hand, beautiful and attractive colorful houses, establishments, markets, etc., arouse feelings of happiness in the mind. We all know that a healthy and happy mind is necessary for a healthy body and longer life. A healthy body means a disease-free, active physique. In the modern era, getting treatment for diseases is not only very expensive but also emotionally and financially painful for both the patient and the family. From this point of view, Deepotsav traditions help in improving the health and economy of the family.

#### According to medical science, four hormones produced in the human body are responsible for increasing the joy of life:

- Dopamine: Also known as the feel-good hormone, it is necessary for the experience of happiness.

Mental health issues related to social media often go unnoticed. The constant exposure to curated and idealized representations of others' lives can create unrealistic expectations and foster feelings of inadequacy. Young people, in particular, are vulnerable to these pressures. The desire to fit in and conform to societal norms prevalent on social media can lead to poor self-esteem and mental health struggles. In some cases, the consequences are even more dire. Continuous online engagement can trigger depressive symptoms that, if left unaddressed, can escalate to suicidal ideation or criminal tendencies. Identifying these signs in young individuals is challenging, as they may manifest as irritability, sleep disturbances, or withdrawal from offline activities.

#### The Complicated Relationship with Real-Life Interactions

Social media's impact on our real-life interactions is another facet of its influence on mental health. The obsession with virtual connections can sometimes hinder our ability to engage meaningfully with people in the physical world. The constant pull of notifications and the need to capture every moment for online consumption can rob us of the joy of living in the present. Furthermore, the addictive nature of these platforms can lead to an erosion of face-to-face relationships. People may find themselves spending more time chatting online with friends they could easily meet in person, leading to a decline in the quality of their real-world connections.

#### The Responsibility of Society and Parents

Recognizing the toxic side of social media is the first step toward mitigating its harmful effects. Society, parents, and educators must play pivotal roles in addressing this issue. Counseling and support services should be readily available for those struggling with social media-related mental health issues. Parents, in particular, need to be

proactive in monitoring their children's online behavior and intervening when necessary. Encouraging balanced screen time, fostering offline hobbies, and maintaining open lines of communication with children can help mitigate the negative impact of social media.

#### Finding a Balance

Despite the challenges posed by social media, it would be shortsighted to dismiss its potential benefits. It has transformed lives, empowered individuals, and facilitated knowledge sharing on an unprecedented scale. From students using it to enhance their learning to businesses expanding their reach, social media has proven to be a powerful tool when used mindfully. The key lies in striking a balance. We must approach social media with awareness and intention. It should enhance our lives, not consume them. Rather than seeking validation from our online personas, we should find it within ourselves and our offline relationships. We should prioritize real-life connections over digital ones, valuing the present moment above virtual distractions.

#### The Way Forward

As we navigate the complex landscape of social media and mental health, it's essential to remember that the power lies in our hands. Social media isn't inherently good or bad—it's a tool. How we use it and the boundaries we set determine its impact on our lives. In a world increasingly connected by screens, let's not forget the importance of human connection. As we continue to harness the potential of social media, let's also prioritize our mental well-being. By striking a balance between our digital and real lives, we can ensure that social media remains a force for good, empowering us without compromising our mental health. Only by understanding the nuances of this digital age can we harness its benefits while mitigating its detrimental effects.

## Deepotsav: Combination of Rituals, Culture, Sociality and Scientificity



Dr. Man Mohan Prakash

Deepotsav is a unique cultural festival inspired by science and celebrated with great enthusiasm by most Indians for five days. It is a festival of lights that symbolizes rituals, culture, sociality, and nurtures mutual harmony, love, brotherhood, and belonging. Deepotsav teaches us to live in society, for society, to move from selfishness to altruism, and to create new standards of dignity. This festival teaches us to transform darkness into light and evilness into goodness.

The scientific basis of this festival is very strong. This festival falls during the transition period of the rainy season and autumn. During the rainy season, many insects, bacteria, and germs

- Serotonin hormone: Necessary for a good mood.
- Oxytocin hormone: Also called the love hormone, it is required to keep anxiety and stress at bay and provide depth to relationships with trust, sympathy, and love.
- Endorphin hormone: Important to provide relief from stress and problems.

The regular and balanced secretion of these hormones in a person gives feelings of happiness and joy in life. On the contrary, deficiency and imbalance of these hormones in the body can give rise to various mental and physical diseases whose treatment involves costly hormone therapy, among other things. But all these hormones can increase naturally in the human body by spending quality time with loved ones, having fun with friends and family, laughing, meeting, hugging, and enjoying favorite clothes and food, among other things. All these measures or acts are part of festivals like Deepotsav of Indian Sanatan culture. Thus, we can say that festivals like Diwali are helpful and necessary for a healthy longer life for each person and unity of family and society. The environment also has its own special importance in good health, hence we should protect

the environment from getting further polluted by limiting the use of firecrackers and fireworks during this festival. From the social point of view, this festival fills life with joy, wealth, health, prosperity, harmony, love, brotherhood, and peace, unites families, gives new colors to life, and removes the monotony of life. It inculcates the habit of living a happy life in humans and provides longevity by removing sadness and despair from life. This festival is also an important medium to preserve the eternal cultural heritage, harmony, and family traditions.

Festivals like Deepotsav are also a means of getting better profits for retail, small and big traders from the point of view of trade and business and also give happiness. On these occasions, the markets are so attractive that the customers cannot keep themselves away from purchasing even if they want to. At such a time, we Indians should give up the temptation of foreign, cheap, and less durable products and give importance and priority to indigenous, local products, and do not forget to purchase items from small and footpath shops. By doing this, we can strengthen India and the Indian economy, encourage Indian art, skill, craftsmanship, and provide employment opportunities to

our fellow citizens. With this act, we Indians can also teach a country like China a lesson by boycotting its products. We have to think about our means of worship (lamps, candles, idols, fringes, decoration material, etc.) made by a country like China where there is no faith or belief in our God and festival of lights, nor is it a part of the culture of that country. How can those mental and intimate feelings come in the material produced by China, etc., as made by Indians? Secondly, unless we Indians will not buy, use, or appreciate our indigenous products, how can we expect that foreigners will buy, use, and appreciate Indian products and boost our economy?

