



BRIEF



87-year old Motya Bai casts her vote through a Postal Ballot for the state Assembly elections 2023, in Kota.

Fire

■ **Bhubaneswar:** Fire broke out in one coach of a train inside the coaching depot in Odisha's Puri railway station on Tuesday, an official said. No casualty was reported in the incident. The mishap took place at around 12.30 pm when the AC coach was stationed at the depot for servicing.

Heavy rains

■ **Chennai:** Heavy rains lashed the coastal and interior districts of Tamil Nadu, and authorities in many districts declared a holiday for schools on Tuesday owing to the incessant showers. The sky over Chennai is likely to open up during the first heavy spell of the North-East Monsoon in the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the possibility of isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, Pudukcherry, and Karaikal on November 14.

Rescued

■ **Navsari:** The Gujarat police have rescued a 14-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh within 48 hours of her being kidnapped from Navsari district for a ransom of Rs 1 crore and arrested four persons involved in the crime, an official said on Tuesday. The accused allegedly abducted the girl from the Gandevi area of Navsari on November 10, and made WhatsApp calls to her parents demanding Rs 1 crore, inspector-general of police (Surat range) V Chandrasekhar said.

IMD forecast

■ **Bhubaneswar:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall in the coastal areas of Odisha with windspeeds of 45 kmph to 65 kmph following the formation of a low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal. IMD scientist Umashankar Dash on Tuesday said the low-pressure area over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman and Nicobar Islands is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over West-Central Bay of Bengal on November 15.

Scrutiny

■ **Hyderabad:** Election officials in Telangana have found 2,898 nominations of candidates for the November 30 assembly elections to be valid before withdrawal, and rejected nominations of 606 candidates during scrutiny. The ROs of all 119 assembly constituencies in the state furnished their reports, according to which nominations filed by 606 candidates were rejected on various grounds on November 13, a release issued by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer on Tuesday said.

Weather
High 30 Low 18

CHHATTISGARH POLLS

Priyanka Gandhi holds roadshow in Raipur

Raipur, Nov 14:



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra began her roadshow in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur on Tuesday evening, a day before campaigning for the second phase of the state assembly elections ends. A large number of party workers and people gathered around the 'rath' (a truck) carrying her as it rolled out from Rajiv Chowk towards Kotwali amid playing of patriotic songs.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Congress candidates from different seats of capital Raipur were seen accompanying her. 'Jai Shri Ram' was written in front of the vehicle. Gandhi Vadra was seen waving at the crowd that gathered on the road and on nearby buildings to catch a glimpse. Congress workers were seen holding and waving party flags.

The roadshow culminated at Telghani Naka Chowk after passing through Kotwali, Satti Bazar and Amapara Chowk. She first garlanded the statue of her father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, at Rajiv Gandhi Chowk. Earlier, on reaching Raipur, State Congress President

Army confirms dismissal of Captain for fake encounter

■ **In J-K's Amshipora that killed 3 men**

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

Mehbooba, Omar question bail to army officer

Former chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah Tuesday questioned bail being granted to an army officer convicted of killing three civilians in a "staged" encounter in 2020, with the NC leader terming it a reminder from the government that the blood of people of Jammu and Kashmir is "cheap". National Conference leader Abdullah said on Tuesday, "We are reminded repeatedly by the Centre that our blood is cheap, that there is no value of our blood. When our people get killed, no body is bothered."

the know of the development, the findings of a Court of Inquiry and his conviction and sentencing were confirmed by the higher Army authorities on November 11 as required under the law. Singh was brought to a civil jail in Jammu and later released on bail as per the directions of the tribunal on November 11 itself, they said. According to the confirmation of the sentence, the officer was cashiered, or dismissed from service dishonourably. Singh, who joined the Army in 2015, will now be deprived of pensionary and all other benefits.

Adani advisor in environment min panel sparks uproar

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

storage project in Maharashtra's Satara came up for consideration during the reconstituted EAC's first meeting on October 17-18, according to the minutes of the meeting available on the Environment Ministry's PARIVESH portal. Choudhary clarified to PTI that while he attended the October 17 meeting, he refrained from participating in the session focusing on the AGEL Tarali project. He said he serves as an advisor to AGEL and is not on the company's payroll. Choudhary had a 36-year tenure with NHPC and retired as director (technical) in March 2020. He assumed the role of advisor to AGEL in April 2022.

The inclusion of an advisor from Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) in an environment ministry panel created a political uproar on Tuesday, with opposition parties slamming the government for a perceived 'conflict of interest'. Janardan Choudhary, a key advisor to Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), was named as one of the seven non-institutional members by the Union Environment Ministry when it reconstituted the Expert Appraisal Committee for hydroelectricity and river valley projects in September. The AGEL's 1,500 megawatt Tarali pumping

Kerala child rape-murder convict sentenced to death

Kochi, Nov 14 (PTI):



One hundred and ten days after a minor girl was brutally raped and killed in Kerala's Aluva, a special court here on Tuesday sentenced a migrant worker to death in the case. The court said the convicted man is a "paedophile" and if ever set free, he may pose a threat to minor girl children, including those yet to be born.

Termed the crime a "diabolical act of utmost sexual violence" which was "pre-planned", "calculated" and ended in "cold-blooded murder", the court said it has no hesitation in holding that the case was one among the rarest-of-rare in which special reasons do exist to award death penalty to the accused. Judge K Soman, presiding over the Special POC SO (Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences) court, said the five-year-old girl was abducted, fed liquor, repeatedly raped, subjected to unnatural intercourse and her body defaced and concealed in garbage after she was killed. The court said the entire act of the convict - Asafak Alam (28) - "revealed the traits of outrageous criminality" and his premeditated act.

Int'l recognition

Itanagar, Nov 14 (PTI):

The 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan', a wildlife conservation initiative by the Arunachal Pradesh forest department, has received international recognition at the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves at Sabah in Malaysia on Monday, officials said. Spearheaded by state's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Mama Natung, the abhiyan was launched in March 2021 to discourage hunting and raise awareness about the detrimental effects of wildlife killing.

NIA attaches eight properties belonging to LeT operatives

■ **In J-K's Pulwama**

Srinagar, Nov 14 (PTI):

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The NIA on Tuesday attached properties of two key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives who allegedly helped Pakistani terrorist Naveed Jatt escape from police custody from a Srinagar hospital in 2018 by attacking a police team. In a statement, the agency said, "Going full throttle against terrorist or-

ganisations and operatives operating in Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) attached the properties of two key Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives in the 2018 case relating to the forcible release of a terrorist through a fatal attack on a police party at a Srinagar hospital." It said eight properties - five belonging to Mohd Shafi Wani and three to Mohd Tikka Khan, both residents of Singoo Narbal in Pulwama - have been attached under Section 33 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act following recent orders from the NIA Special Court, Jammu. The case involved the killing of two personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in firing on a police party escorting LeT terrorist Jatt alias Abu Hanzla to SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, for a medical examination on February 6, 2018.

Mahaganyi, Moorkhon ke sardar: Modi's dig at Rahul

■ **Centre to launch scheme worth Rs 24,000 cr for welfare of tribals**

Betul, Nov 14 (PTI):

War of words on mobile phone.....

PM took a swipe at former Congress president Rahul Gandhi over his remark during a rally in MP on Monday that mobile phones in the people's pockets were "Made in China" and they should rather be "Made in Madhya Pradesh". The Congress is flying in the air, they don't know the ground realities, Modi said. "A 'mahaganyi' (super knowledgeable) leader from the Congress yesterday said the people of India have 'Made in China' mobile phones...moorkhon ka sardar (king of fools)...in which world are they living. They have the disease of not seeing their country's achievements," the PM said. "India has become the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world," he further said. Which "foreign glasses" are they wearing? They can't see the country's achievement, he said.

In a sharp attack against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his made in China mobiles being used by people in India' remark, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked, "in which world does the moorkhon ke sardar (leader of fools) lives." Addressing a public rally in Betul, Modi said India now exports mobile phones worth Rs one lakh crore, and added that Congress leaders were afflicted with the "mental disease" of ig-

noring the country's achievement. "A mahaganyi (very wise man) of Congress said yesterday that Indians only have made in China mobile. In which world the 'moorkhon ke sardar' lives?" Modi said. "I wonder what foreign glasses they are wearing that they are

unable to see the country's achievement," he said, without directly naming Gandhi. Modi's no-holds barred attack came a day after the Congress leader's remark that mobile phones in India were mostly made in China.

Modi said India was the second biggest manufacturer of mobile phones in the world. "When the Congress was in power, India's manufacturing of mobile phones was under Rs 20,000 crore. Today, India's industry has grown to over Rs 3.5 lakh crore. India is also exporting mobile phones worth Rs 1 lakh crore," Modi said. Modi said the Centre will launch a scheme worth Rs 24,000 crore for the welfare of tribals in the country on Wednesday when the nation celebrates Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary. Modi said he has seen unprecedented trust and affection for BJP among the people of Madhya Pradesh, and added that the Congress has accepted defeat ahead of elections.

CHILDHOOD GAMES

Children play on Children's Day, in Nadia, Tuesday.

'Lalu Prasad's associate 'acquired' several lands

■ **In land-for-railway jobs case**

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

November 16. The Enforcement Directorate claimed its probe found that Katyal was the director of a company called AK Infosystems Pvt. Ltd when one of the lands from candidates was acquired by the said company "on behalf" of Lalu Prasad.

Amit Katyal, who was arrested recently in the alleged land-for-railway jobs money laundering case, "acquired" several lands from aspirants on behalf of the RJD chief and former Union railways minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, the ED has alleged.

Katyal was first detained and later arrested by the central agency on November 11 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). A local court in Delhi later sent him to the agency's custody till

"The registered address of the company is D-1088, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, which is the house belonging to Lalu Prasad Yadav and his family members. Several other lands were also acquired by Amit Katyal in the said company in return for giving undue favours by Lalu Prasad Yadav when he was minister of railways," the agency alleged in a statement issued on Monday.

NEW PRISON LAW

3-yrs jail for prisoners possessing phone

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

The draft prison law prepared by the home ministry has suggested a host of steps like three years jail for possessing a phone, segregation of prisoners like drug addicts, first time offenders, high-risk, foreigners and grant of leave on wearing electronic tracking devices for monitoring their movement and activities. According to the draft law, technology will be used for surveillance, there will be regular frisking of any prisoner in search of prohibited items and the prisoners may be granted prison leave on the condition of their willingness to wear electronic tracking devices for monitoring their movement and activities and any violation by the prisoner shall attract cancellation of prison leave, in addition to disqualification from any prison leave being granted in future.

HUMANITARIAN APPROACH

SC comes to rescue of US boy, allows distant Indian cousin to donate liver

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

DBC is a medical condition which results from liver failure and a patient can be saved by the transplant only. A bench comprising justices A S Bopanna and M M Sundresh was to deal with a legal challenge in the form of section 9 of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) which was coming in the way of liver donation to the child by his distant Indian cousin. The section of THOTA bars transplant of organs where recipient is a foreigner and donor is not a "near relative". The term - "near relative" includes "spouse, son, daughter, father, moth-

er, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson or granddaughter". A cousin is not included in the definition of "near relative". The top court took note of the submissions of senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan and lawyer Neha Rathi, who appeared for the petitioners - the recipient and the donor. The bench, in its November 9 order, noted the details of the case and the report of the authorisation committee which functions under the THOTA and authorises the transplant of organ if the donor and the recipient comply with the statutory requirements.

Grand Govardhan Puja & Annakuta Mahotsav celebrated at Hare Krishna Mandir

Bhilai, Nov 14:

More than 1000 devotees participated in 'Govardhan Puja & Annakuta Mahotsav' organised by Hare Krishna Mandir, as part of Karthik Deepotsav celebrations commemorating the pastime of Lord Sri Krishna lifting the Govardhan Hill to protect the residents of Vrindavana from the wrath of Indra on November 14, 2023.

While speaking on 'Govardhan Puja & Annakuta Mahotsav', Sri Vyompad Das, President of Hare Krishna Mandir, Bhilai said that "When the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna saw the residents of Vrindavana making for the worship of Indra and instead worship the Govardhana Hill. Knowing this, Indra became angry and sent a devastating rainfall over Vrindavana. Krishna picked up the Govardhan Hill held it up on the little finger of His left hand like an umbrella for 7 days and gave shelter to all the inhabitants of Vrindavana. Indra became conscious of his offense and begged for forgiveness from Krishna. Thus the Supreme Lord established that a devotee who is surrendered to the Supreme Lord and engaged in devotional service is free from all obligations and need not worship any demigods for material favour. This pas-



time, known as Govardhana Lila, is described in the tenth canto of Srimad Bhagavatam where Lord Krishna asserts that the Govardhana Hill is his very own form & as worshipable as himself. To commemorate this transcendental Lila of Lord Krishna, Hare Krishna Mandir, Bhilai

thereby organized its annual "Govardhan Puja & Annakuta Mahotsav" at its premises". Melodious devotional Bhajans were sang, glorifying the pastimes of Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan Hill. Followed by this was the eye captivating vista of Their Lordships Sri Sri Radha Krishnachandra

going on a joyous ride on the Grand Palaki accompanied by devotees performing "Sankirtana" - chanting of holy names of Lord Krishna.

The replica of the Govardhan Hill with cakes and varieties of cookies, sweets etc of approx. 150 Kgs was a spectacular excitement for the devotees. The cakes and cookies for making the Hill were prepared in the temple bakery by the devotees and are 100% vegetarian.

The Govardhan cake is offered to the Deities of Sri Sri Radha Krishna Chandra and Maha Arati was performed to their lordships & Govardhan Hill while the devotees sang Sri Govindhanastakam - eight verses glorifying the Govardhan Hill. Lord Krishna is also worshipped as Gopala - the protector of cows and during the event the Go-Puja (worship of cows) was also performed. The cows were nicely decorated with silk garments and were offered traditionally Jaggery & Banannas. Keeping the cows in the front the devotees circumambulated the Govardhan Hill. At the end of the event the cakes and all other preparations were distributed to all the devotees.

A grand Deepotsav Arati was performed for the Lordships as usual at the end of the event as a part of 'Deepotsav Mahotsav' celebrated during the whole month of Karthik.

Firecrackers banned from December 1 to January 31

Bhilai, Nov 14:

In compliance with the order passed by the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi regarding the use of firecrackers, the state government has announced a ban from December 01 to January 31 every year in the urban areas of Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai-Durg, Raigarh and Korba. Bursting of firecrackers is prohibited during the period. In this regard, according to the notification published in Chhattisgarh Gazette, sale of only green firecrackers has been ensured in the state. The duration of bursting crackers on the occasion of Diwali, Chhath, Gurupurva and New Year/Christmas has been

fixed at 2 hours. According to which, the time period for Diwali is from 20:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs pm, Chhath Puja is from 06:00hrs to 08:00 hrs, Guru Parv is from 20:00 hrs to 22:00 hrs and New Year/Christmas is from 23:55 hrs to 00:30 hrs. According to the notification published in the Gazette, burning of firecrackers increases air pollution in the winter season. To prevent air pollution, the government, using the powers granted under the statutory provisions of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act, bursting firecrackers in the urban areas of Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai-Durg, Raigarh and Korba during the period from December 1 to January 31 has been banned.

Paid holiday for polling day

Bhilai, Nov 14:

The Election Commission of India has announced that the second phase voting in the state of Chhattisgarh under the Assembly General Election 2023 will be

held on November 17. Chhattisgarh government has approved paid leave for workers and employees in these areas for the assembly elections 2023 on the polling date 17 November 2023 (Friday).

MWRM employees felicitated with Shiromani Awards



Bhilai, Nov 14: Employees of Merchant Mill and Wire Rod Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organised on November 10, 2023. MK Goyal, CGM (MWRM) was the chief guest of the Award Ceremony.

Sanjay Dikshit, AGM (Operation, Merchant Mill) and Shashank, AGM (Operation, WRM) were awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award', for their exemplary performance during the quarter July to September 2023. The 'Karm Shiromani

Award' winners for the month of July 2023, included Manharan Lal Verma, Chief Master Technician (Mechanical, WRM) and Surendra Kumar Nandeshwar, Master Technician (Electrical, MM), while Sohan Lal Chandrakar, Master Operator (Operations, MM) and Koveri Kameshwar Rao, Master Operator (Operations, WRM) were awarded for August, 2023. The 'Karm Shiromani Award' winners for the month of September 2023, included Syed Iqbal, Master Operator (Operations, WRM) and Kuleshwar Prasad Verma, Master Operator (Operations, MM).

Chief Guest MK Goyal, CGM (MWRM), felicitated

the awardees and appreciated them for their achievements and contributions at the workplace. He said that the safety of our employees is our first priority. He emphasized the use of safety equipment and judicious utilization of resources to obtain better results.

Present in the program were SK Hariramani, GM (MM), SK Nayak, GM (MM), Anupma Kumari, GM (WRM), and Mohibbul Hussain, GM (WRM), along with other Senior Officials and personnel from the MWRM Department.

Samayla Ansari, Assistant Manager, Personnel (Mills Zone-1) conducted the programme and proposed Vote of Thanks.

Youth dies in road accident



Bhilai, Nov 14: A 25-year-old youth died in a road accident which occurred near Surya Treasure Mall on Monday. The deceased was the only son of the family and worked in a private firm in Noida. He had come to Bhilai to celebrate the festival of Diwali. According to information, the deceased was Shubham Mishra (25) son of Ajay Mishra a resident of Chandra Nagar, Kurud Road Bhilai. He was moving on a bike to drop a relative to Durg late evening on Monday. To avoid a collision with a rashly moving car, he took a sharp turn near Surya Treasure Mall. The bike went off road and fell in a pit. Shubham suffered a fatal head injury in the mishap. Passersby rushed him to a nearby private hospital, where he died during treatment. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham on Tuesday. Shubham is survived by Ajay Mishra (father), Sudha Mishra (mother) and Kanchan Mishra (sister).

PBIV celebrates Diwali with festive enthusiasm



Bhilai, Nov 14:

Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya (PBIV) celebrated the festival of lights, Mahaparva Diwali, with great enthusiasm and joy at the Peace Auditorium located in Sector 7. After the morning Rajyoga session, Brahmakumari Asha Didi, Director of Bhilai Seva Kendras, while wishing everyone a happy Diwali, said that the our desires for achievement bring in disappointment and having expectations from human souls means being troubled. Happiness should not



be based on praise, there cannot be happiness where there is pride. Be cheerful and careful in life, she added. During Diwali, we especially invoke Goddess Lakshmi by cleaning every nook

and corner of the house. We also have to invoke divine qualities by cleaning every nook and corner of our mind from the demerits like jealousy and hatred. One should always be full of good wishes and

good feelings, become the embodiment of Shri Mahalakshmi and fill everyone's bags.

On this occasion, the children of Divine Group presented dance on Chhattisgarhi traditional songs like Jale Jagmag, Aayo Re Shubh Din Aayo Re, Aayi Diwali Happy Diwali and filled everyone with joy, happiness and enthusiasm. After accepting the offerings to God, lamps were lit in an organized manner by all the Brahma Kumari sisters of the Kendra. Senior Rajyoga teachers Brahma Kumari Prachi Didi and Sneha Didi also sent their good wishes.

