



## Judicial office makes you dispassionate: CJJ on Gowri

New Delhi, Nov 16 (PTI):

Defending the collegium's decision to appoint advocate Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri appointment as a judge of the Madras High Court, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud has said one should not be "cold calling" individuals merely for views they may have held as lawyers.

The proposal to elevate the lawyer, who has been representing the Centre before the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court, has been mired in controversy following allegations of her affiliation to the BJP.

Some bar members of the high court had written to the CJJ, seeking a recall of the recommendation made for appointing Gowri as an additional judge of the court and alleging that she had delivered hate speeches against



Christians and Muslims. Speaking at the Harvard Law School Center on the legal profession, the CJJ said the Supreme Court collegium looked at "very carefully" the nature of the speech which the judge is alleged to have made and feedback was shared with all stakeholders including the Centre.

"We looked at it very carefully. The nature of speech which the judge is alleged to have made was looked at very carefully. One of the processes which we follow is to seek a report from the Chief Justice of the high court and we ask for feedback and share the feedback with the government.

## CHHATTISGARH POLL SCENARIO

# 70 seats up for grabs in 2nd phase

Raipur, Nov 16:

The second and final phase of Chhattisgarh assembly elections for the remaining 70 seats will be held on Friday and decide the electoral fate of political heavyweights like Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, his deputy TS Singh Deo, eight state ministers and four members of Parliament.

The first phase of elections for 20 seats in the Naxal-affected state, which has a 90-member assembly, was held on November 7 and saw a high voter turnout of 78 per cent.

The ruling Congress, voted to office in 2018 after 15 years in opposition, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are the main contenders for power in the state, where the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and some regional outfits are also in the fray.

While the Congress has set an ambitious target of winning 75-plus assembly seats, the opposition BJP is seeking to make a comeback to power in the state which it ruled for 15 years non-stop—from 2003 to 2018.

A total of 958 candidates—827 men, 130 women and one transgender person—are contesting for 70 seats spread across 22 districts. As many as 1,63,14,479 voters—81,41,624 men, 81,72,171 women and 684 of third gender—are eligible to exercise



### Heavyweights in fray...

Political heavyweights like Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, his deputy TS Singh Deo, eight state ministers and four members of Parliament. From the BJP, state unit chief and MP Arun Sao (Lormi), Leader of Opposition in the assembly Narayan Chandel (Janjgir-Champa), Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Renuka Singh (Bharatpur-Sonhat-ST), MP Gomti Sai (Pathalgaon-ST), former ministers Brijmohan Agrawal (Raipur South), Ajay Chandrakar (Kurud) and Punnulal Mohile (Mungeli).

### Statistics of assembly segments...

Of the 70 assembly segments up for grabs, 44 are in general category, while 17 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and nine for Scheduled Castes. In the previous assembly polls in 2018, the Congress had won 51 of these 70 constituencies, while the BJP ended up with 13. The Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) had bagged four seats and the BSP two. The Congress later won one more seat in a bypoll.

their franchise at 18,833 polling booths.

At 26, the Raipur City West seat has the highest number of contestants, while Dondilohara in Balod district has the lowest count of candidates at four. Among the candidates, 70 each are from the BJP and the Congress. There are 43 nominees from the AAP, 62

from the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) and 33 from the Hamar Raj Party in the fray. The Mayawati-led BSP and the Gondwana Ganatantra Party, a regional political outfit, are contesting in alliance and have fielded 43 and 26 candidates, respectively.

While the main fight is between bitter rivals BJP

### 700 'sangwari' polling booths....

Of the total 18,833 booths, 700 are "sangwari" polling booths which will be entirely managed by women personnel.

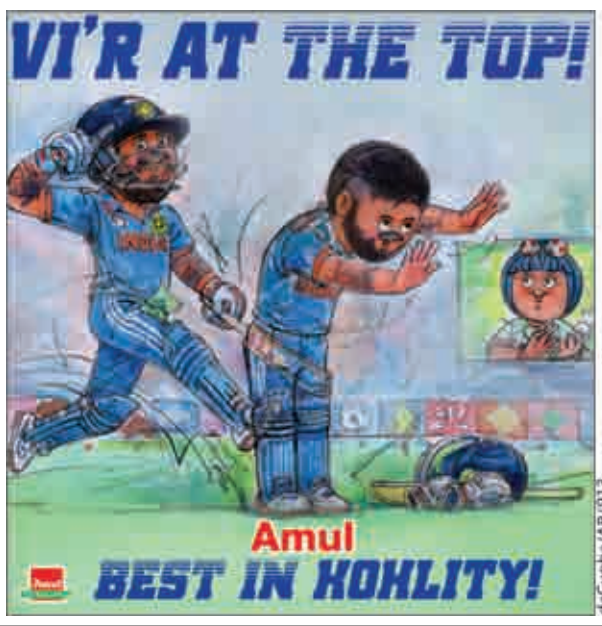
### Highest and lowest contestants.....

At 26, the Raipur City West seat has the highest number of contestants, while Dondilohara in Balod district has the lowest count of candidates at four.

and the Congress, a three-way contest is on the cards in several seats of the Bilaspur division where former CM Ajit Jogi's party and the BSP have pockets of influence. The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP has also been focusing on seats in the division.

Polling time in all the 70 constituencies is from 8 am to 5 pm, except in nine polling booths in the Naxal-affected Bindranawagarh seat in Rajim district, where voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm for security reasons.

The booths in Bindranawagarh where voting will be held from 7 am to 3 pm are Kamarbhaudi, Amamora, Odh, Bade Gobra, Ganwargaon, Gariba, Nagesh, Sahbinkachhar and Kodomali.



## Rs 11 lakh seized from BJP candidate's vehicle

Korba, Nov 16:

Police seized cash worth Rs 11.50 lakh allegedly from the vehicle of a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in a village in Korba district of on Thursday, a day before the second phase of the state assembly elections, an official said.

Former MLA Ram Dayal Uikey, the BJP nominee from Pali-Tanakhar seat in Korba district, was present in the vehicle when the cash was seized from there, the police official said. "Some local villagers intercepted Uikey's vehicle (a SUV) near Jhunkidi village under Pasan police station area (Pali-Tanakhar constituency) and informed



Ram Dayal Uikey's vehicle from which cash was recovered.

the police at around 1 am," Korba Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla said. Later, the police recovered Rs 11.50 lakh cash during a search of the vehicle, Shukla said, adding that the money and the vehicle were seized after Uikey failed to produce documents in support of the cash. Further action is being taken as per the law, he added.

### BRIEF



Security force personnel check vehicles on the eve of the 2nd phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly polls, in Jashpur, Thursday.

### Air show

**Ahmedabad:** The Surya Kiran aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force will perform an air show ahead of the final match of the Cricket World Cup to be played here on November 19, said an official on Thursday. The Defence PRO for Gujarat announced that the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team will enthrall people for ten minutes before the start of the final match to be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera area.

### Judicial custody

**Kolkata:** A court on Thursday extended till November 30 the judicial remand of West Bengal minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe into the alleged ration distribution scam. Mallick, who currently holds the forest portfolio and is a former minister for food and supplies, was apprehended by the ED in the early hours of October 27 from his residence in Salt Lake area, on the eastern fringes of Kolkata.

**Weather**  
High 30 Low 18

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,765.20  
SENSEX 65,982.48

**BULLION**  
GOLD 60,650  
SILVER 73,544

### MAJOR BLOW TO TERROR INFRASTRUCTURE

## Terror launch commander killed in Uri infiltration bid

Srinagar, Nov 16 (PTI):

In a major blow to terror infrastructure and terror sympathisers in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, security forces have eliminated key launch commander Bashir Ahmad Malik in an anti-infiltration operation in the Uri sector; the army said on Thursday.

Malik and another terrorist were killed Wednesday in a joint operation, codenamed Op Kali, by the army and Jammu and Kashmir Police along



the Line of Control.

"The salient aspect of this operation is the neutralization of Bashir Ahmed Malik, one of the two terrorists killed. He was an important cog in the Pakistan-enabled

crossborder terrorism Jammu and Kashmir. He was an important terrorist launch commander for terror tanzems (organisations) from Leepa in the North to the areas in PoJK, opposite Rajouri in the South," an army official said.

The official said Malik, who was active for the past 30 years, had enabled infiltration of a number of terrorists who caused the death of many Indian citizens, both security forces personnel as well as civilians.

## All efforts on to evacuate labourers trapped

- In U'khand tunnel
- Operation might last 2-3 days

Uttarkashi, Nov 16 (PTI):

Union minister V K Singh on Thursday said all efforts are being made for an early and safe evacuation of 40 labourers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in this Uttarakhand dis-

trict for more than four days, but the rescue operation could take two or three more days.

"It (evacuation) can happen even sooner than that but in circumstances like this, we should keep an outer limit of two-three days so that we can deal with an obstacle if it comes," Singh told reporters after visiting the tunnel.

## 'Ram Mandir will be consecrated on Jan 22'

Mangaluru, Nov 16 (PTI):

Trustee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and chief of the Udupi Pejawar mutt Sri Vishwprasanna Teertha on Thursday said that devotees would be able to visit the Sri Ram temple in Ayodhya a day after the consecration of Lord Sri Rama's idol on January 22.

## Keralite wins whopping Rs 45 cr lottery in UAE

Dubai, Nov 16 (PTI):

It was a dream come true for at least five Indians living in cities across the UAE when they either won weekly draws or lotteries, the latest one being a control room operator winning a whopping Rs 45 crore.

Indians, most of them coming from middle class or lower middle class, have been participating in large numbers in these lotteries and a significant number of them have won big

money over the last few years. The control room operator in the oil and gas industry was identified as Sreeju, who won the Dh 20,000,000 (approximately Rs 45 crore) Mahzooz Saturday Millions, according to the announcement of the 154th draw held on Wednesday.

Hailing from Kerala, Sreeju, 39, has been living and working in Fujairah, about 120 km east of Dubai, for the past 11 years. After the news of his incredible win reached him while he

was at work, he said, he was "speechless, shocked and surprised" to know that he had won, not just a prize, but the top prize.

"I was in my car about to drive around when I checked my Mahzooz account, and I couldn't believe my eyes. I was confused about what to do when I saw my winnings. I waited for that call from Mahzooz to confirm that my winning was true," the Gulf News quoted Sreeju, father of twin six-year-olds, as saying.

शुक्रवार  
**17**  
नवम्बर 2023

**लोकतंत्र के सम्मान का दिन**  
**आज है मतदान का दिन**

( द्वितीय चरण विधानसभा क्षेत्र क्र. 01 से 70 तक )

**"आओ चलो वोट करें"**

मतदान का समय : प्रातः 08 बजे से शाम 05 बजे तक

मतदान केंद्र पर उपलब्ध सुविधाएँ

- शौचालय ● मतदाता मित्र ● पीने का पानी ● सांकेतिक भाषा ● दिना संकेत ● मेडिकल किट ● ब्रेल सहित ईवीएम ● शौचालय ● दिव्यांगजनों एवं वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को मतदान में सहायता ●

वोटर आई डी कार्ड के अतिरिक्त अन्य वैकल्पिक प्रमाण के दस्तावेज

वोटर हेल्पलाइन ऐप डाउनलोड करें

- आधार कार्ड ● मनरेगा जॉब कार्ड, ● इडुविंग लाइसेंस ● पैन कार्ड, ● भारतीय पासपोर्ट ● फोटोयुक्त पेशन दस्तावेज ● केंद्र/राज्य सरकार/लोक उपक्रम/पब्लिक लिमिटेड कंपनियों द्वारा अपने कर्मचारियों को जारी किए गए फोटोयुक्त सेवा पहचान पत्र ● बैंक/डाकघरों द्वारा जारी फोटोयुक्त पासबुक, ● एनपीआर के अंतर्गत आरजीआई द्वारा जारी स्मार्ट कार्ड, ● ब्रम मंत्रालय की योजना के अंतर्गत जारी स्वास्थ्य बीमा स्मार्ट कार्ड, ● सांसद/विधायक/विधान परिषद सदस्यों को जारी किए गए सरकारी पहचान पत्र ● भारत सरकार के सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय द्वारा दिव्यांगजनों को जारी यूनिफ़ाइड डिसेबिलिटी आईडी (यूडीआईडी) कार्ड का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

वोटर हेल्पलाइन: 1950

मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़



## Voting today: parties reach polling stations

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** Under the Assembly Elections 2023, materials were distributed to the polling parties for 1479 polling stations in the district on Thursday morning. The polling teams departed for their respective polling centers with voting material and most of the parties have reached their venue.

The parties have conducted the preliminary preparations and they will complete the voting work in their respective polling centers on Nov 17. It is noteworthy that voting will be conducted for six assembly constituencies of Durg district and two partial Bemetara and Saja assembly constituencies.

246 polling stations have been made for the Patan assembly constituency. Similarly, 227 polling stations for Durg Rural Assembly, 215 polling stations for Durg city, 167 polling stations for Bhilai Nagar, 242 polling stations



### 14 lakh voters to exercise their franchise

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** Under the Assembly Elections-2023, 14 lakh 31 thousand 350 voters of the district are going to elect their public representatives. There are 7 lakh 12 thousand 67 male voters, 7 lakh 19 thousand 228 female voters and 55 third gender voters. Total voters of Assembly Constituency 62 Patan are 216661 in which male voters are 107574 and female voters are 109086 and one other voter. Total voters in Assembly Constituency 63 Durg Rural are 219978, out of which 109526 are male and 110447 are female and 5 other voters. Total voters in Assembly Constituency 64 Durg City are 227244, of which 111426 are male, 115797 are female and 21 are other voters. Total voters in Assembly Constituency 65 Bhilai Nagar are 168345, out of which 84500 are male and 83842 are female and 3 other voters. The total voters in Assembly Constituency 66 Vaishali Nagar are 250471, of which 125410 are male, 125050 are female and there are 11 other voters. Total voters in Assembly Constituency 67 Ahiwara are 244255, out of which 120942 are male, 123301 are female and there are 12 other voters. Total voters in Assembly Constituency 68 Saja (Partial) are 86165 including 43510 male and 42653 female and 2 other voters.

for Vaishali Nagar Assembly and 259 polling stations have been created for Ahiwara Assembly constituency.

Similarly, 101 polling stations have been set up for the partial assembly constituency Saja and 22 polling stations have been set up for Bemetara. Materials have been distributed to the polling parties for these polling stations. The polling parties have reached their respective polling stations with the material.

## HYU: 25,000 answer sheets of supplementary examinations evaluated

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** Since the beginning of the central evaluation of supplementary examination 2023 in Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, 25,000 answer sheets have been evaluated so far and the central evaluation of the remaining answer sheets is going on at a fast pace.

Giving this information, the Dean of Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava, and Deputy Registrar, Dr Rajmani Patel, jointly said that due to the assembly elections and Diwali holidays, the supplementary examinations are postponed from November 5 to 19 and in

the meantime central evaluation is in progress for the exams that were held till November 04. Meanwhile, the university declared the results of supplementary examination of BCA first, second and third class.

According to the examination results, 226 candidates appeared in the BCA first year examination out of which 176 were declared passed. Their overall exam result was 78 percent. In BCA second year, 173 candidates appeared in the examination out of which 139 were declared passed.

Their overall exam result was 80 percent. The overall examination result

in BCA third year was 91 percent. Out of 113 candidates who appeared in the examination, 103 were successful.

Dr Srivastava said that at present about 40 evaluators (professors) are doing the central evaluation of answer sheets and the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta and the Registrar, Bhupendra Kuldeep are inspecting the central evaluation every day.

The university administration will release most of the results of the supplementary examinations in the coming week. The supplementary examinations of the university are ending on November 29.

## Skanda Sasthi Mahayajna begins with Gau Puja

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** Skanda Sasthi Mahayajna began at Skandashram, Hudco on Thursday by offering prayers to Gau Mata. At the outset, a statue of Acharya Shivmani Ji (founder of Skandashram) was formally installed in the temple.

After Gau Puja, Maha Sankalp Kalash Sthapana and Sarva Devta Awahan were performed. Thereafter, Shri Chintamani Ganapati Homan, PrasaatVasthu Shanti Homan, Navagraha Homam, Maha Mrityunjay Homam, Poornahuti, Deep Aradhana and Prasad Distribution were held. In the evening, Shri



Medha Dakshinamurty Homam, Shri Santhana Gopakrishna Homam, Shri Sarabeshwara Homam, Poornahuti, Deep Aradhana and Prasad Distribution were held.



Surendra Singh Kembo, Media In-charge said that Skandashram Bhilai has established its distinct identity in the fields of spirituality and social

service. The main objective of Skandashram is to develop religious ideas through social, religious conferences, programs and regular meetings, pave the way

for public welfare and remove all the troubles of the common man. Devotees from other parts of the country and abroad are participating in the programme.

## BSP issues Leave provisions in view of Ch'garh Legislative Assembly Elections 2023

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** In view of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Elections 2023, as per the Circular issued by Rules section of Steel Authority of India Limited - Bhilai Steel Plant, Voting for Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly will be held in Bhilai, Durg, Dalli Rajhara, Nandini, Hirri and Kuteshwar areas on November 17, 2023.

For employees, the date of voting i.e. November 17, 2023 will be considered as an additional holiday. Therefore, on November 17, 2023, the administrative offices of Bhilai Steel Plant at Bhilai,

Dalli Rajhara, Nandini, Hirri and Kuteshwar will remain closed.

But, on the day of voting, all production units and other essential services of plants and mines will function normally. On the date of voting, the time period for the employees to exercise their vote and eligibility for compensatory leave will be as follows: Personnel (including trainees) working in all production units of Plants, Mines and other essential services, personnel working in 'A' shift - will exercise their vote after completion of duty.

Personnel working in 'B' shift - will exercise their vote before coming for duty. Personnel working in 'C' shift will exer-

cise their vote at the voting time and personnel working in 'G' shift will be given a break of two hours in rotation as per the convenience of the department to exercise their vote. As per rules, there will be one day compensatory leave for executives and non-executives.

For the personnel (including trainees) working in administrative offices, there will be one day compensatory leave for Executives and Non-executives as per rules, if attendance at work is required. And if there is no need to attend work, there will be closed holidays for Executives and Non-executives.