We all know that there is a tradition of lighting earthen lamps at the festival of lights. This tradition also helps Indians to love and stay connected to the soil of our country, to carry forwards the custom and tradition of our family, and to move out darkness from life and move forward towards light, and to brighten the lives of Indians as much as possible. It suggests to say goodbye to evils and adopt goodness and follow the path of truth. So let us all decide to celebrate our festivals only using items made in our country to empower our countrymen.



**BRIEF**

**Appointment**



**New Delhi:** The government has appointed M J Dinesh as the chairman of the Coffee Board for three years, according to an official notification. The post was vacant for some time. The board is under the administrative control of the commerce ministry. It comprises 33 members including the Chairman and the Secretary and Chief Executive Officer.

**Meal prices**

**Mumbai:** Amid onion prices skyrocketing to over Rs 80 per kg, a domestic rating agency on Monday warned that the cost of a typical thali or a meal is expected to inch up in November. In October, the higher onion prices had capped a decline in the thali prices as the prices of the politically sensitive commodity increased to Rs 40 per kilogramme from Rs 34 per kg in the second half of the month. However, a decline in the prices of potato and tomato helped in the price of a vegetarian thali coming at Rs 27.5, which was 5 per cent lower compared to that of year-ago period and 1 per cent lower than the preceding month of September, the agency said.

**Woman branch**



**Chennai:** PNB Housing Finance, the third largest housing finance company in India, launched its first all-woman branch in the country at Tambaram here. The inauguration also marks the company's 100th affordable-focused branch in the country dedicated to offering housing finance solutions at reasonable rates to customers through its scheme Roshni. The affordable segment scheme offers loans ranging from Rs 5 lakh to 35 lakh for home buying, home expansion and renovation, plot purchases, and loans against property.

## Finance ministry focuses on bringing all business establishments under GST net

Vapi (Guj), Nov 07:

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that the finance ministry's focus is not only on increasing GST revenue but also on bringing all the business establishments under its ambit. She was speaking at a function to open 12 GST Suvidha Kendras in Gujarat from here, which will help business establishments to have flawless GST registration and will help them resolve their issues at such centres. "GST 'one nation one tax', collection is going up every year, every month. GST has brought tax rates down on many items compared to earlier times. Businessmen



know that they are not going to be double taxed under GST which was the case earlier. GST collection is increasing because of it," Sitharaman said. But many establishments still prefer to re-

main out of the ambit of GST and are not part of the formal economy, she said. "Why should they come in the tax net, not because they will pay me tax, but for the true strength of the economy what we capture is only some and not entire and formalization of economy can happen only when everybody is on-board," she said.

"Staying out of the (formal) economy is neither good for the country nor for those individuals," she said. "You believe that you benefit by staying out you don't come in the net, you don't get to be noticed, which is not true. Actually you are losing out on potential buyers," she said. "So from

now on I would like equal attention for the collection of tax, numbers of which are going up every year and month.. yes we have to give care and focus to that but equally our focus should be that more and more establishments and businesses are covered. The country should benefit from having a transparent tax regime from which everybody benefits," she said. At the function, five people who uploaded their paid GST bills on the government portal, were awarded Rs 10 lakh each based on a draw.

Sitharaman congratulated those winners and said that every consumer should get their bills. "In a way, it has a very big

message, and that is the spirit with which the consumer should make sure that they participate in the development of the country. "I also appreciate those who had uploaded their bill but who did not win in the lottery," she said, adding that every consumer should be encouraged to upload their bills. GST revenue collection for October 2023 was the second highest ever, next only to April 2023, at Rs 1.72 lakh crore. Gujarat Finance Minister Kanu Desai and officials of the State GST department were present at the function to open GST Suvidha Kendras in 12 different cities of Gujarat including Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Panchmahals.

## India being net importer steel a matter of concern: Tata Steel CEO Narendran

New Delhi, Nov 07:

India being a net importer of steel is a matter of concern, Tata Steel CEO & MD T V Narendran said Tuesday. The government has assured of intervention, if the imports remain on a rise, Narendran said at the ISA Steel Conclave event in the national capital. "I think it's a little bit of a concern because internationally steel prices are still a bit soft because of China. You heard the (commerce) minister Piyush Goyal saying that if imports increase the government will look at what it can do to help us," he said replying to a question on India being net importer of steel in October. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush



Goyal on Tuesday assured the domestic industry that India will not accept such unfair taxes and will fight to get a fair deal for producers and exporters. He said India has already flagged its concerns over the carbon tax with the European Union (EU) and in the WTO (World Trade Organization).

## India will not accept unfair taxes on steel, aluminum industry: Goyal on EU's carbon tax

New Delhi, Nov 07:

Expressing serious concerns over the European Union's move to impose carbon tax on imports from certain sectors like steel, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday assured the domestic industry that India will not accept such unfair taxes and will fight to get a fair deal for producers and exporters. He said India has already flagged its concerns over the carbon tax with the European Union (EU) and in the WTO (World Trade Organization).

The CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) or carbon tax (a kind of import duty) will come into effect from January 1, 2026, but from



October 1 this year, domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products, will have to share data with regard to carbon emissions with the EU. "I will assure you that we are extremely concerned about CBAM...We are tak-

ing it up with the WTO very very seriously. We shall try to work and fight to get a fair deal for the Indian producers and exporters and nobody is complacent about CBAM," he said here at a function of the steel industry. The minister said the world will have to take a view on this tax and India would onboard other countries on the issue to address this "very serious" concern. "We will always find innovative solutions but I can assure you that India will not be accepting unfair taxes or levies being put on the Indian steel or aluminum industry or any other industry," he said adding "let us not be scared of it and find solutions which will be to our advantage going forward".

## Markets snap 3 days of rally; settle marginally lower

Mumbai, Nov 07:



Equity benchmark indices snapped three days of rally to settle marginally lower on Tuesday amid weak trends in Asian and European markets along with unabated foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 16.29 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 64,942.40. During the day, it declined 320.59 points or 0.49 per cent to 64,638.10. The Nifty slipped 5.05 points or 0.03 per cent to 19,406.70. Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, JSW Steel, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Bharti Airtel were the major laggards.