Obituary

K Thampi

Bhilai: K Thampi, resident 1366 / Street 28, Shanti Nagar, Bhilai left for the heavenly abode on November 14. Funeral service will commence at 10.30 am on November 15 at his residence - Prakash Bhavan, Shanti Nagar Bhilai.

G Sajith

Bhilai: G Sajith (53), resident of Street No-22, Ashish Nagar (West), behind Kalpmuktha Apartment, left for his heavenly abode on November 14 at AIIMS Raipur. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence on November 15 around 11:00 hrs and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at RisaliMuktidham.

Facilities to enhance Daily Despatch of Plates from Bhilai Steel Plant inaugurated



Bhilai, Nov 14: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has taken certain measures to enhance the despatch capacity of plates to more than 5,000 Tonnes per day. The Plant's Plate Mill produces a wide range of both special steel grades of plates including high tensile and boiler quality plates and garden variety of plates such as mild steel plates, all of which are in heavy demand from customers for various appli-

cations. In the current fiscal year, the Mill has recorded best ever production of value-added special steel plates as also total plates production. As against an average of less than one lakh tonnes per month, the Mill is currently producing and despatching more than 1.2 lakh tonnes per month. As such, a need was felt to enhance the capacity of daily loading and despatch of plates.

Such measures as re-vamping of Piler numbers 8 and 9 by re-designing and engineering by Plate Mill Mechanical & Electrical sections, enhancing capacity of magnets for lifting of plates and extension of Line Number 420 to accommodate extra railway wagons have been taken so as to facilitate enhancement of plates despatches. The Plant has also taken steps to introduce data feeding in the Plant's sys-

tems at the loading point itself, as a step towards digitisation and implementation of Industry 4.0.

Besides Plate Mill leadership and collective, various departments of the Plant including C & IT, Transport & Diesel Dept and Telecom Dept have played a key role in implementing these steps and measures to enhance daily capacity of plates despatches.

The revamped facilities to facilitate extension of Line 420 were formally inaugurated on Nov 08, 2023 by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) in the presence of Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c Iron, Asit Saha, CGM I/c M & U, RK Bisare, CGM Plate Mill, Tushar Kant, CGM PPC, AK Joshi, CGM Utilities, Gopinath Mallik, GM I/c T & D, Prakash, GM (Telecomm), Tanmoy Sen, SRM, members of C & IT team including Neena Jaiswal, GM, JPS Chouhan, GM, A Kotnish GM and senior officers of Plate Mill, RCL, Instrumentation and the Plant.

St Thomas College organises Essay Competition & campus placement



Bhilai, Nov 14: The Training & Placement Office of St Thomas College under the esteemed supervision and guidance of the Administrator of the College Rev. Father Dr Joshi Varghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon organized the Open Campus drive with Patra Ltd. India. Patra is a subsidiary part of 'Patra Corp' which is a US based organization located at California. Being a Business Process Management and Back-office Work oriented company, Patra is a globally recognized organization having branches in US, Philippines and India. The total footfall in this drive was of more than 150 candi-

dates. The drive was coordinated by TPO Convener Dr Sunita Kshatriya and her team.

The Equal Opportunity Cell of St Thomas College, Ruabandha organized an Essay Competition based on the theme 'Agle Janam MoheBitiya Hi Kijo', on the occasion of International Girl Child Day with an objective to develop awareness towards Women Empowerment.

Principal, Dr MG Roymon in his address discussed about the opportunities of girls they are leading in all fields and allowed them to conquer the horizon. Administrator of the College, Rt Rv Dr Father Joshi Varghese appreciated

the Cell for taking such initiative. Dr Debjani Mukherjee IQAC Coordinator congratulated students for their success and emphasised them to make themselves well equipped with the present scenario of Competition. Maximum number of students participated in Essay Competition.

Convener of the cell, Dr Jyotsna Gadpayle welcomed the guests, Co-Convener Dr Kanhaiya Pandey conducted the program and Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr Neelam Gandhi. Other members of the Staff and Cell extended their Cooperation for smooth conduction of the program.

WARM WELCOME



Priyanka Gandhi was accorded warm welcome by CM Bhupesh Baghel at the Airport in presence of folk artists dressed in Chhattisgarhi attire.

Raman, Biswa Sarma attack Congress



Assam CM alleges understanding between Naxalites and state govt

Raipur, Nov 14: Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh addressed a meeting in Jharkharpara whereas Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a meeting in Gurujibhantha to campaign in favour of BJP candidate Govardhan Manjhi in Bindranwagarh. Both of them said that BJP will come to power in the state

and will look into corruption of Bhupesh Baghel. According to Himanta Biswa Sarma there is understanding between Naxalites and the government who abuse the CRPF. Both the star campaigners of BJP held a back-to-back meeting to create an atmosphere in favour of candidate Govardhan Manjhi. Former CM Dr Raman Singh, while enumerating the provisions made in BJP's public manifesto in Jharkharpara, said that the work was left incomplete 5 years ago. Even today it remains the same. He said that cooper-

ative banks will be opened in Jharkharpara. Raman Singh accused the Congress government of committing cow dung scam worth Rs 1300 crore. He also targeted the Bhupesh government by mentioning PSC scam, liquor scam, Mahadev Satta app. He further said that on 25th December, on Atal Sushashan Diwas, the arrears of two years' bonus during the tenure of BJP government will reach the accounts of all the farmers. Raman Singh enumerated the achievements of the BJP candidate during

his previous tenure in the assembly and appealed to vote in favor of Govardhan Manjhi this time too. In the meeting, former ministers Chandra Shekhar Sahu, Baba Uday Nath, MLA Damrudharpujari also appealed to form the BJP government by voting in favor of Govardhan Manjhi.

In his familiar style, Assam Chief Minister and BJP's star campaigner Himanta Biswa Sarma first attacked the Congress over temple run of Congress leaders and conversion of tribes in Bastar. Referring to the continuous killing of BJP leaders, he alleged collusion between state government and Naxalites. Biswa also invited people to come to Assam for the 'darshan' of 'Mata Kamakhya' and said that all the hospitality would be his responsibility.

BJP shifts focus on closely contested seats

Central leaders to hold public meeting and road shows on Wednesday

Raipur, Nov 14: With just few days left for the November 17 polling, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has chalked out fresh strategy for the few Legislative Assembly segments in which the party candidates are facing close contest against the rival candidate. BJP would now speed up aggressive campaign these segments to overcome the challenge. According to the information received, the BJP National General Secretary (Organization) BL Santosh had a talks with the Central Health Minister and Co in-charge for the polls Dr Mansukh Mandaviya as well as Organizational leaders Ajay Jamwal and Pawan

Sai on the existing political scenario. Top think-tank have identified the segments in which the party candidates are facing strong challenge. Central leaders would be campaigning in these segments on Wednesday to create atmosphere in favour of the saffron brigade. Road Show too would be organised in few segments before the campaigning ends on Wednesday evening. Meanwhile, the party heavy-weight and Union Home Minister Amit Shah might be campaigning in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday apart from some other central leaders. Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too has been holding three to four Public Meetings in favour of party candidates across Chhattisgarh after his Rajnandgaon segment has finished voting on November 7.



DRI Raipur seize 965.08 gm gold at Raipur Airport

Raipur, Nov 14: Two persons were deplaned from a flight from Lucknow to Raipur on the basis of suspicious activities on November 10. They were detained by airlines at Lucknow Airport. The flight which had flown in from Sharjah to Lucknow was further headed towards Raipur. Further, on the basis of this information, the flight was rummaged and gold in form of paste weighing 965.08 grams concealed in seat pockets of the said flight was recovered at Raipur Airport. This recovered gold which was brought into India by way of smuggling from Sharjah, was seized by DRI Raipur under provisions of Customs Act, 1962. The statements of the two persons, deplaned at Lucknow Airport, were also recorded. Further investigation in this case is underway.

Thakur slams Cong for its 'soft approach' towards terrorism

Calls it greedy for power

Raipur, Nov 14: Union minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday accused the Congress of having a "soft approach" in tackling terrorism and claimed that thousands of people died in the country in terror incidents due to its wrong policies.

Addressing a press conference at Ekatna Parisar, the BJP's Raipur city office in Chhattisgarh, he targeted the Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh over alleged scams and said it is certain that those who have committed corruption will go to jail. When asked about Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadera's statement on killings of children in Gaza, Thakur said, "I feel some people support terrorism. Congress is greedy to remain in power. In the country as well as the state, their wrong policies



have led to the deaths of thousands of people (in terror incidents)." "Congress always had a soft approach towards terrorism. Whenever blasts took place in different parts of the country, Mauni Baba remained silent as the remote control was in the hands of someone else," he said, apparently referring to former prime minister Manmohan Singh. After the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, on whose direction the then chief minister (Vilasrao Deshmukh of Maharashtra) brought a film director to the site (of attack), he asked. No retaliatory action was taken (after the 26/11

attacks). They (Congress government) used to beg before the world to save the country from terrorists and intrusion. But now there is a government led by PM Narendra Modi which conducts surgical strikes, and those who spread terrorism beg before the world to save them, he said. "We have clearly said that India is against terrorism. Modi ji has pointed against terrorism and black money in all big international meetings from 2014 to 2023 and the world has accepted his points," the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports said. When a terrorist attack happened in Israel, we condemned it and advocat-

ed for a strong action against terrorism. India wants peace in the entire world, be it in Russia-Ukraine or any other place but also wants to root out terrorism, he said. He also slammed the Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh for not fulfilling various promises made by the Congress in the 2018 assembly elections. "I have come here to tell about the 'jhoothe' (false) and 'adhure' (uncompleted) promises of Congress which it had made in 2018. Every government has to present its report card to the people after five years, but Bhupesh (Baghel) has been trying to run away

from keeping its report card as well as from investigation into alleged scam. Run Bhupesh run. How much will you run? "Bahut hua satte ka khel, bye bye Bhupesh Baghel", he said. "After Mahadev betting scam, the Chhattisgarh CM has been roaming by covering his face...For five years, the Chief Minister's Office had been giving protection to 'satte-baji' (betting) as Bhu-Pay was going on," he said. Rs 508 crore were paid to Baghel, he alleged, referring to the Mahadev betting app case. "Now it will not happen anymore as there will be no Congress government," Thakur added. The way Delhi's Deputy CM, MP and Health Minister are in jail for an excise scam, in Chhattisgarh also, guarantee is certain (of going to jail) for those who have committed multiple scams and are now hiding their faces, he added.

Voting is being done through postal ballot in Facilitation centre



Raipur, Nov 14: A special facility center has been set up in the Town Hall of the Collectorate complex of Raipur for voting through postal ballot in the district. Today voting was done through postal ballot in these centres. This facility will also be available on November 15th and 16th. Its timing will be from 10 am to 5 pm. Voters of the district who are engaged in various election work like polling team, micro

observer, driver, cleaner FST in or outside the district can cast their vote through postal ballot. Such officers and employees deployed on election duty who have submitted application in Form 12 for postal ballot and have not voted through postal ballot, will be able to vote in these facility centres. Assembly constituency number Dharsiwa-47, Raipur Rural-48, Raipur Nagar West-49, Raipur Nagar North-50, Raipur Nagar South-51, Arang-52, Abhanpur-53 and Balodabazar assembly number-54 in Raipur district. This facility is also available for the officers and employees attached to the polling stations.

Election related activities to halt on 70 seats today evening

Votes to be casted in 18,833 polling stations on November 17th

Raipur, Nov 14: The election activities for the second phase of voting in 70 assembly constituencies under the Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections-2023 will halt by 5 pm on November 15. Campaigning on public platforms will be prohibited 48 hours before the end of voting, but during this time candidates will be able to go door-to-door for public contact. 48 hours before elections, known as the silence period or pre-election si-



lence, is when all campaign-related or election-related activity is supposed to be halted, and no one, are allowed to partake in any such activity. This is done to give the voters a peaceful break from being influenced by campaigns so that they may make a considered decision while voting. Under the Sections 126, 126A and 135C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act), all election-related activi-

ties, which are activities intended or likely to influence or affect the results of an election like holding public meetings, giving speeches, etc. are prohibited during the silence period. Most of this is enforced through notifications by the Election Commission of India (EC). A total of 958 candidates are trying their luck in 70 assembly constituencies in the second phase, of which 827 are male, 130 female and one third gender candidate. During voting, one crore 63 lakh 14 thousand 479 voters of the state will exercise their franchise. These include 81 lakh 41 thousand 624

male voters, 81 lakh 72 thousand 171 female voters and 684 third gender voters. A total of 18,833 polling stations have been set up to ensure smooth voting. Of these, 700 are Sangwari polling stations, where only women polling personnel will be posted. Voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm in nine polling stations of Bindranwagarh assembly constituency - Kamarbhaudi, Aamora, Odh, Bade Gobra, Ganwargaon, Gariba, Nagesh, Sahabinakhar and Kodomali. Apart from these, voting will be held in other assembly constituencies from 8 am to 5 pm.

BJP chief JP Nadda to hold public meetings today

Shah, Anurag Thakur and Biswa Sarma too address for BJP candidates

Raipur, Nov 14: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda would be on day-long visit to Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. He would be addressing public meetings at High School Ground Arang in favour of the party candidate in the afternoon and would also hold another public meeting at Ambikapur constituency before the campaigning ends in the evening. Apart from him, the BJP heavy-weight

Amit Shah would be holding public meetings at Saga, Janjgir-Champa and Korba Legislative Assembly segments on the last date of the campaign. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Thakur would also be holding public meetings at Nawagarh (SC) seat and Vaishali Nagar segments on Wednesday whereas the Assam CM Hemant Bishwa Sarma would be addressing public meetings at Bhatapara, Bilaigarh Sarangarh and at Shihawa Dhamtari segments to conclude the campaign in favour of the party candidates.

Candidates made strategies for election campaign during festivals

Candidates made strategies for election campaign during festivals

Raipur, Nov 14: Candidates have made their strategy regarding festivals during the elections. The festival is celebrated for five full days in Chhattisgarh. This includes Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Gaura-Gauri Puja, Bhai Dooj, Matar and Chhath. A large number of people gather in all festivals. The candidates have a plan ready to capitalize on the opportunity to rally voters together. The

candidates will meet people in villages and cities and extend their good wishes. Although the candidates of major political parties will not give it the form of speeches and election meetings, but they have made a strategy to mention the work done during their respective tenures. A special five-day Diwali is celebrated in Chhattisgarh. There is a tradition of installing the idol of Goddess Lakshmi on the day of Diwali in rural and semi-urban areas of Chhattisgarh. After Dhanteras and Narak Chaudas, along with the worship of Mahalakshmi, special

worship of Gaura-Gauri is done by the tribal community on the night of Diwali. People from all communities participate in this worship. Next day, on the day of Govardhan Puja, special worship is done to the cows and they are fed dishes. People of Yadav community follow their traditions here in Gouthan. Bhai Dooj and Matar are to be celebrated November 15. Matar is a special festival held in the Gouthans of Chhattisgarh, in which various cultural programs are organized along with worshipping the village deities. In addition to this Chhath

Pooja will be held on day of election on November 17. The code of conduct came into effect 48 hours before the election campaign. The second phase of voting in the state is on November 17. The campaign will stop 48 hours in advance i.e. from the evening of November 15th. The five-day festival of Diwali will also conclude on November 15. Between these dates, political parties and candidates have also made a strategy to reach out to the people from village to village. It is noteworthy that a total of 958 candidates are in the fray in the elections to be held on 70 seats in the second phase.

Excise has seized 33000 lts of liquor in one month

2 lakh Kg 'Mahua' and 5 Kg Ganja and 63 vehicles seized

Raipur, Nov 14: In view of the model code of conduct already enforce, the combined team of officers and employees of the Excise department conducted raids and inspection in order to check illegal movement of cash, jewellery and gifts and its storage before polls. During the code of conduct, the Excise Department has so far seized 33,084 lts of liquor and 2.07 lakh Kg of Gram 'Mahua Line'; 5 Kg 'ganja' and seized 63 vehicles, having a total market value of Rs 3.11 cr. Special Secretary cum Commissioner Excise Mahadev Kavare informed that in view of the second phase of polling in the state, the Excise de-



partment has issued strict instructions to seal all the liquor shops and liquor selling outlets and declare it as dry-day and take firm action against those trying to sell illicit liquor and other intoxicants during the dry-day period. Apart from these instructions were given to take action on movement of liquor and others from neighbouring states and at all check-posts from other states. It is notable here that in view of the Assembly

Polls 2023, Special secretary cum Commissioner Mahadev Kavare held virtual meeting with the all the flying squad teams and district officials and asked them for conducting intensive raids and checking in sensitive areas and check about illicit sale of liquor and other items. For effective action on border areas and check-posts of neighbouring states, he asked to install CCTV cameras in all the check-posts and take firm action.

In view of the Vidhan Sabha polls, instructions have been given to district officers to carry out close checking of all the vehicles specially the check-posts of Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra and in Mahasamund, Bastar, Jashpur, Raigarh and undivided Rajnandgaon district. He also asked the officers to check the godowns of transporters and bags of delivery boys of Amazon and Zomato and other.

'Gandhi family filled its coffers by destroying poor'

Lormi, Nov 14: Union minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress, claiming that the Gandhi family destroyed poor people in Chhattisgarh by making them addicted to betting and spurious liquor and filled its own coffers.

Addressing a rally in Lormi constituency of poll-bound Chhattisgarh, she also appealed to people not to support those in elections who have insulted Lord Mahadev, made false promises by swearing in the name of Gangajal (holy water of Ganga river) and challenged the existence of Lord Ram.

It was seen for the first time that a person occupying the chief minister's post becoming an associate of 'satteba' (those in-

olved in betting), Irani said, referring to the Mahadev betting app case in which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged that the promoters of the Mahadev betting app paid about Rs 508 crore to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel.

The person who has filled the coffers of Bhupesh Baghel with the money amassed from the sin says he has given Rs 508 crore. This is public, they know everything. They know the game of Bhupesh Baghel, Irani said. "But who became the victim of this betting business? Have you ever seen any Congress leader's family getting ruined due to betting? Have you ever seen any Congress leader's family consuming spuri-



Smriti Irani

ous liquor?"

"It is the poor whose innocent family members bore the brunt of betting business. It is the poor whose son, brother and senior members of family were made addicted to spurious liquor, Gandhi Khandan filled its coffers by destroying the poor," she said. The Woman and Child Development

Minister further said. "We chant 'Bam Bam Bhole' (Hail Lord Shiva) and they (Congress) run (betting) app in the name of Mahadev and keep on looting the poor."

This is the difference in culture. Modi ji built Kashi Vishwanath and Mahakal corridors but they (Congress) insulted Mahadev and ran a business of betting in his name. "They are those sinners who challenged the existence of Lord Ram. But see the 'Prabhu's leela' (God's miracle) - the Gandhi family which had stated in a document in court that Lord Ram does not exist, its son and daughter (Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi) are now wandering from temple to temple seeking votes

from Ram Bhakts," she added. She also hit out at the Baghel government over alleged liquor and Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitment scam and accused Congress of making false promises by swearing on Gangajal. Irani told people not to support 'adharms' who have insulted Mahadev and challenged the existence of Ram, and urged them to vote in favour of party candidate Arun Sao and ensure BJP's win in the state.