As per rules, there will be one day compensatory holiday for

Executives and Non-executives for the personnel (including trainees) working in plants/mines production units/other essential services/administrative offices, who have been appointed on polling duty. If any employee whose weekly leave is on the Voting date i.e. November 17, 2023, he will be eligible for one day compensatory leave.

If any employee is on leave and the polling date i.e. 17th November 2023 falls in between his leave, then 17th November 2023 will be considered as a holiday and his credit will not be deducted from the leave, but he will not be eligible for compensatory leave.

## PhD entrance examination of Hemchand Yadav University on Dec 17

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** PhD entrance examination in Hemchand Yadav University, Durg will be conducted offline on December 17. Giving this information, the Dean of Student Welfare, Dr Prashant Srivastava said that the University has issued a notification for the PhD entrance examination to be conducted in a total of 19 subjects.

This notification is available on the official website of the university. Dr Srivastava told that this examination will be conducted in the subjects of Economics, Home Science, Sociology, History, Political Science, Geography, English, Hindi, Psychology, Education, Commerce, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Geology,

Mathematics, Microbiology, Biotechnology.

According to Dr Srivastava, this PhD entrance examination 2023 will be conducted under the rules mentioned in the extraordinary gazette published by UGC on November 07, 2022. Under this, assistant professors appointed under Section 28 in private colleges under the university and regular professors/assistant professors in government colleges will also have to pass the entrance examination.

Dr Prashant Srivastava said that according to the notification issued by the university, the applications for the entrance examination will be filled online from November 16 to November 2, 2023 through the portal avail-

able on the university website.

The applicant will also have to deposit the prescribed examination fee of Rs 800 online. Dr Srivastava told that this examination to be held on December 17 will be based on objective questions from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs.

In this examination divided into two sections, the first part of the question paper will have 25 questions related to the subject and the second part will have 25 questions based on research methodology, ethics.

Each question will be of 02 marks. Thus, the question paper will be of total 100 marks. It is mandatory for the candidate to obtain 50 marks to qualify but merely qualifying does not make the candidate eligible for

PhD.

As per the rules of UGC, the marks of 100 marks obtained by the candidate in theory exam will be converted out of 70 marks and the remaining 30 percent marks will be awarded on the basis of interview. Merit list will be prepared by combining the marks of both theory and interview.

Candidates will be called for interview in the order of merit in proportion to the number of vacant seats available with the recognized research directors in the university.

After submitting the online application, it will be mandatory for the candidate to submit the hard copies of all the documents to the PhD Cell of the University by November 28.

## World Diabetes Day celebrated

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 16:** A programme was organised by Medical & Health Services department of SAIL-BSP to commemorate World Diabetes Day at HRDC Conference Hall on November 16, 2023.

The programme aimed to create awareness about the preventive aspects of diabetes along with ways to effectively manage diabetes by following regular treatment and using mil-

lets. The programme was designed to educate general public about the importance of Diet, Exercise and Drugs in prevention and management of diabetes. Anjani Kumar ED

(Works) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Nisha Soni, CGM (HRD & BE), Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&Hs) and Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO (M&Hs) were present as Special guests.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), BSP while appreciating the program said that diabetes is a lifestyle disease which can be controlled by balanced diet and lifestyle.

Dr M Ravindranath said that the biggest cause of Diabetes at present is our adoption of westernized lifestyle, staying away from physical activities etc.

Diabetes is not limited to just one disease, but



later on, all the organs can get damaged and the risk of heart attack, paralysis, brain dead etc increases.

A presentation on healthy living with Diabetes was given by Dr

Pramod Binayake CMO (M&Hs) on the importance of tests, medicines and regular treatment for diabetes.

Essential information related to diabetes was

provided to the audience through this program. Preventive and curative aspects of diabetes were highlighted during the event. People were educated about the importance of

proper diet, exercise and other medications during the programme.

Along with this, the Diabetic section of the JLN Hospital & RC had set up poster exhibition, exhi-

bition of balanced diet, yoga, blood test and foot care stalls to create awareness about the disease.

Various traditional healthy foods were showcased which a person suffering from diabetes can consume to maintain diabetes control.

The event was successfully organized by the Department of General Medicine with presentation by Dr Pramod Binayake and moderation by Dr Saurav Mukherjee.

Senior doctors of the Medical department, officers, Nursing staff, technicians, and officials of the personnel department including DNB doctors actively participated in the occasion.

### NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, LIMJE PRADEEP D/O PRADEEP LIMJE resident of 116 A, RUABANDHA SECTOR BSP, BHILAI (C.G.) have changed my old name LIMJE KRUNAL PRADEEP 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.)



# Assembly polls: 123 candidates to try their luck in 7 seats of Raipur dist

More than 18 lakh voters to exercise

Raipur, Nov 16:

A total of 123 candidates will try their luck in the seven assembly constituencies of Raipur district for the Assembly elections 2023. Maximum 26 candidates are in fray in Raipur West Assembly. In addition to this, 18 candidates each are in fray in Dharsiwan and Raipur Rural Assembly, 14 in Raipur North, 23 in Raipur South, 11 in Arang and 13 in Abhanpur Assembly.

A total of 18 lakh 84 thousand 926 voters will exercise their franchise in the seven assembly constituencies of Raipur district for the Assembly elections 2023. Maximum number of 3 lakh 49 thousand 316 voters will cast their votes tomorrow in Raipur rural assembly constituency.

As many as 2 lakh 91 thousand 538 voters will exercise their franchise in Raipur West Assembly constituency, 2 lakh 59 thousand 948 voters in Raipur Nagar South constituency, 2 lakh 34 thousand 663 voters in



## Voting to be held in total 1878 polling stations

A total of 1878 polling stations have been set up in the district for the assembly elections. As many as 251 polling stations have been made in Dharsiwan Assembly constituency, 307 in Raipur Rural constituency, 265 in Raipur West constituency, 201 in Raipur North constituency and 255 in Raipur South constituency. Moreover 249 polling stations have been set up in Arang, 240 in Abhanpur and 110 polling stations in the area included in Balodabazar Assembly constituency.

## Voting assistance centers

Voting assistance centers have been set up within 100 meters of all polling stations. Necessary information will be made available to voters at the Voting Assistance Center on polling day. Booth Level Officer (BLO) of the concerned area and other employees will be deployed in such centres. The presence of any person from any political party will be prohibited in the voting assistance center. Instructions have been issued to ensure availability of extra chairs and drinking water in the voting assistance centers and to provide necessary assistance to pregnant, nursing, disabled and senior voters.

Dharsiwan Assembly constituency, 2 lakh 31 thousand 327 voters in Arang Assembly constituency, 2 lakh 13 thousand 936 voters in Abhanpur

## Women to conduct polling in 201 polling stations of Raipur North Assembly constituency

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, this time in the Assembly Elections 2023, Sangwari and Model Polling Centers have also been created for the special assistance and convenience of women voters. This time only women will conduct polling in all 201 polling stations of Raipur North Assembly constituency. Apart from North Assembly Constituency, 10 Sangwari Polling Centers have been set up in each of six Assembly Constituencies of Raipur. Women voters will be able to cast their votes easily as all responsibilities- from the presiding officer to other polling staff and security- will be carried out by women.

## Disabled and elderly voters to be exempted from standing in queues

Under the Assembly Elections 2023, sector officers have been directed to ensure arrangements for wheelchairs, sticks and ramps in all polling stations. Instructions have been issued to provide exemption to disabled and older voters from standing in queues on polling day.

Assembly constituency and 1 lakh 2 thousand 48 voters in Balodabazar as-

sembly constituency. This time, 397 service voters, 11 thousand 734 PWD voters and 20 thousand 526 voters above 80 years of age will also exercise their franchise in the district.

Underlining the role of sector officers in the election process Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure said that the sector officers will work as sector magistrates in their area. Apart from ensuring necessary arrangements in the polling stations, instructions have also been issued to provide information about the voting percentage on the polling day and to provide guidance to the subordinate employees as per requirement by keeping adequate information about EVMs, VVPAT etc.

## POLLING MATERIAL



The polling teams were distributed polling material on the eve of polling day in the Collectorate and other centres for respective polling centres of Raipur district.

## BJP complains about illegal distribution of cash, liquor

Soni registers complaint with Election Officer

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 16: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Lok Sabha member from Raipur constituency Sunil Soni on Thursday registered complaint with the Chief Election Officer alleging illegal distribution of materials, cash and liquor apart from creating terror by the Congress leaders to manipulate the elections. Soni said that the attempts are being made to spoil the peace and create terror among people. He urged the CEO to stop the District and Police Administration from working as agent of the ruling Congress party. Earlier, he called on District

Collector and District Returning Officer Dr Sarveshwar Bhure to demand for action on the FIR registered by them and also demanded from him to ensure free and fair polling on November 17. Talking to a section of media persons after meeting the District Collector, the BJP leader Soni said that the Congress candidate from Aarang constituency Shiv Daharia is reportedly distributing silver coins to the voters through his supporters to create atmosphere in his favour whereas several complaints have been received in other segments including Raipur South, Raipur West, Raipur North and Abhanpur segments. He said

that the District Administration should ensure fair polls. Regarding the fake letter of Congress going on viral in social media, the BJP leader said that the Congress leader has accepted defeat. Regarding the allegations on BJP being involved in making the Congress letter viral, he said that the BJP workers do not have so much time as they have been busy working to propagate the achievements of Modi government among people.

He also called on Superintendent of Police to take action against the anti-social elements who have been disturbing peace of Chhattisgarh.

# People of Chhattisgarh know whom to trust: Baghel

Says we restored self-respect to Ch'garh, ended poverty

Raipur, Nov 16:

With increased political awareness the self-respect of the people of Chhattisgarh increased in the last five years, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said a day before the polling under second phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections. Now the people of Chhattisgarh know whom to trust and who is throwing election slogans as a guarantee, he said, adding that this election is a referendum on the work done by the Congress government in the last five years.

Baghel said that as per the wish of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Congress government



started fulfilling the promise within two hours of taking oath and waived off the loans of the farmers. From procuring paddy for Rs 2500 to giving unemployment allowance, many works were done which gave confidence to the public, he said, adding that in the last five years, every section of the society including farmers, labourers, tribals, women and youth has been taken

care of. According to Baghel amount of Rs 2.25 lakh crore has gone into the pockets of the people of the state in the last five years. He said that 40 lakh people came out of the poverty line and business and industry also flourished in the state.

On the other hand BJP betrayed the people of the state, he said. BJP neither gave promised price of Rs 2100 to the farmers nor gave bonus of Rs 300 every year, he said. BJP neither provided employment to every tribal family nor provided them security, he said, adding that during the 15 years of BJP rule, Chhattisgarh was identified as a Naxal affected and poor state.

# BJP, Congress get rebels back into party fold

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 16: Both the ruling Congress, as well as principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are making last ditch efforts to win favour of the rebels before the polling date. BJP succeeded to ensure the Independent candidate Himmat Bhai Patel withdraw his candidature in favour of the official candidate of the party Purander Mishra from Raipur North constituency. Former Legislator Devji Patel made crucial role in the above development. Rebel candidate announced that he would work in favour of the party nominee during which the senior leaders of the party were present. Similarly, the Congress also got major re-

lief just a day before the polling as the Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) candidate from Shakti Rajkumar Patel joined Congress. He announced to work for the official candidate of the party Dr Charandas Mahant. It is learnt that he was not happy from the JCC(J) supreme Amit Jogi as he could not get assistance from party in contesting the polls during the campaigning. Patel also resigned from JCC(J) and officially took membership of Congress on Thursday. It is notable that both the parties have been facing serious troubles in their poll prospects with several dissidents' leaders contesting the polls either as an Independent candidate or have switch over to the other regional parties.

## Collector appeals for voting

Raipur, Nov 14: Collector and District Returning Officer Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure has appealed to all the voters of the district to cast their votes compulsorily in the assembly elections. For the election of members of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, voting will be held in the polling centers on Friday, November 17, 2023, from 8 am to 5 pm. Dr Bhure, while appealing to the voters to cast their votes, said that the voters should take out time for voting and exercise their franchise in the polling centers designated for their area. Every voter's vote is invaluable in building a strong democracy and it is the duty of every voter to vote, he said. Dr. Bhure asked the voters to carry their voter identity cards (EPIC cards) and voter slips with photos while going to vote.

## Congress will once again form govt with 75 seats: Baij

Raipur, Nov 16: A day before the second phase of voting, Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Baij said that like in the first phase, Congress candidates will get full blessings of the public in the second phase also. Congress will once again form government in the state with 75 seats, he said, adding that Congress sought votes from the public on the basis of its work in the last 5 years. He said that the party fought the entire election in a positive manner. Congress government made concrete plans and implemented them effectively to empower farmers, labourers, youth, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, he said, adding that loan waiver, paddy procurement, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, Mazdoor Nyay Yojana, Swami Atmanand School, Khoobchand Baghel Swasthya Sahayata Yojana changed the picture of Chhattisgarh. 'We fought



against unemployment and poverty in 5 years due to which 40 lakh population of the state came above the poverty line', Baij said. Baij said that the promises on the basis of which Congress got the mandate in 2018, were fulfilled in 5 years. The Congress government under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel lived up to the expectations of the people, he said. Congress promised that women will get Rs 15,000 under the Grihalakshmi scheme, he said, adding that this time too farmers' loans will be waived off.

# Model polling booths decorated with Ch'garhia theme for happy voting

Raipur, Nov 16:

Election is the biggest festival in democracy. Citizens participate in this for strengthening democracy by exercising their franchise. To make this democratic festival memorable for the citizens, model polling booths have been set up in all the Vidhan Sabhas for happy voting in Raipur district. In these model polling booths, such a memorable environment will be created for the voters to have a happy voting which will be a part of their memories forever. As soon as we enter these polling booths, we will feel as if a festival is being organised. They



have been decorated like we do in our residence or any building during festivals.

For example see the model polling station of Dharampura. It is decorated with ecological theme. The polling booth of Paragaon reflects the Chhattisgarhi theme, where one can get a

glimpse of Chhattisgarhia culture. The model polling booths located at Civil Lines has special seating facilities for the elderly. Baby feeding centers have also been set up for pregnant women. Kid zones have been created for small children, where children can play and their mothers can vote. Besides,

## Play zone for children and comfortable seating arrangements for the elderly

there is a provision of wheel chair for the disabled people, the special thing is that it has also been decorated in which they will also feel happy.

Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure informed that second phase of elections will be held on Saturday. To give a glimpse of the beautiful traditions of Chhattisgarh, we have decorated it with beautiful pictures and symbols and have also made some displays. Along with this, we have taken care of all the

basic facilities. Other themes have also been used which will be liked by the citizens. This will motivate voters to vote and also inspire others. It is noteworthy that selfie zones have also been created in these model polling stations. Youth and other people voting for the first time will be able to take their selfie here after voting. The experience of model polling stations will be unique for all citizens. Along with this, there will be some model polling centers in which the responsibility of the disabled people will be there. Some model polling booths have been created which will be managed by the youth.

# Combine Plate set target of 124 runs for Bilaspur

Under 14 Cricket match

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 16: Utkarsh Tiwari and Ranveer claimed 4 wickets each for Bilaspur to restrict the Plate Combine team to just 162 runs in second innings of the Under 14 Boys final match being organised under the aegis of Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) at Kanker Cricket Ground on Thursday.

Earlier, the Bilaspur team scored 172 runs in first innings to take a lead as Ayush Todekar

scored maximum 79 runs for the team whereas Chetan Kumar too scored 33 runs.

In the second innings, the Plate Combine team scored 162 runs before being bundled out. Lavkesh Yadav (37 runs) and Vivek Vardhan Dubey (34 runs) made valuable contributions for the team. Utkrishta Tiwari and Ranveer claimed 4 wickets each for the team.

Bilaspur now needs 124 runs in second innings to win the match.

## RDA's EWS Flats available for sale on Free-hold

Raipur, Nov 16: Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Flats of Raipur Development Authority (RDA) under Dr Shyama Prasad Housing Schemes are available for sale on free-hold on first come first serve basis. Providing the above information in a statement issued here, the RDA Chief Executive Officer Dharmesh Kumar Sahu said that 1BHK flats with the 290 SFT area flats are available under the scheme and added that presently 173 EWS Flats at Boriakurdh are available at Rs 3.37 lakh, 29 Flats at Raipura Indraprasth Scheme Phase 1 at Rs 3.97 lakhs and 13 Flats at Hirapur scheme with the price of Rs 3.76 lakhs are available for sale. He further informed that the interested people can submit the registration form with the amount of Rs 30,000 and remaining amount within 30 days. People can contact the Marketing Branch of RDA during working hours for detail information.

# Congress takes action against two leaders, issues notices

Raipur, Nov 16:

Just a day before voting, Congress has taken action against those working against the party. The party has issued show cause notices to the two leaders and sought their reply within 24 hours.

In fact, a complaint was received that District Panchayat Vice President Sanjay Netam and State Representative Tapeshwar Thakur were working against the Congress candidate from Bindranavagarh Assembly constituency.

Taking serious note of the complaint Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Baij directed to issue a show cause notices. After this, Congress General Secretary in-charge Malkit Singh Gaidoo issued notices to Sanjay Netam and Tapeshwar Thakur, seeking their reply within 24 hours. Sanjay Netam had staked claim from Bindranavagarh assembly seat, but he could not get the ticket. The party has declared Janak Lal Dhruv as its candidate.

# Women officers handling responsibility of all booths of Raipur North Assembly

Raipur, Nov 16: The voting going on in Raipur North Assembly of Chhattisgarh on Friday 17th November will add a rare, unforgettable and very proud achievement in the history of elections. For the first time in independent India, it is going to happen that only women will be in charge of elections in the entire assembly. There are 201 polling stations and all are Sangwari booths. Here everyone from the presiding officer to the polling officer are women. For this important work, 804 women have been directly entrusted with the responsibility and about 200 women have been kept in reserve. The Observer of this Assembly is

also a woman IAS officer, Mrs. Vimla R. Her Liaisoning Officer is also a woman. In most of the booths, the responsibility of security is also the responsibility of women. It is also noteworthy that the Chief Electoral Officer in Chhattisgarh is also an IAS officer, Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale.