Sun Pharma, NTPC, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank and Axis

Bank were the major gainers. "The market witnessed some resistance at higher levels as caution prevails due to the start of the key state elections, and further negative global cues on account of a more than expected fall in Chinese exports, highlighting a continued slowdown in global trade. Despite the extension of supply cuts by Saudi Arabia and Russia, crude oil prices moderated, a positive for India in the midst of geopolitical tension.

## India needs to integrate into global value chains: NITI Aayog CEO

New Delhi, Nov 07:



NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam on Tuesday emphasised on the need for India to integrate into global value chains and adapt swiftly to emerging trading systems, according to an official statement. While addressing a thematic workshop on 'Inclusive Trade for Growth & Prosperity' organised by NITI Aayog, Subrahmanyam also highlighted the need for a non-discriminatory and inclusive trading system which facilitates trade as an engine of growth and prosperity. Also speaking at the event, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani highlighted the need for strengthening key areas

such as labour-intensive supply chains, institutional factors for policy framing and simplifying taxation system, and integrating payment, refund and export credit systems especially for MSMEs. Virmani also pointed out the need to address various anti-dumping issues and the need to foster free trade agreements with potential partners.

## DIWALI SHOPPING



Women shop decorative items for the Diwali festival, in Jammu, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

## Air India-Vistara merger remains on course, says Singapore Airlines

Singapore, Nov 07:

Singapore Airlines on Tuesday said the proposed merger of Air India and Vistara "remains on course" and is subject to approvals from regulators as well as competition authorities in several jurisdictions. Once the merger is complete, Singapore Airlines (SIA) will have a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. Currently, Singapore Airlines owns a 49 per cent shareholding in Vistara and the remaining 51 per cent stake is with the Tata Group. "The proposed merger of Air India and Vistara remains on course, with the Competition Commission of India approving the transaction in September 2023. "It remains subject to foreign di-

rect investment approval, as well as approvals from other regulators and competition authorities in several jurisdictions including those from India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and National Company Law Tribunal, and the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore," SIA Group said in a release on Tuesday. While announcing the group's financial performance for the first half of the financial year 2023-24, SIA also said that when the merger is complete, it will get a 25.1 per cent stake in an enlarged Air India Group with a significant presence in all key Indian airline market segments.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and Air India, which was acquired by Tata Group in January 2022, has embarked on an ambitious revival and expansion plan. In the first half of the 2023-24 fiscal, SIA Group reported a 55.4 per cent jump in net profit to SGD 1,441 million from USD 927 million in the year-ago period. Its total revenue jumped 8.9 per cent to SGD 9,162 million from SGD 8,417 million in the same period a year ago. As of September 30, the group had an operating fleet of 202 aircraft comprising 195 passenger aircraft and 7 freighters. SIA's operating fleet comprised 140 passenger aircraft and 7 freighters while Scoot had 55 passenger aircraft.

## Motorola offers massive discounts on its smartphones

Mumbai, Nov 07:

Motorola, India's best 5G smartphone brand has announced the last chance to buy its smartphones at massively discounted prices, ahead of the Flipkart Big Diwali Sale. As of 1st November, Flipkart Plus members now have early access to purchase most of the smartphones across the Motorola edge, moto g, and moto e series, at incredibly attractive Big Diwali Sale prices.



HDR10+). This device also has a 4400mAh powerful battery with 68W TurboPowerTM and supports segment's first wireless charging. It boasts a premium vegan leather finish and a metal frame, ensuring a comfortable grip and

comes in vibrant fantastic colours, including Viva Magenta - Pantone Colour of the Year 2023. The smartphone has an impressive 50MP camera with a f/1.4 aperture- widest in the segment, advanced OIS feature Horizon lock for capturing shake free videos and 2um ultra pixel technology, that promises exceptional photography. Further strengthening Motorola's 5G portfolio, the moto g54 5G, India's most powerful- 5G smartphone enables users to experience marvelous performance in the sub-20K segment at just Rs. 13,999 and Rs. 15,999 for 8+128 GB and 12+256 GB variants respectively. The moto g54 5G is the segment's 1st smartphone with in-built 12GB RAM + 256GB storage configuration and segment's most powerful MediaTek Dimensity 7020 octa-core processor.

## KSB Limited registers 31% growth in the third quarter- Jul'23 to Sept'23

Mumbai, Nov 07:

KSB Limited, one of leading pumps and Valves manufacturer in India recorded a growth of 31% in the third quarter compared to previous year.

The sales value of Rs 5,637 million achieved for this quarter is 31% increase over the previous year. The sales value for 3 quarters of 2023 is Rs 16,446 million which is about 27% increase over the same period last year. CBE Valves division recorded highest ever Order Intake YTD 2023 - Rs 3173 million. Nuclear Business - bagged order worth INR 551 million for Auxiliary pumps from Nuclear Power Corp. of India. Received LOA (order acceptance) of 278 Million INR and 12 Million INR respectively from UP & Haryana Govts. under

PM - KUSUM scheme. The Export Business -Rs 205 million export order from Tecnimont SPA, Italy and Rs 149 million order from Kinetics Technology SpA Greek for LPG extraction and Oil refinery projects respectively. Breakthrough orders in defence segment from BBM Acoustic India Pvt. Ltd. worth 28.5 Million Rs (Ship), and MoD, Indian Navy, Indigenization Unit worth 6.1 Million Rs (submarine)

Summarising the Q3'23 performance, Mr. Farrokh Bhatena, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, KSB Limited said, "In the third quarter of 2023, KSB achieved outstanding Year on Year sales growth of 31% and witnessed a cumulative increase of 27% in sales over the past three quarters compared to last year.