The BJP has fielded party's Chhattisgarh unit chief and MP Arun Sao from Lormi which is among 70 seats where polling will be held in the second phase of two-phased elections in the state on November 17.

TRAFFIC JAM



Due to road-show by Priyanka Gandhi in city on Tuesday, many parts of city faced traffic jam as the traffic was blocked well in advance prior to passing of the 'road-show'

Agroha Society celebrates Diwali with pomp and gaiety

● **Vijay Mishra's moving portrayal highlights the plight of cows**



for dogs. He suggested that this shift could be seen as a concerning indicator of societal changes. Pandit Nand Kumar Sharma, present at the event, highlighted the revered status of cows in the Vedas and Puranas, referring to them as "walking temples" housing thirty-three crore gods and goddesses. He emphasized the indispensable role of Panchgavya, comprising milk, curd, ghee, cow dung, and cow urine, in various puja rituals.

poignant portrayal of the current challenges faced by cows. He shed light on the dangers posed by the injection of Diclofenac, administered by some milk traders to boost milk production in cows and buffaloes, emphasizing its harmful effects on humans and other animals. The Diwali Milan function also saw the participation of Dr. Devendra Kothari, ML Sahu, Naven Deshmukh, Ketan Rathi, and witnessed the presence of many distinguished individuals, including Saurabh Shukla, Kishan Vishwakarma, and Pawan Dubey.

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Raipur, Nov 14: The Agroha Society lit up with the warmth of Diwali festivities during a special gathering organized by 'Chhattis Chatha Kala Parishad'. Attendees exchanged heart-warming Diwali greetings and jointly pledged to uphold the traditions and customs of Hindu Sanatan Dharma. Amidst the celebratory atmosphere, renowned senior folk-Hindi theater artist Vijay Mishra, known as 'Amit,' captivated the audience with a mesmerizing solo performance. Titled 'Roti Gai Sabko Hansaye', Mishra's solo act provided a powerful and

CMAS launches clean-up initiative

● **Mahadev Ghat will get a makeover ahead of Chhath festival**

Raipur, Nov 14: Chhath Mahaparva Aayojan Samiti (CMAS) at Mahadev Ghat Raipur, led by its president Rajesh Kumar Singh, is set to kickstart a clean-up operation on Wednesday morning, November 15. The dedicated committee members will gather at the ghat as early as 6 am, rolling up their sleeves to restore the pristine beauty of Kharun River and the surrounding Mahadev Ghat. With the support of the Municipal Corporation, their efforts will see the removal of a substantial amount of debris from the river while rejuvenating the cherished ghat.

Rajesh Kumar Singh, the organizer-in-chief, expressed his enthusiasm for the preparations of the upcoming Chhath Puja. Mahadev Ghat, a sacred destination for Chhath devotees, is undergoing a magnificent transformation to welcome the fasting faithful. The committee's cleaning mission will commence at the crack of dawn, reinforcing the spirit of unity and cooperation among its members as they extend their efforts to cleanse all the ponds across the city, including the revered Mahadev Ghat.

As the four-day Chhath festival approaches, commencing on Thursday, November 17 with the Nhay Khay ritual, the entire city and the world beyond eagerly anticipate the festivities. This year's Chhath Mahaparva promises to be a grand celebration of tradition and devotion from November 17 to

November 20. As an integral part of North Indian society, the festival signifies a time of great significance. The event will culminate in an enchanting cultural program at Mahadev Ghat on the evening of November 19, featuring the captivating Evening Maha Aarti and a delightful Bhandara in the night.

The festivities will reach their pinnacle with the Maha Bhandara on the morning of November 20 following the morning prayer ceremony. The Chhath Mahaparva Aayojan Samiti, in collaboration with the district administration and the Municipal Corporation, is dedicated to ensuring the cleanliness and splendor of all the city's ghats, including the cherished Mahadev Ghat on the banks of the Kharun River.

Diabetes awareness prog organised in Ambedkar Hospital



● **On the occasion of World Diabetes Day**

Raipur, Nov 14: On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, a Diabetes awareness program was organized for the patients coming to the OPD in the Department of Medicine, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and its affiliated Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital. Department's PG students addressed the doubts of patients and their relatives regarding common topics such as symptoms, risk factors, prevention, management and complications of Diabetes through an inter-

active session. On this occasion Head of Department Prof. Dr. D. P. Lakra along with Prof. Dr. R. L. Khare, Dr. A. Toppo, Dr. P. Dubey and Dr. P. Gupta were present.

Prof. Dr. D P Lakra and Pro. Dr. RL Khare discussed about various aspects of Diabetes and cleared the myths related to Diabetic diet and also made the public aware about regular monitoring and easy care of the Diabetes patients. Considering India as the Diabetes capital of the world, such initiatives are the need of the hour to combat a chronic disease like diabetes.

Immersion of 'Gauri-Gaura' done amidst slogans



● **Playing of drum beats and prayers**

Kurud, Nov 14: On occasion of 'Devari Parv', the residents and devotees of city and 'Gaura-Gauri Samiti' took out a massive 'immersion Shobha Yatra' amidst drum beats and religious music. This Visarjan Yatra was offered prayers in front of every house and expressed their faith. But in this huge rush the security was put at large and there was no

arrangements made. On top of this the youth in drunkard state kept riding on their bikes recklessly and troubled people present in the 'Visarjan' with their pressure horn and stunts. Set aside this the devotees standing on either side of the road too were troubled and were in fear due to high-speed of these bikes.

On Tuesday, Gauri-Gaura's immersion was held in Kurud city with great fanfare. In city, the 'Gauri-Gaura installed in

Sanjay Nagar, Shanti Nagar, Sarojini Chowk, Baigapara, Kalarpara, Godpara, Danipara, Indra Nagar, Pacharipara, Sirda Chowk and other places were immersed by taking out a massive 'Shobha Yatra'.

The residents also offered prayers to Lord Shiva and 'Parvati' and sought blessings for peace & prosperity of all. The devotees also expressed faith by accepting hits with a 'sakad' considered to be part of the ritual. It was amidst traditional 'Gadhwa Baja' and dancing to the tunes singing slogans of 'Iswar Gauri-Gaura ki jai'.

In the end the 'gauri-gaura' were immersed in Jalshan Talab, Naya Talab, Pachari talab by people from different localities. On this occasion people were present in large number and expressed their faith.

Pt Nehru remembered on Children's Day in Medical College, Raipur

Raipur, Nov 14: A function was organized in Raipur Medical College on the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November to remember the first Prime Minister of India, Bharat Ratna Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his birth anniversary. Dean Dr Tripti Nagaria garlanded the statue of Pandit Nehru ji installed at the entrance of the college building. Thereafter, all the medical teachers paid their respects and sweets were distributed.

D Nagaria mentioned the important contribution of the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawarlal Nehru in India's freedom struggle and the construction and development of the independent nation. President of the Medical Teachers Association, senior medical teacher Dr Arvind Neral said that this medical college, established in the name of



Pandit Nehru ji in 1963, got many important achievements in the 60 years till its glorious diamond jubilee year. With 230 MBBS and 150 MD/MS admis-

ion numbers the medical college achieved the status of best medical institute of the state, he added.

Dr Devpriya Lakra, Dr Pratibha Jain Shah, Dr

Jaya Lalwani, Dr Jagriti Agarwal, Dr Sumit Tripathi, Dr PK Khodiyar, Dr Nikita Sherwani, Dr Snigdha Jain, Dr Praveen Kurre, Dr Diwakar

Dhurandhar, Dr Praveen Banjare, Dr Manju Agrawal, Dr Rupam Gehlot and other medical teachers and staff were present.

Essential minimum facilities be made available in polling stations: Collector

● **Holds meeting over election preparations**

Raipur, Nov 14: Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure held a meeting to review preparations for the polling to be held on November 17. He said that it should be ensured to provide essential minimum facilities (AMF) in all the polling stations. If there is more than one polling station and in centers with more voters, better arrangements should be made for queue management, he said. He said that all returning officers should direct the polling officers and employees in their respective assembly constituencies for the security of EVMs and other works.

Every political party or candidate will have to follow the instructions of the Election Commission of



India for setting up election booths near the polling station, said the Collector. He also gave instructions to complete the work to be done 72 hours before voting. SSP Prashant Agrawal was also present on this occasion.

The Collector said that as per the instructions issued by the Commission, election booths will be made by political parties/candidates at a

distance of 200 meters from the polling station. In places where there is more than one polling station at one location, one election booth will be set up by a political party/candidate for all the polling stations. According to him only one table and two chairs will be kept in the election booths set up by political parties/candidates and umbrellas can be used for those sitting there and tents will not be used.

Dr Bhure said that the candidate willing to make this type of election booth will have to give prior information in writing to the Returning Officer, giving the number and name of the polling station. Permission can be obtained from the government authority or local authority like municipal corporation, municipalities, district council, urban area committee, panchayat samiti etc. before mak-

ing the election booth as per the prevailing rules. He said that BLOs should ensure door to door distribution of voter slips in a timely and systematic manner.

The Collector said that it should be kept in mind that on the day of voting, no crowd should gather in the booth nor should voters who have exercised their franchise stand there. The persons sitting in the above type of booth will not call any voter nor will they refuse to enter the booth of any other party and will not give any kind of inducement to the voter nor will they create any kind of hindrance in their voting. In case of violation of the above instructions, legal action will be taken by the Commission against those responsible. All the returning officers and other officers were present on this occasion.

Collector oversees second phase of Assembly election training

● **Interactive session enhances trainees' understanding of voting procedures**

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Nov 14: In a move to ensure the success of the upcoming Assembly Election 2023, Collector and District Election Officer Rahul Dev conducted an inspection of the ongoing second phase of training. The training session, held at Swami Atmanand Government English School in Daupara, focused on various aspects of the voting process and aimed to enhance the knowledge of the trainees.

During the inspection, District Election Officer Rahul Dev engaged in de-



tailed discussions with the trainees, encouraging questions and discussions related to the training content. The interactive session allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the voting procedures, ensuring that the trainees are well-prepared for their roles in the upcoming elections.

The inspection was a collaborative effort, with the presence of key officials, including Joint Collector Maneka Pradhan, SDM Aaksha Shiksha Khalkhon, Deputy District Election Officer Praveen Tiwari, District Education Officer GR Chaturvedi, institution principal, and district-level master trainer Dr. IP Yadav.

ISRO invites innovative ideas, designs of robotic rovers

From student community

Bengaluru, Nov 14 (PTI):

ISRO has invited from the youth innovative ideas and designs of robotic rovers for future missions through conducting a space challenge.

After the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 Vikram on the lunar surface and the exploration near the southern pole of the moon, ISRO said it is gearing up for future robotic exploration missions to the moon and other celestial bodies.

The national space agency headquartered here said it is committed

to creating unique opportunities for academia and industry to participate in technology development activities commensurate with organisational objectives.

"In line with this vision, U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)/ISRO solicits from the youth of India, innovative ideas and designs of robotic rovers for future missions through the conduct of a space robotics challenge with an objective to provide development opportunities in space robotics to the participating entities and to leverage the creative thinking among the youth of our nation for ISRO interplanetary missions," it said. To provide an oppor-

tunity for students in the area of space robotics, "ISRO Robotics Challenge-URSC 2024 (IRoC-U 2024)" will be organised with a tagline of "Let's build a space robot".

The challenge consists of an engineering project where the institutional teams build robots to compete in an extra-terrestrial-inspired arena, performing tasks based on the real-life challenges faced by space robotics.

"This is an invitation for the student community for the design and realisation of a 'Wheeled/Legged Rover' encompassing the development of complete hardware and software. The solutions provided by the students in IRoC-U

2024 have a greater chance of getting incorporated into ISRO's future interplanetary robotics missions," an ISRO statement said.

The objectives of the challenge are: to provide a standardised platform for exploring the area of space robotics; to develop a deeper understanding of space robotics and its applications among the student community, and to co-develop (students and ISRO) future technologies needed in the area of space robotics.

The final onsite competition to perform the required tasks is planned to be conducted on URSC Bengaluru campus in August 2024, it was stated.

GOVERDHAN PUJA



Devotees offer prayers during the festival of Govardhan Puja at ISKCON's Goshala, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

Omar asks Cong to revoke headcover ban in K'taka

Srinagar, Nov 14 (PTI):

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asked Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to work on revoking the ban on headcover imposed by the Karnataka government.

"Why should the government interfere in this? And such orders are passed through which Muslims are targeted. When all this used to happen in Karnataka earlier, it would not surprise us because there was the BJP government at that time," he said.

He added it was sad that during Congress' tenure, such decisions were taken. "I request Sonia Gandhi

and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to reconsider the order that has been issued in Karnataka and work on revoking this order," Abdullah told reporters after a party function in Baramulla.

Asked about elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the former chief minister said the BJP was not ready to face the people.

"Leave aside the Assembly elections, even the municipal polls have been postponed. The municipality (corporation) in Srinagar does not exist now, even the term of the Jammu Municipality is coming to an end. By January, all municipalities will have completed their terms.

Doyen of Indian hospitality PRS Oberoi passes away

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

Chairman Emeritus of The Oberoi Group Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi, widely known as the doyen of Indian hospitality, passed away on Tuesday, leaving behind a rich legacy.

He was 94. "It is with deep sadness that we inform the peaceful passing of PRS Oberoi, Chairman Emeritus of The Oberoi Group, earlier today," a statement said.

A luminary in the hospitality industry, Oberoi's legacy transcends borders, leaving an indelible mark on the global landscape, it added.

Oberoi received numerous awards and accolades, including the Padma Vibhushan, in



recognition of his exceptional contribution to the country in tourism and hospitality.

He was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at ILTM (International Luxury Travel Market), recognizing his exceptional leadership and vi-

sion. Oberoi was also presented with the 'Corporate Hotelier of the World' award by HOTELS magazine USA.

The 6th International Hotels Investment Forum in Berlin honoured him with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. He was also the recipient of Forbes India Leadership Awards, Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence, CNBC TV 18 India Business Leader Awards, Business India magazine's Businessman of the Year, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

"As we mourn the loss of a true icon, we also aim to celebrate the extraordinary legacy PRS Oberoi leaves behind. In the coming days, we will

share details of our plans to honour and remember him," the statement said.

The cremation ceremony will be held at the Bhagwati Oberoi Charitable Trust, Oberoi Farm, Kapashera, starting at 4 pm on Tuesday.

"We extend a heartfelt invitation to those who know Oberoi to attend and pay their respects. Additionally, prayers will be held for him at our hotels and the Corporate Office today," the statement said.

PRS Oberoi, popularly known as Biki, was born in New Delhi in 1929.

The son of late Rai Bahadur MS Oberoi, the founder of The Oberoi Group, was the executive chairman of EIH Ltd for a long time when the group flourished.

Better drug alternative available for diabetic patients

First biosimilar Insulin Aspart

Kolkata, Nov 14: USV Pvt Ltd and Biogenomics announced the launch of INSUQUICK, India's first biosimilar Insulin Aspart, which will improve access for people with diabetes.

Diabetes is a growing healthcare concern in India as nearly 11.4% of the country's adult population, which accounts for 101 million people, are living with diabetes. Besides this, there are an additional 136 million people who are pre-diabetic and who have a high propensity to convert into diabetes in a short time.

InsuQuick is a "Make in India" product, developed and manufactured using 100% indigenous technology, and has undergone a robust clinical program to ensure global quality standards. It is available in

all metros, and Tier I/II cities. Prashant Tewari, Managing Director, USV Pvt Ltd, said, "We are committed to improving the quality of lives of people with diabetes. Strengthening our resolve, As a leader in the oral anti-diabetes segment, our entry into injectables is a strategic step towards bolstering our market presence and our aspiration to lead in the diabetes market. We have collaborated with Biogenomics to provide global-quality insulin aspart for our people with diabetes."

Dr Sanjay Sonar, Co-Founder and President of Biogenomics, said, "Insulin aspart is the first biosimilar in the category of rapid-acting insulin and is a result of more than ten years of R&D efforts."

'Sabarimala to open for annual pilgrimage'

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 14 (PTI): The famous Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala is all set to open its portals for devotees with the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku festival beginning on November 17.

The hill shrine, nestled inside the deep forests in Pathanamthitta district, and its premises would reverberate with the holy chants of Lord Ayyappa for two months starting Friday, the first day of the Malayalam month of Vrischikam.

State Devaswom Minister K Radhakrishnan said on Tuesday that all arrangements have been made for the smooth annual pil-



K Radhakrishnan

grimage at the Ayyappa temple. Steps have been taken to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage for all devotees, and the support of advanced technologies has been used for the same,

he said here. Detailing various measures taken by the government in this regard, the minister said six high-level meetings, including two attended by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, were held to review the preparations for the festival. The daily wage of "vishudhi sena" members engaged in sanitation works in Sabarimala and Pamba has been hiked to Rs 550 from Rs 450.

Their travel allowance was also increased from Rs 850 to Rs 1000, he said. A dynamic queue control system has been introduced this season to manage crowding at Sannidhanam, the temple complex.

NSE teaches investors to deal with registered intermediaries

Mumbai, Nov 14: Muhurat Trading at the National Stock Exchange is a testament to our shared financial aspirations.

In the heart of this vibrant marketplace, as the Diwali lights shimmer, we embark on a journey of careful choices and strategic investments. Each trade made during this auspicious time promises growth and the spirit of unity among investors. NSE encourages investors to deal only with registered intermediaries and refrain from dealing in unregulated products. Stock market is meant for long-term wealth creation. An unpleasant experience disheartens the affected investors to enter the stock market ever again.

'Lustful': Court on married man living with other woman

Chandigarh, Nov 14 (PTI): The Punjab High court has held that a man living a "lustful and adulterous life" with a woman without divorcing his spouse cannot be called a "live-in-relationship" or "relationship" in the nature of marriage.

The single judge bench of Justice Kuldeep Tiwari dismissed the petition of a couple from Punjab who had sought protection of their lives and liberty. The petitioners submitted that they have been in a "live-in-relationship" which has caused grievance to the woman's family members who have threatened to kill them.

During the hearing, the court observed the woman in the "live-in-relationship" was unmarried while the man was married and had been living separately from his wife due to strained relations.

The man in the "live-in-relationship" has two children with his wife and they live with their mother.

"Without obtaining any valid decree of divorce from his earlier spouse and during the subsistence of his earlier marriage, the petitioner No.2 (man in live-in relationship) is living a lustful and adulterous life with the petitioner No.1 (woman in live-in relationship), which may constitute an offence punishable under Sections 494/495 of the IPC, as such a relationship does not fall within the phrase of 'live-in-relationship' or 'relationship' in the nature of marriage," the court said in its order.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE Former J-K minister Lal Singh's ED custody extended by 5 days

Jammu, Nov 14 (PTI): A court here on Tuesday extended the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody of former Jammu and Kashmir minister Lal Singh in a money laundering case by five more days.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was arrested from a house in the Chawadi area of Sainik Colony here on November 7 after a special court dismissed his anticipatory bail application.

He was under investigation by the ED in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra.