Tomorrow, when the voters of North Raipur Assembly will enter the polling booth, the work of checking the voter slip, getting signatures in the register, and applying ink on the fingers will be entirely the responsibility of women. There will be equal number of women presiding officers in 201 booths and 603 polling



officers. It is also noteworthy that gender equality is deeply ingrained in the society of Chhattisgarh and the sex ratio of the state testifies to this. In Raipur North Assembly, where women officers have been put on duty at all the booths, the

sex ratio is 1010, that is, there are 1010 women for every thousand men. Collector and District Election Officer Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure said in this regard that as soon as the election process started, we got the idea that why

not hand over the entire responsibility of elections in an assembly of the district to women. Everyone appreciated the idea, then we planned it. This morning, when the polling teams arrived to leave for their destination centres, it was a great pleasure to see their enthusiasm. He told us that this is a historic occasion when the entire team is of women and we will fulfill such an important responsibility alone.

Dr. Bhure said that in Raipur South Assembly too, there will be only women officers at half the booths. In this way, there will be an important command of elections in the hands of women in Raipur North and

Raipur South Assembly. On discussing this matter, Nisha Ramteke, associated with the polling team, said that this is a very pleasant occasion for us. All the women were there in the training and now our voting contingent is also made up of women. We all will be able to complete this work very well and with coordination.

Leela Patel said that confidence has been expressed in women, it is a very good thing. It is possible that some people may suspect that if men are not cooperative then women may face problems. Tomorrow it will be proved that women can also fulfill every important responsibility alone.



## Mahadev Ghat gets a pristine makeover

Dedicated volunteers of CMAS clean Kharun River and Ghat



### Chhath puja preparations in full swing

**Raipur, Nov 16:** In a remarkable display of community spirit, members of the Chhath Mahaparva Ayojan Samiti at Mahadev Ghat, Raipur, led by organizing head Rajesh Kumar Singh, joined hands with the cleaning staff of the Raipur Municipal Corporation to undertake a thorough cleaning of the Kharun River and Mahadev Ghat.

Setting an example of dedication and unity, committee members, including Sunil Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Satyendra Singh Gautam, Parmanand Singh, Ramvilas Singh, Jayant Singh, Brijesh Singh, and others, arrived at Mahadev Ghat at the crack of dawn, working diligently to remove a substantial amount of debris from the Kharun River and rejuvenate the ghat. Rajesh Kumar Singh revealed that Mahadev Ghat is currently undergoing extensive preparations for the upcoming Chhath Puja

festivities. The committee members have taken upon themselves the responsibility of cleaning not only Mahadev Ghat but also all the ponds across the city. Singh urged committee members to generously contribute their labour and cooperation towards this collective effort. Highlighting the significance of Chhath Mahaparva, Singh announced that the four-day Chhath festival will commence on November 17 with Nahay Khay. This revered festival, celebrat-

ed from November 17 to 20, holds great cultural importance not only in India but also worldwide. Mahadev Ghat will host a cultural program on the evening of November 19, featuring the Evening Maha Aarti and a grand Bhandara during the night. The festivities will culminate on November 20 with the Usha Arghya, followed by a Maha Bhandara organized by the committee at Mahadev Ghat, bringing the Chhath Puja celebrations to a joyous conclusion.

## BJP's public meeting on last day as INC goes door-to-door

Kurud, Nov 16:

According to the code of conduct for the Assembly elections 2023, all campaigning was to stop by 5:00 pm and before the same, the candidates of both the main rival parties of Kurud assembly constituency did put their efforts and activities through public relations since early morning. Congress candidate Tarini Chandrakar reached door to door with women armed with party flags and DJ sound from 10 am onwards and sought votes.

On the other hand, in the general meeting of BJP, MP Chunnal Sahu gave the message of Jai Ram to the people of Kurud. In the public meeting of Kurud Nagar, MP Shri Sahu said that due to PM Modi's plans, today Kurud city is going to be connected to Andhra Pradesh and it will take 8 hours to reach Andhra Pradesh from Raipur by Bharat Mala road. He



further told about the new schemes of the upcoming Chhattisgarh state ranging from Ujjwala Yojana, Housing Scheme, Ayushman Health Scheme to Landless Labourer Scheme and ap-

pealed to blossom the lotus in the state. In the meeting, Ajay Chandrakar, while taking a dig at the declining political level of Kurud Congress, said that even in the beginning of my

political career, I used to condemn the senior leaders of the Congress, their party's customs and policies and the zero development of Kurud, but in today's times, the so-called Congress political elements of Kurud region have sunk to such an extent in the abyss of power and Bahadwasi that they have nothing to say except abusive language, allegations and baseless talk.

Ajay further said that terming the Baghel government as anti-interest of women, he said that this is the only Chief Minister of the country who, instead of providing proper nutrition to women and children, snatches the ready-to-eat construction work from the women's group and gives it to a Kolkata company.

By exploiting the state's money for their well-being and their own well-being, they put the women's group under the burden of debt, he accused.

## Department of Medicine organises diabetes awareness program

### Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital

**Raipur, Nov 16:** 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 P.G. 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 interactive 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 Prof. Dr. R. L. 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.

## Cleaning system deteriorates after Diwali

Khairagarh, Nov 16:

After celebrating Diwali, the region is dumped with garbage as irresponsible garbage collectors have exposed the laxity in the cleanliness campaign, with no work done in cleaning system after the festival.

After the Diwali festival, the cleanliness system in rural areas including the city has broken down, and a few years ago, administrative officials, public representatives and social service organizations had made a lot of headlines regarding the cleanliness campaign.

Whether common or special, all sections of the society were singing the praises of cleanliness campaign, but with the



passage of time, cleanliness campaigns are becoming a thing of the past. It is noteworthy that people of every section of the community, both general and special, celebrated the Diwali festival with great pomp, but it seems that

those people who took the oath of cleanliness campaign have now forgotten their responsibility. People have created a lot of mess during the festival and have not taken any care in throwing garbage around their homes, espe-

cially those who burn firecrackers. On the one hand, they have left no stone unturned to spoil the state of pollution; while on the other hand, the bursting of firecrackers also they have shown no sympathy in discarding the waste.

There is a ban on polythene carry bags in the district including the state, after the ban, in the initial days, action was seen by the district administration and officials, but with the passage of time, it seems that this ban has also remained buried in the files.

Due to which, this Diwali, polythene carry bags and other banned items were used also extensively in the city, breaking another pivotal law.

## Voter turnout app to provide updated information

About voting percentage

**Bilaspur, Nov 16:** Through the mobile application 'Voter Turnout App' of the Election Commission of India, information about the updated status of voting percentage under Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections 2023 can be obtained on 17 November and it has become very easy to see the estimated voter turnout in real time through the Voter Turnout App. Voter Turnout App displays voter turnout information in each assembly constituency on the polling day. The Voter Turnout App also provides citizens with access to cumulative voter turnout as well as estimated cumulative voter per-

centage for each assembly constituency separately. This application has been launched by the Election Commission of India to increase citizen participation in elections and to provide instant information about voter turnout on the voting day. This app is available on both Google Play Store and Apple Store platforms. The Voter Turnout App is designed to show the estimated voter turnout for each state and can be used up to the district and assembly constituency level. On the day of voting, state wise, district wise and assembly constituency wise voter turnout updates can be seen.

## Female polling teams leave for Sangwari polling station

Bemetara, Nov 16:

In the second phase, voting on the assembly seats of the district will be held tomorrow i.e. on Nov 17. The campaigning by electoral parties for the second phase of voting for the three assembly constituencies of Bemetara has now stopped. At the same time, the polling parties were given proper voting material and sent towards the booth.

Ten Sangwari polling stations have been set up in each of the three assembly seats of the district. The entire responsibility there will be of women. Today on Thursday, the women's polling team collected election material. They matched the materials



and happily left for the Sangwari polling station. A disabled polling center and a youth polling center have also been made in each assembly of the district. Only youth will play

the role of polling personnel in the youth polling station. At the same time, keeping in mind the needs of the disabled, all the arrangements have been ensured in the disabled

polling station.

Voting material was distributed for the Assembly General Election 2023 in Bemetara district and the team was dispatched. The officers and employees of the polling team reached the polling place and collected the voting material from the designated counter. During this, Collector and District Election Officer PS Elma reached the spot and inspected the arrangements.

He also talked to the polling personnel and collected information and also solved their problems. Collector P.S.Elma, along with sending off the polling personnel, has also appealed to all the voters of the district to participate in this great festival of democracy by voting.

## Cyber cell recovered 42 knives ordered online

Jagdulpur, Nov 16:

According to the information received from the cyber cell of the district, people have ordered weapons from many online shopping sites in the city. After receiving the information, 42 knives were recovered in this action taken by the cyber cell. During the said recovery operation, it was found that people from the youth group were among those ordering knives online. In which mostly youth of 20 to 25 years of age were found to be in majority. For this, the police is appealing to the foster parents to advise their children not to keep such sharp weapons like knives and



others. The knives recovered above were procured from Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and Ay shopping sites.

In future also, information will be sought by contacting other shopping sites. Besides, a ban will be imposed on the sale of such sharp weapons and fancy knives by local vendors.

Cyber cell said through a release that after obtaining technical information, a list of persons who have ordered such weapons was obtained. Such people were contacted and their weapons were recovered and all of them were asked the reason for asking for such weapons. In which the clear explanation

was not given satisfactorily by him and all the sharp weapons were recovered and confiscated. Their holders were advised and the orders of all those who had placed such orders but had not received them, were cancelled. An explanation was given not to order such weapons in future.

## Massive fire incident shocks residents

Dongargaon, Nov 16:

The entire city is shocked by a massive fire incident last night and the people of the city are accusing the local administration for not making proper arrangements on time. Like every time, this time also the fire brigade of the Nagar Panchayat proved to be a failure.

As per information, a fire broke out in Burhani Hardware located in the busiest area of the city pm and it gradually became huge and engulfed the entire shop in which goods worth lakhs were burnt to ashes. Not only this, this fire was also affecting the nearby shops which the entire city was trying to save. After much effort, the fire brigade of



Nagar Panchayat Dongargaon somehow reached the spot but due to the poor condition of its operator and machine, it completely failed to control the fire. The fire brigade vehicles arrived from Dongargaon, Chowki, Abis and Rajnandgaon and efforts were made to control the fire and the fire was somehow controlled by 3 o'clock

in the night, but even after the fire was extinguished, it flared up again two-three times and this continued till 9 in the morning. As soon as information about the incident was received, the district police officers also reached the spot. The citizens have alerted that the Nagar Panchayat does not have any concrete arrangement for disaster



management in the city, and despite being in the market area of the city, the Nagar Panchayat became conscious of the fire long time ago and by the time the fire brigade vehicle reached the spot, the fire was out of control. It is also discussed among the common people that the employees related to fire brigade in Nagar Panchayat reach only in

### What officer says:

"As far as resources are concerned, every possible effort will be made to ensure that necessary resources are available to deal with the disaster at the district level as well as at the section level, so that any untoward incident that occurs can be brought under control immediately."

Ashwan Kumar Pusam, SDM Dongargaon

one or two cases in a month and that too late.

The citizens have also accused that the Nagar Panchayat administration takes sufficient money and allots designated places for firecrackers, but in the name of security arrangements, there is completely zero. Most of the firecracker traders, despite having designated places, sell firecrackers

from shops in the entire city including the market area, over which the police and administration have no control.

Even in wholesale firecracker shops on the roadside, people gather in large numbers to sell them, whereas fire in firecracker shops located in crowded market areas can put the lives of many people at risk, but no concrete action has ever been seen in this matter. SDM Ashwan Kumar Pusam told that he himself was present at the incident site till 2.30 in the night and also reached the spot in the morning and talked to the people present. The cause of the fire is currently unknown and the reason may become clear upon inspection by the police team.

## Four gamblers arrested with 4 pack of cards, cash of Rs 24080



**Jagdulpur, Nov 16:** Bodhghat police station of the district received information that some gamblers were gambling near the Kuharpara Shulabh toilet of the city. This gambling was being played by betting money on playing cards. A team was formed to act on the information, by which raid action was taken. During the raid, four gamblers Sunil Sahu, Rinku Chauhan, Ravi Bhardwaj and

Vijay Singh were arrested on the spot. Total cash amount of Rs 5800, 4800, 6400 and 6180 respectively, Rs 24080 and 4 pieces of 52 playing cards were recovered from the possession of the accused gamblers. A criminal case was registered against the four accused under Section 3(2) of the Chhattisgarh Gambling Prohibition Act 2022 and arrest proceedings were taken.



# Sidda under fire as viral video shows son giving instructions

Bengaluru, Nov 16 (PTI):

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra Siddaramaiah found himself embroiled in a controversy on Thursday after a video, where he was seen issuing certain instructions on the phone, went viral on social media. Hurling corruption charges against him, former chief minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy hit out at Minister Siddaramaiah, alleging that the conversation was about the "transfer (of government servants) business."



Yathindra Siddaramaiah

The phone conversations were regarding the development of four to five schools using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. "Unfortunately, former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, who was involved in rampant corruption during his tenure, thinks that all are like him. His pessimistic attitude

does not allow him to think beyond corruption. His insecurity in politics often forces him to fabricate fake stories to paint a negative picture of his political opponents," Siddaramaiah said, lashing out at the JD(S) state chief. "The same has happened with respect to the recent public phone conversation between me and my son about the development of schools in Varuna constituency."

According to him, Yathindra was discussing the list of beneficiary schools for development but Kumaraswamy has twisted this phone conversation in front of the public to falsely attribute it to corruption in transfers.

Siddaramaiah even said that he would retire from

politics if even one instance is presented with proof that he had made money through transfers. In the video, Yathindra, a former Congress MLA, is heard saying, "Hello Appa (Father), Vivekananda! To where? No I didn't give that. Give it (phone) to Mahadeva. I had given only five."

Then he speaks to Mahadeva, saying "Mahadeva, why are you giving something...? Who has given that? Nothing but whatever 4-5 I have given, that alone should be done." According to Kumaraswamy, Yathindra was speaking to R Mahadeva, a sub-registrar at Ganganagar in Bengaluru, who has been appointed as the CM's Officer on Special Duty.

## PROTEST RALLY



Members of Nagpur District Restaurant Association take part in a march against Maharashtra government demanding VAT removal in 'permit room' restaurants, in Nagpur, Thursday.

# Maoists threaten to blow up ' Hamas rally' in Kerala

Kozhikode (Kerala), Nov 16 (PTI):

The Communist Party of India (Maoist) has sent a letter to the District Collector of Kozhikode allegedly threatening to blow up the "Hamas rally of fake comrades" if the government and police action against Maoists is not stopped. In the letter, the Maoists have said that the government is holding rallies for "foreign terrorists" instead of focusing on the needs of Kozhikode district, an official of the district administration told PTI.

The letter was received by the Collector's office on Wednesday evening and was forwarded to the police, the official added. It claims that Maoists are being unfairly targeted and false cases are being lodged against them. The Maoists have warned that if the government does not stop unfairly targeting them and charging false cases against them, what happened in

Kochi at the Jehovah's Witnesses convention can be expected during the "Hamas rally of fake comrades" in the district, he said. The official also said that the SHO of Nadakkavu police station has been briefed about the matter and a case would be lodged there against the Maoists.

An officer of Nadakkavu police station said that a case would be lodged during the day under provisions of the IPC and the Kerala Police Act. The letter comes in the wake of recent armed confrontations between Maoists and specialised teams of the Kerala Police in Kannur and Wayanad districts of the state. The special Thunderbolt squad of Kerala police had engaged in gun battle with the Maoists twice this week in Kannur district. Prior to that, there was an exchange of fire between the Thunderbolt force and Maoists in a forest area in Wayanad last week.

# Childhood inspiration turns engineer's vision into first self-identified private hydel proj

Idukki (Ker), Nov 16 (PTI):

Rakesh Roy grew up seeing a picturesque mountain stream flow down a hill near his house at Kambilikandam in this mountainous district, but only once he became an engineer years later did he comprehend the height of that nondescript hill and realise the potential of 'Parathodu', the water body. This realisation by the young engineer has made Mukkudam Small Hydroelectric Project, Kerala's first self-identified private small hydroelectric project, a reality in Idukki.

The private hydel plant began supplying power to the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) Limited late last month. Roy said he was able to bring the project to fruition with the support of his six other friends



who graduated with him from FISAT Engineering College in Angamaly some years ago.

Mukkudam is the 12th private small hydel power project in Kerala and the fifth such initiative in Idukki, Roy, who is the CMD of the company, said.

"We are proud to be the first self-identified private small hydroelectric project in the state. The uniqueness of the project

is that it was identified by private persons like us in our own land," he told PTI.

He said though there was a provision for such projects in the Kerala Small Hydro Power Policy 2012' rolled out in October 2012, he and his partners were the first to submit such a proposal to the government.

Even officials and government departments were initially apprehen-

sive when they were approached with the project proposal as there was no precedence, he said.

When asked how he identified the power sector for their first entrepreneurial venture, he said he and his friends were aware that power was a potential area since their college days. "Power cuts and electricity crunch had always been in the news in Kerala. So, even during

our college days, we knew that it was a potential area," he said.

After realising the potential of the mountain stream, he discussed it with his friends who offered him all support to go ahead. "Since our college days, we knew very well that power is a potential area...When I got an idea about this project, I shared it with my friends...discussed and debated with them...and finally we together and decided to go ahead with this initiative," Roy said.

Thirty nine-year-old Roy, a native of Kambilikandam here, quit his corporate career when he decided to go ahead with the power project in 2014. His six college-mates have been with him as pillars of support throughout these years and invested their hard-earned money in it.

# APAC Investor Forum discuss changed investment scenario In new environment

New Delhi, Nov 16: Franklin Templeton hosted its flagship APAC Investor Forum 2023, a hybrid event in Hong Kong that brings together a panel of investment experts, including CIOs and Portfolio Managers from our collection of Specialist Investment Management teams, to discuss the evolving investment landscape marked by geopolitical shifts, technological innovation and changing demographics, and their investment perspectives for the new environment. Commenting on recession risk and opportunities in 2024, Stephen Dover, Chief Market Strategist and Head of the Franklin Templeton Institute said: While the likelihood of a least a mild of recession in the U.S. remains high, emerging markets, in particular Asia, may be more resilient. A weakening US dollar should support emerging markets, particularly those that will benefit from shifting supply chain dynamics. Lower debt levels, inflation, interest rates, and solid fiscal policy puts many Asian countries in a more favorable position.

# Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy cremated in Lucknow

Lucknow, Nov 16 (PTI):

The last rites of Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy were performed at Baikunth Dham, on the banks of the Gomti river here, on Thursday. A procession carrying the body left Sahara Shahar in Gomti Nagar for Baikunth Dham, where in the presence of Sahara Group employees and a number of dignitaries, the last rites were performed.

Roy's sons were not present during the cremation and the last rites were performed by his 16-year-old grandson, Himanc Roy, sources in the family said. Prominent among those seen during the cremation included Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and actor and Congress leader Raj Babbar. Roy died of cardiorespiratory arrest in a Mumbai Hospital on Tuesday, accord-



Businessman Subrata Roy's brother (C) during his funeral at Baikunth Dham, in Lucknow, Thursday.

ing to a statement issued by the Sahara Group. He was 75. His body was flown in from Mumbai and kept at Sahara Shahar on Wednesday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Yadav had expressed grief over Roy's demise. In a post on X,

Adityanath said, "The demise of Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy is very sad. Prayers to Lord Shri Ram to give place to the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti."

Yadav had said Roy's death is a "loss for Uttar Pradesh and the country because along with being a very successful businessman, he was also a very sensitive person with a big heart who helped countless people and became their support".

# BIOMETRICS MUST FOR WEDDINGS Marriage registrars welcome Bengal govt's move

Kolkata, Nov 16 (PTI):

Marriage registrars in West Bengal have welcomed the state government's decision to make biometrics mandatory for registration of weddings from November 1, saying it will check fake marriages and duplicity of identities.

The registrars, however, expressed concern that technical glitches in the portal meant for the purpose were preventing registrations. "This is a very good move by the state government as it will make the entire process foolproof," city-based marriage registrar and advocate Vivek Sharma told PTI.

आम सूचना
सर्वसाधारण को एक सूचना के माध्यम से यह सूचित किया जाता है कि...

Indian Overseas Bank
POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank...

# 'India has showed how scientific research can be used in every sector'

New Delhi, Nov 11 (PTI):

India has set an example for the world on how scientific research can be used for development in every sector, Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. Speaking at the curtain-raiser event of the India International Science Festival set to take place in Faridabad from January 17-20, Singh said India is the first country to use technology for development in every sector.



Dr Jitendra Singh

Science and Technology. He added that whether it is the roads, railways, Smart City project, digital health, deep sea exploration, ground-

water mapping, or crop imaging, the applications of science and technology are quite visible to all. On the occasion of the ninth India International Science Festival (IISF), the minister said the aim would be to reach out to the public and try to connect the masses with science and technology.

The theme of IISF 2023 is 'Science and Technology - Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal' aimed at building a platform for inspiring the public at large and students, educators, scientists, researchers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs and science communicators.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.: WRSR-23-24-DismantlingRT Dated 09 11 2023
Name of the Work: Dismantling and Mounting of all sub-assemblies of Air Brake system...

NAME CHANGE
It is informed to the general public that I, Shivangi Shukla, D/o Dharendra Kumar Shukla, resident of B-11, Shailendra Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, have changed my old name Shivangi Shukla, D/o Dharendra Kumar Shukla to SHIVANGI SHUKLA JAIN, W/o Prabhav Jain. So in future I should be recognized by my new name that is SHIVANGI SHUKLA JAIN, W/o Prabhav Jain in all Government and other documents.

Notice under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act)
S. NO Name of Borrower(s) Particulars of Mortgaged Property (ies) (B) Date Of NPA(C) Outstanding Amount (Rs.) (D)



# Polling teams allotted polling centres

■ Randomisation done in the presence of observers

Bilaspur, Nov 16:

After the formation of polling team and training, they have been allotted the polling centres for the polling to be held on Nov 17. Under the randomization procedure at NIC room, they were put on duty using a software. Collector and DRO Avneesh Sharan, general observer Udayan Mishra, Nayali Ite, District CEO Ajay Agrawal, DyDEO Shivkumar Banerjee and all other returning officers were present.

In the same way, the duty of micro-observers in sensitive polling centres too was finalised through randomisation



procedure. The randomisation procedure using election commission's software was done by Director NIC Manoj

Kumar Singh. The selected teams will be distributed election materials from Govt Engineering College, Koni in the morn-

ing and then would be sent to their respective destination. The polling will be held on Nov 17 starting from 8:00 am.

# Two nabbed under gambling act

Khairagarh, Nov 16:

It was on tip from an informer that the Police check-post team nabbed the accused red-handed after conducting raid at the venue. The accused Homan Verma S/o Tarachand Verma, (25) and Shishupal Kurre S/o Dayaram Kurre (39), R/o Gram Rengakathera were nabbed with cash of Rs 4215 and pack of 52 cards. The accused were taken into arrest and on finding them guilty of Gambling Act, a case under section 3 (2) of CG Gambling Prohibition Act was filed at Police Chowki Jalbandha and since the case was bailable, the two accused were released on bail. In this entire action, ASI Police Check-post Jalbandha- ML Bhandekar, RK Thakur, head constable Raghunath Sidar, Suraj Sharma, R Daulat Markam, R Rajendra Netam and R Domar Singh played an important role.

# Excise deptt seize 2173 liquor bottles



■ In raid conducted by Excise dept

Bilaspur, Nov 16:

In view of the Assembly polls, instructions have been given by the Election Commission (EC) to take strict action against illicit sale of liquor and its transportation. In this context, as per instructions by the Collector and DRO Bilaspur, special drive has been launched to illegal

storage, sale and transportation of liquor in the district.

In this context, the Excise department conducted inspection in Gas Godown in Bilha by Tehsildar Bilha, FST Bilha Thana and Excise team of Bilha. In case of complaint about illegal collection of liquor near Sakti By-pass road in Bilaspur, the team conducted raid. In this case, a total of 2173 pieces of liquor bottles packed in a plastic bag were found

near Thana Sakri on Sakri-Bilaspur By-pass road and each having 180 ml of liquor, totalling 391.13 ltrs of country liquor inside it. A case under section 34 (1)(K) and 34 (2), 59 (K) of Excise Act was filed against unknown.

Similarly the Excise department Bilaspur seized 391.14 ltrs of country liquor plain having a market value of 164278.8 on Nov 15 in a case under section 34 (1)(K) and 34 (2) and 59 (K) of Excise Act.

# Collector appeals voters to exercise their franchise



■ In the festival of democracy on Nov 17

Bilaspur, Nov 16:

Collector and DRO Avneesh Sharan has appealed the citizens and voters to exercise their franchise on Nov 17 without any fear and informed that polling will start on Nov 17 at 8:00 am and conclude at 5:00 pm. Collector said that in this festival of democracy, every voter should take

part in the polling process. Exercise one's franchise is not only a right, but a responsibility as well. The voter should utilise this particular right given to him and fulfill his or her responsibility with due sincerity. Every single vote has its importance in this festival of democracy. Collector and DRO Avneesh Sharan has appealed for participation by all the eligible voters without fail in this sacred work.

Six candidates of Basna, 10 of Saraipali submit election expenditure

Mahasamund, Nov 16:

In view of last date for submission of election expenditure in view of Assembly poll 2023, a total of 6 candidates out of total 8 contesting VS polls from Basna submitted their election expenditure here on Wednesday.

Two candidates viz. Arvind Pradhan (independent) and Jagdish Sidar of Hamar Raj Party have not submitted their election expenditure and due to which Returning Officer Basna has been informed about issuing show cause notice to them. In the same way, of all the 10 candidates contesting from Saraipali VS area have submitted their election expenditure and its cross-checking and truth is being checked, informs Liaisoning officer SK Sahu in a press release.

# Absconding accused in molestation case nabbed

Khairagarh, Nov 16:

The absconding accused involved in molestation of a minor girl has been nabbed by Chuikhadan police here on Wednesday. It is notable here that family members of the minor girl have lodged complaint in Chuikhadan police station in January 2022 that their 17 yr old girl has left from their house without informing anyone or else she has been lured by a unknown person and ran away with her. Taking the matter seriously, SP Ankit Sharma taking the minor girl as sensitive for the region, gave instructions to bring back the girl and arrest the accused.

After this based upon tip from an informer, the accused was nabbed on 6 Dec 2022 and the statement of the girl was registered by Mahila Police and on confirmation of her molestation a case under section 366 (K), 376(2) (D), IPC and section 4,6 of POCSO Act was filed against the accused Govinda Verma (22), S/o Jagannath Verma, R/o Jom Thana Chuikhadan. Since the accused was absconding, his search was going on.

It was during investigation, it was



on tip from an informer that the accused Govinda Verma was nabbed on 14 Nove from Gram Jom and after interrogation he accepted the crime. He was produced in the court and sent to jail. In the above action ASI Murl Singh Baghel, constable Dilip Nishad, Vinod Porte, Devlal Dhruv played an important role.

# Sriwas spells magic on 'dholak'

■ During Govardhan Puja

Rajim, Nov 16:

A 56 yr old Harak Sriwas of Choubandha playing 'percussion' (Dholak) and 'tabla' for last 40 yrs has got such an experience that whichever song one wants to hear, he can play that tune and rhythm. It is worthwhile to mention here that on occasion of 'Govardhan Puja', in the 'darbar' of Goddess Laxmi, he presented wonderful rendition of 'Dholak' in the 'sewa geet' and this left the audience spellbound. During talks, Sriwas informed that he is playing 'dholak na' and 'tabla' since the age of 16. First he used to play on 'thali' and can as 'tabla' and seeing this his brother Sewak Sriwas gifted him a 'dholak' and on which he practiced daily. At the age of 16 yrs, he got opportunity to perform on the stage of Ramleela and then the Mandal's manager motivated him and since then he has been playing 'dholak' for last 40 yrs. It is worthwhile to mention here that Sriwas has studied upto Class 6th and his excellence in



the 'tabla' and 'dholak' is such that he has been performing in Ramayan, Ramleela Manch, 'bhajans', 'Nacha', 'Chandani', 'Ramsata', tableau and 'jas geet' programmes enthralling the audience. On asking as to how many times he has performed, he said that it is simply incomparable. At many places he has been presented with prizes and awards and to which he has kept safely intact. He said that an artist is not craving only for accolades and motivation, but the response he gets on the dais is something incomparable.

# Dr Asati presents two research papers on Drumstick

■ In an Int'l Seminar held in Arkazoo of Brazil

■ Brings laurels to Agriculture College of Chuikhadan of KCG district

Khairagarh, Nov 16:



In the four-day International seminar held in Arkazoo of Brazil from Nov 8-11, the Agriculture College of Chuikhadan got due prominence. This was the third international seminar on drumsticks and in which the Asst. Prof. BS Asati from Rani Avantibai Lohi Agriculture College and Research Centre, Chuikhadan working in the Vegetable Science department, presented his 2 research papers on drumstick. Dr Asati is doing research works on drumstick for last 12 yrs. It is after collecting different varieties of drumsticks from Chhattisgarh and other 220 other districts all over India, had done to upgrade its quality. In his research papers, he presented his papers on Chhattisgarh's first Fortified Moringa Herbal tea and demonstrated it as well. The second presentation in this seminar was on the study of effect of 'Ropan Jaymiti' for gaining maximum production of Drumstick leaves and its better quality. Agriculture scientists from all over world took part. In this seminar organ-

ized, agriculture scientists from China, America, USA, South Africa, Armenia, Phillipines, Brazil and other countries took part and hailed the presentation of research papers on Drumstick. This not only brought honours to Khairagarh-Chuikhadan - Gandai distric, but that of entire State of Chhattisgarh. Dr Asati informed that the Caversatin and Cholrogenic acid found in the leaves of drumstick tree, helps in reducing blood sugar present in the blood. This tea can be helpful in controlling insulin in the body. Apart from this the Phenol content, anti-oxidants, flavonoids, tenon, Betacarotin, calcium and other elements are also found in the drumstick. If everyday one drinks Moringa tea, one feels fresh and energetic and it controls blood pressure, improves digestion and improves skin colour and health and reduces obesity. Drumstick is magical plant at global level. Dr Asati said that all over the world, Drumstick is being held at magical

plant, as its every part including tree bark, leaves, roots, fruit, flowers are all useful. In the 92 different nutritional elements found in the drumstick leaves, has four times more Vitamin 'A' then carrot; 7 times more of Vitamin-C then Orange; 3 times more iron than 'Palak'; and 4 times more calcium than milk; 3 times of Potassium then Banana and 3 times more of Vitamin 'E' than Almonds. In the leaves of Drumstick, there is a chemical called 'Terigospargin' and which helps in providing treatment to 300 small and big diseases like diabetes, cancer, pain in the bones, joints, kidney problems, liver problem, urine related ailments and others. In the research it was found that for nutrition, 4-5 gms of powder of Drumstick leaves can be given to elders and 1-2 gms to children per day. Since the leaves of Drumstick have lots of nutritional elements it can prove to be helpful in removing malnutrition found in the states.

Dr Asati informed that malnutrition is still a problem in Chhattisgarh and this can play an important role in removing mal-nutrition and can be included in the mid-day meal programme, Aganbadi programmes and can be given to pregnant women and children as supplement and this can help reducing iron content and other nutritional elements required for growth of child during pregnancy.

As per the GoI Niti Aayog report, there is mal-nutrition among 37.60 % children upto 5 yrs age in Chhattisgarh and 41.50 % of rural women and girls are suffering with Anemia. To solve this problem, Dr Asati has developed ready-to-eat 'Pulav' and ready-to-eat 'Poha' at initial level. On experimental basis, he has taken initiative to include use of drumsticks and its leave in different programmes in District Rajnandgaon, Dantewada and Bastar in the mid-day meal and in tribal ashrams and hostels.

# Korea district gears up for Assembly Elections today

■ Over 2 lakh voters to shape democracy

Korea, Nov 16:

As the state prepares for Assembly Elections 2023, the district of Korea stands ready to participate enthusiastically. With over two lakh voters from Baikunthpur and Sonhat eagerly anticipating their chance to shape the democratic process, the region is poised for a significant electoral exercise.

**Diverse Candidate Lineup**

In Baikunthpur's Assembly Number-3, a diverse field of eight candidates is vying for victory. Among them are Congress candidate Ambika Singhdev, Dr. Akash Kumar from Aam Aadmi Party, Durgesh Sahu from Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J), Bhaiya Lal Rajwade from Bharatiya Janata Party, Major Prasad Yadav from Bharatiya Shakti Chetna Party, Somar Sai Lohar from Samajwadi Party, Sanjay Singh Kamro from Gondwana Ganatantra Party, and independent candidate Brijmohan Sahu.

**Robust Voter Demographics**

A total of 228 polling stations have been established in Baikunthpur Assembly Number-03, where male voters number 84,047, female voters stand at 84,029, and there are 5 voters who identify as the third gender.



This totals 1,68,081 eligible voters in the district. In Bharatpur-Sonhat (partial) assembly elections, 78 polling stations will be in operation, with a total of 2,04,456 voters across 306 polling stations.

**Inclusivity and Accessibility**

The election process ensures inclusivity, with 6,493 new voters aged 18 to 19, 2,090 disabled voters, and 1,231 voters aged above 80. Gender-wise, there are 1,000 voters in the third-gender category.

**Postal Voting**

To accommodate citizens aged 80 and above, those with disabilities of 40 percent or more, and employees transferred from other districts, postal voting has been facilitated. As of now, 950 voters have cast their votes through postal ballots.

**Strategic Polling Stations**

Polling stations have been strategically set up across the region, including 13 in Baikunthpur urban body, 84 in Baikunthpur rural, 15 in Charcha urban body, 73 in Patna, and 43 in Bachara Ponda.

**Special Polling Centers**

In line with Election Commission of India directives, special polling centers have been established. Among them, 10 Sangwari polling centers will be run by women, and one each for disabled and youth voters. Additionally, 5 model polling centers and 150 web-casting polling centers have been established to ensure transparency.

**Efficient Election Administration**

To facilitate the election process, the District Election Commission has organized vehicle arrangements. With 50 routes, 120

vehicles, and 24 sector officers overseeing 30 buses, 23 buses, 54 mini-buses, 20 pickups, 7 tractors, and 5 trucks, more than a thousand officers and employees are actively involved. This includes 23 micro-observers, 228 BLOs, and 30 BLO supervisors dedicated to the voting process.

**24-Hour Helpline**

For election-related information and complaints, a 24-hour call center has been established in the District Election Office. Citizens can reach out by dialing 1950 or 07836-232555.

**Small-Scale Voting**

In a remarkable feat, one polling station in the district boasts the lowest number of voters, with just 3 male and 2 female voters in Sehradand, 7 male and 5 female voters in Kant, whereas in Ravla polling station only 14 male voters and 9 female voters will vote.

**Cracking Down on Illicit Liquor**

The district has also seen proactive efforts to maintain the sanctity of the election process. The District Excise Office has reported the seizure of liquor worth Rs 72,330, with 31 cases registered and 29 individuals arrested in the lead-up to the elections. As the district prepares to participate in the democratic process, it is clear that over two lakh voters from Baikunthpur Assembly and Sonhat are set to be witnesses to the strength and vibrancy of democracy.



# US and China agree to resume military communications during Biden-Xi summit

Woodside (California), Nov 16 (PTI): US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have agreed to resume high-level military communication, counter-narcotics cooperation and discussion on artificial intelligence as they met for four hours in a bid to establish a working relationship following a period of strained ties.



President Joe Biden greets China's President Xi Jinping at the Filoli Estate in Woodside, Calif. on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperative conference.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The in-person meeting, the first time in more than a year, was held at the picturesque Filoli Estate, about 40 km south of San Francisco.

"We're back to direct, open, clear communications," Biden said following the meeting.

The United States and China have made important progress in their bi-

lateral ties, he said.

"These are tangible steps in the right direction to determine what's useful and what's not useful, what's dangerous and what's acceptable. Moreover, there is evidence of cases that I've made all along. The United States will continue to compete vigorously with the People's Republic of China, but we'll manage

that competition responsibly, so it doesn't veer into conflict or accidental conflict," Biden told reporters here at a news conference.

Biden said a lack of communication was "how accidents happen" and added that both presidents could now "pick up the phone and be directly heard immediately".

China severed military-to-military communica-

tions last year after then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. Beijing views self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and has threatened to annex it by force if necessary.

Biden said that, while many disagreements remained between them, Xi had "just been straight". He said the talks were "some of the most constructive and productive discussions we've had".