## Lord's Mark Biotech launches Tinefcon for Psoriasis Management

Mumbai, Nov 07:

Lord's Mark Biotech, a subsidiary of Lord's Mark Industries and a leading Healthcare and wellness company has launched Tinefcon, a patented medicine for treating Psoriasis. Lord's Mark Biotech has signed an exclusivity agreement with INVEX Health Pvt Ltd for patented product developed by Piramallife sciences in India. Tinefcon is being launched as a total solution for Psoriasis in 4 forms such as tablet, cream, shower gel and scalp wash and is priced in the range of Rs. 799 - Rs. 3900. Lord's Mark Biotech, the exclusive distribution partner for Tinefcon, is mentoring mentors around the country through a scientific sales force exclusively recruited



for Tinefcon to deliver a solution for Psoriasis. The company has also established a strong social media campaign to aggressively market Tinefcon online. Tinefcon will also be offered on internet marketplaces, allowing the medical community to reliably recommend it to needy patients. Lord's Mark Biotech has invested Rs. 20

crores to market and distribute it extensively in India, the company is expecting a revenue of Rs.100 crores for Tinefcon by 2025. Commenting on the launch, Mr. Sachidanand Upadhyay, MD, Lord's Mark Biotech, said, "We are pleased to introduce Tinefcon to the Indian market.

The launch of Tinefcon is in line with our mission to enrich healthcare discourse in India. With Tinefcon, we offer a comprehensive, safe, and effective treatment of psoriasis. Our goal is to position Tinefcon as the principal choice for psoriasis management. We're looking forward to making Tinefcon a major success in India and reaching out to a wider patient base as we expand our presence.'

# Police arrest two masked suspects

Khairagarh, Nov 07:

The Khairagarh police apprehended two masked suspects during a nighttime pursuit, led by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Neha Pandey, in response to an ongoing theft case.

With the upcoming assembly elections in focus, SP Ankita Sharma provided guidance for enhanced security measures, leading to continuous patrols and check-point inspections conducted by gazetted officers, police station in-charges, and external forces on election duty.

During one such patrol, ASP Neha Pandey, along with her team comprising constables Prinsham



Hirwani, Atish Chandravanshi, and driver constable Kapil Sahu, encountered two masked individuals on a motorcycle in the Chhuikhadan area. These individuals were suspected of attack-

ing the police. Without hesitation, the police team pursued and successfully intercepted the suspects.

Upon interrogation, the masked individuals provided false information,

raising suspicions. Consequently, they were handed over to Inspector Jitendra Banjare at the police station for further investigation. Through rigorous questioning, it was revealed that one of the suspects, Tikesh Kumar, had committed theft, stealing an old Lenovo company laptop G500 model valued at Rs. 10,000 in Rani Rashmi Devi Colony, Khairagarh. Tikesh Kumar was arrested and remanded to jail based on substantial evidence.

Additionally, preventive action was taken against the other suspect, Dhameshwar Das Manikpuri, alias Daddu, whose name was associated with criminal activities.

# 49th Raising Day of NTPC celebrated at Lara

Lara, Nov 07:

The 49th Raising Day of power major NTPC Limited celebrated at Lara Super Thermal Power Station on 7th November 2023. At NTPC Lara Diwakar Kaushik, Executive Director (NTPC-Lara) hoisted NTPC flag and addressed the employees. In his address Kaushik highlighted the progress of NTPC from zero to 73874-megawatt power company. In this journey of 49 years, NTPC Limited has diversified its portfolio and registered its presence in the total value chain of power generation including hydro, gas, solar, wind, nuclear, green hydrogen, and nuclear power: NTPC has now become a global power company with international



presence in Bangladesh Maitree Power station, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister, Mrs. Sheikh Hasina on 1st November 2023. NTPC listed itself as an alone public sector company in global Forbes list of companies. Taking about NTPC Lara station performance in this FY 2023-2024, till October 31st, NTPC Lara station generated 7233.48 million units

with 88 percent plant load factor and stood 4th station among all NTPC power stations in the country. This achievement is quite encouraging for all employees because this data is very good for a new power station like NTPC Lara. Besides power generation Lara station is undertaking various developmental activities under CSR-CD activity for peripheral development. To memorise this moment a cake cutting ceremony

was held in the presence of all general managers and representatives of union and association. On this occasion Akhilesh Singh, GM (Operation & Maintenance), Rajeev Ranjan, GM (Maintenance), SK Roy, GM (Operation), Ravi Shankar, GM (Project Construction), SK Swain, GM (Fuel Management), Kanhaiya Das, AGM(HR) all Head of the Departments and employees were present.

# Three-year fugitive under animal cruelty act arrested

Khairagarh, Nov 07:

A fugitive wanted under Sections 4, 6, 10, and 11 of the Cruelty to Animals Act for three years has been apprehended by the dedicated efforts of the permanent warranty team.

The accused, Ashwani Patel, aged 35 and resident of Takhatpur in Bilaspur district, had eluded capture by frequently changing his place of residence. However, the persistent and relentless pursuit by the permanent warranty team led to his capture and subsequent presentation before the honourable Court.

The successful operation to apprehend Ashwani Patel was executed with precision, with the



special contributions of sub-inspector Birendra Chandrakar, head constable Ashutosh Singh, Constables Lokesh Thakur, Lala Nishad, Tejram, Uday Bareth, and women constables Lakshmi Chandel and Radhika.

# Election preparations in full swing, EVM commissioning begins

Collector took stock of commissioning process  
Observer and candidates witness EVM commissioning process

Bilaspur, Nov 07: The district is abuzz with preparations for the upcoming elections scheduled for November 17, with a crucial step now underway as the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are being readied for action. This vital process, known as commissioning, commenced today at the Government Engineering College in Koni, where a secure room houses the EVMs. Collector and District Election Officer Avnish Sharan personally oversaw the commissioning process, inspecting the designated rooms for all the constituencies. He emphasized the importance of meticulous



care during the commissioning and instructed the teams accordingly. The commissioning took place under the watchful eyes of General Observer Udayan Mishra, appointed by the Election Commission of India, and representatives of political parties.

The comprehensive commissioning process is expected to last for three to four days, with sector officers leading the teams responsible for commissioning. The initial steps

include the commissioning of the ballot units, followed by the installation of ballot papers destined for all polling stations. Pink paper seals were meticulously placed in the Control Units during this process, with the relevant Returning Officer, candidates, or their representatives, and ECIL engineers all signing off on the seals.