Uttarkashi tunnel collapse: Trapped labourer speaks to his son

Uttarkashi, Nov 14 (PTI): Gabbar Singh Negi, one of the 40 labourers trapped in the under-construction tunnel that collapsed on the Char Dham route, spoke to his son on Tuesday.

"I was allowed to speak to my father for a few seconds using the pipe through which oxygen is being supplied to the stranded workers," Akash Singh Negi told PTI. The conversation lasted just a few seconds, he said.

"He said they were safe. He asked us not to worry as the company is with them," Akash said. Akash came along with his uncle Maharaj Singh Negi and three others from Uttarakhand's Kotdwar to enquire about his father's well-being.

"We were initially not allowed by the policemen to talk to those trapped inside. When I convinced the inspector that hearing from a relative will comfort the stranded labourers as well as the concerned family members and strengthen their hope

for a safe rescue, he relented and I sent Akash to speak to his father," Maharaj Singh Negi said.

He said quoting authorities that they should not worry as the tunnel is unclogged and empty 2 km beyond the point where the labourers are trapped.

A part of the tunnel being built between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmaputra National Highway caved in on Sunday morning following a landslide, officials said.

Gabbar Singh, who hails from Bishanpur near Kotdwar, is among the two persons from Uttarakhand trapped inside the tunnel along with 38 others.

Local priest Ram Narayan Awasthi also performed a puja to pray for the safe rescue of the trapped workers.

"I was asked by the company to perform a puja so that the gods show some mercy and the trapped labourers are safely evacuated and I did it," Awasthi told PTI.

ANNAKUT FESTIVAL



Devotees collect 'Prasadam' during Annakut festival at Madan Mohan Temple, in Kolkata, Tuesday.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, KRUNAL LIMJE D/O PRADEEP LIMJE resident of 116 A, RUABANDHA SECTOR BSP, BHILAI (C.G.) have changed my old name KRUNAL LIMJE D/O PRADEEP LIMJE, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is KRUNAL DEKATE W/O VAIBHAV DEKATE in all Government and other documents.

KRUNAL DEKATE
116 A, RUABANDHA SECTOR BSP, BHILAI (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, AMISHA D/o Shri RAKESH KUMAR SWARNKAR resident of HOUSE NO. E-2, MITAN VIHAR, DALDAL SEONI ROAD, MOWA, RAIPUR (C.G.) have changed my old name AMISHA D/o Shri RAKESH KUMAR SWARNKAR so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is AMISHA SWARNKAR D/o Shri RAKESH KUMAR SWARNKAR in all Government, Semi-Government and other documents.

AMISHA SWARNKAR
HOUSE NO, E-2, MITAN VIHAR, DALDAL SEONI ROAD, MOWA, RAIPUR (C.G.)

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY"

NOTICE
All the tenders issued by SECL for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of SECL <http://www.secl-cil.in>, CIL e-procurement portal <http://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <http://gem.gov.in>. SECL's mining services tenders are also now available on GeM portal <http://gem.gov.in>

Distribution of material to polling parties on Nov 16

■ 300 employees on duty for material distribution, 76 counters created

Bilaspur, Nov 14:

The work of distribution of material to the polling parties for the assembly elections to be held on November 17 in the district will start from 8 am on November 16 from Government Engineering College campus located in Koni. Complete preparations including barricading have been done for distribution and return of material and about 300 employees were given training for distribution of voting material and return of material.

A total of 76 counters have been created for 6 as-



semblies and the process of returning election material will start after the completion of voting on 17th November.

Instructions were given in the training to properly list all the materials to be distributed. Municipal Corporation Commissioner and Nodal Officer for Training, Kunal Dudawat instructed the parties to discharge their responsibilities with full re-

sponsibility and promptness for systematic voting and said that it is your responsibility to complete your tasks by understanding the entire process related to voting in a better way.

Deputy District Election Officer Shivkumar Banerjee gave necessary guidelines to the officers and employees on duty during distribution and withdrawal of election materials and during the training,



the master trainer of the district, MT Alam said that voting material should be given to the members of the polling team only after seeing and verifying their duty order. He said that among the voting material, VHPET, Control Unit, Ballot Unit, Bag, Green Paper Seal, Pink Paper Seal, Marked Copy of Electoral Roll, Special Tag and Braille Ballot Paper, Voting Compartment etc. should

be given along with the list and the material should be taken back after matching. The Master Trainer said that there should be clear information about the material distributed to the polling parties including its name and all members should discharge their responsibilities patiently. The concerned ROs and officers-employees of all the 6 assemblies were present in the training.

Big action by SST team as 14.50 lakh recovered

Bilaspur, Nov 14:

During Diwali, the SST team has caught a suspicious amount of more than Rs 14.50 lakh, during checking at the check post made at Chilahati turn in front of Mopka Chowk of the city.

A total of Rs 7 lakh in cash was recovered from Sanjay Sahu, resident of Mannadol Sirgitti, which included 14 bundles of Rs 500 each. Similarly, during investigation in the check post set up at Guru Nanak Chowk Torwa, a cash amount of Rs 7 lakh 50 thousand has been recovered from Anshuman Bajpayee, resident of Masanganj. The concerned could not provide any proof or documents of this money; therefore the amount has been confiscated.

Festival of Gauri Gaura celebrated with pomp

Arang, Nov 14:

The festival of Gauri Gaura is celebrated with great enthusiasm throughout the state, in which the marriage of Gaura that is Lord Shankar and Gauri that is Mother Parvati is completed.

The rituals of this festival start one day before Dhan Teras, in which rituals like crushing flowers, offering rice etc. are performed by women and girls singing the songs of Gauri Gaura, which continues for five days.

On the day of Lakshmi Puja, after worshipping at a certain place, soil is brought to build Gauri Gaura along with musical instruments and at night, an attractive idol is prepared from clay and duly worshipped. In the same night, girls and women decorate the Kalasa in their homes in an attractive manner and gather at each other's houses singing songs of Gauri Gaura. In which men and women also dance and dance tunelessly to the tune of the baja and are hit on the hands or feet by the Baiga with Sankar

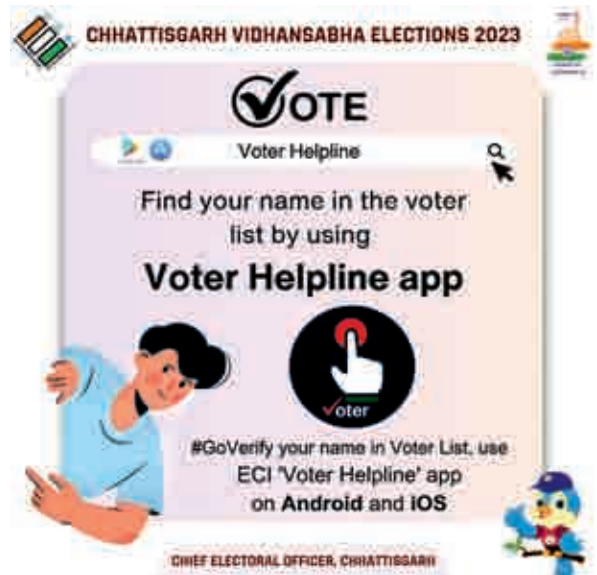


made of Kanshi, which is called 'Sonta Lena' in the local language. Devotees consider it as Prasad of Lord Shankar and similarly dancing to the tune of Gauri Gaura with musical instruments is called Gaura Chadhna. Later the devotees participating in the procession are considered as Shiva Gan and in this way Gauri Gaura's marriage gets completed. On the day of Govardhan Puja, these idols are immersed while dancing and singing Gauri Gaura songs along with musical instruments and this festival is mainly celebrated by the Gond tribes and where there is no Gond tribe, people of all caste communities celebrate this festival together.

All facilities available in Voter Helpline App: CEO

Korea, Nov 14:

A Voter Helpline mobile app has been launched with the aim of providing solutions to every voter's problem. Through this app, not only new voters but all old voters can also avail full benefits. Giving information in this regard, Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Korea and Nodal Officer of the SVEEP program, said that the Election Commission of India has launched a mobile app called Voter Helpline for the convenience of voters in the entire country and every person can easily download it on their Android or other mobile phones. He further said that through this app, apart from their registration, voters can also get their name number and booth information in the voter list also every voter can link his Aadhaar card with his EPIC number through this app. In the Voter Helpline App, apart from removing the name of the voter, easy facility to transfer it to another



place has also been provided. He also said that through the Voter Helpline App, voters can know in detail about all the candidates in their area and can also easily read all the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. CEO Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi has appealed to all

the young voters to take the convenience of their entire family to participate in the elections by using the Voter Helpline App. This app can be easily downloaded from any play store and the process of participating in the elections can be easily availed, he said.

There is no guarantee of PM Modi's guarantee: Baghel

Anwari, Nov 14:

In election campaigning a day before Diwali, Chief Minister Bhupesh Bhakhara reached Ramila Maidan of Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara where he fiercely attacked PM Modi and former CM Dr. Raman Singh in the meeting and appealed to the people to vote for Congress. The Chief Minister's speech lasted for about half an hour in the public meeting at Bhakhara and said that when Raman Singh's government was in power for 15 years, they could not give Rs 2100 to the farmers, then will they be able to give Rs 3100, he questioned.

He also said that there is no guarantee of PM Modi and ex-CM Raman, but there is confidence in our manifesto, because as soon as the Congress government was formed in 2018, the loans of farmers were waived off within 2 hours. Bhupesh Baghel



said that BJP is fighting the elections on the strength of ED; hence ED action is going on continuously here. He also further said that BJP asks for votes in the name of Lord Ram and divides people but we have built the temple of Lord Shri Ram in Chandkhuri and Ram is our nephew because Kaushalya Mata is the daughter of Chhattisgarh. CM also said that everyone will be given gas cylinders for Rs 500 and every-

one will be given a rebate of 200 units in their electricity bill and even children's education will be free. Relying on promises and guarantees and getting Congress to form the government again in the state, Bhupesh Baghel said that the Modi government at the Center waived off the loans of lakhs of crores of its industrialist friends, and here we waived off the loan of the farmers. Congress candidate Tarini Chandrakar



while addressing the gathering said that this Kurud assembly constituency is the stronghold of BJP, it has to be made the stronghold of Congress because our Congress government is empowering all sections of women, youth and farmers. Congress party has to be strengthened.

On this occasion, District Congress President Sharad Lohana, Block Congress President Mukesh Kosare, former MLA

Lekh Ram Sahu, Shashi Singh Gaur, Rajkumari Diwan, Neelam Chandrakar, Tapan Chandrakar, Govind Sahu, Raju Sahu, Hemant Laxmikanta Sahu, Bharat Nahar, Dr. Mohan Hardel, Sharda Sahu, Kanti Sonwani, Suman Sahu, Dinesh Yadav, Sunil Sahu, Govind, Narayan Sahu and a large number of Congress workers and thousands of area residents were present.

RANGOLI



Girls have drawn Rangoli for the festival of lights starting since Dantheras.

Kharora illuminated with colorful lights for Diwali

Kharora, Nov 14:

The festival of Diwali, the great festival of victory of light over darkness, was celebrated with pomp and joy in Kharora and the city was illuminated with the lights of lamps on the occasion of Deepotsav.

The townspeople worshiped Goddess Lakshmi till late night and took her blessings and at the auspicious time, lamps were lighted in the temple along with houses and shops, and worshiped Goddess Lakshmi as per the rituals and blessed her and

prayed for happiness and prosperity.

There was a lot of enthusiasm among children regarding the festival of Diwali, and from city to village, the sound of firecrackers could be heard from evening till midnight. Colorful colors were visible in the sky, firecrackers kept bursting till late night and people enjoyed the festival to the fullest. Another special thing in the festival is that the demand for sweets remains high because people enjoy the festival with their neighbours.

Collector inspects polling centres

■ Coming under Kurud VS No. 57

Kurud, Nov 14:

Collector and District Returning Officer (DRO) Rituraj Raghuvanshi conducted inspection of polling centres within Kurud Vidhan Sabha (VS) No. 57 here on Tuesday. Collector in his intensive tour, visited polling centres viz. Umarda, Gadadih, Megha, Giroud, and other and took information about the electricity supply, water, toilets, ramp, wheel-chair, shade in the premises and CCTV cameras to be installed in the



polling centres. Along with this he also instructed the officers present that the CCTV cameras installed should be as per the standards laid down and this should be kept in mind. Collector directed the officers to ensure facil-

ities like ramp, wheel-chair and others in the polling centres and the services to be provided to the voters.

On this occasion Joint Collector and Dy. DRO Rishikesh Tiwari was also present.

Jai Bhole group observe 'deep-daan'

■ On occasion of Diwali festival

Birkoni, Nov 14:

On occasion of 'Deepotsav' near Chandi Gate Nandishwar in Gram Birkoni, it is by following 'deep daan' to a dozen trees a pledge was taken for saving the environment. The members of the Group informed that they are following this 'deep daan' tradition for last many years. They celebrate Diwali with trees every year and it is a novel tradition here. The people here are serious about the environmental issue and it is for this reason that be it the festival of Holi, Diwali or Rakshabandhan, they celebrate it with trees taking a pledge for its safety and security. Members of Jai Bhole Group have launched this environment conservation campaign. Seetaram Gajendra informed that the trees are the life-giving system for humans and it is because of trees that we all are alive. Therefore the group and its members share the happiness of the festival along with nature and trees. Kaliram Nishad informed that every year they celebrate Diwali with trees as they



are part & parcel of human life and therefore it requires lot of safety and care. During this environmentalist Yogesh Sahu, Girwar Sahu, Sonu Dhruv, Nakul Vishwakarma, Santosh Sahu, Toran Sahu, Mahendra Yadav were present.

Ambedkar Institute empowers students with free JEE career guidance program

■ Opportunities and insights shared to excel in JEE Mains and Advanced examinations

Mungeli, Nov 14:

The Ambedkar Institute Chhattisgarh recently organized a valuable career guidance program focused on the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) at the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Residential School. The event commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp and

collective prayers in front of the portrait of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Rajendra Diwaker, President of the Institute and a Senior Counsellor, highlighted the significance of such programs, emphasizing the positive impact they have on students' aspirations. The session provided comprehensive information about the JEE Mains and Advanced examinations, shedding light on the eligibility criteria. Students who have completed their 12th-grade studies or its equivalent in 2022

or 2023 with a minimum of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry as subjects are eligible to apply. General category students require a minimum of 75 percent marks, while SC/ST students must achieve a minimum of 65 percent marks. Those appearing for the main examination in 2024 will also be eligible. Eligible students can attempt the examination for three consecutive years. The JEE examination is conducted twice a year, offering opportunities for admission to prestigious insti-

tutions such as NITs, IITs, Triple ITs, CFTIs, and engineering colleges in the public and private sectors. Importantly, there are no age restrictions for candidates. The application deadline for the first session is November 30th.

The program also delved into the application process, required qualifications and certificates, fee payment, examination methods, and the availability of the examination in multiple languages, including Hindi and English. Information was provid-

ed regarding subject-wise mark distribution and negative marking.

Subject experts further offered detailed insights into the syllabus of Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, as well as the methodology of multiple-choice questions in the examination.

The event was attended by institute officials and members, including Bhatruhan Kant, Aasha Diwaker (Principal), Chhatrapal Dahire (Vice Principal), J. R. Sahu, Sarika Singh, Nare Kumar, and numerous enthusiastic students.

Rishi Sunak addresses new look Cabinet with pledge for change

London, Nov 14 (PTI):

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak addressed a weekly meeting on Tuesday with a pledge to "drive change" with his new look Cabinet, a day after sacking Home Secretary Suella Braverman and parachuting in former prime minister David Cameron as the new Foreign Secretary.

In his opening remarks, Sunak said to his Cabinet that they should build a better future for the citizens of the country.

"Our purpose is nothing less than to make the long-term decisions that are going to change our country for the better. I know that this strong and united team is going to deliver that change for everybody," said Sunak in his opening remarks to the



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, at left, with his new Foreign Secretary David Cameron, second right attend a Cabinet meeting inside 10 Downing Street in London, Tuesday, Nov. 14.

new Cabinet, which sees former foreign secretary James Cleverly shifted to the role of Home Secretary.

"I am confident that we can demonstrate to the country that we're making progress on the priorities

that I set out at the beginning of the year. But you all know that is not the limit of our ambitions. We want to build a better future for our children and for our grandchildren, and that is what this team is going to do. So, let's get to

work," he said at the meeting held at 10 Downing Street in London.

It comes after a day of political frenzy at the very top of the UK government, with Sunak shaking things up by getting rid of a controversy courting Indian-origin home minister as he prepares for a general election year coming up in 2024.

Cameron was speedily made a peer in the House of Lords to be eligible for the government post having quit frontline politics in the wake of the June 2016 Brexit referendum.

Lord Cameron hit the ground running with a meeting with his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, at his new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in London.



The Head priest of Shree Ambaji Temple performs Arti, during Diwali and New year Hindu celebrations in Nairobi, Kenya, Tuesday, Nov. 14. Diwali is a popular five-day celebration for many Indians, namely Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and certain Buddhists.

UN chief calls for an 'ambition supernova'

As nations make minor progress on climate action

New York, Nov 14 (AP):

The countries' climate action plans are still far behind what's needed to curb human-caused warming and limit the devastating effects of extreme heat, storms and droughts, but some nations have taken marginal steps toward slashing emissions, a United Nations analysis of national plans found Tuesday.

The report looked into the climate plans of 195 countries and found that emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas will go up 9 per cent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, but will be 2 per cent lower than 2019 levels because of some climate action from countries switching to cleaner energy. But climate sci-



entists warn that the world needs to spew around 45 per cent less by then.

"The world is failing to get a grip on the climate crisis," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement. "Inch by inch progress will not do. It is time for a climate ambition supernova in every country, city, and sector."

He called for "net-zero" when countries only spew as much carbon into the atmosphere as they can take back out in

developed countries to happen by "as close as possible" to 2040, and 2050 for developing nations.

The U.N. climate chief, Simon Stiell, urged that upcoming international climate talks in Dubai become a "turning point" where governments can get on track with plans to cut emissions in line with capping warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), as agreed by nations in Paris in 2015.

"Governments must

not only agree what stronger climate actions will be taken but also start showing exactly how to deliver them," Stiell said in a press statement. He said that billions around the world expect governments to act on climate change.

Sultan al-Jaber, president of the COP28 climate talks in Dubai and chief of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, said the report shows "there is simply no time left for delays."

Extreme weather events charged by the warming atmosphere are increasing in magnitude and frequency around the world. The last 12 months were the hottest yearlong period ever recorded, according to a recent analysis. Many recent droughts, floods and storms were found to have fingerprints of human-cause climate change, according to attribution scientists.

Three killed in two separate terror attacks in Pakistan

Peshawar, Nov 14 (PTI):

Two Pakistani policemen were among at least three people killed in two separate terror attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the army said on Tuesday.

Two soldiers were killed in a clash with terrorists during a clearance operation in Mir Ali Tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district on Monday, the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement. A terrorist was also killed during the exchange of fire. In another incident, a convoy of an Oil and Gas Company was attacked by militants in the Drazinda tehsil of Dera Ismail Khan district, killing the company driver and injuring 11 others. The injured have been shifted to Dera Hospital. The condition of two of the injured persons is said to be critical, an official said. Search operation is underway in the area to arrest the attackers who escaped after the gunfight.