The two sides also announced several other agreements in areas that have become sources of tension in recent times.

These included taking steps to tackle the flow of fentanyl into the US, which has contributed to a rise in overdose deaths in the country.

Chinese manufacturing companies are a source not only of the synthetic opioid itself but of precursor chemicals which can be combined to make it.

## DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Vietnam counterpart Phan Van Giang during a meeting on the sidelines of the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus, in Jakarta, Thursday, Nov. 16.

# UNSC adopts resolution calling for urgent humanitarian pauses, corridors in Gaza

United Nations, Nov 16 (PTI):

The UN Security Council has called for urgent humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout Gaza to allow unhindered humanitarian access in the strip, finally overcoming deadlock and adopting a resolution in the month-long Israel-Hamas conflict.

The 15-nation Council adopted a resolution on Wednesday that called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups, especially children, as well as ensuring immediate humanitarian access.

The Malta-drafted resolution was adopted with 12 votes in favour, none



against and three abstentions from Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The resolution calls for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days to enable, consistent with interna-

tional humanitarian law, the full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access" for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners to facilitate the continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services throughout the Gaza

Strip. The adoption of the resolution came after four failed attempts last month in the Council to take action on allowing humanitarian access in the Israel-Hamas conflict that broke out after the militant group attacked Israel on October 7. The resolution by the US that would have

affirmed the right of member states to defend themselves against threats to peace and security posed by acts of terrorism, was vetoed by Russia and China. Two resolutions by Moscow failed to get sufficient votes in their favour while the Brazil text that would have called for humanitarian pauses to allow full access for aid to the Gaza strip was vetoed by the US. US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, in her explanation of the vote, said that the text does not include condemnation of Hamas but this is the first time the Council has ever adopted a resolution that "even mentions the word Hamas."

San Francisco, Nov 16 (PTI):

US President Joe Biden has appointed Indian American Shakuntla L. Bhaya to serve in a key role, the White House said.

Bhaya was appointed as a member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States. It is among the several new appointments announced by Biden on Wednesday, the White House said.

Bhaya is a co-owner of a statewide Delaware law firm, Law Offices of Doroshov, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya. Her practice focuses on representing individuals who are seriously injured as a

result of businesses and people making unsafe decisions, the White House said.

For the last seven years, Bhaya has been a member of Governor Carney's Judicial Nominating Commission. In addition to practising law, Bhaya is very involved in Delaware politics.

She is currently a member of the Delaware Democratic Party's State Executive Committee. Bhaya, past President of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association, continues to be involved in protecting consumers' 7th Amendment Right to a jury trial and access to courts. Bhaya is also a member of the American

Association for Justice and American Civil Liberties Union and is actively involved in helping pro-choice democratic women become elected to office.

She was actively involved in fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and helping its members to adopt children, seek legal redress when discriminated in the workplace, and permit people to marry. Bhaya is the first South Asian Indian to be admitted to the Delaware Bar Association.

Bhaya continues to work towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and in politics.

# Biden appoints Indian American to key position

## Sikh restaurateur racially targeted in Australia

Melbourne, Nov 16 (PTI):

A Sikh restaurateur living in Australia has alleged that he has been racially targeted several times in recent months, telling him to "go home" and smearing his car with dog excrement.

Jarnail Singh, who runs a restaurant in Hobart, Tasmania, said he has been continuously targeted for over the last two, or three months, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

"Never, ever has this happened to me before, and it's been continuous (over) the last two, three months," Singh was quoted as saying. "It's mentally very stressful when it comes to your house, and particularly (being target-

ed) with your name on it... It's too much mental stress. Something has to be done," Singh told ABC News on Tuesday.

The first incident involved dog excrement being smeared on the door handles of his car, for four or five days in a row, outside his home.

Then, he found racist graffiti in his driveway, telling him "Go home, Indian".

He reported the matter to the police, but, without video evidence, little could be done to track down who was behind it.

Filled with racist comments, Singh first assumed the letter had been written by a young person, and did his best to ignore it, after reporting it to police.

## Biden says he still believes Xi Jinping is a dictator

Woodside (California), Nov 16 (PTI): US President Joe Biden has once again called his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping a "dictator", just hours after they met for the first time in more than a year and held candid and productive discussions to revive bilateral ties.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

"Well, look, he is (a dictator)," Biden told reporters in response to a question when reminded about the similar remarks he had made about Xi early this year.

"I mean, he's a dictator in the sense that he is a guy who runs a country that is a communist country that's based on a form of government totally different than ours," Biden, 80, said.

## IMF reaches staff-level agreement with Pakistan on \$700 mn bailout review

Islamabad, Nov 16 (PTI):

Pakistan and the IMF reached a staff-level agreement for the release of a USD 700 million second tranche of an ongoing USD 3 billion bailout package, the global lender said on Wednesday, in a major relief to the cash-strapped country.

While approving the USD 3 billion loan in July this year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had also released the first tranche of USD 1.2 billion.

Although essentially a bridge loan, it offered much respite to Pakistan, battling an acute balance of payments crisis and falling foreign exchange reserves.

A team led by the IMF

mission chief for Pakistan, Nathan Porter, visited Islamabad from November 2-15 to hold discussions on the first review of the country's economic programme supported by a stand-by arrangement (SBA), according to a statement issued by the global lender after the discussions.

"The IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) with the Pakistani authorities on the first review of their stabilisation programme supported by the IMF's USD 3 billion," the statement said.

"The agreement is subject to the approval of the IMF's Executive Board. Upon approval, around USD 700 million will be-

come available, bringing total disbursements under the programme to almost USD 1.9 billion," it added.

Porter said that anchored by the stabilisation policies under the SBA, "a nascent recovery is underway, buoyed by international partners' support and signs of improved confidence."

Pointing out that the steadfast execution of the FY24 budget, continued adjustment of energy prices, and renewed flows into the foreign exchange (FX) market have lessened fiscal and external pressures, he said that inflation is expected to decline over the coming months amid receding supply constraints and modest demand.

## Bangladesh to hold general elections on January 7

Dhaka, Nov 16 (PTI):

Bangladesh will hold the much-awaited general elections on January 7, the chief election commissioner announced on Wednesday, amidst violent protests by the Opposition BNP and its allies demanding a non-party interim government to conduct transparent polls. Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal announced the dates of the elections during an address to the nation that was telecast live - the first such announcement in the history of Bangladesh. "The 12th Jatiya Sansad (parliamentary) elections will be held on January 7, 2024 (Sunday)," he announced shortly after a meeting with four commissioners

of the constitutionally independent commission. Awal said the last day to submit nomination papers will be November 30 and scrutiny of nomination papers will be from December 1 to December 4.

The last date for withdrawal of candidature is December 17. The election body will allot election symbols to candidates on December 18. Awal also said the election campaign will run from December 18 to January 5, 2024 midnight. He said a smooth election required a congenial atmosphere but "for a long time there were differences of opinion among political leadership on the question of election, particularly over the institutional method of the polling".

## BAKING BREAD



A Palestinian woman bakes bread in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Thursday, Nov. 16.

# India not ruling out investigation into Canada's allegations over Nijjar: Jaishankar

London, Nov 16 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is not ruling out an investigation into Canada's allegations about the involvement of the Indian government's agents in the killing of a Khalistani separatist in that country but wants it to provide evidence to back its claims.

Jaishankar made the comments on Wednesday in response to questions during a conversation with veteran journalist Lionel Barber titled How a Billion People See the World' here.

"If you have a reason to make such an allegation please share the evidence because we are not ruling



out an investigation," Jaishankar, who is here on a five-day official visit to the UK, said while responding to a question. He emphasised that Canada has not shared any evidence with India to support its allegations.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau's allegations in September of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". Jaishankar said

that freedom of speech and freedom of expression comes with a certain responsibility and the misuse of those freedoms and the toleration of that misuse for political purposes would be very wrong, referring to the pro-Khalistani activities in Canada.

Jaishankar said that he was in touch with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly on the issue.

He recalled the attacks on the High Commission of India in Canada, or smoke bomb attacks on the High Commission and Consulate General, and said Indian diplomats were intimidated in public, with no action from the Canadian authorities against culprits.





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### India's Maritime Commitment Toward Peace and Prosperity

In a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape, India stands firm in its commitment to uphold the principles of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered this resounding message during a recent address at a meeting of the 10-nation ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its dialogue partners in Jakarta. Against the backdrop of China's increasing military activities in the South China Sea, Singh's words carry significant weight and reflect India's unwavering dedication to maintaining peace and stability in the region. The importance of dialogue and diplomacy as essential tools for ensuring enduring peace and stability on the global stage was a central theme of Singh's address. He emphasized that we are living in an era where the idea of war should be obsolete, urging nations to relinquish the "us versus them" mindset. Instead, he advocated for a collaborative approach that fosters cooperation and mutual understanding among nations. India's commitment to freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters is rooted in adherence to international laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 1982. This commitment is vital not only for India but also for the global community. It underscores the significance of maintaining open and secure sea lanes, which are essential for the global economy and trade. The backdrop against which these assertions are made is the growing concern over China's expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea. These claims have raised alarm bells worldwide, given the strategic importance of the region, which is rich in hydrocarbon resources. In response to China's assertiveness, several countries in the region, including Vietnam, the Philippines, and Brunei, have asserted their counter-claims, further complicating an already contentious situation. Addressing another pressing issue, Minister Singh highlighted terrorism as a grave threat to international peace and security. He called for concerted efforts and cooperation among nations to combat this menace effectively. Terrorism knows no boundaries, and its repercussions are felt globally, making it imperative for nations to work together to ensure the safety and security of their citizens. The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) serves as a crucial platform for regional cooperation in addressing security challenges. Comprising the 10 ASEAN member states and eight dialogue partners, including India, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States, this forum fosters dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders. Indonesia's role as the current chair of the ADMM-Plus underscores its commitment to promoting regional security and cooperation. Minister Singh emphasized the importance of regional security initiatives that are consultative and development-oriented, reflecting a broader consensus among stakeholders. He pledged India's commitment to nurturing practical, forward-looking, and result-oriented cooperation within the ADMM-Plus framework to enhance maritime security in the region. India's engagement with ASEAN dates back to 1992 when it became a dialogue partner. The ADMM-Plus, initiated in Hanoi in October 2010, has become an annual forum for defense ministers to strengthen regional security cooperation. India's active participation in this platform underscores its commitment to contributing to regional stability and security. As the geopolitical landscape continues to evolve, India remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting a peaceful and secure maritime environment for all nations.

### Expediting Lawmaker Trials Preserving Democracy's Integrity

Yash Pal Ralhan

In a defining moment for our nation's legal landscape, the Supreme Court has issued a groundbreaking directive aimed at the expeditious resolution of criminal cases involving lawmakers. The court's mandate is clear: all High Courts must promptly establish specialized tribunals and proactively initiate suo motu cases to oversee the languishing criminal proceedings against Members of Parliament and members of Legislative Assemblies. This move serves as a beacon of hope, reigniting the prospect of decriminalizing Indian politics and restoring the faith of the people in the democratic process. The Apex Court's recognition of the intricate challenges in providing universal guidelines to trial courts for the swift disposition of cases concerning lawmakers demonstrates its nuanced understanding of the issue at hand. The ruling explicitly outlines that High Courts are obligated to institute an exclusive panel, presided over by either the Chief Justice or a panel designated by the Chief Justice, with the sole purpose of overseeing criminal trials involving legislators. Additionally, High Courts are granted the authority to summon specialized lower courts for regular updates on the progress of ongoing trials against lawmakers involved in criminal proceedings. Principal District and Sessions Judges bear the responsibility of ensuring the provision of adequate infrastructure and cutting-edge technological facilities for these specialized courts, tasked with adjudicating cases involving lawmakers. The urgency of this directive cannot be overstated. In the recent Lok Sabha elections, over 150 Members of Parliament were found to be burdened with grave criminal charges, including offenses such as rape, murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, and crimes against women. Many legislators find themselves entangled in significant legal quandaries, with pending cases scattered across a myriad of judicial forums. Despite the provision for the disqualification of convicted lawmakers, substantive transformations have remained elusive. The intended purpose of disqualification, which seeks to cleanse politics of criminal elements, is often subverted by protracted judicial proceedings, allowing lawmakers to evade the legal consequences of their actions. The labyrinthine legal journey, stretching from lower courts to High Courts and culminating in the Supreme Court, has traditionally consumed years, if not decades. Even with the advent of specialized trial courts, a temporal interlude remains inevitable before a final verdict is reached. However, the resolute directive from the Supreme Court is poised to catalyze much-needed reforms within the political sphere. The prevailing conundrum stems from the fact that every political faction, irrespective of ideology, harbors lawmakers ensnared in pending legal quagmires. In the current political landscape, the paramount criterion for candidate selection often revolves around electoral viability, relegating the imperative of political reform to a state of neglect. It is incumbent upon the High Courts to swiftly provide the requisite infrastructure and vigilantly oversee its implementation. The initiation of a streamlined legal process is now underway, holding the promise of a salutary and transformative denouement. As the world's largest democracy, India sets an example for many nations that aspire to emulate our democratic practices. It is a matter of immense pride, and it behooves our government to uphold the sanctity of our democracy by adhering to the guidelines laid out in this crucial endeavour. The time for action is now, and our nation's democratic integrity depends on it.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the newspaper.)

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

### PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

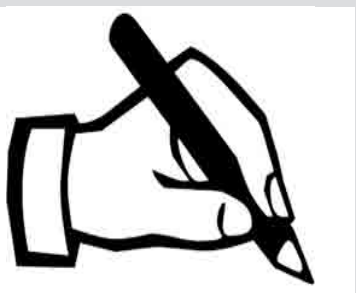


Camels at the Pushkar camel fair in Pushkar, Ajmer, Thursday, Nov. 16. Thousands of livestock traders from the region come to the traditional camel fair where livestock, mainly camels, are traded.

## The condition of newspapers and writers is worrying



DR SATYAVAN SAURABH



Newspapers have played an important role in bringing awareness to the society. This role is not limited to any one country or region, no one can deny the important role of newspapers in all the progressive-thinking countries of the world. Media and especially print media have amazing power to shape public opinion. Newspapers work like a bridge to gather public opinion in policy making and to convey public opinion to policymakers. Traditional journalism served by newspapers in India has seen many ups and downs. Be it the first English language newspaper – the Bengal Gazette published by James Hickey in 1779 or the newspapers that started being published in Indian languages in the first half of the 19th century.

Government restrictions, economic recession, and the expansion of television had shaken the newspaper industry before, but never before had the question been asked whether print media would survive in India or not. But today newspapers and even writers will have to defeat Google and Facebook to survive.

The question is, given the worsening situation, how will they do this? The most important factor is the growth of news carriers – Google, Facebook, and others. On one hand, they take away news produced by someone else, and on the other hand, they take away the livelihood-revenue of newspapers.

In a worse situation than these, some writers write for newspapers, who work hard every day, but when they see the remuneration, it is like finding a pearl in the sea, but there is no writer's support. Because of the abundance of material on the Internet, newspapers pick up something from anywhere and paste it. In such a situation, there is neither the need for a writer nor the hassle of a writer's cooperation. Due to this, journalism has today become a business for the cunning-minded people who print fifty hundred copies or bring out digital editions and in return make money from advertisements. Not only this, instead of giving literary support to the writers, such people ask the writers to get their articles published. They also demand money. Journalism like

this is shameful.

The current situation is a cause for concern as newspapers remain a reliable source of information due to their fixed format. A newspaper is a complete entity, ready, and certain of its content. In contrast, digital news is constantly evolving, being updated and improved regularly. This sense of "completeness" is the strength of newspapers, as once something is printed, it cannot be altered like content on television or digital platforms. However, challenges to this fixed format are on the rise. A significant dilemma arises regarding whether Indian readers are willing to pay for quality content when free alternatives are readily available. Finding a definitive answer to this question is no easy task.

If readers do not pay, as a result, newspapers are also avoiding their writers in the name of payment. But if there are no writers left, newspapers will die. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the newspapers to keep the writers alive. One thing to think about with newspapers is, what is the financial condition of the writers. I don't know much, but except for some big writers and journalists, it is difficult to support one's family just by writing. Seeing two lakh rupees in a lump sum is a dream. Why does a writer get overwhelmed after seeing so much money at once?

The newspaper's biggest asset is its infrastructure, which is also its problem. This is huge, as the industry is dependent on a large number of human labor due to large editorial teams, printing presses, circulation, and marketing networks. Most

newspapers subsidize the cost of production from their revenues. Circulation is decreasing day by day because there is no support from the government. This is the story of almost all the newspapers. They are closing down due to lack of funds. Newspapers are still alive only because of the commitment of those who run them.

Newspapers or the serious news industry can no longer just do one thing – news gathering – it needs to embrace technology with a better understanding of the digital ecosystem, work with smaller institutions and individuals, and pay fair remuneration to writers. From presenting the story in multiple formats to exploring new marketing strategies. Hopefully, newspapers will focus on these realities before it's too late.

Finally, personally driven video blogs, social media platforms, messaging groups, and applications also hold big traction, taking traffic away from newspaper portals as consumers understand that their messages on social media are increasingly able to make an impact. So naturally consumers are moving away from traditional media around the world. The serious news industry can still survive by producing high-quality content because it still has a strong reporting team under the watchful eyes of solid editors of yesterday who are not averse to technology and are willing to work with a new generation of dynamics.

(Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Funding Climate Change Mitigation

Climate change-induced disasters demand substantial funding for sustainable mitigation. The latest UN environmental report highlights the necessity for countries to allocate between \$217 billion to \$387 billion annually, based on their location and vulnerability, to combat natural disasters in the coming decades. Currently, underdeveloped and developing nations only have access to approximately 15 percent of the required funds. Developed countries must collaborate and shoulder the technological and financial burdens, supporting less fortunate nations. Beyond raising social awareness, funding will be pivotal in shaping effective climate change responses.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur, West Bengal

#### Money's pitfall lessons

The success story of Subrata Roy, Chairperson of Sahara India Pariwar, who died a few days ago, got an irreparable jolt for his insatiable appetite for money. This should be a good message in favour of honesty. However, crony capitalism in which a handful of business persons are getting undue political favour, opaque electoral bond scheme and write-off of huge amounts of bank loans for some super-rich business persons have unfortunately been giving altogether a different message.