As part of the candidate setup, the Control Unit, Ballot Unit, and VVPAT were synchronized, and a mock poll was conducted

to ensure authenticity. Stringent measures were followed, including keeping the Control Unit switched off during the sealing process. The VVPAT received thermal paper rolls, batteries were installed, and symbol loading was carried out by ECIL engineers using a jig machine. Detailed records were maintained, including EVM numbers, BU and CU numbers, battery numbers, and VVPAT numbers, all meticulously entered in registers.

Engineers appointed by the Election Commission of India supervised the commissioning process, and the inspection was attended by Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kunal Dudawat and Deputy District Election Officer Shivkumar Banerjee, further ensuring a seamless start to the election preparations.

# Kohli's fans celebrate his birthday



Anwari, Nov 07: The youth of Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara came together to celebrate the birthday of Team India captain and cricket icon, Virat Kohli. The occasion was marked by cake cutting and an outpouring of admiration for Kohli's incredible career. Himanshu Sahu, one of Kohli's dedicated fans, expressed his admiration for the cricket maestro, stating, "Virat's batting prowess is an inspiration for young men like us. In today's era, every youth aspires to be-

come a cricketer, and we hope that Team India continues to achieve victory and bring glory to our nation." The celebration saw the participation of several enthusiastic youth, including Honey Gaur, Nitin Sahu, Gulshan Sahu, Pintu Sahu, Pushpendra Sahu, Pankaj Sahu, Saurabh Sahu, Manoj Sahu, Himanshu Sahu, Praveen, and many others, who collectively paid tribute to Virat Kohli and extended their best wishes for Team India's ongoing success.

# Smooth start for EVM and VVPAT commissioning process

Observers and collectors oversee election preparation  
Mock polls ensure reliability for upcoming elections

Mahasamund, Nov 07: The critical commissioning process of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines for the upcoming Assembly Elections 2023 has officially kicked off in Mandi Complex, Pitiyajhar. This significant endeavour is being conducted in the presence of political party representatives and returning offi-



cers from each respective assembly. General Observer Zafar Ali and District Election Officer Prabhat Malik actively participated in this process, ensuring its meticulous execution. They also inspected the robust strong room complex and provided essential guidance to the teams involved. To guarantee the

seamless commissioning of these machines, a comprehensive training program has been organized, with 20 supervisors and 40 employees dedicated to each assembly constituency. The commissioning work for the Mahasamund and Saraipali assemblies began today, accompanied by the conduct of mock polls to verify the accuracy

and reliability of the equipment.

The commissioning work for the Khallari and Basna assemblies is set to commence on Tuesday. The district is diligently sealing the machines for each assembly, preparing for the upcoming elections scheduled for November 17. The process was closely monitored by Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer Nirbhay Sahu, Deputy Superintendent of Police Akash Rao, Returning Officer Mahasamund Umesh Sahu, Omkareshwar Singh, ARO Misha Kosle, Manoj Khande, and representatives from political parties, ensuring transparency and readiness for the electoral process.

# EVMs and VVPATs prepared for upcoming elections

Randomization and commissioning ensure fairness in voting

Korea, Nov 07:

In preparation for the upcoming assembly elections, the critical task of randomizing and commissioning Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines was carried out with utmost diligence in the Baikunthpur assembly of the district. This vital training and awareness initiative ensures transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

The commissioning work unfolded seamlessly at the Government Ramanuj Higher Secondary School as per the pre-arranged sched-



ule. Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langesh, Returning Officer Ankita Som, Deputy Collector Rakesh Sahu, Tehsildar Chandni Kanwar, and other dedicated officers and employees were actively engaged in this endeavour. Under the guid-

ance of Collector and District Election Officer Vinay Kumar Langesh, the process of randomization and commissioning commenced on November 4 in the presence of General Observer Narayan Chandra Sarkar. This event took place at the

NIC room of the Collectorate office, witnessed by candidates and authorized representatives of the Baikunthpur Assembly. Subsequently, the EVMs and VVPAT machines were commissioned for the voting process at the Ramanuj Government Higher Secondary School today.

Prior to this, concerned officers were thoroughly briefed about their respective responsibilities. The training encompassed a range of activities, including the operation of ballot units, control units, VVPATs, cable connections between machines, attachment of address tags, sealing of pink paper, paper roll attachment, ballot paper arrangement, locking, sealing, conducting mock polls, and various forms-related procedures.

# Women host Diwali extravaganza in Fingeshwar

A vibrant Diwali fair leaves everyone delighted

Fingeshwar, Nov 07:

The town of Fingeshwar has witnessed a resplendent Diwali fair, organized by its spirited women, receiving accolades and praise from guests and residents alike. This inaugural event brought the joy and vibrancy of Diwali celebrations typically found in big cities right to the heart of the town.

**Celebration of community and festivity**  
The Diwali fair, a labour of love by the enthusiastic women of Fingeshwar, has not only provided entertainment but also a unique opportunity for residents to explore and purchase new



festival-related items. The women behind this remarkable initiative deserve heartfelt congratulations and gratitude from the community.

**A day to remember**  
On Sunday, November 5th, the town came together at the Samata Club ground for the very first Diwali fair. The event was inaugurated with the lighting of a lamp by Premkumari Tiwari, the former president of the town's oldest women's association. She commended the women's efforts, recog-

nizing their dedication and determination. The Diwali fair continued from 9 am to 9 pm, offering an array of stalls with Diwali sweets, new culinary delights, clothing, utensils, decorative items, and puja materials. Children enjoyed rides on cars, bicycles, and bikes at various stalls. The fair also hosted competitions such as Rangoli, chair races, and fancy dress, awarding winners with prizes and honors.

**Grand gathering of leaders and citizens**



Throughout the day, the fairground buzzed with activity, drawing a large crowd, including prominent figures like Amitesh Shukla, Priyanka Shukla, Rohit Sahu (BJP candidate for Rajim Vidhan Sabha), Pushpa Jagannath Sahu (President of Fingeshwar Janpad Panchayat), Madhubala Ratrey (President of the District Panchayat), as well as Sarpanches, Janpad members, district Panchayat members, respected town citizens, women, youth,

children, and journalists. The event's success was made possible by the leadership of Richa Ratrey and Puja Pahadia, and the efficient management of the Diwali fair was carried out under the guidance of Santoshi Srivastava and Aditi Pahadia. The organizing committee expressed their gratitude to all the guests, supporters, and various businesses for their direct and indirect support in making this inaugural event in the town a resounding success.