Pak HC issues stay order against jail trial of Imran Khan in cipher case

Islamabad, Nov 14 (PTI):

A Pakistan high court on Tuesday issued a stay order against the jail trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case, seeking information about the "circumstances" that prompted the trial to be conducted in a high-security Rawalpindi prison.

The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman is currently detained in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on judicial remand. Khan's close aide and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, 67, who was also arrested in the cipher case is imprisoned in the same jail. Khan and Qureshi have pleaded not guilty to the charges. A two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz pro-

nounced the judgement during the hearing of Khan's intra-court appeal against his trial in Adiala jail. The appeal was filed against a single-member bench of the same court which last month upheld the trial of Khan in Adiala Jail. Justice Aurangzeb said the court would scrutinise the notification, questioning the "extraordinary circumstances" that led to the trial being conducted in its current manner. "We want to know the actual events; you have to inform us," the judge said. The court also sought clarification on the reasons behind the federal cabinet's approval of the jail trial. "The most important question lies in determining the status of court proceedings preceding the cabinet's approval," Justice Aurangzeb asked.

The IHC refused to grant a plea by Attorney General Mansoor Awan

that instead of staying the trial, the court should fix the next hearing for Wednesday when he would present the entire record of the case.

After rejecting the request, the court fixed the next hearing for Thursday and ordered to stop the proceeding.

The development comes a day after the caretaker government on Monday approved the jail trial of Khan and Qureshi in the case based on an alleged violation of the Official Secrets Act while dealing with a secret diplomatic cable by the Pakistan embassy in Washington in March 2022. The duo were booked by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the case in August. The interim Cabinet gave its nod to the summary moved by the law ministry for the jail trial of Khan and Qureshi in Adiala jail due to security concerns.

Cash-strapped Pakistan sold weapons worth \$364mn to Ukraine: Report

Islamabad/London, Nov 14 (PTI):

Cash-strapped Pakistan reportedly earned USD 364 million in an arms deal with two private US companies last year to supply ammunition to Ukraine in its war with Russia, according to a media report.

A British military cargo plane flew from Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan in Rawalpindi to the British military base in Cyprus, Akrotiri, and then to Romania a total of five times to supply arms to the war-torn country, the BBC Urdu reported on Monday.

Islamabad has, however, consistently denied that it has provided any ammunition to Ukraine, a neighbouring country to Romania. Citing details of the contract from the American Federal Procurement Data System, the BBC report claimed that Pakistan signed two contracts with American companies named "Global Military" and "Northrop Grumman" for the sale of 155mm shells.

These agreements to provide weapons to Ukraine were signed on August 17, 2022, and were specifically linked to the

purchase of 155mm shells.

The Foreign Office in Islamabad has denied any sale of arms and ammunition to Ukraine, saying that Pakistan maintained a policy of "strict neutrality" in the dispute between the two countries and did not provide them with any arms or ammunition in that context.

These alleged agreements took place during the rule of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - a multi-party coalition that ousted Imran Khan-led government through a no-trust vote in April last year.

China, Iran, Arab nations condemn Israeli minister's statement about dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza

United Nations, Nov 14 (AP):

China, Iran and a multitude of Arab nations condemned an Israeli minister's statement that a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip was an option in the Israel-Hamas war, calling it a threat to the world.

At Monday's long-planned opening of a United Nations conference whose goal is to establish a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, many ambassadors expressed condemnations and criticisms of comments by Israel's Heritage Minister Amihai Eliyahu, who later called his remarks in a radio inter-

view on Sunday "metaphorical".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quickly disavowed the comments and suspended him from cabinet meetings.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its nuclear capability. It is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, and a former employee at its nuclear reactor served 18 years in Israeli prison for leaking details and pictures of Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal programme to a British newspaper in 1986.

China's deputy UN ambassador Geng Shuang said Beijing was "shocked", calling the statements "extremely irresponsible and disturbing" and should be universally condemned.

He urged Israeli officials to retract the statement and become a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, considered the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, as a non-nuclear weapon state "as soon as possible". Geng said China is ready to join other countries "to inject new impetus" to establishing a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Mideast, saying there is greater urgency because of the situation in the current region. UN disarmament chief Izumi Nakamitsu, who opened Monday's fourth conference, didn't mention Israel. But she said: "Any threat to use nuclear weapons is inadmissible." Nakamitsu reiterated the "urgency... of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction", stressing that "cool heads and diplomatic efforts" must prevail to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians, based on a two-state solution. Oman's UN Ambassador Mohamed Al-Hassan, speaking on behalf of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council which includes Saudi Arabia, said the threat to use nuclear

weapons in Gaza "reaffirms the extremes and brutality of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people" and their "disregard for innocent life".

He called on the UN Security Council and the IAEA to take decisive action on the matter.

Lebanon's Charge d'Affaires Hadi Hachem also condemned the Israeli heritage minister's comments, stressing that "this self-acknowledgment of having nuclear weapons and the threat of using them by its officials, poses a serious threat to both regional and international peace and security".

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DIWALI IN LONDON



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addresses the Indian community at a Diwali reception, in London, United Kingdom.

EU struggles to produce and send ammunition promised to Ukraine

Brussels, Nov 14 (AP):

European Union nations acknowledged on Tuesday that they risk failing to provide Ukraine with the ammunition they pledged to help Kyiv stave off the Russian invasion and win back its territory.

Early this year, EU leaders promised to provide 1 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine's front line by spring next year in what would have amounted to a serious ramp-up of production. But the 27-nation bloc, for over half a century steeped in a "peace, not war" message and sheltering under a US military umbrella, is finding it tough to come up with the goods.

"The 1 million will not be reached, you have to assume that," said German

Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, ahead of a meeting of EU defence and foreign affairs ministers in Brussels.

Estonia's defence minister, Hanno Pevkur, said it was crucial to ramp up supply of the ammunition.

"Look at Russia. They are producing today more than ever. They are getting shells from North Korea. Europe cannot say that... Russia and North Korea can deliver and we cannot," he said.

Some 300,000 rounds have been delivered from existing stocks in the EU so far. With the rest becoming increasingly elusive to source before spring, Latvian Defence Minister Andris Spruds insisted the original target should not be taken too literally.

"Well, of course, 1 million rounds are symbolic. I think aspiration and ambition is important," he said.

On the battlefield, though, the presence of ammunition is the only thing that counts.

In Ukraine's war with Russia, 155mm artillery rounds play a pivotal role. The daily consumption of 6,000 to 7,000 shells highlights its strategic importance. Acquiring 1 million such shells could secure stability for Ukraine for at least half a year, providing a substantial advantage in sustained operations and flexibility on the battlefield, observers said.

EU Commissioner Thierry Breton insisted the industry production target of 1 million rounds could be met by industry. "But it is now upon mem-

ber states to place their orders."

However, member states put the blame on producers.

"We have all signed contracts. We've done joint procurement. So industry now has to deliver. It has to step up its game to produce more," said Dutch defence Minister Kaja Ollongren.

Breton acknowledged that the EU's over-reliance on so-called soft power and decades of sinking budgets in many European nations had left the bloc exposed. "As you well know, it is history, certainly the peace dividend. It is true that we dropped a bit, even significantly, our production capacity, but the industrial base is still there" to ramp up production anew, he said.

Diwali Disarray

The Failure of Festive Restrictions

The Diwali festivities have once again cast a shadow over India's air quality, as the unchecked and exuberant bursting of firecrackers turned New Delhi into a gas chamber. On Monday morning, the air quality index (AQI) in the national capital reached a staggering "hazardous" level of 400-plus, according to Swiss air quality technology company IQAir. This dire situation underscores a persistent and troubling issue that our society must address head-on. The Supreme Court, in a clarifying stance last week, reiterated its ban on the use of barium and prohibited chemicals in firecrackers. Importantly, the court emphasized that this ban extends not only to the National Capital Region but to the entire country. However, the court's directives seem to have gone up in smoke, quite literally, as banned firecrackers continued to flood the markets, were openly sold, and ignited across various cities, including Delhi, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Mumbai. It is worth noting that this is not a new issue. Back in October 2018, the Supreme Court had already prohibited the production and sale of all firecrackers except for the so-called "green" ones and those with reduced emissions, commonly referred to as "improved" crackers. In the aftermath of this decision, the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research claimed to have developed less-polluting firecrackers that were also more cost-effective than their conventional counterparts. However, despite these efforts and proclamations, the situation on the ground remains grim. Highly polluting firecrackers continue to make their way into the market, including illegally imported Chinese products that bear a fake "Made in India" label. Meanwhile, doubts have arisen regarding the effectiveness of the so-called "green" alternatives in reducing pollution. Additionally, the prescribed two-hour window for bursting crackers has proven ineffective due to lax enforcement. In light of these persistent challenges and the clear public health hazard that firecrackers pose, it is increasingly evident that nothing less than a blanket ban on all types of crackers would suffice to address the issue at its core. The Supreme Court, while taking a firm stance against pollution, has refrained from imposing such a comprehensive ban out of respect for religious traditions and sentiments. However, we must critically examine the balance between tradition and the public interest. When a tradition poses a severe risk to the health and well-being of the public and exposes them to toxic air, it is imperative to reconsider its place in society. In this context, it becomes evident that a comprehensive package should be devised to compensate the fireworks industry and provide support for the rehabilitation of its labor force. The concerns over livelihoods and traditions must be addressed in tandem with the overarching need to protect the health and environment of our citizens. A balanced approach, one that values human lives and environmental well-being over temporary bursts of enjoyment, is the need of the hour. As the country grapples with worsening air quality and the health consequences it brings, it is incumbent upon us to take a hard look at our traditions and practices. We should be willing to adapt and evolve in the face of new challenges and emerging threats to our health and the environment. The time has come for us to move beyond token measures and embrace the reality that in order to safeguard our collective health, it may be necessary to bid farewell to certain traditions. This is not a matter of choice but of necessity, and it is a sacrifice we must be willing to make for the greater good of our society. In doing so, we can look forward to brighter and healthier Diwalis for generations to come.

Upholding Human Rights

The recent review of Canada's human rights records in Geneva has brought to light some notable differences between India and Canada, particularly regarding the protection of freedom of expression and the prevention of extremist activities. These differences underscore the complexities and challenges that countries face in balancing fundamental rights and security concerns. During the review, India urged Canada to strengthen its domestic framework to prevent the misuse of freedom of expression for inciting violence and to curtail the activities of groups promoting extremism. India also called on Canada to enhance its efforts to prevent attacks on places of worship belonging to religious and racial minorities, as well as to bolster legislative measures addressing hate crimes and hate speech. This diplomatic exchange raises several important issues that warrant thoughtful consideration. First, it underscores the significance of freedom of expression as a fundamental human right. While this right is essential for a thriving democracy and the free exchange of ideas, it must also be balanced with the responsibility to prevent the incitement of violence and the promotion of extremism. Striking this balance is a complex task that requires careful legislation and enforcement. The allegations against Canada stem from concerns regarding the misuse of freedom of expression by certain individuals and groups advocating extremist ideologies. This issue is not unique to Canada and has been a global challenge, with many countries grappling with the dilemma of how to address online radicalization and hate speech while upholding democratic values. The another highlight is the importance of safeguarding places of worship and protecting religious and racial minorities. Ensuring the safety and security of these communities is not just a legal obligation but also a moral imperative. Hate crimes and attacks on religious and racial minorities undermine social cohesion and pose a threat to the principles of equality and diversity. The mention of the Sikh separatist issue adds a layer of complexity to the dialogue. Canada has long been home to a diverse range of communities, including Sikh Canadians who have made significant contributions to the country. However, when individuals within these communities advocate violence or support extremist causes, it poses a challenge for both Canada and its international relations. The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, responded to these allegations by emphasizing the importance of the rule of law and Canada's commitment to upholding international conventions, such as the Vienna Convention. His assertion that Canada will stand up for the rule of law underscores the country's dedication to maintaining its reputation as a nation that adheres to the principles of justice and accountability. As we reflect on these developments, it is crucial to remember that protecting human rights and ensuring national security are not mutually exclusive goals. They can and should coexist in a balanced and principled manner. The challenges faced by both India and Canada in addressing extremism and protecting freedom of expression are shared challenges that require global collaboration and innovative solutions.

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

ANTI-SMOG GUNS

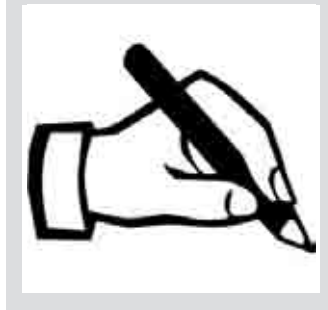


Mobile anti-smog guns spray water to curb air pollution after their flag-off by Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai, at Delhi Secretariat, in New Delhi, Tuesday, Nov. 14.

All about deepfake tech

AI-powered videos intensify debate on disinformation epidemic

PRATYUSH RANJAN



First Rashmika Mandanna and then Katrina Kaif. AI-generated morphed videos of the two actors created a flutter last week, highlighting the urgent need to stop the misuse of deepfake technology and prompting calls for better ways to identify it. While Delhi Police on Friday registered an FIR against unidentified people in connection with the deepfake video of Mandanna, Amitabh Bachchan and Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar among others have expressed concern. The government stepped in with an advisory to major social media companies to identify misinformation, deepfakes and other content that violate rules and remove those within 36 hours after being reported to them.

The debate, in the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas conflict that saw a surge in the use of deepfake video to spread disinformation and manipulate public opinion, also led to many questions.

WHAT ARE DEEPAKE VIDEOS?

Deepfake videos are synthetic media in which a person in an existing image or

video is replaced with someone else's likeness. While the technology has been around for several years, it has become increasingly sophisticated and accessible recently, raising concerns about its potential misuse.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

One way to combat the spread of deepfakes is to educate the public about the technology and how to identify fakes. "Far more than technical expertise or abilities, there is a mindset we need to encourage. People need to be aware that the creation of fakes is rampant and becoming easier all the time." Eoghan Sweeney, an open-source investigation (OSINT) specialist and trainer, told PTI.

"That is why, in a fraught atmosphere such as exists around a scenario like the current one, it's crucial to be aware that a huge amount of the information and content that finds its way to your attention is inauthentic," he added.

SOME TIPS: Several tools and techniques can be used to detect deepfakes, such as looking for inconsistencies in facial expressions, skin texture, and lighting. However, deepfakes are becoming increasingly sophisticated, making it more difficult to spot them.

Look out for signs that give an idea that videos being shared on social media could be AI-generated fake photos or visuals.

AI-generated text can sometimes be grammatically incorrect or have odd phrasing. This is because AI systems are trained on large

datasets of text, which may only sometimes contain perfect grammar or natural language usage.

AI-generated text can sometimes go off on tangents or introduce new information irrelevant to the main topic. This is because AI systems may not always understand the context of the text they generate.

AI-generated photos and videos can sometimes have peculiar lighting, facial gestures, or backgrounds. This is because AI systems may not always be able to generate realistic images and videos accurately.

AI-generated videos are often created by stitching together different clips, so there may be inconsistencies in the lighting, shadows, or background. The subject's skin tone may change from one shot to the next, or the shadows may be in different directions.

AI-generated videos can have difficulty accurately rendering human movements so there may be weird or unnatural movements in the video. The face of the person/people in the video may contort, or their limbs may move strangely.

AI-generated videos are often low quality, especially if created using a free or low-cost AI video generator. Look for pixelation, blurring, or other video artifacts.

AI video generation technology is constantly improving, so it's important to know the latest techniques. You can do this by reading articles and blogs about AI

video generation or by following experts on social media.

Identify the source of information: Where did the disinformation come from? Who posted it? What are their credentials? Verify the information. Check the facts and see if there is any evidence to support the claim. If you can't find any evidence to support the claim, it is likely false.

Once you have verified that the disinformation is false, explain why it is incorrect clearly and concisely. Be sure to provide evidence to support your claims. It's necessary to break the chain of disinformation at your end.

"The way that social media algorithms and human psychology work, it isn't likely to be the most credible material that forces its way most readily into your eye line, but rather that which attracts the most attention, often because it is dramatic and outrage-inducing. Needless to say, dedicated purveyors of disinformation are practised in techniques that elicit such reactions. So in terms of winning the battle for minds and eyeballs, the deck is stacked," Sweeney told PTI.

The Berlin-based OSINT specialist suggested that people step back and ask themselves some questions before trying to evaluate photographs and videos forensically.

* Why might it be that this is being shared right now? * What is the response it is trying to provoke in me and others? * How susceptible am I to taking it on board, given my existing sympathies, and how does it play on those? (PTI).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcome Decesion

India showing its great sensibility has voted in the United Nations in favour of a resolution condemning Israel's settlement in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan – just about a fortnight after refraining from supporting an appeal from the international organisation for humanitarian truce in the Gaza Strip. New Delhi's decision to vote in favour of the resolution this week is significant as it had late last month refrained from supporting a United Nations General Assembly resolution that called for a humanitarian truce between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Surely, this decision will play a key role to stop ongoing war and restore peace in Gaza Strip and it will be economically useful for India too.

TKR.Noori, Mumbai

Cricket Governance

The ICC Board convened and found Sri Lanka Cricket to be in serious violation of its responsibilities as a Member, particularly in terms of maintaining autonomous management and preventing government interference in cricket governance in Sri Lanka. This marks the second time the ICC has imposed a suspension on a full member, with Zimbabwe Cricket facing a similar penalty in 2021 due to government interference. Cricket is a sport meant for public enjoyment and should remain free from political influence. The ICC Board's decision is commendable, emphasizing the importance of keeping the sport accessible to the public rather than being subject to political agendas.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

Political Mudslinging

Pre-election assaults on rivals, accusing them of corruption, leading to sudden shifts in loyalties, may simplify the decision-making process for weary and disenfranchised voters in the upcoming elections. The critical question arises: Who can voters trust? This is especially pertinent in a landscape marred by stark contradictions, confusion, and opportunism. The Mahua Moitra 'cash-for-query' episode is a stark illustration of the decay in modern politics.

MK Nair, Raipur

Wings to Nurturing Faith and Enthusiasm



Satish Singh

Chhath festival is celebrated immediately after celebrating Diwali on the new moon day of Kartik month. Chhath is an aphorism of Shashti. This festival is celebrated twice a year. First time in Chaitra month and second time in Kartik month. The Chhath festival celebrated on Chaitra Shukla Paksha Shashti is called Chaiti Chhath and the festival celebrated on Kartik Shukla Paksha Shashti is called Kartik Chhath.

This festival is celebrated for family happiness, prosperity and to get desired results. There is a tradition of singing folk songs during Chhath festival, for example, while making Prasad, at the time of Kharna, while going to offer Arghya, at the time of donating

Arghya and while returning home from the ghat. This year i.e., in the year 2023, the first day of Chhath is Nahay-Khaya on 17th November (Friday). Kharna is on 18th November (Saturday). Arghya to the setting Sun is on 19th November (Sunday) and Arghya to the rising Sun is on 20th November (Monday). The fourth day of this great festival is the most special and this Mahavrat ends on this day. This festival is celebrated with great pomp for four days. This festival starts from the third day of Bhaiya Dooj.