Sujit De, Kolkata

#### Cricketing Excellence

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semifinal clash between India and New Zealand showcased an unforgettable spectacle of cricketing brilliance. The intense match exhibited exceptional skills, determination, and a relentless pursuit of victory from both teams, leaving fans on the edge of their seats. The electrifying atmosphere and competition illustrated the true spirit of cricket, captivating millions worldwide. Despite the outcome, the players' camaraderie and mutual respect set a positive example. Both India and New Zealand deserve praise for their unwavering commitment to the sport. Cricket enthusiasts eagerly anticipate future matches, hoping for more thrilling competition and the continuation of fair play.

Maimul Safui, Howrah

#### Keep the air clean

Firecrackers were prohibited in four districts, including Patna, on Diwali. Yet this hadn't been put into action. Air pollution increased as a consequence. In Patna and neighboring places, the air has turned poisonous. During the Diwali celebrations, people neglected the environment. We shall have to pay the price for our careless actions if we do not stop. Thus, we should endeavor to keep up clean air rather than polluting it.

Ibne Ali, Sitamarhi

## One Nation, One Education policy is the need of the hour



Er. Prabhat Kishore

The "Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009" was implemented on 1st April 2010 with the objective of ensuring quality education to all children in the country. In the light of the provision of the Act, rules & regulations were promulgated by the State Governments regarding grant of approval to private schools and minimum criteria and conditions were prescribed for all schools. Within six months of the implementation of the rules, all private schools had to submit self-declaration, before a three-member district committee, regarding compliance of the standards and norms mentioned in the Act and fulfillment of the conditions. The norms fixed includes school to be operated through a legitimate society/trust, not to be operated for the benefit of any individual or group, to work by the values enshrined in the constitution, to use the building/structure/ground etc. only for education

and skill development.

There are some minimum standards, norms and conditions for schools in the law, such as one class room per teacher, drinking water facility, toilet, playground, kitchen, barrier free elements, boundary wall, provision of teachers on the basis of number of students, prescribed minimum qualification in the employment of teachers, enrollment of children from disadvantaged and weaker sections on at least 25 percent seats in first and early childhood classes, enrollment of children in age-related classes and special training to make them skilled, relevant courses by educational authority, teaching in the mother tongue, neither any test nor donation for admission etc. Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been constituted at national as well as state level.

The concerned district committee had to do a site inspection within three months and give approval in case the schools met the standards and norms and in case of non-compliance, three years' time was to be given to complete them. Some private schools in the states openly challenged the government's regulations and called it interference in the autonomy of the school.

The Provision and fulfillment of the standards and norms cannot be termed government interference. In fact, according to the law, the standards, norms and conditions set for the school are not in the capacity of 90 percent of the private schools. They neither have adequate physical infrastructure nor teachers with prescribed qualifications. Each school has its own cumbersome & irrelevant curriculum

and ropey English has been forcibly imposed on children instead of their mother tongue. The admission test of children for enrollment is going on fearlessly. They are finding themselves naked in the mirror of the law. For them education is just a business and school is a shop. How then can they declare that their school is not a non-profit institution?

As per rule, 75 percent of the members of the school management committee will be parents. But the parents, who in the name of the future of their children pay the huge amount with their blood and sweat, are being termed as outsiders by the school administrators. Minority missionary school managements see a dent in their religious freedom, but will they not hesitate to tell what percentage of children in their schools belong to the minority community? In fact, they are doing educational business taking advantages set for a minority institution.

It is a self-evident fact that since the schools have been governmentised, the intimate relationship of the society with the school has been disappeared. The community character of the school has vanished and the teachers have been turned into a government servant instead of guides & path-shower. They are being engaged in all kinds of non-educational works. Due to good service conditions and salary, instead of mission-mode spirit, the domination of the people only for livelihood has increased in this pious profession of teaching. The government education system has collapsed due to limitless powers of education officers and their plundering policy. People have lost their faith in government schools.

Taking illegitimate advantage of the flaws prevailing in government schools, private schools have established their empire, where on one hand there is the monopoly of managers, while the children are victims of financial, physical, mental & linguistic exploitation.

If we look at the routine of private schools, it is found that from the first day itself, huge amount is taken in the name of examination and fees. Every material from pencil to copy, book, dress has to be purchased from the school's prescribed shop at arbitrary expensive price. The order of not opening the school before 8 a.m. fixed by the administration has been overruled and the young child has to get up at 5 a.m. in a semi-sleep to prepare for the school. Instead of the mother tongue, they are forced to converse in English, otherwise they are either punished or ridiculed. Less class work and more homework are provided in the name of studies. Since parents pay huge amount in the form of fees, they make their children proficient either by themselves or through tuition. If the parents do not pay special attention to the children from their own level, then the education system of these schools will totally collapse. Under the burden of redundant courses, private schools have killed the childhood of children. A 5-6 year old child is left entangled in 30-40 books & notebooks. They have neither time to play nor proper sleep. After all, how would all round development of the children be?

How ridiculous is the demand to allow a separate seating arrangement for the children from 25 percent depressed and weaker sections of the so-

ciety? In the name of globalization and modernity, their heart, mind and thinking have also been adapted to the British Era mindset. If this is not the irony of independent India, then what is it that a child from a poor section is being openly declared as a second class citizen! On the one hand, we chant the melody of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and "Ek Desh Ek Vidhan", while on the other hand we do not shy away by making provision of separate education system for the resourceful citizens negating "Ek Desh Ek Gyan".

A decade has passed since the enactment of the Right to Education Act, but no action has taken against the schools, which did not meet the prescribed criteria. Due to the corrupt, sluggish and careless educational management; the graduates, on whose shoulders future of the country rests, are bound to bear the brunt of the de-railed education system.

Quality elementary education, full of all resources, is the foundation of a nation and children of all strata are its future. The private schools must not be allowed to do arbitrariness in the name of education, to mock the law, to keep the spirit of untouchability to poor children, to spoil children's childhood and to establish a parallel empire. The government should come forward with a "One Nation One Education" policy, so that all sections of the society may have same education and opportunity.

(The author is a technocrat & academician. He holds Master in Engineering from M.N. Regional Engineering College, Allahabad/Prayagraj.)



**BRIEF**

**Ongoing conflict**



**New Delhi:** The ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza pose a challenge to the India-Middle East-Europe Connectivity Corridor (IMEC) envisaged to enhance transportation efficiency and reduce logistic costs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. Terming the IMEC as one of the most promising connectivity projects, Sitharaman said it will be a win-win situation for all states involved as it enhances transportation efficiency, reduces logistic costs, increases economic unity, generates employment, and lowers Greenhouse Gas emissions, contributing to a cleaner, safer, better world.

**Air passenger**

**New Delhi:** Domestic air passenger traffic in the country recorded an annual growth of nearly 11 per cent to 1.26 crore in October, according to official data released on Thursday. The traffic stood at 1.14 crore passengers in October 2022 and at 1.22 crore passengers in September this year. The data released by aviation regulator DGCA showed that IndiGo carried 79.07 lakh passengers, garnering a domestic market share of 62.6 per cent in October.

**IMF quota**



**New Delhi:** The increase of developing economies quota in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can play a pivotal role in safeguarding global financial stability by enhancing the multilateral lending agency's permanent resources, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Wednesday. Participating in an event organised by the finance ministry, Nageswaran said the reforms of international financial institutions have to go beyond the World Bank and multilateral development banks (MDBs).

**New unit**

**New Delhi:** Vedanta's arm Malco Energy Ltd has set up a new unit in Saudi Arabia for copper business at an investment of 1,00,000 Saudi riyals (Rs 22.19 lakh). "Malco Energy Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, has incorporated a new wholly-owned subsidiary in the name of 'Vedanta Copper International VCI Company Limited,' metal and mining giant Vedanta said in a filing to BSE. Vedanta Copper International VCI Company Limited has been incorporated to explore growth opportunities in new geographies, it said.

## People want to move forward rapidly to make India developed nation by 2047: President Murmu

New Delhi, Nov 16:

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said people of the nation want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by 2047 and called upon important organisations, including Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), to contribute towards the goal. Addressing a gathering at the 3rd Audit Diwas Celebrations organised by CAG, the President noted that CAG has taken many forward-looking steps, including the establishment of the Centre for Data Management and Analytics, in which digital technology and other modern methods are being used in line with the future.

"Today our countrymen want to move forward rapidly towards building a developed India by the year 2047. All important institutions and communities of



President Droupadi Murmu with Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India Girish Chandra Murmu during the 3rd Audit Diwas at CAG headquarters, in New Delhi, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

the country, including CAG, have to contribute to achieve this goal," Murmu said. Audit Diwas commemorates the occasion of the appointment of the first Auditor General of India on November 16, 1860 and creation of the CAG organisation. Recognising the significance of the day in the annals of the Indian history, since 2021, the CAG has

celebrated November 16 as Audit Diwas. The President said that the entire team of CAG is expected to contribute as a controller and an examiner who is both a companion and a guide in the country's developmental journey. She stated that the CAG team will have an important role in making India the third largest economy in the world. She

further said that the impact of today's market system characterised by global competition is relevant to all institutions and enterprises. The ability to compete on the basis of ethics should continuously increase in all enterprises and activities of the country. Removing obstacles in achieving the national goals of accelerated growth and development while ensuring financial propriety and legality is the touchstone of effective contribution by every institution and individual responsible for good governance, including the CAG, the President added.

She also emphasised that the auditors should be considered as facilitators of good governance, not critics. CAG Girish Chandra Murmu said that in cognisance of the paradigm shift in governance to a digital bedrock, the apex auditor too has leveraged technology.

## Markets rally for 2nd day on buying in IT stocks

Mumbai, Nov 16:

Benchmark equity indices ended with gains on Thursday as sentiments turned buoyant amid fresh foreign inflows and buying in IT counters. Softer-than-expected US inflation data and easing bond yields have bought optimism in equities. Rising for the second session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 306.55 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 65,982.48. During the day, it jumped 682.44 points or 1 per cent to 66,358.37. The Nifty gained 89.75 points or 0.46 per cent to 19,765.20. Among the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy



Services, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finserv were among the major gainers. Axis Bank, Power Grid, ITC and ICICI Bank were the major laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul settled in the green,

while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended with gains on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.54 per cent to USD 80.74 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Wednesday as they bought equities worth Rs 550.19 crore, according to exchange data. "The Indian market continued its positive resurgence, tracking global gains. Softer-than-expected US inflation data and easing bond yields have bought optimism that spending will emerge like in technology.

## Foraying into retail ARC at this point is good biz for Shriram Group: Gujral

Chennai, Nov 16:

With the market getting crowded with wholesale asset reconstruction companies or ARCs, financial services conglomerate Shriram Group's decision to focus on retail ARC is seen as a foray at the "right time," said a top official.

The Shriram group recently announced its entry into retail asset restructuring (ARC) and also into digital wealth management service businesses. "My personal view is that retail ARC is a good business to get into at this point which Umesh (Revankar) has been reiterating that in retail ARC there is nobody in this sec-



tor," Shriram General Insurance's Vice-Chairman Jasmit Singh Gujral told PTI recently. He is also part of the four-member board of management (BOM) of Shriram Ownership Trust, which oversees the activities of the group. The other three being DV Ravi, VC & MD

of Shriram Capital, Umesh Revankar, Executive VC of Shriram Finance and R Durvasan, director at Shriram Life.

Elaborating, Gujral said there is a synergy across businesses of the Shriram Group, and whether life or general insurance in the last 15-18 years of time, both have been making money every year. Asked whether too many products were on his plate, Gujral denied saying, "No, it is not really. Let me put this way for you, minus a bank, what is missing? When you go to a bank, you can get gold loans, business loans, and housing loans. "If you have ac-

quired a customer, you might need a loan product at some stage of time or maybe your son wants an education loan or a personal loan. You are building an entire bouquet of services for a customer, keeping him in the center. It is not that every customer requires everything, but then chances are bright that he may go out to another provider if we don't offer him that," he explained.

"What I am trying to say is that I have deposits, I have got loans, housing loans, education loans. If you need life insurance and if you have a scooter, I can give you both (life and motor) insurance.

## India's semiconductor sector provides huge business opportunities to Micron: Goyal

San Francisco, Nov 16:

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has met Micron Technology CEO and President Sanjay Mehrotra in the US and discussed business opportunities in the growing semiconductor sector in India. The minister is in San Francisco for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) meeting. US-based semiconductor company Micron is setting up India's first chip facility in Gujarat, which will create 5,000 direct and 15,000 indirect jobs in the coming years. In June, the government cleared Micron's project to set up a

## RBI tightens norms on personal loans for banks, NBFCs

Mumbai, Nov 16:

The Reserve Bank on Thursday tightened norms for unsecured personal loans for banks and non-banking financial companies.

The revised norms wherein risk weights have been increased by 25 percentage points will not be applicable on certain consumer loans, including housing, education, and vehicle loans. Besides, the norms will not be applicable on loans secured by gold and gold jewellery. These loans will continue to attract 100 per cent risk weight. Higher risk weight implies that banks have to keep aside more money as buffer when it comes to unsecured personal loans. In simple words, a higher risk weight restricts banks' lending capacity. Recently, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had flagged the high growth in certain components of consumer credit and advised banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to strengthen their internal surveillance mechanisms, address the build-up of risks and institute suitable safeguards, in their own interest.

## Sahara matter will continue even after Roy's death: Sebi chief

Mumbai, Nov 16:

Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch on Thursday said the Sahara matter will continue for the capital markets regulator even after the death of the group's founder Subrata Roy. Roy died in Mumbai on Tuesday after a prolonged illness at the age of 75. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Ficci event, Buch said for Sebi, the Sahara matter was about an entity's conduct and added that it will continue regardless of whether an individual is there or not. When asked why the refunds have been too less, Buch said the monies were returned through a Supreme Court-appointed committee basis the evidence of the claims made by investors. It has been reported that refunds of only Rs 138 crore have been made to investors even though Sahara group was asked to deposit over Rs 24,000 crore with Sebi for further refund to investors. Sahara group has faced many allegations, includ-



ing that of running a Ponzi scheme. Troubles for Roy started in November 2010 with Sebi asking two entities of Sahara group not to mobilise funds from equity markets or from issuance of any security to the public while restraining Roy from approaching the public for raising money. Roy was arrested in 2014 on the orders of the Supreme Court after he failed to appear before it in a contempt case arising out of non-refund of more than Rs 20,000 crore to investors by the two companies. He was later granted bail but troubles continued for his various businesses.



Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal in a meeting with Chartered Accountants from the San Francisco Chapter of ICAI, in USA.

semiconductor test and packaging unit worth USD 2.7 billion in the country. "Met Mr. Sanjay Mehrotra, CEO & President of

@MicronTech. Discussed how India's growing semiconductor ecosystem presents vast opportunities for the company to collaborate & expand its footprint in the country," Goyal said in a post on social networking platform X on Thursday. He also held a meeting with YouTube CEO Neal Mohan. "We discussed how India presents a huge opportunity for @YouTube to further expand collaboration and footprint in the country," Goyal added. Meanwhile, the Indian commerce ministry in a statement said that Goyal also interacted with Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and venture capitalists (VCs) of Indian ori-

gin. The minister encouraged the participants to share their ideas to make India a better investment avenue for investors from around the world.

He urged the entrepreneurs and VCs to contribute and help India's young talent working in critical and emerging technological areas such as artificial intelligence. Goyal also participated in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). APEC membership includes Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Peru; Philippines; and Russia.

## India's GDP to grow 6.7.1 pc during 2024-2026, growth prospects remain strong: S&P

New Delhi, Nov 16:

India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6-7.1 per cent annually in fiscal years 2024-2026, S&P Global Ratings said on Thursday. In a report titled 'Global Banks Country-By-Country Outlook 2024', S&P said the banking sector's weak loans will decline to 3-3.5 per cent of gross advances by March 31, 2025, on the back of structural improvement, including healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards and improved risk-management practices. Interest rates in India are unlikely to rise materially, and this should

limit the risk for the banking industry, it added. "Unsecured personal loans have grown rapidly and could contribute to incremental NPLs. We believe underwriting standards for retail loans generally remain healthy and overall level of delinquencies remains within acceptable limits for this product category," S&P Primary Credit Analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria said.

The report said that global uncertainties will have a lesser impact on the Indian economy. Slower global growth and external demand will weigh on economic activity and could fuel further inflation. However, given that India is domestically oriented, the agency ex-

pects the economic growth to be less affected, it added. "Economic growth momentum to continue. India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6-7.1 per cent annually in fiscal years 2024-2026," S&P said. India's real GDP rose 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter, up from 6.1 per cent in the March quarter. The Reserve Bank of India has forecast a 6.5 per cent economic growth for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years. The report further said that the State Bank of India and the leading private-sector banks have largely addressed their asset-quality challenges.

## Rupee falls by 14 paise to 83.23 against US dollar

Mumbai, Nov 16:

The rupee declined by 14 paise to settle at 83.23 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday due to foreign fund outflows and a firm greenback in the overseas markets. Losses in crude oil prices, however, helped the rupee restrict the fall, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 83.18 against the US currency. The local unit remained under pressure in the day trade moving in a range of 83.17 to 83.25. The rupee settled at 83.23 (provisional) against the US dollar, show-



ing a loss of 14 paise over the last close. The rupee appreciated 24 paise to close at 83.09 against the US dollar on Wednesday as the American currency retreated from its elevated levels

## Windfall profit tax on crude oil, diesel exports cut

New Delhi, Nov 16:

The government on Thursday cut the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country and on exports of diesel in line with softening international oil prices. The tax, levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty or SAED, on domestically produced crude oil has been reduced to Rs 6,300 per tonne from Rs 9,800 per tonne, according to an official notification.

SAED on the export of diesel was reduced to Re 1 per litre from Rs 2 per litre. The levy on the export of jet fuel or ATF and petrol will continue to be zero. The new tax rates came

into effect from Thursday. At the last revision effective from November 1, the government had increased the tax on crude oil to Rs 9,800 per tonne from Rs 9,050 per tonne. Simultaneously, the levy on the export of diesel was halved to Rs 2 and that on jet fuel was brought to nil from Re 1 per litre. International oil prices have softened since the last revision, necessitating the reduction. The basket of crude oil that India imports has averaged USD 84.78 per barrel this month as against USD 90.08 a barrel average in the month of October and USD 93.54 in September. India first imposed windfall profit taxes

on July 1 last year, joining a growing number of nations that tax supernormal profits of energy companies.