# AYUSH organizes rally for voter awareness

School girls spark voter enthusiasm with rangoli competition

Korba, Nov 07:

Isn't a resounding effort to enhance voter awareness and participation, a multitude of engaging initiatives have been launched across urban and rural areas of the district. Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Saurabh Kumar and District SVEEP Nodal and Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Vishwadeep, programs including human chains, rallies, street plays, wall writings, and essay competi-



tions are actively informing voters about the importance of their vote. One such endeavour saw the AYUSH Department organize a voter awareness rally at the Primary Health Center in Kerakchhar, Kartala Development Block. The officials

from the AYUSH Department passionately conveyed the significance of voting to villagers, motivating them to strengthen democracy by exercising their voting rights. A collective resolution was made to prioritize voting on the designated election date.

Additionally, school girls in Korba participated wholeheartedly in a Rangoli competition under the guidance of the Principal at Government Girls Higher Secondary School. The competition, organized by the school's SVEEP unit, showcased intricate and vibrant Rangoli designs aimed at encouraging 100% voter turnout in the upcoming assembly elections in 2023.

# England and Netherlands eye Champions Trophy qualification

Pune, Nov 07 (PTI): Casting aside their shattered title defence dream, England will now set sights on restoring their pride and secure a berth in the 2025 Champions Trophy when they face a plucky Netherlands in the World Cup here on Wednesday.

England have cut a sorry figure, managing just one win from seven matches in the World Cup to slip to the bottom of the 10-team table.

The Netherlands are a tad better on ninth with two wins and four points.

Both teams are out of the reckoning for a semi-final spot. The 33-run loss to arch rivals Australia on Saturday was the final nail in the coffin for England. While the Dutch are also officially out of the race.

But with ICC announcing that the top seven teams and hosts Pakistan will qualify for the 2025 Champions Trophy, there has been a scramble for the last few spots.

Champions four years ago, England have hit



England's Moeen Ali (R) plays football during a training session.

rock-bottom in this edition. No England team has ever lost so many games at a World Cup. Whatever could go wrong has gone wrong for the Three Lions and they are no longer favourites even against minnows Netherlands.

To avoid the ignominy of missing the cut for the prestigious Champions Trophy, England must win

Malan have struggled to give the kind of start expected of them while Joe Root's famed consistency too has deserted him. Skipper Jos Buttler and the big-hitting Liam Livingstone are also woefully out of form.

For England to win, their batters need to fire.

The England bowling unit has performed a touch better but it is one dimensional and lacks variety. The English bowlers have been inconsistent and have struggled in the Indian conditions. Ben Stokes, who is playing as a specialist batter, not rolling his arm has compounded their woes. With Stokes set to undergo a knee surgery and David Willey retiring from international cricket after this tournament, there have been calls to give the likes of youngsters Harry Brook and Sam Curran game time.

The Dutch will be eager to pounce on England's frailties. For the Netherlands, it is the golden opportunity to stake claim to the Champions Trophy spot.

# Zadran's first World Cup ton takes Afghanistan to 291/5

Mumbai, Nov 07 (PTI):



Buoyed by Sachin Tendulkar's encouraging words on the eve of the match, 21-year-old Ibrahim Zadran etched his name in Afghanistan's cricket history by scoring the country's first ever World Cup hundred that propelled them to a respectable 291 for 5 against Australia here on Tuesday.

Zadran anchored the innings with an unbeaten 129 off 143 balls as Afghanistan scored 64 in last five overs against five-time champions in a do-or-die game as far as their maiden semi-final appearance is concerned.

Zadran who made his ODI debut just four years ago, produced a terrific knock at the Wankhede Stadium in a key World Cup clash to record his fifth ton in only 26 ODIs.

He also has five fifties to his credit. Zadran also became the first batter from his nation to score a ton against Australia.

Vindicating his captain's call at the toss to bat first totally, Zadran's unhurried knock showcased his high-class temperament, fitness as well as calibre as he batted for the entirety of the Afghanistan innings, taking them to a fighting total on a batting-

friendly pitch. Zadran faced 143 balls and cracked eight fours and three sixes to make the highest score for any Afghanistan batter in World Cup tournaments since their maiden appearance two editions ago, surpassing Samiullah Shinwari's 96 against Scotland at Dunedin in the 2015 World Cup.

"I had a good chat with Sachin Tendulkar yesterday, he shared a lot of his experiences that I can't express. I'm very thankful to him for sharing his experiences and giving me a lot of confidence," Zadran said at the break.

With Australia pacers not finding any assistance off the surface or in the air right from the beginning, Afghanistan's approach was largely conservative but there were some sparks of brilliance too.

Azmatullah Omarzai smacked two sixes and a four to make an 18-ball 22 to provide Afghanistan with much-needed impetus in the middle overs. He was dismissed by Adam Zampa (1/58) who now has 20 wickets in the World Cup so far. Towards the end, Rashid Khan, who perhaps did not bowl at all during the lead-up to this contest, hammered a quickfire 35 not out off 18 balls (2x4s, 3x6s).

# Indian women's hockey team reclaims best-ever 6th position in world rankings

New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team has reclaimed its best-ever sixth place ranking in the world following its stupendous show in the just-concluded Asian Champions Trophy and the Hangzhou Asian Games.

India are now placed sixth ahead of England with 2368.83 rating points.

The Indian women were placed eighth before the Asian Games but the bronze medal at the continental showpiece and the title triumph at Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi, where they remained unbeaten, has catapulted the side back to its best-ever world ranking, last achieved during the FIH Pro League in June last year.

The Netherlands continued to be ranked as the best women's hockey team in the world with 3422.40 points, followed by Australia in second place with 2817.73 points and Argentina at third with 2766.90 points.

The other two teams ranked above India are Belgium at fourth with 2608.77 points and Germany at fifth with 2573.72 points. The jump in world ranking is a big shot in the arm for the team in its preparation for the forthcoming FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers, scheduled to be held from January 13 to 19 in Ranchi.