In this festival, first the house is cleaned and made sacred. Thereafter, the Chhath vrat starts the chhath pooja by taking a bath and consuming pure vegetarian food prepared in a sacred manner. All the members of the house take food only after food finished by vrat. Dal (made from pulses and gram) and rice are consumed by vrat as a prasad. On the second day, Kartik Shukla Panchami, the fasting people have food in the evening after fasting for the whole day. It is called 'Kharna'. Invitations are sent to friends, neighbours, and relatives to receive the Prasad of Kharna. Rice pitha, roti, rice pudding (made in sugarcane juice and milk) is made as Prasad. Both sides of the roti are greased with ghee. No salt or sugar is used in it. During this period, special care is taken of the cleanliness of the

entire house. Chhath Prasad is made on the third day of Kartik Shukla Shashti. Apart from thekua, which is also called Tikri in some areas, rice laddus, also called Ladua, are made as Prasad. Apart from this, batasha made of sugar, fruits, sugarcane etc. are also included as Chhath Prasad. In the evening, Arghya soup is decorated in a bamboo basket and along with the fasting person, all the family and neighbourhood people proceed towards the ghat to offer Arghya to the setting sun. All Chhathvrat ghaters at the pond or riverbank and collectively perform Arghya Daan. Now people also offer water to the Sun by making a tank (a place to store water) in the house. Arghya of water and milk is offered to the Sun and Chhath Maiya is worshiped with soup filled with Prasad. On the fourth day, on the morning of Kartik Shukla, Arghya is offered to the rising sun. The devotees gather again at the same place where they had offered Arghya in the evening. The process is repeated in the evening. Finally, the fasting person completes the fast by drinking raw milk sherbet and eating prasad.

Even in today's modern times, Chhath Vrat remains synonymous with difficult penance. Earlier, this fast was generally observed by women who wanted to have a son and for the well-being of their son, because it was

believed that women who observe fast on Chhath festival are blessed with a son. However, in the changing environment, this festival is celebrated to fulfil any wish. Now even men observe this fast with full devotion to fulfil some wish or out of devotion.

A woman observing fast is also called Parvati. During this fast of four days, the devotee must fast continuously. Along with food, a comfortable bed is also sacrificed. In the room, which is cleaned for the festival, the devotees spend the night on a blanket or sheet on the floor. In this festival, devotees wear clothes which do not have any kind of stitching. Women celebrate Chhath wearing saree and men wearing dhoti. Usually, after starting the Chhath festival, it must be done every year until a married woman or man of the next generation is ready to do it. This festival is not celebrated if someone dies in the house.

There are many mythological and folk stories prevalent in the tradition of Chhath Puja and its importance. According to a belief, on Kartik Shukla Shashti, the day of establishment of Ram Rajya after the victory of Lanka, Lord Ram and Mother Sita fasted and worshiped God of Sun. On Saptami, at the time of sunrise, the rituals were performed again, and blessings were received from the God of Sun. According to another belief, Chhath

festival started during the Mahabharata period. First, Surya's son Karna started worshipping God of Sun. Karna was a great devotee of Lord Surya. Every day he used to stand waist deep in water for hours and offer prayers to the Sun. It was only by the grace of Surya that he became a great warrior. Even today, the same method of offering Arghya during Chhath is prevalent.

In some stories, there is also mention of Pandava's wife Draupadi worshipping the Sun. She used to perform Surya Puja regularly to wish for the good health and long life of her family members. According to a story, King Priyavadi did not have any child, then Maharishi Kashyap performed Putreshti Yagya and gave the kheer prepared for the Yagya to his wife Malini. Due to this effect, they gave birth to a son, but he was born dead. Priyavadi went to the crematorium with his son and started giving up his life due to separation from his son. At the same time, God's manas daughter Devasena appeared and said that I am called Shashti because I am born from the sixth part of the basic nature of the universe. Rajan, you worship me and inspire other people also. The king, wishing to have a son, observed a fast on Goddess Shashti and was blessed with a son. This puja was done on Kartik Shukla Shashti.

BRIEF

Staff strength



New Delhi: Unified communications company Avaya is planning to increase its India workforce by 20 per cent over the next year, a top company official said. The company has one-third of its global engineering workforce in India who are engaged in core development work, Avaya CEO Alan Masarek told PTI. "In early summer, I said we will increase India's workforce by 20 per cent and we have already completed that hiring. In June, we had 1,200 employees in India and now we are at over 1,500. "We will continue to grow by another 20 per cent over the next year... it will be across the board," he said. The company is looking to hire data scientists and engineers specialised in artificial intelligence.

Felicitations

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless said it has been felicitated by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) for indigenously developing plates that were being imported from China, the European Union, and Japan. The company was felicitated at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, in the national capital. "The felicitation was received for developing C276 clad plates, used in thermal power plants, and alloy steel plates SA387 GR 91 (9 Cr 1 Mo), for application in super critical boilers," the company said in a statement. Earlier, C276 clad plates as well as GR 91 plates were being imported from the European Union, China, and Japan, it added.

Overseas markets



New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG major Dabur is taking its spice brand Badshah to overseas markets, expecting the brand it acquired last year to contribute around 4 per cent to international sales this fiscal, its CEO Mohit Malhotra said. The company is eyeing the diaspora markets of the US, UK and the Middle East and is in the process of getting regulatory approvals and upscaling manufacturing. Also, in the domestic market, Dabur has plans to take Badshah Masala to North, East and South besides expanding further in western markets of Maharashtra and Gujarat. "The business (Badshah) is growing and this year it should contribute around 3-4 per cent of our overall international business. We expect a high double-digit growth from here," Malhotra told PTI.

Goyal visits Tesla's manufacturing facility in California

New Delhi, Nov 14:



Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal with Singapore's Minister of Trade & Industry Gan Kim Yong, in San Francisco, USA.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has visited the manufacturing facility of US-based electric vehicle major Tesla at Fremont, California and said that the company would be doubling its auto components imports from India. The minister is in the US on a four-day visit. The world's largest electric car producer Tesla Inc's chief Elon Musk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June in New York and after the meeting Musk had said that he planned to visit India in 2024. "Visited @Tesla's state of the art manufacturing facility at Fremont, California. Extremely delighted to see talented Indian engineers and finance professionals working at Senior positions and contributing to Tesla's remarkable journey to transform mobility. "Also proud to see the growing importance of auto component

suppliers from India in the Tesla EV supply chain. It is on its way to double its components imports from India. Missed Mr @ElonMusk's magnetic presence and I wish him a

speedy recovery," Goyal said on social networking platform X. The platform is also owned by Musk.

The visit assumes significance as there are reports that India is looking at giv-

ing customs duty concessions to Tesla for setting up a plant in the country. In September, Goyal said the company is looking to source components worth around USD 1.9 billion from India this year against USD 1 billion in 2022. Going forward, demand for electric vehicles will increase and it will help in pushing the growth of the sector.

Earlier, the government had stated that it is not looking to frame a separate policy for providing incentives to Tesla, and the company can apply to avail support measures under existing schemes like PLI for auto and advanced chemistry cells. The government has rolled out the production-linked incentives (PLI) schemes (PLI) for advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery storage with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore and Rs 26,058 crore PLI scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries. When asked whether the govern-

ment is considering duty concessions on completely built-up units to attract certain sections of electric cars into India, Goyal in September had said that "everything we have done has been done equally without any differentiation, without any preferences."

This is the government which provides equal opportunity to everybody. So we will come out with a policy". In August 2021, Musk had said Tesla might set up a manufacturing unit in India if it first succeeded with imported vehicles in the country. He had said Tesla wanted to launch its vehicles in India "but import duties are the highest in the world by far of any large country!". Currently, India imposes 100 per cent import duty on fully imported cars with CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value more than USD 40,000 and 70 per cent on those costing less than the amount.

Govt to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks in next two weeks: Rao

New Delhi, Nov 14:



The government will invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks in next two weeks, a top official said on Tuesday. The 20 critical blocks include lithium and graphite mines, Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao told reporters here. "After making the policy on critical minerals, the next step is the auctioning of critical mineral blocks. "Now we are almost ready to issue the auction notice and in two weeks time we will be issuing an auction notice for auctioning about 20 blocks that are related to critical minerals like lithium and graphite," the secretary said.

He was speaking after the inauguration of the Mining Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF). The secretary said 10-12 players in the country have the technology to produce and process critical minerals. Post this auction notice, he said, a workshop will be organised in which all the stakeholders will be

brought together and a national-level strategy on mining and processing of critical minerals will be made.

Last month, the Centre had approved royalty rates of three per cent each for lithium and niobium and one per cent for Rare Earth Elements (REEs). Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security. Lithium and REEs have gained significance keeping in mind the country's commitment towards energy transition and achieving net-zero emission by 2070.

Next round of India, UK talks for free trade agreement expected soon

New Delhi, Nov 14:

Chief negotiators of India and the UK are expected to soon hold next round of talks for the proposed free trade agreement to iron out differences on issues such as automobiles, medical devices, and movement of professionals, an official said. The official said that the UK team may come here for the 14th round of negotiations so that the talks can be concluded at the earliest.

"Virtual sessions are progressing. But we are planning for a full fledged round of talks. In the full round, both sides discuss all the chapters. Some 60-70 sessions happen parallelly," the official, who did not wish to be named, said. Issues which need resolution include rules of origin; intellectual property rights (IPRs); social security agreement; duty conces-

sions on electric vehicles, scotch whiskey, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items; liberalisation of norms in services sectors like banking and insurance. Talks are also progressing on the proposed bilateral investment treaty (BIT).

The investment treaty is being negotiated as a separate agreement between India and the UK. These investment treaties help in promoting and protecting investments in each other's country. The main point of contention involved in this pact is about the mechanism for the settlement of disputes. BITs help in promoting and protecting investments in each other's countries. India has proposed to first utilise all local judicial remedies for settlement of disputes before initiating an international arbitration.

India asks OPEC to ensure oil market stability

New Delhi, Nov 14:

India, the world's third largest oil consumer, has asked oil producers cartel OPEC to maintain and ensure market stability for the benefit of consumers, producers and global economy. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said this at the 6th India-OPEC Energy Dialogue that took place on November 9 in Vienna, an official press statement said on Monday. The meeting was co-chaired by OPEC secretary general Haitham Al Ghaiss and Puri. "The open and candid discussions at the meeting focused on key issues related to oil and energy markets with a specific emphasis on ensuring availability, affordability and sustainability, which are necessary in ensuring the stability of energy markets. The two



sides discussed the short, medium and long-term outlooks for the industry and recognized the important role of India in global economic growth and energy demand," the statement said. "In this context, he called on OPEC to continue playing its key role in maintaining and ensuring market stability for the benefits of consumers, producers and global economy." The two sides noted the World Oil Outlook 2023 which forecasted that India would be the fastest-growing major developing economy, averaging long-term growth of 6.1 per cent between 2022 and 2045 and to account for over 28 per cent of incremental global energy demand during the same period.

India remains on a trajectory of stable and robust economic growth, fostering deeper collaboration for the mutual benefit of both parties has the potential to contribute significantly to the long-term prosperity and stability of the global oil markets," the statement said. "In this context, he called on OPEC to continue playing its key role in maintaining and ensuring market stability for the benefits of consumers, producers and global economy."

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Coal ministry to ensure sufficient availability of dry fuel

New Delhi, Nov 14:

The coal ministry on Monday said it has plans to produce additional quantity of the dry fuel to ensure sufficient availability for thermal power plants. Production enhancement measures include opening of new blocks, expansion of mines capacity and production from captive, commercial mines. "All these three operational components are contributing and have clear plans for further enhancement. The production plans for year 2027 and 2030 will far exceed the likely domestic requirement of thermal power plants in the country, including that for likely additional capacity," the coal ministry said in a statement. The ministry plans to produce 1,404 million tonnes (MT) of coal by 2027 and 1,577 MT by 2030 from the current level of production of about one billion tonnes per

annum. Coal supplied to domestic coal-based power plant is around 821 MT for the current year. The ministry said it has taken note of the additional coal requirement for the additional 80 GW of thermal capacity to be added by 2030.

"The coal requirement for additional thermal capacity would be around 400 MT at 85 per cent PLF (plant load factor), and the actual requirement may be lower depending on the generation requirements in the coming times due to contributions from renewable sources," it said. Coal stocks have started building up at thermal power plants and have reached around 20 MT. At various mines, the stock is at 41.59 MT. The total stock which includes those under transit and at captive mines is 73.56 MT as compared to 65.56 MT last year, showing year-on-year increase of 12 per cent.

Hope to find 'landing point' that works for both in India-UK FTA: Jaishankar

London, Nov 14:

The free trade agreement (FTA) is very much the focus of the India-UK relationship today and India is hopeful of finding a "landing point" in the negotiations that works for both sides, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said. At a special Diwali Reception organised by the High Commission of India at Westminster Central Hall near the Houses of Parliament here on Monday evening, Jaishankar addressed a large diaspora gathering during which he described



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses the Indian community at a Diwali reception, in London, United Kingdom.

the bilateral relationship with the UK as a "positive force" for the world. He also shared insights into the

fast pace of technological advances and socio-economic development underway in India, calling on the UK-based Indian diaspora one of the largest in the world to spread the story of the new India. "Today to realise the Agenda 2030, we are focusing on what is officially called an Enhanced Trade Partnership, in common terms it's called an FTA or free trade agreement. And that is today very much the focus of what the Indian and British systems are negotiating, and we hope that we will find a landing point that works for both of us," said Jaishankar. "India and

the UK have a long history, and a very complex history. What we are trying to do is to make history a positive force with our commonalities, shared practices and institutions to make history work for us," he said. India and the UK have been negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA) since January last year with a target to significantly enhance the estimated GBP 36-billion bilateral trading partnership. The talks have undergone 13 rounds of negotiations, with officials hopeful of clinching a deal ahead of general elections in both countries scheduled for 2024.

India, ADB sign USD 400 mn loan pact to build high-quality urban infra

New Delhi, Nov 14:

The central government on Monday signed a USD 400 million policy-based loan with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its urban reform agenda to create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery, and promote efficient governance systems. The signatories to the loan agreement for sub-programme 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Programme were Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Takeo Konishi, Country

Director of ADB's India Resident Mission. While Sub-programme 1 approved in 2021 with a financing of USD 350 million established national-level policies and guidelines to improve urban services, Sub-programme 2 supports investment planning and reform actions at the state and urban local body (ULB) levels, the finance ministry said in a statement. After signing the loan agreement, Mukherjee stated that the programme supports the government's urban sector strategy with a focus on reforms aimed at making cities livable and centres of economic growth through the provisioning of inclu-

sive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure. Sub-programme 2 supports the reforms initiated by states and ULBs in operationalising the national flagship programme of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 targeted for universal access to water supply and sanitation, said Konishi. The sub-programme also supports other mission objectives for ensuring urban water security through reducing water losses, recycling treated sewage for non-domestic use, rejuvenation of water bodies, and maintaining sustainable groundwater levels, the statement said.

Inflow in mutual fund industry drops to Rs 34,765 crore in Q2

New Delhi, Nov 14:

The mutual fund industry continued with the positive momentum in the September quarter, attracting Rs 34,765 crore, although it was a massive reduction as against the Rs 1.85 lakh crore inflow in the preceding quarter, primarily due to withdrawal from debt segment. Most of the asset classes saw net inflows during the July-September period of the current financial year barring the fixed-income or debt segment, which witnessed net outflows. Overall, flows started on a strong note during the

quarter under review, with net inflows of Rs 82,467 crore in July, which dipped to Rs 16,180 crore in August and ended with a disappointing Rs 63,882 crore of net outflows in September, according to a report by Morningstar India. "Net flows over the last few years over each quarter have been patchy."

The flows seen in the June quarter were the highest in four years," it noted. The assets under management of the industry ended at Rs 46.22 lakh crore as of September, up 5 per cent since the previous quarter. "The world economy is now

facing issues related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, rampaging inflation across countries, and the inevitable raising of interest rates by central banks to bring the easy-money policy to an end. Relative to other countries, India has been resilient in terms of market performance, where other countries have seen a much sharper correction recently," Melvyn Santarita, Analyst at Morningstar India, said. With regard to equity segments, inflow has been positive for the asset class over the past 10 quarters, though the momentum of flows has been patchy.

Wholesale inflation at (-) 0.52 pc in Oct

In negative territory for 7th month

New Delhi, Nov 14:

Wholesale price inflation remained in the negative territory for the seventh month in a row in October at (-) 0.52 per cent on easing prices of food items. Experts said some near-term upside risks to the WPI inflation could emanate from volatile vegetable prices, uptrend in domestic prices of most food items as well as an unfavourable base. The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was at (-) 0.26 per cent in

September, 2023. In October last year, WPI was at 8.67 per cent. "The negative rate of inflation in October, 2023, is primarily due to fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, electricity, textiles, basic metals, food products, paper and paper products, etc. as compared to the corresponding month of previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Tuesday.

A negative WPI inflation, technically termed as deflation, means that overall wholesale prices have been falling year-on-year. As per the data, inflation in food articles eased to 2.53 per cent in October. It was 3.35 per cent in the

previous month. While inflation in vegetables and potatoes cooled to (-) 21.04 per cent and (-) 29.27 per cent respectively, the annual rate of price rise in onion continued to rule high at 62.60 per cent in October. Pulses and paddy continued to witness high inflation of 19.43 per cent and 9.39 per cent respectively. ICRA Ltd Chief Economist, Head (Research & Outreach) Aditi Nayar said the WPI deflation widened slightly to 0.5 per cent in October 2023, from 0.3 per cent in September 2023, in year-on-year (YoY) terms. This was led by a sharp turnaround in crude petroleum and

natural gas print to a deflation, and a softening in the inflation for primary food articles, mainly vegetables. The fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 2.47 per cent in October; against (-) 3.35 per cent in September.

In manufactured products, the inflation rate was at (-) 1.13 per cent, as against (-) 1.34 per cent in September. Barclays MD & Head of EM Asia Economics, Rahul Bajoria said overall, inflation continues to stay broadly in check, with a stable rupee, manageable energy costs, and a countercyclical tax policy on fuel prices helping keep inflation in a stable range.

Assam CM attacks Baghel over betting app row

Says Lord Mahadev will not spare him



Rajim, Nov 14:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday attacked his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel over the alleged 'Mahadev' betting app scam and said Lord Mahadev will not spare him and seek account of every single penny.

Addressing a rally in the Rajim constituency in Gariaband district ahead of the November 17 polling, the BJP leader accused the ruling Congress of having a nexus with Naxalites and claimed "rampant" religious conversion was going on in the tribal-dominated state.

"Recently, when I was in Bilaspur (for campaigning) I came to know Bhupesh Baghel looted Rs 508 crore through the Mahadev (betting) app. I

thought the ED must have written less as more money than this (Rs 508 crore) must have been looted in this scam. Baghel's term as CM was for 2.5 years and the remaining 2.5 years was for (his cabinet colleague) TS Singh Deo. Baghel, however, got an extension which would not have been possible without exchange of money," he alleged.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed it has recorded a statement of a 'cash courier' who alleged Mahadev betting app promoters have paid Rs 508 crore to Baghel till now, and that it is a 'subject matter of investigation'. Baghel has denied the charge.