At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel. A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on crude oil produced by companies such as Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was also levied. The tax rates are reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks. A windfall tax is levied on domestic crude oil if rates of the global

benchmark rise above USD 75 per barrel. Export of diesel, ATF and petrol attract the levy if product cracks (or margins) rise above USD 20 per barrel. Product cracks or margins are the difference between crude oil (raw material) and finished petroleum products. The levy on domestic crude oil dropped to nil in the first half of April as international crude oil prices fell but was back in the second half in step with a rise in rates. The levy on diesel became nil in April but the levy was brought back in August. Levy on ATF became nil in March and was brought back in the second half of August.



# Special Observers ensure fair and transparent election preparations

## Voters' convenience and transparency at forefront of planning

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Nov 16: In a promising development for the upcoming 2023 Assembly Elections in Mahasamund district, a team of Special Observers led by General Observer Dharmendra S. Gangwar, Police Observer Anil Kumar Sharma, Expenditure Observer Rajesh Tuteja, and Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh Reena Baba Saheb Kangale gathered today for a pivotal meeting in the District Panchayat Assembly Room.

Special Observers is committed to guaranteeing a transparent and fair electoral process for the district. To achieve this, the team is reviewing all election-related



activities, emphasizing the provision of essential facilities at polling stations, increasing voter turnout, and intensifying investigative measures to uphold the integrity of the elections. The appointed Special Observers for Mahasamund district include General Observers Vivek L Bheemanwar and Zafar Malik, along with Police Observer Krishna Kumar VK. and Expenditure Observers Yogesh Kumar Sharma and Nilesh

Rautkar. Collector and District Election Officer Prabhat Malik, Superintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh, SVEEP Nodal Officer CEO District Panchayat S. Alok, and Deputy District Election Officer Nirbhay Sahu are also actively involved in reviewing election-related preparations within the district. Special Observers are diligently advising voters, ensuring that polling stations are equipped with necessary amenities, focusing

on polling stations with historically low voter turnout, and maintaining a vigilant administration and police presence during the elections. During the meeting, the Special Observers collaborated with the police and excise departments to intensify investigation campaigns through flying squads and static surveillance teams. They also stressed the importance of taking immediate action against illegal transportation of goods and liquor.

In alignment with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, the Special Observers are dedicated to overseeing a peaceful, fair, and transparent election process in Mahasamund district. Their primary goal is to ensure that voters face no inconvenience during the voting process, and they have instructed for thorough investigations of suspicious transportation activities, traffic, and check posts in the final 48 hours leading up to the elections.

District Election Officer Prabhat Malik provided comprehensive information about election-related preparations during the meeting, which was attended by all returning officers and nodal officers.

# SECR ensures comfortable festive travel with special trains

- Efficient crowd management and real-time assistance deployed
- Skilled team monitors crowded areas through CCTV

Central Chronicle News

Raipur/Bilaspur, Nov 16: South East Central Railway (SECR) is doubling down on providing passengers with an improved and more comfortable travel experience during the festive season.

As the festival season approaches, Indian Railways is stepping up its game to cater to the travel needs of millions. Approximately 1700 Puja special trains are set to roll out across the country, offering a staggering 26 lakh berths - a historic milestone.

In response to the high passenger demand during Chhath Puja, SECR has taken the initiative to run two special trains bound for Patna. This decision will benefit more than 3000 passengers, ensuring they reach their destinations seamlessly to celebrate the festival.

To further enhance passenger convenience, SECR has permanently added 78 coaches and temporarily installed 2550 coaches in various trains during the financial year 2022-23. This endeavour has provided over 1 lakh 80 thousand passengers with confirmed berths, alleviating travel uncertainties.

Elaborate crowd control measures are in place at major railway stations. Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel are stationed at foot-over bridges, while a skilled team monitors crowded areas

through CCTV, offering real-time assistance.

To streamline the boarding process, SECR has adopted a queue system for entry into general coaches at originating stations. Passengers receive timely announcements about trains and coach locations, easing their journey.

Mixed escorts are assigned to important trains, providing real-time assistance, particularly to female passengers travelling long distances. Additional booking windows have been opened, and passengers are guided to book tickets online or through the UTS App, eliminating the need to stand in queues. SECR's commitment to passenger comfort and safety underscores its dedication to making rail travel an enjoyable experience during this festive season.

# Villagers celebrate Gopi Ram's remarkable achievement in Navy

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Nov 16: Bhaibod, a small village, is celebrating a momentous achievement as Gopi Ram, the father of Bhuneshwar Ram Sahu, has been selected to serve in the prestigious Agniveer Navy. This remarkable accomplishment has filled the hearts of Bhaibod's residents with immense pride.

Gopi Ram's journey to success was fueled by determination and hard work. He underwent rigorous training at the Freedom Physical Training Rudri, relentlessly pursuing his dreams. His relentless dedication and unwavering spirit have now earned him a well-de-



served spot in the Navy. Gopi Ram's uncle, Ravi Kumar, shared, "He worked tirelessly day after day, and today, our family and village shine brightly because of his hard work."

The villagers of Bhaibod came together to celebrate this exceptional achievement. Village head Mineshwari Dilip Sahu Sarpanch, along with several community leaders

and residents, presented bouquets and gifts to Gopi Ram. Their collective blessings and heartfelt wishes underscore the promising future that awaits this young naval recruit.

# Festive atmosphere fills village Kanpa on Bhai Dooj

- Sisters bless brothers with 'Chandan Tilak' and prayers

Central Chronicle News

Birkoni, Nov 16: The joyous festival of Bhai Dooj, symbolizing the bond of love and protection between brothers and sisters, illuminated the village of Kanpa on Wednesday. From the early hours of the morning, sisters gathered to offer heartfelt prayers for the long and prosperous lives of their beloved brothers.

In adherence to tradition, sisters lovingly applied "chandan tilak" on their brothers' foreheads, bestowing upon them their heartfelt wishes for a life filled with happiness and longevity. As part of the festivities, customary gifts were exchanged between siblings, creating an



atmosphere of joy and celebration that resonated throughout the area.

The festive spirit enveloped the surroundings from early morning as brothers and sisters came

together in courtyards, cherishing moments of togetherness that extended into the late hours of the night. Sisters continued to visit their brothers' homes throughout the afternoon, adorning their brothers' hands with a betel leaf and "Chandan tilak", while offering fervent prayers for their well-

being. In return, brothers pledged their unwavering support to their sisters in times of happiness and sorrow. The sisters lovingly presented Nariaar as a

token of their affection and shared sweet treats to wish for good health and a long life for their brothers. The exchange of warm greetings and blessings between brothers and sisters continued throughout the day, spreading love and joy.

Acharya Lakshmi Narayan Vaishnav explained the significance of the Bhai Dooj festival, noting that it falls on the last day of Deepotsav. Sisters mark the occasion by applying tilak to their brothers and offering sweets as blessings for a prosperous future. In return, brothers express their affection by gifting their sisters. This cherished festival takes place on the second day of Shukla Paksha in the Kartik month and is also known as Yama Dwitiya. It is believed that sharing a meal at one's sister's home on this day enhances the brother's longevity.

# Ban on misleading political advertisements

- Pre-certification required for print media ads on voting day

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Nov 16: The Election Commission of India has taken a decisive step to ensure the integrity of the Chhattisgarh Assembly General Election-2023 by imposing strict regulations on misleading political advertisements in electronic and social media, as well as print media. These guidelines mandate the pre-certification of political advertisements published in print media on both the day of

voting and the day before. In accordance with a circular issued by the Election Commission of India, all political advertisements in print media, scheduled for publication on November 16th and 17th, a day before the second phase of voting for Baikunthpur Assembly elections, must undergo pre-certification by the District Level Media Certification Committee.

The Election Commission has instructed the District Level Media Certification Committee to expedite the process of certifying these advertisements. The rationale behind these guidelines is to

prevent the dissemination of misleading information through print media, especially on the crucial days leading up to and including the day of voting.

The Election Commission underscores that once misleading advertisements are published in print media on these critical dates, affected parties or candidates may not have the opportunity for clarification or denial. Therefore, pre-certification of political advertisements is deemed essential to ensure free, transparent, and fair elections, safeguarding the democratic process from misleading influences.

# Voting is our right, duty and responsibility: Langeh

- Collector urges all voters to exercise their right

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Nov 16: In a heartfelt appeal, Korea Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh has called upon the district's more than two lakh voters to fulfill their civic duty by casting their votes in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2023, scheduled for Friday, November 17. Langeh emphasizes that voting is not just a right but also a duty and a responsibility.

Collector particularly encourages the youth, especially those voting for the first time, to not only exercise their right but

also inspire their neighbors and friends to participate in this crucial democratic process.

Addressing the entire spectrum of society, including farmers, villagers, women, doctors, teachers, advocates, engineers, workers, both in the private and government sectors, businessmen, artists, social leaders, and social service organizations, Langeh highlights the importance of voting for the sake of a robust and vibrant democracy.

Langeh's plea comes just 24 hours before the polling day, and he extends his appeal to all officers, employees, police personnel in-



involved in security, drivers, and servants engaged in election work.

He underscores the need to strictly adhere to the guidelines of the Election Commission while carrying out their duties with

impartiality, discretion, confidentiality, and transparency.

Additionally, Langeh calls upon the media and journalists in the district to ensure that there is no misleading propaganda that could influence the voters.

The Election Commission has appointed separate nodal officers for election-related tasks, and Langeh instructs them to remain vigilant throughout the voting process. Any doubts or issues should be resolved through coordination with the relevant senior officers.

Langeh also issues directives to the District Excise Department to take continuous action against

those involved in the illegal sale of liquor and drugs within the district. Police station in-charges are urged to maintain strict vigilance against criminal elements and take appropriate actions within the bounds of the law. Vehicle inspections should be carried out thoroughly, adhering to established protocols.

In providing guidance to personnel working in SST (Static Surveillance Team) and FST (Flying Surveillance Team), Langeh emphasizes the importance of videography during investigations and underscores the necessity of conducting their duties with professionalism, decency, and transparency.

# Empowered voters shape stronger democracy: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Nov 16: In a resonating message to the residents of the district, Collector and District Election Officer Saurabh Kumar underscored the pivotal role of voting in strengthening democracy. He emphasized that informed voters possess the ability to elect exemplary public representatives, shaping the future of their region.

Collector Saurabh Kumar firmly believes that an aware electorate is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. He urged voters to exercise their franchise with impartiality and resist any temptations that may sway their decision.



Stressing the significance of each vote, he implored voters to comprehend the immense value they hold. Kumar emphasized that an informed and active voter base can select superior public representatives, ultimately leading to enhanced development in their locality.

Kumar called upon the district's voters to ap-

proach the polling booths with consciousness and deliberation. He acknowledged the substantial role played by the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) team in educating voters through various programs within the district.

Kumar highlighted the importance of the SVEEP team in raising voter awareness responsibly. He firmly asserted that voting is not just an essential aspect of safeguarding and fortifying democracy, but it also offers individuals the opportunity to elect candidates who genuinely represent their interests.

The Collector elaborated on how voting contributes significantly to effective

development efforts. Through voting, citizens can select candidates who align with their vision for progress and development.

He stressed that where voters are well-informed and actively engaged, public representatives are more inclined to take a vested interest in development initiatives. These elected representatives actively contribute to the formulation and execution of policies and plans aimed at advancing their communities.

Kumar emphasized that areas with high voter turnout tend to experience swifter development due to the heightened awareness and engagement of the populace.

# Assembly elections 2023 Number of women voters more in 50% voter centres Of Baikunthpur Assembly

Korea, Nov 16: Under Legislative Assembly Elections 2023, 228 polling stations have been made in Baikunthpur Assembly Election Number 03. Interestingly, in 116 of these polling stations, the number of female voters is more than male voters. The number of male voters in Baikunthpur Assembly is 84,040 and the number of female voters is 84,023, thus there are a total of 1,68,063 voters. The number of female voters in 116 polling stations out of 228 polling stations is approximately 46,056 while the number of male voters is 43,801 i.e. the number of female voters is 2,255 more, whereas in two polling stations Pipedand and Nandbhan, the number of male and female voters is equal, whereas the number of third gender voters is only 05. Similarly, 78 polling stations have been made in Sonhat, in which the number of male voters is 18,159, the number of female voters is 18,215 and the third gender voter is only one. There are 5 voters in Seradand polling station of Koriya district, which is probably the polling station with the least number of voters in the state.

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Nov 16: The District Collector of the district has appealed to the residents to cast their votes on November 17th as per the Assembly Election. The Collector in his statement said that, 'You all are aware that voting for Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections, 2023 is to be held in the district on 17 November 2023 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.'

This great festival of democracy comes once in five years and participating in this great festival and exercising our franchise is both a right and an important responsibility for all of us. Our resolve to

vote 100 percent has been strengthened by the enthusiastic participation of all of you in various activities organized under SVEEP with a view to make the



voters in the district aware of the importance of voting rights and to make them aware and motivated to use it in the upcoming elections. It is my appeal to all of

you that with the same enthusiasm and zeal, on Friday, 17th November 2023, get yourself registered as a voter in your respective polling stations

with your Voter Identity Card (EPIC) or any one of the other prescribed 12 documents. Be sure to exercise your right to vote with your family members and close friends. I have full confidence that all you residents of Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur will definitely use their franchise this time too and by voting 100%, they will play an important role in giving Manendragarh-Chirmiri Bharatpur a special place in the map of the country and the state'.



# Miller's fighting century gives South Africa glimmer of hope

Kolkata, Nov 16 (PTI): David Miller absorbed extreme pressure with phenomenal ease on way to a rearguard 101, allowing South Africa to post a fighting 212 against Australia in the second World Cup semi-final here on Thursday.

Under gloomy and windy conditions, South Africa showed familiar signs of choking when their top-four Quinton De Kock (3), Temba Bavuma (0), Rassie van der Dussen (6) and Aiden Markram (10) departed cheaply to have them reeling at 24/4 in 12 overs.

Mitchell Starc (10-1-34-3) and Josh Hazlewood (8-3-12-2) was breathing fire making full use of the conditions, but after a 40-minute rain delay, it was the Miller show.

Miller's 116 ball-effort was his sixth ODI century and the first one for Proteas in a World Cup



knock-out game. The southpaw took a blow on his finger from a Josh Hazlewood snorter, but he remained steady and unleashed his 'Killer-mode' smashing eight fours and five sixes.

On a turning wicket, Miller had little trouble and was brutal especially against Adam Zampa who leaked 55 runs from his seven overs.

He reached the three-figure mark by hitting Pat Cummins over square leg for a 94-metre six.

His 95-run partnership with Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 48) gave South Africa the much-needed respite before part-time off-spinner Travis Head turned it on taking two wickets in two balls to dent South Africa's recovery.

After Klaasen, Gerald Coetzee (19) gave a fine support to Miller as they put together quick fifty-plus partnership for the seventh wicket.

# Electric, passionate, incredible: Beckham mesmerised by Wankhede experience

Mumbai, Nov 16 (PTI):



Sachin Tendulkar (2L) and former English football player David Beckham (2R) stand with World Cup trophy at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

He came, he saw and he left, mesmerised by the electric atmosphere at the Wankhede Stadium, where Rohit Sharma and his men crushed New Zealand to enter the World Cup final.

Football great David Beckham watched the iconic Virat Kohli smash a record-breaking 50th ODI century and Mohammed Shami take seven wickets to break the Blackcaps' resistance.

He was the toast of the crowd when he entered the hallowed ground accompanied by Sachin Tendulkar and cheered by thousands of spectators in the stands.

"Electric, passionate, incredible," is how Beckham described the atmosphere at the Wankhede, which left him unable to decide whether football or cricket fans were louder.

"You know what? I would always say, football fans. But being here today,

I'm not so sure. The atmosphere is incredible. The fans are creating an electric atmosphere and they're very loud, so I'm not so sure," Beckham said in a video posted by BCCI on Thursday.

Beckham, the Manchester United and Real Madrid icon known for his free-kicks, said the Wankhede experience had left him with goosebumps.

"I think, it's nice to step into a stadium and get

goosebumps, and I felt that as soon as I walked into this stadium. There's something about it that maybe because I was walking with Sachin, maybe that made it feel even more special.

## Prannoy loses in Japan Masters, Indian challenge ends



Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei

Kumamoto, Nov 16 (PTI): Indian shuttler HS Prannoy lost a closely-fought second round match against Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei to bow out of the Japan Masters Super 500 bad-

minton tournament here on Thursday. The Asian Games bronze medallist Indian, who returned to action after recovering from a back injury, squandered an opening game advantage to lose 21-19 16-21 19-21 to world no. 12 Chen in a 73-minute men's singles match that went down the wire. Prannoy's defeat brought curtains on India's campaign at the tournament.

The world number 8 Indian looked in control in the first game as he opened up a 4-0 lead and managed to stay 11-8 ahead at the break. Chen kept fighting to keep himself close but Prannoy sealed the opening game. Chen got his act together after the opening reversal and took 5-0 lead quickly.

## Kohli capable of breaking Tendulkar's record of 100 centuries: Ravi Shastri



Mumbai, Nov 16 (PTI):

Star batsman Virat Kohli might now be holding the record for most ODI hundreds, but former India head coach Ravi Shastri firmly believed that the 35-year-old is well on his way to break another big landmark - Sachin Tendulkar's 100 international hundreds.

Along with his 50 ODI centuries, Kohli also has 29 hundreds in Tests and one in T20s for a total of 80 scores above 100. Kohli had broken Tendulkar's mark of 49 one-day hundreds against New Zealand in the World Cup semifinals here on Wednesday.

## Not surprised to see India going hard from get go: Daryl Mitchell



Mumbai, Nov 16 (PTI):

New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell was not surprised by India's aggressive brand of cricket

in the World cup semifinals and credited the seamers for making the ball talk after his lion-hearted effort had kept them alive in the daunting runchase. India captain Rohit Sharma set the tone with a brisk 29-ball 47 before Virat Kohli (117) scored his record 50th ODI century, Shreyas Iyer scored 105 from 70 balls and Shubman Gill hit an unbeaten 80 to power India to a mammoth 397 for 4.