The Indians will battle it out against Germany, New Zealand, Japan, Chile, the United States, Italy and Czech Republic in a bid to qualify for next year's Paris Olympics.

# New Zealand name spin-heavy Test squad for Bangladesh tour

Christchurch, Nov 07 (PTI):



Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner was on Tuesday recalled to the Test squad after more than two years as New Zealand selectors picked a spin-heavy side for the two-match series in Bangladesh, beginning later this month.

Santner, who played the last of his 24 Tests against England at Lord's in June 2021, joins Ajaz Patel and Ish Sodhi as the front-line spinners.

Off-spinning all-rounders Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips also returned to boost their spin options on the back of impressive performances at the ongoing World Cup in India.

Ravindra is in stellar form, amassing 523 runs, including three centuries, in eight matches at the World Cup while also picking three wickets.

He last played in whites

**Squad**

Tim Southee (c), Tom Blundell (wk), Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Kane Williamson and Will Young.

spin group that will offer good variety and options during the series," Black Caps selector Sam Wells was quoted as saying by New Zealand Cricket (NZC).

The first Test is slated in Sylhet from November 28, while Dhaka will host the second Test from December 6. The series will kick off the third cycle of the WTC for the Black Caps and will feature a coaching team led by Luke Ronchi. Regular head coach Gary Stead will go home following the World Cup in India.

# BCCI Women's Inter-Zonal T20 Shafali Verma to lead North Zone



New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI): India's young batting sensation Shafali Verma will lead North Zone team in the Inter-Zonal women's T20 tournament scheduled to be held in Lucknow from November 24 to December 4. All-rounder Harleen Deol will be Shafali's deputy while veteran keeper Tanya Bhatia and out-of-favour Sushma Verma are also part of the squad. Pacer Amanjot Kaur and U-19 stars Shweta Sehrawat, Kashvi Gautam and Mannat Kashyap are also part of 15-member squad.

**Squad:** Shafali Verma (captain), Shweta Sehrawat, Parushi Prabhakar, Harleen Deol (vc), Sushma Verma (wk), Tanya Bhatia (wk), Amanjot Kaur, Kashvi Gautam, Neelam Bisht, Mannat Kashyap, Parunika Sisodia, Amandeep Kaur, Chitra Singh Jamwal, Suman Gulia, Madhu Dhama.

# Shakib ruled out of Bangladesh's last World Cup



New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI):

Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan was on Tuesday ruled out of his side's last World Cup match against Australia owing to a fractured finger.

The star all-rounder sustained the injury on his left index finger while batting during Bangladesh's three-wicket win over Sri Lanka at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Monday. An X-ray examination after the game confirmed a fracture, ruling him out of the match against Australia, to be played in Pune on Saturday.

"Shakib was struck on his left index finger early in his innings but continued to bat with supportive taping and painkillers," Bangladesh team physio Bayjedul Islam Khan was quoted as saying by the ICC. "He underwent an emergency X-ray in Delhi after the game which confirmed the fracture on the left PIP joint. Recovery is estimated at three to four weeks. He will leave for Bangladesh today to begin his rehab." Anamul Haque Bijoy has been named as Shakib's replacement in the Bangladesh squad. Anamul has played 45 ODIs for Bangladesh. The replacement of a player requires the approval of the Event Technical Committee before he can be officially added to the squad. The Event Technical committee consists of Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager Cricket & ETC Chair), Chris Tetley (ICC Head of Events), Hemang Amin (Acting CEO - BCCI), Gaurav Saxena (General Manager Operations, BCCI), Russel Arnold (Independent Representative) and Simon Doull (Independent Representative).

Bangladesh are out of the reckoning for the semifinals. They had defeated Sri Lanka by three wickets in the inconsequential match on Monday.

# Chhetri admits he's in 'bonus period' but yet to decide on retirement



New Delhi, Nov 07 (PTI):

By his own admission, Indian football talisman Sunil Chhetri is in the "bonus period" of his illustrious career but he has not set any retirement date.

One thing is, however, certain that the 39-year-old Chhetri will not be playing in 2026 when the football World Cup happens.

"I'm just happy that I'm here. This is the bonus period, I'm just enjoying it, I don't know when it's going to end. I just want to enjoy it," Chhetri said ahead of India's 2026 World Cup second round qualifiers matches later this month.

"Because I'm 39, I don't have long-term targets as far as me being on the pitch is concerned. I think about the next three

months, and then the next three months, and then we see how it goes," he was quoted as saying by fifa.com.

India have been drawn in Group A along with Qatar, Kuwait and Afghanistan. They play Kuwait in an away match on November 16 before taking on Qatar in Bhubaneswar on November 21.

The group winners and runners-up from each of the nine groups advance to the third round of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers. The 18 teams will be divided into three groups of six teams in the third round.

The top two teams of each group qualify directly for the 2026 World Cup, while the third and fourth-placed teams advance to the fourth round, which will decide two more Asian qualifiers for the showpiece.

Chhetri will be less than two months short of his 42nd birthday when the next FIFA World Cup happens in June 2026, and he is realistic enough to accept that playing at the global showpiece may be beyond him.

# Iga Swiatek beats Jessica Pegula to win the WTA Finals

Cancun, Nov 07 (AP):



Right after relinquishing the No. 1 ranking two months ago, Iga Swiatek couldn't help but worry about trying to regain it. "It's hard not to think about stuff like that," she explained.

And then Swiatek realized it was better to set that sort of thing aside and, instead, simply focus on playing her best tennis and her best is better than anyone else's at the moment. Swiatek earned her first WTA Finals title and clinched the year-end No. 1 ranking by overwhelming Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-0 on Monday in the latest in a series of dominant performances.

"Today was like a highlight of this mental (approach) just being narrow with your head, only thinking about the right stuff," said Swiatek, a 22-year-old from Poland who is the youngest WTA Finals champion since Petra Kvitova was 21 in 2011.

Swiatek went 5-0 at the tour's season-closing championship, winning

all 10 sets she played and ceding a total of just 20 games. That's the fewest by the winner at the event for the top eight women in tennis since the round-robin format returned in 2003. "She clearly really wanted that ranking," Pegula said. "I mean, you could tell by the way she was competing here. ... She was, like today, crushing people."