Sarma took a strong objection to naming the controversial betting app after a Hindu God and hit out at

the Congress CM over the issue. "He committed a scam by naming the app as Mahadev. He would have given the name Bhupesh or he would have used my name Himanta. But they named it Mahadev. Now, Mahadev will not spare him and will take account of every single penny. Bhupesh ji your time has come to give account and you have to give it," Sarma said. The BJP leader warned those involved in the multi-crore betting scam will not be spared.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji said yesterday (during his rallies in Chhattisgarh on Monday) that those who have committed a fraud in the name of Mahadev will not be spared. The BJP has not spared those who committed liquor scam in Delhi (where leaders of



ruling AAP have been arrested) and now accused of the Mahadev betting scam will also not be spared," Sarma asserted.

The Assam CM alleged large-scale religious conversion in Chhattisgarh under the Congress rule.

"Rampant religious conversion is taking place in Chhattisgarh. Rohingyas have been coming to Chhattisgarh. Sanatan followers are being converted in tribal areas. What kind of work and justice is this? Naxalites killed BJP workers. Bhupesh Baghel ji neither stops conversion nor takes action against Naxals. He says check boxes (luggage) of the CRPF. Now, time has come to check the boxes of Bhupesh Baghel and Rahul Gandhi due to the Mahadev app scam," he said. Early this month,

Baghel urged the Election Commission to check the vehicles and luggage of paramilitary forces being deployed in the state for election duty, alleging the BJP was bringing in cash through them so that it could be used to influence voters.

Sarma alleged inaction on part of Baghel in rooting out Naxal menace.

"Naxalites would have been eliminated earlier. Why Bhupesh Baghel doesn't take action against Naxals. What is the reason? It is because there is a nexus between the Congress and naxals. Amit Shah ji (Union Home Minister Amit Shah) has announced that if the BJP comes to power in Chhattisgarh, Left-Wing Extremism will be eradicated in five years," he asserted.

Show Cause notice issued to BJP district president and Councillor

Bilaspur, Nov 14: The Returning Officer of Bilaspur, Dr. Subhash Singh Raj, has issued show cause notices to the BJP district president and a local councillor for alleged violations of the model code of conduct. The notices were issued in response to a complaint received, and both individuals have been given 24 hours to provide their responses. The complaint alleges that Ashok Vidhani, the councillor of ward number 45 of the corporation, facilitated the submission of forms related to the Mahtari Vandan Yojana on behalf of his brother, Raju Vidhani, at the BJP office in Hemu Nagar. These forms outline assistance of Rs 12,000 per year to women. Additionally, it is claimed that an amount of Rs 1,000 was disbursed by Ashok Vidhani from the office as the first installment in exchange for form submission.

Under Section 123(2) of the Public Representation Act 1951 and Section 171C of the Indian Penal Code, providing such inducements during elections is prohibited and subject to legal consequences. Therefore, both individuals have been given an opportunity to clarify the allegations and address the application format within 24 hours. Failure to provide a satisfactory explanation within the stipulated time frame will result in necessary action being taken in accordance with the established rules and regulations, as the district administration remains steadfast in upholding the model code of conduct during the ongoing assembly elections.

Officials trained for smooth postal ballot voting



Convenient voting center opens to facilitate postal ballot participation

Mahasamund, Nov 14:

In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Elections in 2023, officials and employees involved in various election-related tasks in Mahasamund District have received comprehensive training on the process of voting through postal ballot. Under the guidance of Collector and District Election Officer Prabhat Malik, this initiative aims to ensure a smooth and efficient voting process for eligible personnel across four assembly constituencies: Saraipali, Basna, Khallari, and Mahasamund. To facilitate this, a convenient voting center has been established, operating from 10 am to 5 pm on November 14, 15, and 16. District Master Trainer

Toshan Giri Goswami led the training session for the polling teams stationed at the Facilitation Centre. The training emphasized that all officers and employees who have submitted Form 12 to the Returning Officer for Postal Ballot are eligible to cast their votes at these Facilitation Centres. To participate, individuals must present a valid identity card and their election duty order for verification. Once their identity is confirmed, they will be required to sign in the designated register and have indelible ink applied to their left-hand index finger. Following these steps, voters will receive the appropriate ballot papers, including formats 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13D. After completing all necessary formalities, voters will seal their ballot papers in envelopes as per the established guidelines and place them in the designated ballot box at the convenience center.

Devotees seek blessings of health by lighting 13 lamps



Kharora, Nov 14: The vibrant festival of Dhanteras was celebrated with utmost enthusiasm on Saturday evening, casting a radiant glow over numerous villages in the region, including Kharora. On this auspicious occasion, communities gathered to offer prayers to Lord Dhanvantari, the bestower

of health and prosperity, seeking blessings for the well-being and happiness of their loved ones. A symbolic ritual involved lighting 13 lamps, their collective glow casting a warm and inviting ambiance throughout the homes. Aarti Verma, a resident of Kharora, emphasized the significance of the Dhanteras festival, not-

ing that it brings immense joy to everyone's lives. Worshipping Lord Dhanvantari, known as the father of Ayurveda and the giver of good health, instills a sense of peace and spiritual tranquility. During the celebrations, families buy coconuts, incense sticks, prasad and performing rituals that hold deep cultural and spiritual significance. The festival brought families together in unity, as all members participated in Aarti and chanted praises of Lord Dhanvantari, invoking his blessings for the health and prosperity of their households. This year, there is a heightened sense of enthusiasm among the people, with homes adorned in vibrant colors, and walls and doors shining brightly with fresh coats of paint. The festival not only brings spiritual radiance but also fosters a sense of togetherness and community, making Dhanteras a truly special occasion for all.

Diwali celebrated with pomp in Anwari

Traditional rangoli, mahalakshmi worship, and Gauri-Gaura songs illuminate the festive spirit

Anwari, Nov 14:

The joyous festival of Diwali, the biggest celebration of the year, lit up the village of Anwari with exuberance and festivity on Sunday. In Anwari and its surrounding regions, people from every walk of life rejoiced in the brilliance of illuminated lamps and the resounding echoes of firecrackers, making this Diwali a memorable one.

The day began with high spirits in households and establishments, adorned with beautiful rangoli designs and an aura of cleanliness. As evening descended, the charm of Diwali grew brighter with the twinkling of lamps. At the auspicious moment, devotees worshiped Mahalakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and offered prayers for a life filled with prosperity and abundance. In the night, the grandeur of the festival reached new heights with the traditional Gauri-



Gaura songs and the melodic tunes of musical instruments in various Gaura Chowks. The formal establishment of Gauri-Gaura was met with enthusiasm, and the tribal society organized various cultural programs to enhance the festive spirit. These included an Akhara performance by the Akhara team, captivating Karma and Sua dances, and presentations by the

vibrant youth of the Gond community. Additionally, cultural programs rooted in Gond culture, such as Relapata, Sua dance, and a Rangoli competition, added to the cultural richness of the celebration.

Amidst the festivities, the people of Anwari came together, celebrating Diwali with a sense of unity, brotherhood, and love. The harmonious atmosphere prevailed as the



community rejoiced in the spirit of the festival.

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, holds deep significance in Sanatan Dharma and is celebrated on the new moon day of the Kartik month. The festival carries with it numerous religious, mythological, and historical beliefs. It commemorates Lord Shri Ram's triumph over Ravana, the King of

Lanka, and his return to Ayodhya after completing fourteen years of exile.

The success of this joyous celebration was made possible by the contributions of community leaders, including Kulanjan Singh Thakur, Chintia Ram Markam, Ganesh Dhruv, Bala Ram Dhruv, and the dedicated efforts of various individuals from the tribal Dhruv Gond community.

EC's home voting facility a grand success

Bilaspur, Nov 14:

The Election Commission's home voting facility has proven to be a resounding success in Bilaspur District, underscoring the Commission's dedication to ensuring inclusivity in the democratic process. This groundbreaking initiative allowed eligible voters aged 80 years and above and those with over 40 percent disability to cast their ballots from the comfort of their homes.

Out of the 567 registered voters in the district who were eligible for this innovative voting method, an impressive 98 percent—545 voters in total—seized the opportunity to participate in the democratic process without leaving their homes. Notably, this initiative was not without its challenges, as 12 elderly individuals passed away after registering, underscoring the importance of this option for voters with limited mobility.

According to the District Election Office, among the 567 eligible voters, 497 were aged 80 years or older, while 70 were disabled voters. The first phase of home voting took place from November 8 to November 10, during which 461 elderly and 70 disabled voters exercised their franchise through postal ballots. The remaining voters had their chance to cast their ballots during the second phase on November 13, with an additional 14 participants.

The breakdown of home voters by assembly is as follows: 126 from Kota Assembly, 199 from Takhatpur Assembly, 51 from Bilha Assembly, 90 from Bilaspur Assembly, 111 from Beltara Assembly, and 68 from Masturi Assembly. This remarkable turnout showcases the success of the Election Commission's efforts to make the electoral process more accessible to all citizens, regardless of age or physical ability.

Speed up the vehicle checking campaign: Collector

Monitoring teams to receive awards for effective crackdown on illegal activities

Bilaspur, Nov 14: With the elections just around the corner, the Bilaspur district administration, under the leadership of Collector Anvish Sharan, is ramping up efforts to ensure transparent and fair elections. In an emergency meeting with nodal officers responsible for expenditure monitoring, the Collector emphasized the importance of speeding up the vehicle checking campaign to maintain law and order.

Instructions were issued to increase enforcement actions and confiscate larger quantities of illegal goods. Collector Sharan expressed concern over the current efforts of police and excise teams, including Special Surveillance Teams (SST) and Flying Surveillance Teams (FST), and deemed them insufficient. He directed these teams to conduct thorough inspections not only on small vehicles but also on larger ones such as buses and trucks.



During the meeting, the Collector also urged the teams to rationalize and adjust their current locations for more effective action. He announced incentives in the form of awards for teams that excel in the recovery of illegal materials.

Collector Sharan stressed the urgency of the situation, with only a few days left until voting begins. He called for an increase in the pace of investigation and enforcement, aligning with the expectations of the Election Commission. The Collector highlighted the presence of distilleries

and bottling units under the purview of the Excise Department in Bilaspur and called for heightened surveillance and registration of cases.

Concerns about illicit liquor distribution in villages prompted the Collector to request increased patrolling and action by both the Excise and Police Departments. Additionally, airport and railway authorities were directed to intensify their checks and promptly report any irregularities.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the failure of banks to report large cash withdrawals, the Collector

instructed authorities to monitor payments made through UPI transactions closely. Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh echoed the need for intensified action and emphasized that security officers within the teams would play a pivotal role in the investigation process. Those obstructing the investigation process will face stringent measures.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kunal Dudawat provided valuable guidance to the monitoring teams for more effective operations. Deputy District Election Officer Shivkumar Banerjee requested daily integrated reports of actions taken by 5 pm to facilitate communication with the Election Commission. The meeting was attended by District Panchayat CEO Ajay Agarwal and Additional SP Archana Jha, demonstrating a unified commitment to conducting free and fair elections in Bilaspur.

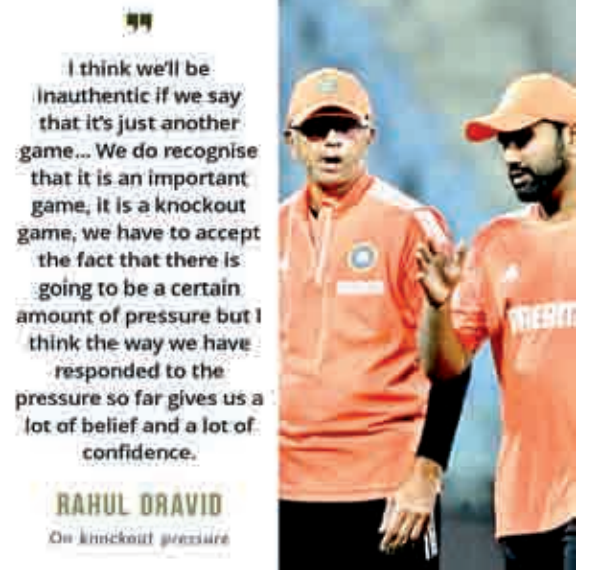
Facilitation center opens for postal ballot voting

Mahasamund, Nov 14: In preparation for the upcoming Assembly Elections in 2023, a Facilitation Center has been established for the convenience of voters opting for postal ballot in Mahasamund District. This initiative, directed at election duty personnel, covers Assembly Constituencies 39 Saraipali, 40 Basna, 41 Khallari, and 42 Mahasamund. Officers and employees who are registered voters of their respective assembly constituencies and have submitted Form 12 to the Returning Officer for postal ballot can cast their votes at these convenient centers. The voting period is set from November 14th to November 16th, 2023, between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm, across all four assembly constituencies.

In Saraipali Assembly Constituency, the Facilitation Center is located in the Office of the Assistant Returning Officer Saraipali, Tehsil Office Saraipali, and Meeting Hall Room No. 5. Similarly, for Basna Assembly Constituency, it can be found at the Office of the Assistant Returning Officer Basna, Tehsildar Office Basna,

and the Meeting Hall. Khallari Assembly has its center at the Khallari Assembly Office and Assistant Returning Officer Bagbahra, Tehsil Office Bagbahra, Room No. 1, while Mahasamund Assembly's center is situated at the Office of the Returning Officer Mahasamund, Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue Office Mahasamund, and Room Number 9. Furthermore, a Facilitation Center has been established in the Collectorate for employees and officers posted in other districts. These individuals, including sector officers, micro observers, drivers, helpers, cleaners, and those on control room duty, as well as videographers, officers, and employees of essential services, can exercise their voting rights on November 14th and 15th, 2023, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. This initiative welcomes voters from other districts who are on duty in Mahasamund District, ensuring their participation in the electoral process. The designated voting location is Room Number 20 at the Office of Collector Mahasamund.

India's dominance vs New Zealand's perseverance



I think we'll be inauthentic if we say that it's just another game... We do recognise that it is an important game, it is a knockout game, we have to accept the fact that there is going to be a certain amount of pressure but I think the way we have responded to the pressure so far gives us a lot of belief and a lot of confidence.

RAHUL DRAVID
On knockout pressure

Mumbai, Nov 14 (PTI):

A relentless India rocked through their league engagements with nine wins on the bounce but the past record is just a shiny antique in a showcase and the hosts will have to be at their gunslinging best when they face familiar foes New Zealand in the first World Cup semifinal, here Wednesday.

The 2019 Manchester heartbreak might be lingering in a corner of the hosts' mind as an irritant. The Kiwis also had the measure of India in the ICC WTC Final in 2021, if one needs more attestation of the Kiwis' grip over the latter in global events.

However, this Indian side has shown a propen-

sity to rise above an uncomfortable past, but they will be aware that any slip up at the Wankhede Stadium will be viewed as a national catastrophe, shattering a billion hearts.

So, India will also have to rise above the pressure emanating out of those enormous expectations placed on them, also heightened by their league phase bull run.

Captain Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid, two individuals who know all about the pitfalls of heavy expectations, will have to keep their outfit calm, nestled away from the fear of failure in a crunch match.

But those are more matters of the mind. There are just as significant matters to take care of on the

World Cup Semifinal



Match starts at 2:00 PM.

field.

To start with, the Indian team and its legion of fans will hope and pray that Rohit calls it right at the toss. The teams batting second at this venue have invariably lost early wickets in clusters under lights with the new ball moving dangerously in the air and off the deck.

Both India and New

Zealand have bowlers who can inflict severe damage with the new ball.

In that context, a lot will depend on the fearless approach of Indian openers - Rohit and Shubman Gill.

The Mumbaikar has so far made 503 runs and will hope for a continuation, but Gill with a tally of 270 runs from seven matches would like to own the

stage with a blistering effort against the Kiwis.

Virat Kohli is now the top run-getter in the tournament with 593 runs, and the landmark of 50 ODI hundreds is waiting to be reached. He would like to marry the milestone with an Indian victory.

Kohli would also like to break the semifinal jinx after getting dismissed for

one in the 2019 and 2015 edition. India will also be delighted to see their middle-order batters KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer hitting top form ahead of the semis though the management will welcome some runs from Suryakumar Yadav.

Jasprit Bumrah and Kuldeep Yadav have been as lethal as they ever have



been but the limelight, to a large extent, has been stolen by Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj who have been unplayable when on song.

In this World Cup, no other bowling attack has produced a masterclass in bowling on flat wickets than India's.

But that said, writing off Kiwis' pace trio of Trent Boult, Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson and left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner will be naive.

They have enough experience and skill to make an impact even on a shirt-front, and will also hope to prey on any pressure India faces in front of the home crowd. For India, a win is non-negotiable and the Blackcaps can play all-out cricket knowing that they really have not much

to lose. In batting also, New Zealand have enough depth and experience to counter the marauding India bowlers.

The young Rachin Ravindra (565 runs) is the find of the tournament, but Devon Conway is short of big scores his unbeaten 152 against England in the tournament opener was the only time he scored fifty or above.

Captain Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell are the middle-order lynchpins but New Zealand do not match India's firepower on paper, but they certainly have the ability to dig deep.

So, it all boils down to who will manage the pressure moments better and we might just have a cracker.

Satwik-Chirag lose in first round of Japan Masters

Kumamoto, Nov 14 (PTI):

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty faltered in the opening round to make a shocking exit from the Japan Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

The top-seeded Indian combination went down 21-16 18-21 16-21 to world number 21 Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han of Chinese Taipei in a 63-minute match.

Satwik and Chirag, ranked world number 5, had defeated Lu and Yang at the French Open final last year but they couldn't get on top of the



Taiwanese pair, who dished out a spirited performance to outwit the Indians.

The Indians erased an initial 0-3 deficit to grab a 11-7 lead. Lu and Yang clawed back at 13-13 but Satwik and Chirag man-

aged to keep their nose ahead before taking the opening game with four straight points.

The second game was a tough battle as advantage changed hands too frequently with the Taiwanese managing to

hold on to 11-9 lead at the interval. Satwik and Chirag kept breathing down their neck but Lu and Yang broke off at 14-14 to take the match to the decider. The third game followed the same script with the two pairs engaging in a slugfest. From 6-6, Lu and Yang won four of the next five points to make it 7-10.

Satwik and Chirag drew parity but Lu and Yang were relentless as they dominated the rallies and feasted on the weakness of the Indians to seal the issue without much ado in the end. HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen and Priyanshu Rajawat will begin their campaign on Wednesday.

Williamson will know how to tackle Kuldeep: Gavaskar

Mumbai, Nov 14 (PTI):

On the rare occasions when India's menacing pace attack could not scythe through opposition line-ups in this World Cup, their spinners did the job in their own ways.

However, that may not be the case when Kane Williamson leads New Zealand out in the first semifinal against the inform hosts here on Wednesday, according to batting great Sunil Gavaskar.

Highlighting Williamson's adept footwork and strategic approach, Gavaskar reckoned the Kiwis skipper



will have no trouble negotiating the Indian spinners, especially the unorthodox Kuldeep Yadav.