It was the highest total for any team in semifinals of World Cup contests. In reply, New Zealand folded for 327, led by Mitchell's 134.

"That is the way they have played throughout the World Cup," Mitchell told reporters after New Zealand's loss.

## Virat Kohli understands his role well: Vikram Rathour

Mumbai, Nov 16 (PTI):



Virat Kohli understands his role in the team perfectly and does not require a lot of attention from the coaches, said India batting coach Vikram Rathour.

Kohli on Wednesday scaled unprecedented heights when he smacked his 50th ODI century and went past the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in terms of getting most tons in the format. Kohli scored 117 here at the Wankhede Stadium to fire India to a massive 397 for 4, the highest-ever total for any team in the history of World Cup semifinals.

The total proved beyond New Zealand's reach as they folded for 327 in the penultimate over of their chase with Indian pacer Mohammed Shami taking 7

for 57 to do the job for India again. "He (Kohli) understands his cricket and we just help him prepare," Rathour told the media here on Wednesday after India qualified for the World Cup final with a 70-run win over New Zealand. "If he needs to ask anything he comes and asks, otherwise we let him be. He knows what he has to do now, that he needs to get in the right mindset and he is in a good mindset. He bats the way he wants to."

# Rohit the leader deserves this World Cup

New Delhi, Nov 16 (PTI):

How many hundreds did Rohit Sharma miss in this World Cup? At least five if not more. But how many hearts did he win with his new found no-holds barred attacking approach? May be a billion. With a perfect balance between head and heart, Rohit has taken India into the tournament final.

The high-risk approach has cost him personal milestones but having put team above self, the 'Hit-Man' didn't deviate from his game-plan as he is on a mission to complete what he termed at the start as unfinished business.

He will be 36 years and 203 days old on November 19, a day which would possibly be his 'last dance' and effectively a last chance to win the coveted 50 over World Cup title.

The next 50-over World Cup is too far away and someone that oozes practicality from literally every bone of his body, it would be a long shot to think that at 40 he would be game to play 100-over per day matches in 2027.

Hence November 19, 2023, could be the 'Red Letter Day' in 16 and half years of Rohit's chequered career punctuated with lot of ups and downs.

"In the next two months, I want to create a lot of memories with this team," Rohit had told PTI just before the Asia Cup.

And boy did he make some fabulous memories in last six weeks giving India its own customized version of 'La Decima' (10



in Spanish and Italian) in this year's global cricket meet. Nasser Hussain pointed out during his chat in Sky Sports what the Indian skipper had told Dinesh Karthik after the last World T20 semi-final thrashing at the hands of eventual champions England. "We need to change our approach," Rohit had told Karthik, who was part of that squad. A change of approach is always a result of change of mindset and when the captain walks the talk, it becomes very easy for others to follow. When Rohit first became a full-time skipper, in one of his earlier press meets, he had said a very pertinent thing. "I won't tell anyone to do anything that I myself won't do," Rohit has said back then. But Rohit has always been like that, his childhood coach Dinesh Lad said.

"I remember an incident from his U-19 days. It wasn't from a game. We were all standing some-

where and there was this gleaming Mercedes parked on the other side of the road. Rohit looked at it for some time and said: 'Yeh main ek din kharidoonga (I will buy this car one day)'.

"I had to retort. I said, 'Rohit kya paagal ho gaya hain tu. Abhi kuch khela hi naahi hain tune (Are you mad Rohit. You haven't played anything yet)'.

"Little did he realise that this was not an average 17-year-old. And in less than three years, he had a luxury car in his garage after the T20 World Cup triumph. Lad himself admits that he never realised that there was this bullish but quiet self confidence in his ward.

"He has always been selfless even when he would captain his school team. What you are seeing today isn't something that happened overnight. Forgetting about own milestones and playing the role for his team has been his forte," Lad said.

"I remember him telling me, 'Sir, you won't have any complaints that I don't work hard. I will devote a lot of time on my game', he promised. And you can say, he has kept his promise," the proud coach said.

Those who come up through the ranks, facing a lot of hardships, know a lot about adjustments, and the Indian skipper is one such character.

"I am a disciple of late Ramakant Achrekar. He was my guru and he wouldn't even take a penny if the student wasn't talented. When I saw Rohit and wanted him to get admission to our school (Swami Vivekananda School Borivali)...

"The monthly tuition fee was Rs 275 and his parents couldn't afford that. I had to convince the principal and school management and Rohit Sharma was the first talented player allotted 'free-ship'. He was that talented that I couldn't have let him go."

# The Shami Storm: How pacer took the mantle of India's bowling superstar in WC

Mumbai, Nov 16 (PTI):



As Mohammed Shami walked back to the top of his run-up, Virat Kohli geed the fans at the Wankhede Stadium to go full throat with their chants Shaamii! Shaamii! They obliged merrily.

It was a visible validation of Shami's status in this World Cup India's superstar with the ball, the bowling equivalent of Kohli with the bat.

It wasn't just because of his immaculate effort against New Zealand on Wednesday night, but now Shami is a single man force de frappe, even ahead of Jasprit Bumrah.

His numbers do back that position. Shami has taken 23 wickets from six matches, including three fivers, at a mind-boggling strike-rate of 10.9, easily the best in this tournament on those two counts. But then the numbers don't tell the whole story either.

Shami was not even part of the playing 11 in the first four matches because of India's desire to field a batting all-rounder at No. 8, an additional security measure to counter any top-order dysfunction.

In line with that thought, R Ashwin was included in the match against Australia, while Shardul Thakur played against Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

It required a force majeure Hardik Pandya's injury against Bangladesh for the Indian management to shake away their obsession.

They needed to find a batsman and bowler in place of absent all-rounder New Zealand at Dharamsala. Shami came to the picture then and made an instant impression against the Kiwis with a five-wicket haul. It was also a huge credit to Shami's mindset to come back to a performing time at the sidelines and perform against top-class opposition. India's batting coach Vikram Rathour said as much. "Shami is a special bowler, and he is bowling really well. It was tough to get him into the team because of

team combination. But he was in a great mind-space even when he was not playing," said Rathour.

Shami chose the same opposition to make an impact on an even bigger occasion at Mumbai the World Cup semifinals.

New Zealand were chasing 398 alright, but a smooth Wankhede pitch and deep batting line-up of the opposition meant that India could not afford to relax. They needed wickets to maintain the pressure.

Shami gave them the perfect start, dismissing Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra caught behind by KL Rahul the former was snared with one that went away wee bit, while the latter fell to the one that came in just enough.

However, India were pushed onto the backfoot after Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell milked 181 runs for the third wicket. The Black Caps were more than a good shout away from the victory then.

Rohit brought back Shami in the 33rd over: Williamson could not find the distance off a Shami delivery

that rushed on to him from a length and in the next ball Tom Latham fell leg before to a ball that skidded back with the angle. It is this variety in his bowling that makes Shami a big threat. Mohammed Badaruddin, Shami's childhood coach, threw some light into that. "You watch any of his dismissals, he does not bowl all that wobble seam deliveries or he does not hit the pitch hard. Watch that dismissal of Conway last night, you'll get it. "His seam is always up and has a perfect release. He can skid the balls off the surface at a good pace from the same slot - tough for batters to pick which one will come in or go out. "These are natural abilities and he is willing to work hours on his skills ability and hard work are certain to bring success," tells Badaruddin.

Bumrah often tries to lure the batsmen into mistake with his line around the off-stump, whereas Shami is relentless in his attack on the stumps. Perhaps, no other contemporary bowler does that as often as Shami.





**CHHATTISGARH POLLS**

**POLL PREPARATIONS**

# 'Swing' belt of Bilaspur could prove crucial for both Cong and BJP

Bilaspur, Nov 16:

As the 25 constituencies in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur division go to polls on Friday, the Congress and the BJP would be slugging it out in this belt which sends nearly a third of MLAs to the 90-member state assembly.

Among the five administrative divisions of the state, the Bilaspur division, located in the central region, has the highest number of 25 assembly constituencies which will play a crucial role in deciding the winner this time.

Notably, this was the only division which the Congress did not sweep in 2018, while the BJP, which faced a rout elsewhere, won nearly half of its statewide tally in this region.

The division had 24 seats in 2018, of which, the

Congress won 12 while the BJP won seven. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) won two and the then Ajit Jogi-led Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) three.

After the new district of Sarangarh-Bilaigarh was created, the Bilaigarh seat, earlier in the Raipur division, was included in the Bilaspur division. Bilaigarh was won by the Congress in 2018.

The BSP, which was in the second spot in two seats in 2018, has entered into an alliance with the Gondwana Ganatantra Party (GGP) this time. The Aam Aadmi Party is also in the fray.

Both the BJP and Congress deployed their top guns for campaigning in the Bilaspur division this time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge and Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi held rallies in the region.

The division consists of eight districts: Raigarh, Korba, Bilaspur, Janjgir-Champa, Sakti, Mungeli, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh and Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM).

Out of the 25 seats in the region, five seats each are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Rampur, Pali-Tanakhar, Lailunga, Dharamjaigarh and Marwahi are ST seats, while Sarangarh, Bilaigarh, Pamgarh, Mungeli and Masturi seats are reserved for SC candidates.

Chhattisgarh BJP chief and Bilaspur MP Arun Sao claimed that as per internal surveys, the saffron party may win 20 of the 25 seats.

Sao, who is himself in the fray from Lormi, said the party has fielded both fresh faces as well as senior leaders from the division.

Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel (Janjgir-Champa seat), former IAS officer O P Chaudhary (Raigarh), two members of the family of BJP stalwart late Dilip Singh Judev -- Sanyogita Judev (Chandrapur) and Prabal Pratap Singh Judev (Kota) -- are among other key BJP candidates in this division.

On the Congress's part, it is aware that it did not perform too well in the division last time.

The party, therefore, did elaborate planning for campaigning in the division, said Sushil Anand Shukla, chairman of the media cell of the state Congress.



Poll officials carrying voting material leave for election duty on the eve of Assembly polls, in Indore, Thursday.

## BJP pledges LPG subsidy, completion of Eastern Canal Project

Jaipur, Nov 16 (PTI):

The BJP on Thursday released its manifesto for the Rajasthan assembly polls, promising to provide LPG cylinder for Rs 450 each to Ujjawala scheme beneficiaries, 2.5 lakh government jobs in five years and increasing the financial assistance to farmers under the PM-Kisan scheme.

Releasing the 'sankalp patra' here, party chief J P Nadda also said that if the BJP forms the government in the state, a Special Investigation Team will be formed to probe paper leaks and other alleged scams in the Congress government. The manifesto said an arrangement to procure wheat at Rs 2,700 per quintal, including bonus above MSP, will be



BJP National President J.P. Nadda with Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Rajee during the launch of the party's manifesto for the Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Jaipur, Thursday.

made and financial assistance under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi will be increased to Rs 12,000 per year. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan), which aims to support farmers in meeting their agricultural

and other incidental needs, a financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year is at present transferred to bank accounts of farmers in three equal installment.

The manifesto also promises completion of the Eastern Rajasthan

Canal Project (ERCP) in a time bound manner in collaboration with the Centre.

The Congress has been demanding national project status to the ERCP which was envisaged by the former BJP government to address irrigation and drinking water problems in a 13 eastern Rajasthan districts.

Nadda said a compensation policy for farmers whose land was auctioned will be brought and noted that land of 19,400 farmers was auctioned.

Pledging a slew of schemes for girls and women, he said a 'mahila thana' will be set up in every district and 'mahila desk' in every police station besides an anti-romeo squad in every city. He also announced a savings bond

of Rs 2 lakh on birth of girl child under Lado Protsahan Yojna, skill training to nearly six lakh rural women under Lakhpati Didi scheme, scooter to meritorious girls on clearing class 12 exam, free education from KG to PG to girls of poor families, three Mahila Police Battalions and increase in financial assistance under the PM Matru Vandan scheme from Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000.

For the youth, the party announced 2.5 lakh government jobs in five years, annual assistance of Rs 12,000 for students of poor families to purchase school bags, books and uniform and setting up of Rajasthan Institute of Technology and Rajasthan Institute of Medical Sciences in every division.

## Characters from epics, films take centre stage in MP poll campaign

Bhopal, Nov 16 (PTI):

Amid the high voltage campaign for Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, leaders across party lines referred to various popular characters from Bollywood movies and the epics Ramayan and Mahabharat while trying to woo voters.

After a controversy between former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh over distribution of Congress tickets, party general secretary in-charge of MP Randeep Surjewala sought to downplay it by describing the relation between the two veteran leaders as akin to the bond shared by characters 'Jai'

and 'Veeru' in the 1975 Hindi movie 'Sholay'.

There had been a row over MP Congress chief Nath's "tear clothes" jibe at his party colleague Singh.

The roles of 'Jai' and 'Veeru' in the blockbuster film were played by Amitabh Bachchan and Dharmendra, respectively. Latching on to Nath's comments, the ruling BJP in the state said 'Jai' and 'Veeru' were known as "thieves" in the film.

Later, Nath termed Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as 'Gabbar', the movie's lead villain, and accused him of looting the state through various scams.

Chouhan subsequently said, "Congress leaders are talking about the duo (Nath and Singh) as Jai-Veeru. Now, the duo is not Jai-Veeru. There was a film 'Mere Apne' in which the duo named 'Shyam' and 'Chaine' used to fight for the possession of their respective localities. This divided Congress can never do any good to the state," the CM said.

In one of his poll rallies, Chouhan also compared Singh and Nath to 'Dhritrashtra', the character from Mahabharat, saying the two leaders have put aside the party organisation to establish their sons and to hand over their reins of the state.

## CONG GUARANTEE RALLY



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot with party leaders Sachin Pilot and Govind Singh Dotasra during 'Congress Guarantee Rally' ahead of the State Assembly elections, at Nohar in Hanumangarh district, Thursday.

## Cong, BJP two sides of same coin: KCR

Adilabad (Telangana), Nov 16 (PTI):

Termining the Congress and the BJP as two sides of the same coin, BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao on Thursday said it is a "waste" to vote for those parties.

Speaking at a poll rally, Rao predicted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be able to form a government at the Centre and the coming days belong to the regional parties.



He attacked the BJP, asking why one should vote for that party which has not given a single medical college or a Navodaya school to Telangana.

"If you vote for the BJP, it goes in drainage, it is a wasteful exercise. People should think about it. I am requesting people to think about it," he said.

He asserted that Telangana is a secular state and as long as KCR is alive, it will remain secular. He said the Congress party which ruled for ten

years before the state was formed in 2014, had spent only Rs 2,000 crore towards minorities development as against Rs 12,000 crore by the BRS government in the last decade.

Requesting them to vote for the BRS candidate, Rao appealed to them to vote for his party's candidate in the upcoming polls and general elections in 2024 as well.

"The coming days belong to regional parties. You can write it down. In the next elections, Modi will not get a majority. A coalition government will come," he predicted.

He said when the state was formed the situation was chaotic in the state with no proper drinking or irrigation water facilities and people used to migrate to other places.

## MP POLLS Case registered against BSP candidate for 'bribing' voters

Morena (MP), Nov 16 (PTI):

A case was registered here on Thursday against Rakesh Singh, Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) candidate from Morena seat in Madhya Pradesh, for allegedly bribing voters a day ahead of the assembly elections in the state. A viral video purportedly showed Singh, the son of former inspector general of police and minister Rustam Singh, distributing cash to some people. Dinesh Kumar, in-charge of the Election Commission's flying surveillance team, lodged a complaint on the basis of the video. A First Information Report was registered at the Kotwali police station under Indian Penal Code section 188 (deliberate disobedience of order duly promulgated by a public servant) and section 123 (corrupt election practices including bribery) of the Representation of the People Act, Kumar told reporters.

## 2,290 candidates in fray, 608 withdraw nominations

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (PTI):

With 608 candidates withdrawing their nominations, as many as 2,290 contestants are in the fray for the upcoming Assembly elections in Telangana, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer said on Thursday.

As many as 44 candidates from Gajwel and 39 from Kamareddy Assembly constituencies

from where BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao is contesting, are in the poll arena. The highest number of 48 candidates are from L B Nagar segment while Banswada and Narayanpet seats are witnessing the least number of 7 each. Several leaders from Congress and other major parties, who filed nominations as independ-

ents after failing to obtain party tickets to contest, have withdrawn in favour of official candidates, on Wednesday, the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Earlier, Election officials had found 2,898 nominations of candidates to be valid and rejected nominations of 606 candidates during scrutiny. As per the latest reports, Telangana has over 3.26 crore eligible

voters with almost equal number of male and female. The Serilingampally segment has the highest number of voters with over 7.32 lakh while Bhadrachalam registered the lowest with 1.49 lakh electors.

Polling for the 119-member Assembly would be held on November 30, while counting of votes would be taken up on December 3.

## 'BJP will stop schemes run by Cong if they come to power in Raj'

Jaipur, Nov 16 (PTI):

The BJP will stop welfare schemes being run by the Congress government in Rajasthan if they come to power and they will help billionaires, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday as he addressed three back-to-back rallies in the poll-bound state.

He addressed rallies in Taranagar of Churu district, Nohar of Hanumangarh district and Sadulshahar in Sri Ganganagar district.

"If a BJP government is



formed, it will stop schemes being run by the Congress be it the (old) pension scheme, health (insurance scheme), subsidised cylinders or Rs 10,000 annual assistance for women and it will

again help billionaires," Gandhi told his first public meeting of the day in Taranagar in support of party candidate Narendra Budhania.

But if the Congress is voted back to power in the state, the poor, farmers and small traders will benefit, he said.

"Farmers' loans will be waived off. They will be helped, small traders will benefit. This is for you to decide. Do you want Adani's government or do you want the government of farmers, labourers, youth?" Gandhi said.

## Poll staffer dies after chest pain in MP

Betul (MP), Nov 16 (PTI):

A 55-year-old employee of the Madhya Pradesh government engaged in assembly poll duty died on Thursday after experiencing chest pain in Betul town of the state, an official said.

The state assembly polls will be held on Friday. Bhimrao, employed as a watchman with the MP Public Health Engineering Department and posted on

poll duty at booth number 123 at a girls' school, experienced chest pain. Multai Sub Divisional Magistrate Trupti Pateria told reporters.

The victim was rushed to a hospital where he died during treatment, the SDM said, adding that the family members of the deceased have been informed about his demise.

Voting for the MP assembly polls will begin at 7 am on Friday.

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