Swiatek extended her winning streak to 11 matches and improved to 68-11 in 2023 with six trophies, including her fourth career Grand Slam title at the French Open in June.

Pegula called it "an amazing year."

This victory allows Swiatek to return to No. 1, a spot she held from April 2022 until this September, when Aryna Sabalenka overtook her after the U.S. Open. In Cancun, Swiatek defeated Sabalenka in a semifinal that began Saturday, was suspended by rain, then finished on Sunday.



# Church-backed watchdog MPF hogs limelight in Mizoram polls

Aizawl, Nov 07 (PTI):

The powerful church-sponsored election watchdog, Mizoram People's Forum (MPF), stole the limelight as it ensured adherence to all election-related activities of both the voters and political parties during the state polls which ended peacefully on Tuesday. Although the assembly polls were officially conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI), the MPF was the real force on the ground that ensured the implementation of all poll norms. The MPF was formed by the powerful Presbyterian Church Mizo Synod with the help of other major churches and civil societies on June 21, 2006 as a poll watchdog to strive for



Voters show their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting their votes for Mizoram Assembly elections, in Mamit district, Tuesday.

electoral reforms. "Before every election, we sign an MoU with all po-

litical parties with the dos and don'ts. This time, we signed the agreement in

March and all parties took oath to adhere to all the rules," MPF general secre-

tary Rev Lalramliana Pachuau told PTI.

In the MoU, the MPF incorporated several important clauses related to the model code of conduct by the ECI to cut campaigning costs and sensitise voters and candidates, he added. "There were only a handful of violations of the agreement during the campaign phase and those were resolved immediately," Pachuau said.

On polling, he said it passed off peacefully without report of a single untoward incident from anywhere in the state.

"Our volunteers were present in every booth helping voters. They sorted out enrolment numbers of voters and handed over the slips to them," Pachuau said.

# BRS will form govt in T'gana on its own strength: Owaisi

Hyderabad, Nov 07 (PTI)

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday said the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi will form the government in Telangana on its own strength in the November 30 Assembly polls and expressed confidence that his party would win all the nine seats in which it is contesting.

"BRS, Inshallah, will definitely form a government on their own strength. I am pretty sure that the BRS will get enough seats to form a government on their own. And AIMIM will win from all nine constituencies," the Hyderabad MP told PTI. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), a friendly ally of BRS in Telangana, has put up candidates in nine segments for the upcoming

Assembly polls. AIMIM had won seven seats in the 2018 Assembly polls in Telangana.

Owaisi, who has been undertaking door-to-door election campaign in the city, said: "It is a very good response and the love and affection which people have for our party and I am sure that this love and affection which is being showered on us will convert into votes and we will definitely win."

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

Owaisi attacked the BJP for not conducting "caste census" and said in Telangana the saffron party had a BC president (Bandi Sanjay Kumar) and they removed him and got an upper caste person as the party president.

They did not give reservation (sub-quota for OBC and Muslim women) in the women's reservation bill passed in Parliament, Owaisi said adding "they do not want to do a caste census and this clearly exposes BJP's stand on OBCs."

Owaisi listed out the work done for minorities welfare during the BRS regime following AIMIM's representation, adding "In the last nine-and-half years communal peace has been maintained in the state and there is no mob lynching." On Congress leader Kamal Nath's reported comments that the BJP cannot claim credit for the Ram temple at Ayodhya and that Rajiv Gandhi's role should not be forgotten, Owaisi said "Congress party had promised reconstruction of Babri mosque and what happened to it."

# Cong never forgets to abuse me: Modi

Accuses it of opposing Prez Murmu's election

Sidhi (MP), Nov 7 (PTI)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday attacked the Congress, saying it never forgets to abuse him, and alleged that the party also opposed the candidature of the country's first tribal woman President Droupadi Murmu.

He was addressing an election rally in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh, where assembly elections will be held on November

the country's first Dalit chief information commissioner (CIC) despite getting an invitation in advance," Modi said. The prime minister also said that by stopping scams, his government saved the money involved in them and it resulted in the framing of schemes for poor people.

"Rs 13,000 crore are being spent on 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme for traditional artisans and craftspeople," he added.

PM Modi said his government was developing a major solar power centre of the country in the Vindhya region of the state.

17. "Congress never forgets to abuse me daily...It even opposed the election of the country's first tribal woman President as it is only interested in the vote bank of tribals and not their welfare. The party also did not attend the swearing-in of

# Raj polls: Congress launches 'Guarantee Yatra'

Jaipur, Nov 07 (PTI)

The Congress launched a yatra in Rajasthan on Tuesday to make people aware about its seven promises, including an annual honorarium of Rs 10,000 to women head of family and cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500, made to the people ahead of the November 25 assembly elections.

The "Guarantee Yatra" began after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and the party's state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa offered prayers at the Moti



Raj CM Ashok Gehlot takes blessings of elderly voters during the 'Congress Guarantee Yatra' ahead of Assembly polls, in Jaipur, Tuesday.

Dungari Ganesh temple here. A large number of party leaders and workers took part in the foot march, while Gehlot and Randhawa travelled in a bus as part of the proces-

sion. The yatra is scheduled to pass through Panchwati Circle, Pink Square Mall, Ghatgate, Sanganeri Gate, Govind Devji temple and Badi Chaupad before culminating at Chhoti Chaupad. Congress candidates of different assembly constituencies, including Archana Sharma from Malviya Nagar, also took part in the yatra. Similar marches will be taken out in other districts as well. Chief Minister Gehlot has announced the Congress' seven "guarantees" if it retains power in the state - an annual honorarium of

Rs 10,000 to women head of family, cooking gas cylinders at Rs 500 to 1.05 crore families, purchase of dung from cattle rearers at Rs 2 per kg, law for old pension scheme for government employees, laptop or tablet to students taking admission in government colleges, insurance cover up to Rs 15 lakh per family to compensate losses due to natural calamity, and school education in English medium.

Elections to the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will be held

on November 25 and votes will be counted on December 3.

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