"He's such a great player; it doesn't matter if he's come out from a big break and he's scored runs. So, I don't think it's going to make much of a difference," Gavaskar said on

Star Sports. "He uses his feet really well to go down the pitch to smother the turn if needed; he then goes and uses the crease as well. So, he's a very good player. I don't think he is going to be fussed about playing Kuldeep; he will know how to tackle him."

Gavaskar said Williamson's cricket in this World Cup has not just been about technical nous and cultured stroke-play, as the affable Kiwi has also shown a propensity to take the aerial route, a far cry from his 2019 avatar. "If needed, you don't want to hit him for boundaries; just work it away for six singles if

that is required. Then, six runs an over is a good scoring rate by any standard, so he will look to do that.

"When the boundary ball comes along, he will hit the boundary ball, so we've seen his willingness to take more risks. We haven't seen that side of Kane Williamson maybe in 2019, but here, we have seen him take the aerial route.

"He got out on a shot for a 100 the other day; he got out on 95, but that's because he had taken the aerial route, and he will probably look to do that against Kuldeep Yadav as well," Gavaskar concluded.

You changed the art of batting in Tests: Ganguly tells Sehwag

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

That Virender Sehwag completely changed the dynamics of batting in Test cricket is well-documented. But former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Tuesday emphasised the Delhi dazzler did so when the game was "so strong" with world-class bowlers.

Sehwag, Diana Edulji and Aravinda de Silva on Monday became the latest inductees in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. In an appreciation letter to Sehwag that was shared by the ICC, Ganguly said, "What made



you such a special player is the way you batted. You changed the dynamics of batting at the top in Test cricket. "It was a different era back then. In the early 2000s, Test cricket was so strong with quality players all around the world, but you just completely changed the art of batting in Test matches." The for-

mer BCCI president added, "An innings that proves that is your 293 against Sri Lanka in 2009. To score that many in a day of a Test against an attack including Muttiah Muralitharan just showed what you were capable of. "You enjoyed playing all the different formats and while you were good at one-day cricket, I think you were even better in Tests."

The explosive opener played 104 Tests, 251 ODIs and 19 T20Is for India and was part of the sides that won the 2011 ODI World Cup and the 2007 T20 World Cup.

Cummins open to Australia ODI captaincy extension

■ To put his name in IPL auction

Kolkata, Nov 14 (PTI):

Pat Cummins has expressed his desire to stay on as Australia's ODI captain following the ongoing World Cup. Cummins, who was initially handed reins of the Test team, was made ODI skipper following the sudden retirement of Aaron Finch last year.

Having guided Australia to the World Cup semifinals on the back of seven straight wins after opening two losses, Cummins has made a strong case for captaincy extension. Asked



about his future as ODI captain, the 30-year-old said: "Potentially, yeah. We'll chat about it. We've been pretty open, me and Andrew (head coach) and George (selector) around different times in the year you're going to have different priorities. "This is

a bit of a one-off year where there's three or four big off-season events. After here the focus shifts back to Test cricket for a fair while. Probably like we've done in the past, at times white-ball cricket is going to have to shift (as a priority) so we

fully focus on Test cricket. There's no end date in sight. "I feel like I've been managed really well and looked after in a really, really busy year where you don't really want to give up any cricket," the fast bowler told reporters.

Cummins to put his name in IPL auction

Cummins, who had opted out of the IPL 2023 to focus on his international commitments, will put his name in the auction ahead of the 2024 edition.

The IPL will be played before the T20 World Cup in the United States and the Caribbean, serving as ideal preparation for the global event.

Advani, Shrikrishna in world snooker knockouts

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani has qualified for the knockouts of the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship in Doha. Advani, winner of more than 20 world titles in billiards and snooker, is seeded third in the competition. In the other half of the draw is compatriot and defending champion Shrikrishna S and former world champion Amir Sarkhosh from Iran. Advani topped his group with wins of 4-1 and a 4-0 while Shrikrishna dropped one frame, making him play one additional round in the knockout stage. Advani got a bye and is directly in the last-16.

Alcaraz loses to Zverev in his ATP Finals debut

Turin, Nov 14 (AP):

Considering all that he's accomplished over the last two years two Grand Slam titles and finishing last season as No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz no doubt belongs among the world's elite.

Still, this wouldn't have been the ATP Finals debut the 20-year-old Spaniard was hoping for at the season-ending event for the year's top eight players.

After missing the finals last year because of an abdominal injury, Alcaraz



Alexander Zverev

was beaten in his opening match on Monday by two-time champion Alexander Zverev 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4. In the other red group match, Daniil Medvedev quickly dispatched his good friend Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-2.

Zverev also missed last year's edition after tearing ligaments in his right ankle in the French Open semifinals. But the big-serving German clearly likes the fast conditions inside the Pala Alpitour, where he claimed the title two years ago. Zverev served 16 aces to Alcaraz's

11, saved five of six break points, and never really let Alcaraz feel in control. "I had a few break points that I couldn't take, and I think that was the key of the match," Alcaraz said.

Added Zverev, "I served very well. That helped."

Zverev overcame a scare late in the third set when he was chasing down a forehand from Alcaraz, lost his grip, slipped and fell to the court clutching his left ankle. But Zverev quickly shook it off and held in that game for a 4-2 lead.

Uttam Singh to lead India in Junior Hockey World Cup

New Delhi, Nov 14 (PTI):

Talented forward Uttam Singh will lead India in the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, to be held in Kuala Lumpur from December 5 to 16.

India, the reigning Asian champions, are placed in Pool C alongside Canada, South Korea and Spain. They will start their tournament campaign against Korea on December 5.

In their next fixtures, India will face Spain on



December 7 and Canada on December 9. India had finished fourth in the last edition of the tournament, and coach C.R. Kumar said the team is all set to take their

journey much forward. "We have a formidable squad. We draw inspiration from the 2016 Junior World Cup-winning team. We are fortunate to have a bunch of seasoned players, who were part of the last Junior World Cup in Bhubaneswar."

"They will shoulder leadership roles and mentor their teammates. Our ultimate priority is to clinch victory in the Junior World Cup, and we are committed to taking measured steps," said Kumar.

'BJP storm in MP will uproot Cong'

Shajapur (MP), Nov 14 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that a storm is blowing in favour of the BJP in Madhya Pradesh because of people's tremendous support, and it will uproot the Congress from the state. He was addressing a public meeting at Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh ahead of the November 17 assembly polls. "I can see a large number of people attending this meeting with many of them standing out in the sun as the arrangements made for the rally fell a little short as compared to the turnout. A storm is blowing in the state that will uproot Congress's 'tambu' (tent) in the state," he said. India is being praised for its developmental initiative across the world, he



said, adding that everybody wants to invest in the country as its economy ranked fifth globally. "In my third term (as the prime minister), I will take the country's economy among the top three in the world," Modi said. He also said that a food processing park is coming up in Shajapur district to develop it as a major industrial hub and farmers will largely benefit out of it. Targeting the Congress, the PM said that the party indulges in corruption wherever it comes to power and it works only for the welfare of one fam-

ily in the country, apparently referring to the Gandhi family. "Congress's only agenda is to loot, loot and loot and commit atrocities, atrocities and atrocities...And it focuses only on negativity," he alleged. Referring to the introduction of medical and engineering courses in Hindi, Modi said that Congress never wanted poor people to become doctors and engineers. "That's why the BJP government started these courses in Hindi, but it (Congress) is even opposing that," the prime minister added. He also said that the country celebrated Diwali two days back and now it will celebrate the second Diwali on December 3, the day when counting of votes for assembly polls in five states, including Madhya Pradesh will be taken up.

'Others commit petty thefts, BJP commits robberies to topple govts'



Datia (MP), Nov 14 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of toppling governments in different states, including the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in Madhya Pradesh, using illegitimate means. He was speaking at a public meeting at Indergarh in Sewda assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district ahead of the

November 17 elections. "In 2018, you elected a Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. They (the BJP) lured Congress MLAs, bribed them to bring it down," Kharge alleged. The BJP formed a "stolen government" not only in Madhya Pradesh but also in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand, he said. "Other people commit petty thefts, but the BJP people commit big robberies to change governments," the Congress president said. Kharge also targeted the ruling BJP over the incident of a man urinating on a tribal person in Sidhi district, a video of which went viral. "Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan later washed the victim's feet, but washing the feet will not do anything.

ROADSHOW



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves at supporters during a roadshow ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Bhopal, Tuesday.

KCR continues tirade against Cong for 'opposing' pro-farmer schemes

Hyderabad, Nov 14 (PTI):

Continuing his tirade, BRS chief and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday charged the Congress with opposing his government's welfare schemes for farmers in the state. Rao, who addressed rallies at Palakurthi and Nagarjuna Sagar for the November 30 Legislative Assembly poll, alleged that the Congress favoured only three hours of free power supply to farmers against 24 hours free supply under his dispensation. The Congress leaders termed the 'Rythu Bandhu' investment support scheme for ryots as 'wasteful expenditure' and also said the 'Dharani' integrated land records management sys-

tem, introduced by the BRS government, would be thrown into the Bay of Bengal after they come to power, he pointed out. He sought to know how the farmers will get direct benefit transfers under schemes like 'Rythu Bandhu' if 'Dharani' was abolished. The Chief Minister alleged that the Congress had done away with the Telangana state that had existed (to form undivided Andhra Pradesh as a linguistic state in 1956). Rao highlighted his government's other welfare schemes, including 'Kanti Velugu' and 'KCR Kit'. "There was a programme called 'Kanti Velugu'. Has any government in India done that? Has anyone thought of it? Eye tests were conducted for three crore people and 80 lakhs of them were given spectacles by BRS government," he said.

Referring to senior Congress leader K Jana Reddy who had represented Nagarjuna Sagar earlier, Rao said Jana Reddy is still dreaming of becoming Chief Minister. "Jana Reddy was minister for so many years. He was such a big leader. Even now, he is dreaming in multiple colours that he will become Chief Minister. But, there was no degree college in Nagarjuna Sagar constituency until Bhagat (of BRS) became MLA," he said. Jana Reddy, who was leader of opposition in the Legislative Assembly, had challenged that he would quit Congress and join BRS if the BRS led government succeeded in providing 24x7 power supply to farmers even in four years, Rao said. Though the BRS government succeeded, Jana Reddy did not stick to his word, he added.

'Not much has changed for Pak Hindu migrants in Raj'

Jodhpur, Nov 14 (PTI):

Gamu Ram (40) and his family, who migrated here for a better life from Pakistan a decade ago, face daily struggles while waiting for citizenship and rehabilitation as the ruling Congress' promise to resolve these issues remains unfulfilled and Rajasthan heads to polls again. Ram lives with his family at a temporary settlement in Bheel Basti, nearly 10 kilometres from Jodhpur city, on Gangana Road. They are among thousands of Pakistani Hindu migrants living in the city holding onto hopes of a better life. Jodhpur has the state's largest population of migrants from Pakistan. Not being Indian citizens, they don't have a vote but have high expectations from political parties. "I

came to India from Pakistan nearly 10 years ago. There were no issues in Pakistan but we had come here for a better life. We do not have Indian citizenship and no permanent land for a house," Ram, who has a dozen family members living with him, said. Before the last assembly election in the desert state in 2018, both the BJP, the ruling party at the time, and the Congress promised to resolve issues related to citizenship and rehabilitation faced by the community. Five years on, the state heads to polls one more time but not much has changed for migrants like Ram who struggle daily for basic amenities. "We are not dying to get Indian citizenship but we want land to live. We are living in temporary settlements. In 10 years, our condition has worsened," Gomu Ram's distant relative Teerth Ram said. "We are not asking for free land but if the govern-

ment provides us with a permanent house, we are ready to pay for it in instalments," he added. Bhera Ram, who works as a labourer in agricultural fields, said his Pakistani passport has expired and the visa will expire in a month for which he will have to visit the High Commission in New Delhi. "We have 11 members in the family. We came about five years ago. We had our passports made the same year. So, our Pakistani passports have expired. The visa will expire in a month's time for which we have to visit Delhi. Renewal of 11 passports and visas is costly. If the government helps us in citizenship and rehabilitation, it will be great," he said. In its 2018 'Jan Ghoshna Patra', the Congress had promised to provide a solution to their problems related to citizenship and rehabilitation. The party's manifesto men-

tioned a separate body would be formed for the holistic development of migrants. It had promised to take positive steps towards their education, health and employment. In January 2020, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah met with Pakistani migrants in Jodhpur, they expressed gratitude to the government for bringing the new Citizenship Amendment Act. At a public rally later, the BJP leader reiterated his party's firm stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act and asserted that it would not move even an inch on the issue. "Both the BJP and the Congress had promised to resolve the issues of Pakistani migrants. The BJP had promised in one line whereas the Congress promised a bit more," said Hindu Singh Sodha, president of the Seemant Lok Sangathan (SLS), an organisation

working for the welfare of families of Hindu migrants displaced from Pakistan. Since 2019, 75 per cent of citizenship applications in Rajasthan are pending, he added. Sodha said the BJP government during the flag end of its tenure in 2018 launched special housing for Pakistani Hindu migrants. To date, the only development is that it has been named 'Vinoba Bhavne Nagar' and nothing more, he added. Sodha said there are 18,000 people living in Jodhpur alone who are yet to get Indian citizenship. They have settled in three-four localities in the district, mostly in Soorsagar, along the Gangana-Jhanwar road, and Mandore. In Rajasthan, 30,000 such people are living in different parts, including Chotana, Barmer, Sheo, Jaisalmer, Kolayat, Khajuwala and Sriganganagar, he said.

Cong will win 150 seats in assembly elections: Rahul

Bhopal, Nov 14 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused the BJP of toppling his party's government in Madhya Pradesh in 2020 by purchasing MLAs, and expressed confidence that the grand old party would win around 150 seats, out of the 230, in the November 17 state assembly elections. He was addressing an election rally in Vidisha, around 55 km from the state capital. "A storm is going to come in favour of the

Congress. The party will be winning 145 to 150 seats. Five years back, you (people) elected a Congress government but BJP leaders (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, (MP Chief Minister) Shivraj Singh (Chouhan) and (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah purchased the MLAs and stole your government," Gandhi said. The Kamal Nath-led Congress dispensation, which was in power in Madhya Pradesh for 15 months till March 2020, waived farm loans of 27 lakh farmers. But by toppling that government, the BJP deceived labourers, farmers, small traders and unemployed people, he alleged. The Congress ousted the

BJP from power in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh through love and not hatred, he said. "The BJP ran a 40 per cent cut government in Karnataka... (After Congress came to power there) I told the Karnataka chief minister to return the money that was snatched by the BJP government from the pockets of poor people in five years. I told him to return the money to the poor, which the BJP had given to the rich," he said. People in the Congress-ruled Karnataka and Chhattisgarh are getting LPG cylinders at Rs 500 each, while people in other states are paying Rs 1,200, 1,400 here for the same, Gandhi said.

The former Congress president said the Congress fulfilled all its promises in Karnataka, including farm loan waiver and free bus travel to women. Farmers in Chhattisgarh are getting the guaranteed minimum support price (MSP) of the crop, and labourers are being paid Rs 10,000 as wages. This is strengthening the local economy, he said. While reiterating various guarantees of his party in Madhya Pradesh, Gandhi said that the MSP of wheat will go up Rs 2,600 per quintal, which will further be increased to Rs 3,000, while paddy will be purchased at Rs 2,500 per quintal. Gandhi claimed that the

farmers of neighbouring Chhattisgarh don't want their land to be sold. "A farmer in Chhattisgarh told me that he doesn't know the price of his land. He said that he has nothing to do with the price because he is not going to sell it because the Chhattisgarh government is giving the right price for his crop and waived his loan," he said. We put money into the pockets of farmers and labourers, who made purchases from small traders, thus strengthening the local economy, he added. PM Modi used to claim that he set up 500 industries in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress MP said, and asked, "Do you know any of them?"

Cong has become burden for country: Adityanath

Bhopal, Nov 14 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the Congress has become a "burden and problem" for the country. He was speaking at an election rally in Rajnagar assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district ahead of the November 17 elections in the state. In Uttar Pradesh's 403-member assembly, the Congress's strength has been reduced to only three while the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won only one seat last time, Adityanath said. "The people must have experienced and understood the (nature of) the Congress and other par-



Yogi Adityanath

ties," he said. After the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power, a huge corridor which can accommodate about 50,000 people was constructed at the Kashi Vishwanath temple, Kedarnath was redeveloped and a corridor was developed at the Mahakaleswar temple in Ujjain, Adityanath said. Consecration ceremony will be held at the

Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, he said, adding, "Was it possible under the Congress rule?" "Congress has become a burden and problem for the country, the state, public, poor, farmers, youths and mothers and sisters," the Uttar Pradesh chief minister said. Before 2014, India was not given importance by the world but the outlook changed after that, he claimed. "The world is looking at India with positivity... Whenever there is any crisis in the world, it looks at India with hope," Adityanath said while pointing out that the country has become the world's fifth largest economy.

PUBLIC MEETING



BJP National JP Nadda addresses a public meeting ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Ratlam district, Tuesday.

'No hung assembly, BJP will get majority to form govt in Telangana'

Hyderabad, Nov 14 (PTI):

In the face of "simmering anger" against the ruling BRS in Telangana, the BJP will get a comfortable majority to form its first government in the state after the November 30 polls, state BJP chief G Kishan Reddy has said. There will be no hung assembly and the saffron party will land in the ruling saddle comfortably, Reddy, Union Minister for Tourism, told PTI in an exclusive interview. Reddy said it is palpable that Telangana people want a change as they have lost faith in both the BRS and Congress, believing that "they are in cahoots." "There is no question of a hung assembly because there is simmering anger against the BRS govern-

ment. It will explode like a volcano. People are not coming out because of the fear of police and goons." The Bharatiya Janata Party will get an absolute majority. We are working with the intention that the party would get an absolute majority and it will come also," Reddy said. He further said Telangana people want a change which will not come with the BRS or Congress because even if the grand old party wins, there is a perception that some of its MLAs will join the BRS. "The change which

Telangana people want is possible only with BJP," he said. However, senior journalist and political analyst S K G S K Kumar opined that the BJP was a part of a triangular contest in Telangana earlier, but lost its "steam" after the debacle in the Karnataka assembly polls. "To say that the party is getting stronger and coming to power is a bit far-fetched. Besides, the surveys also do not indicate a positive trend for BJP coming to power," Kumar said. The BJP in Telangana got a vote share of nearly seven per cent by winning only

one seat in the 2018 assembly polls. However, the saffron party won in two by-elections subsequently besides putting up an impressive performance in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation polls. Within four months after the assembly polls, BJP resurged by winning four Lok Sabha seats in 2019. When asked how the party is confident of forming a government this time, as they got only seven per cent in the last assembly elections, Reddy said both Congress, which ruled for 10 years before the formation of Telangana and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS governments failed in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.



G Kishan Reddy

According to him, farmers, women, students, youth and even government employees are fed up with the present dispensation and the BJP is the only party which had put up a fight for their respective causes.

जलने के बाद पुनःनिर्माण सर्जरी (रिकंस्ट्रक्शन)

कालिदा बर्न एंड प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर