

# CENTRAL Chronicle

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नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः ।  
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारुतः ॥



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## Hon'ble Saharasri Ji (1948 – 2023)

Sahara India Pariwar expresses its collective sense of grief at the loss of its beloved Chief Guardian, Hon'ble 'Sahasri' Ji, who left for his heavenly abode on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

The strength of his character, the influence of his personality and the power of his presence have all left a lasting memory. As he passes from the turmoil of life to eternal tranquillity, he leaves behind a legacy that remains as a profound and precious imprint in the hearts of billions to whom his life brought hope and encouragement.

The man who enlightened us to the supremacy of human emotions over business interests, will continue to guide us, inspire us to new frontiers, for he exemplified human spirit in its true essence - unconquerable and supremely courageous.



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



Raipur: Governor Vishwabhusan Harichandan along with the first lady Suprabha Harichandan exercised their franchise at model polling centre in Sihawa Bhavan, Civil Lines here on Friday.



Raipur: Chief Election Officer Chhattisgarh Reena Baba Saheb Kangale exercised her franchise at Polling Centre in Pre-Middle School in Dharampura on Friday morning standing in the queue. She also inspected the polling centre as well.



Raipur: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain along with this family exercised their franchise at Devendra Nagar Polling centre. On this occasion his wife Ritu Jain, daughter- Aditi Jain were also present.



Raipur: PR and Transport Commissioner Dipanshu Kabra along with his family exercise their franchise and during this his wife Rachna Kabra was also present.



Raipur: Secretary PR Siddharth Komal Pardeshi along with his wife Gargi Pardeshi exercised their franchise here on Friday.



Raipur: Addl. Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo exercised his franchise at Devendra Nagar polling centre here on Friday.



Raipur: Secretary Food deptt TK Verma exercised his vote at Polling Centre No. 282 in Dunda. He along with his wife Nandini Verma, son from USA Abhishek Verma and daughter from Mumbai Ayushi exercised their franchise at the polling centre in Dunda.

## Rural voters more enthusiastic in Raipur District



Dharshiwa registered highest nearly 72% voting

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 17: Raipur District registered a comparatively low voting rate with just 58.83% reported as per the data available on the basis of the polling at 5 PM. Rural segment of Dharshiwa Legislative Assembly registered the highest among the 7 seats in the Raipur District. Dharshiwa registered a voting of nearly 72% whereas Raipur South segment recorded lowest voting percentage with just above 52% recorded till 5 o'clock in the evening. Apart from it, the Scheduled Caste (SC) reserved seat Aarang recorded a high turnout of nearly 70% votes as the Congress heavy-weight and Cabinet Minister Dr



Shiv Daharia is involved in a close contest against the Dalit Social Guru Khuswant, son of renowned religious preacher Guru Baldas who has significant clout within the SC community.

Most disappointing has been the voter turnout in Urban region despite the heavy-weights contesting polls. Raipur South MLA Brijmohan Agrawal is contesting for a record 8-time victory but it facing a stiff contest from Mahant Ramsundar Das. Similarly, the sitting Congress MLA Vikas Upadhyaya is working hard to defeat the

former Cabinet Minister Rajesh Munat form the Raipur West constituency which has the highest 26 candidates in fray for the polls. Raipur North MLA Kuldeep Juneja is battling hard with rebel candidate Ajit Kukreja contesting as an independent candidate which would boost the poll prospect of BJP nominee Purandar Mishra who was a surprise face of the saffron brigade owing to his popularity among the Utkal voters.

Congress heavy-weight Dhanendra Sahu is comparatively enjoying lesser trouble as the BJP has fielded an unknown face from the Abhanpur constituency.

Abhanpur has recorded voting of 60.13%, Aarang (SC) seat 68.60%, Dharshiwa 71.86%, Raipur North 54.50%, Raipur South 52.11%, Raipur West 54.68 and Raipur Rural 53.80.

# Assembly polls: 68.15% polling recorded till 5 pm

Polling in 70 constituencies under 2nd phase goes off peacefully

### Fate of 958 candidates sealed in EVMs

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 17: Polling in 70 assembly constituencies under second phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections 2023 went off peacefully on November 17. With this, the fate of 958 candidates has been sealed in EVMs. According to Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer Reena Baba Saheb Kangale an estimated 68.15 percent voting took place till 5 pm for the second phase.

The Chief Electoral Officer said that total 18833 polling centres were set up in 70 assembly constituencies under the second phase. She said that 727 Sangwari Polling Centres were opened and 71 polling centres were opened for Divyang voters. In addition to this 71 polling centres were opened for young voters. Moreover 347 centres were developed as ideal polling centres.



tion to this 71 polling centres were opened for young voters. Moreover 347 centres were developed as ideal polling centres.

She said that this time polling centers were also set up in remote areas and places with least number of voters. As many as 1962 sector officers fulfilled their responsibilities during voting. Out of 18833 polling stations, web casting was done in 9424 out of total 18833 polling centres.

At the same time, one to two percent of machines malfunctioned during voting.

More than 100 companies of the central government were deployed for security arrangements during the voting. More than one lakh soldiers of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) along with the local police were deployed.

Enthusiasm was writ large in faces of voters who came to polling centres to vote in second phase. Youth, women, men and third gender actively took part in the polling. Divyangjan and elderly people too came to polling centres and enthusiastically exercised their franchise. NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and scouts and guides accompanied the elderly voters and Divyangjan (disabled) to polling centres to vote in the second phase.

## Enthusiasm marks the voting day in Raipur for Assembly Elections 2023

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 17: Large number of voters from all age groups, genders, and backgrounds are participating enthusiastically in the Assembly Elections 2023. In most polling centers across the Raipur district, long queues of voters were observed as early as 7 AM. Voter turnout of more than 19% has been recorded in district till 11 AM. Voters from rural areas are also standing in queues waiting eagerly to cast their vote and participate in this festival of democracy. Voting awareness programs by Election Commission and District administration on different platforms has contributed to the heightened enthusiasm for voting.

Collector and SP inspect voting centres

Observers appointed by the Election Commission



are closely monitoring the voting process. Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure, Police Superintendent Shri Prashant Agrawal, and other zonal officers are also visiting polling centres across the city continuously. Dr. Bhure and Shri Agrawal are ensuring proper management in all polling booths and also interacting with voters in the centres.

90-year-old Janki Bai expresses joy after casting vote

Special arrangements, including wheelchair access, ramps, and other facilities,



- Long queues seen at Polling Booths since morning
- First time voters felicitated in Youtubers' village Tuls
- Success of democracy visible through smile on the faces of youth voters

ilities, were made for divyangjan, elderly, pregnant women at all polling centers, as per the Election Commission's directives in Assembly Election 2023. 90-year-old Janki Bai from Kevatara village in Raipur

district, after casting her vote at polling booth number 267, expressed her happiness. She stressed on the importance of voting in the democratic process and stated that she always casts her vote in every election. 90-year-old Janki Bai is an inspiration not only for her village, but for the entire district.

First-time voters bring smiles to the face of democracy

This election witnessed a significant number of first-time voters, particularly the youth, who displayed cheerful smiles

after casting their votes. Young voters like Hemlata Naidu and Govinda, capturing their post-voting moments in selfies, videos, and reels, shared their newfound sense of responsibility as citizens. Their enthusiasm is not limited to Raipur but extends to Tuls

Divyangjan exercise their right to vote

Divyangjan actively participated in the voting process across the district, using wheelchairs and tricycles. They received assistance from polling volunteers, and in some instances, tricycles were used to transport them directly to the voting compartments.

## Cong will again form govt with an overwhelming majority: CM



Raipur, Nov 17: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed gratitude to the voters for maintaining trust in Congress after the second phase of voting. He said that the enthusiasm with which the voters of Chhattisgarh participated in the voting has proved that they have given the seal of approval to the five years of work of the Congress government. Mr.

Baghel has said that Congress will again form the government with an overwhelming majority and will keep its promises made to the voters like before. He has said that because of the way the government took care of all sections including farmers, labourers, tribals, youth and women in the last five years, Congress has again received the blessings of the people. He has especially appreciated the enthusiasm of the youth. He also thanked the business community of the state and said that if they continue to support Congress like this, Chhattisgarh will soon make its own special place in the country in business also.

Raipur, Nov 17:

State Congress President and MP Deepak Baij, while expressing his gratitude to the people of the state for their enthusiastic participation and peaceful voting, said that BJP had conspired to spoil the peaceful atmosphere of Chhattisgarh to influence this election but totally failed in their attempt. BJP were not able to mislead the conscious voters of the state. The people of Chhattisgarh trusted the work of the Congress government and the manifesto of the Congress. State Congress President and MP Deepak Baij said that Congress is going to

form the government again by winning more than 75 seats. In the first and second phase of voting, farmers, mothers, sisters, youth, labourers and traders were inclined towards Congress. As soon as the Congress government is formed, work on all the promises made to the public will start. The public has rejected Modi's guarantee and BJP's false and fabricated allegations. Congress has fulfilled most of the promises of its manifesto in 2018 during the last 5 years of its tenure, public trust in Congress has further increased in the last 5 years. This is the reason why the public has once again voted in favor of



Congress. Congress has thanked the voters for voting enthusiastically.

State Congress President and MP Deepak Baij said that Congress has done the election campaign on the basis of its government's plans and the

### Collector inspects polling station Mova



Raipur, Nov 17: Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure visited various areas and inspected the voting arrangements. Dr Bhure reached the polling booth located at Swami Atmanand School Mova of Rural Assembly constituency and got information about the arrangements. SSP Prashant Agrawal was also present with him.

## People voted for change, claims BJP chief Sao

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 17: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Chhattisgarh Unit President Arun Sao on Friday claimed that huge turnout of voters indicates that people have voted for change. Commenting on the polling, the State BJP President Arun Sao who himself is contesting the polls from Lormi constituency, said that Chhattisgarh would move faster towards developments as the BJP would form government with clear majority. He extend-



ed gratitude towards people and added that women have shown great enthusiasm for voting which indicates victory of the saffron brigade. Sao claimed that people have shown their

agitation against the state government by voting in large number. Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh too said that people have voted on failure to implement the manifesto as the Congress could not ensure liquor prohibition nor had taken steps for the regularization of the contractual employees.

Rajya Sabha member and BJP Vice President Saroj Pandey and National Vice President Lata Usendi too made same statement claiming that the people of voted in large number for change in government.

## Vadodara scores 226 for 5 in Cooch Behar Trophy against Ch'garh



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 17: Vadodara scored 226 runs for 5 wickets in first innings against the visiting Chhattisgarh team in the Cooch Behar Trophy Cricket tournament being organized

under the aegis of BCCI at Motibagh Cricket Ground Vadodara on Friday.

Put into bat first, the host scored 226 runs for 5 wickets with the help of half centuries from Kuldeep Chouhan and Utsavraj. While Kuldeep scored 62 runs, Utsavraj scored 61 runs for the team whereas Paramveer too scored 43 runs for the team. Bharat Godvani claimed two wickets for Chhattisgarh whereas Suryakant Tiwari, Om Vaishnav and Vikalp Tiwari too claimed one wicket each for the team.





### BRIEF

**Kamla Keval, a 92-year-old voter, shows her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Sehore district.**

### SPG chief

**New Delhi:** Senior IPS officer Alok Sharma was on Friday appointed the director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), which is entrusted with the task of providing security to the prime minister. Sharma, a 1991-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, is currently additional director general in the SPG.

### Last chance

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court has granted a last opportunity to the Delhi University to file a comprehensive affidavit on implementation of provisions of Right of Persons with Disability Act. The court also asked the varsity to file the affidavit to satisfy how the suggestions or report of the amicus curiae on physical infrastructure and accessibility for persons with disability have been implemented in the Campus Law Centre (CLC), Delhi University.

### Bust

**Bhubaneswar:** The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has unearthed a crypto-ponzi scam in which around 2.5 lakh people of eight states were defrauded of over Rs 200 crore, an official said on Friday. Three persons were arrested in this connection, including one who was captured from Rajasthan capital Jaipur while he was trying to flee to Dubai. The two other accused were picked up from Bhubaneswar on Thursday, the EOW official said.

### Mishap

**Nainital:** Nine people were killed after their pick-up vehicle fell into a gorge on the Chedakhani-Midar Road in Uttarakhand's Nainital district early on Friday, police said. The accident occurred around 8 am when the vehicle was going from Patlot to Amaid village, Senior Superintendent of Police (Nainital) Prahlad Narayan Meena said.

### IED explosion

**Chaubasa:** A CRPF jawan was killed and two others were injured on Friday when the proscribed CPI (Maoist) triggered an IED explosion in a forest in West Singhbhum district, police said. The incident took place around 2.30 pm, as a team of security personnel were conducting an anti-Maoist operation in Goikera area, Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Shekhar told PTI.

**Weather**  
High 30 Low 18

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,731.80  
SENSEX 65,794.73

**BULLION**  
GOLD 60,739  
SILVER 73,170

## CHH'GARH PHASE-2 POLLS

# Over 68% voter turnout: EC



Women voters of Naxal infested Bindranavagarh shows their finger marked with indelible ink after casting their vote.

Raipur, Nov 17 (PTI):

A voter turnout of 68.15 per cent (provisional) was recorded in the second phase of Chhattisgarh assembly elections for 70 constituencies on Friday, where voting was held under a thick security blanket of police and paramilitary personnel, officials said.

Friday that the tentative voter turnout till 5 pm was 68.15 per cent in Chhattisgarh and 71.11 per cent in Madhya Pradesh. The voting percentage is likely to "go upwards" when reports from all the polling stations, including those in the interiors, are obtained, the poll panel said.

The Election Commission (EC) said on

lowed to exercise their franchise, the EC noted,



Voters arrive to cast their votes for the 2nd phase of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, at a polling station in Dhamtari district, Friday.

adding that the final figures will be known by

Saturday after a scrutiny of the polling-related docu-

ments. A total of 70



Divyang women Draupaadi Dhiwar in absence of wheel chair dragging herself while coming to vote at a polling centre at Pandri.

Assembly seats in Chhattisgarh went to polls in the second phase on Friday, while elections were held in all the 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh. The polling took place under a thick security blanket of police and paramilitary personnel, a poll official said.

Polling in 70 constituencies began at 8 am and concluded at 5 pm, except in nine polling booths in the Naxal-affected Bindranawagarh seat in Gariaband district, where voting began at 7 for security reasons, a poll official said. Voting in the nine booths of Bindranawagarh -Kamarbhaudi, Amamora, Odh, Bade Gobra, Ganwargaon, Gariba, Nagesh, Sahbinkachhar and Kodomali, where process began at 7 am, concluded at 3 pm, he added.

### Unfortunate incidents...

While a woman died of an unknown reason while she was standing in a queue to cast her vote at a polling booth in Kasdol assembly constituency in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district, a man was killed in an elephant attack when he was heading towards a polling booth in Korea district. Returning Officer of Kasdol segment Bhupendra Agrawal said the woman, identified as Sahodara Bai Nishad (58), fainted when she was standing in the queue at polling station no.76 in Malda village panchayat. She was shifted to the community health centre in Kasdol by her family members with the support of polling personnel, where doctors declared her dead, he added. In another incident, one Umendra Singh (25) was trampled to death by an elephant near Mangora village under Korea forest division, an official said.

### Fate of 958 candidates locked in EVMs...

The political fate of a total of 958 candidates - 827 men, 130 women and one transgender person - contesting 70 seats spread across 22 districts, was locked in EVMs.

### Creating history...

Creating history, for the first time, all the polling booths in the Raipur North Assembly Constituency in Chhattisgarh were staffed and managed completely by women polling personnel. To achieve this feat, which is a first for any Assembly Constituency in the country, 1046 women were deployed in the 201 polling booths setup in the constituency. These all-women managed polling booths provided a sense of comfort and security for all voters, especially the female and third gender voters for more inclusive elections.

### Governor, first lady cast vote

Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan and his wife cast their votes in Civil Lines Raipur.

### CM casts vote, claims one-sided contest...

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel cast his vote in Kurruddih village in his constituency Patan Durg district. Talking to reporters ahead of voting, Baghel said his party will win 75-plus seats (in the 90-member assembly) and there is a one-sided contest in Patan Segment. In Baghel's turf Patan the BJP has fielded his distant nephew and party MP Vijay Baghel. The candidature of Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) state president and son of former chief minister Ajit Jogi, Amit Jogi, in Patan has added a new dimension to



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with family after casting his vote.

the contest. When asked about the possible triangular contests in Patan, Baghel denied and said it

is people and farmers are contesting (elections on his behalf) not him and the contest is one sided.

### 100% enrolment amongst PVTGs...

With a concerted effort to facilitate voting amongst the tribal communities, 100% enrolment was achieved amongst the PVTGs residing in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are over 7.52 lakhs voters belonging to the PVTG community namely Kamar, Bhunjia, Baiga, Pahadi Korwa, Abujhmadia, Birhor in Chhattisgarh and Sahariya, Bhariya & Baiga in Madhya Pradesh were registered as electors. Tribals from these communities were enthused to take part in the festival of democracy with polling stations themed around the tribal way of life offering a conducive environment for the members of the community to show up at the polling station and vote

### 100% polling reported in 3 VS

**Korea:** There are report of 100 per cent polling in the three polling centres of the Vidhan Sabha No. 1 of Bharatpur-Sonhat. As per information in this regard, in Gram Shehradhand, Kanto, Rawala polling centre, all the voters cast their votes going to the polling centre. Collector and DRO Korea Vinay Kumar Langeh expressed happiness towards all the villagers and said that these voters residing in the remote areas have exercised their franchise rightly.

### Poll boycott recorded..

Residents of Thenthaguddi in Raigarh district decided to boycott the polls alleging a road had not been constructed in their village. Speaking to reporters, village resident Sonu Pradhan said, "There are more than 330 voters in the village and everyone has decided not to exercise their franchise. We have already said we will not take part in the electoral process till our demand for construction of road in the village is fulfilled." Similarly, residents of Manikpur Dhenka village panchayat in Masturi segment in Bilaspur district also refused to vote alleging lack of development, including absence of roads in the area. Bilaspur Collector Awnish Sharan said the local Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) was at the village to hold discussions and further details were awaited.

### Political heavyweights exercise rights...

Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo (Ambikapur) and State ministers -- Ravindra Choubey (Saja seat), Anila Bhedia (Dondilohara), Amarjeet Bhagat (Sitapur) and Jaisingh Agrawal (Korba) and state assembly speaker Charandas Mahant (Sakti), who are Congress candidates from their respective segments, were among those who cast their vote.

### ITBP jawan escorting polling team killed in Naxal blast

**Gariaband:** A jawan of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was killed in a blast triggered by Naxals in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district where polling for the second phase of assembly elections took place on Friday, police said. The incident took place near Bade Gobra village under Mainpur police station area when a polling team escorted by security personnel was returning after the voting was over, a senior police official said. As election officials escorted by security personnel were returning to Mainpur after the polling ended, Naxals triggered a blast that killed head constable Joginder Singh of the ITBP on the spot, said the police official. The rest of the team safely reached the Mainpur police station, he added.

## Don't encroach on OBC quota: Bhujbal at rally

Sambhajinagar, Nov 17 (PTI):

Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Friday reiterated that the existing reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) should not be curtailed while giving reservation to the Marathas, and also hit out at Maratha activist Manoj Jarange over his recent statements.

showing Marathas as belonging to the Kumbhi caste were being found. Bhujbal and several other prominent OBC leaders including Congress leaders Vijay Wadettiwar, Rajesh Rathod, BJP MLC Gopichand Padalkar, Prakash Shendge and Mahadev Jankar attended the 'OBC Bhatke Vimukt Jaat Aarakshan Bachao Yalgaar Sabha' (rally for saving the reservation of OBCs and Nomadic Tribes) at Ambad in Jalna district of Maharashtra.

Speaking at a rally of OBC communities, the NCP leader asked how suddenly a number of records

## MP records 71% voter turn-out

Bhopal, Nov 17 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh recorded a voter turn-out of 71.16 per cent till 5 pm on Friday as polling was underway for the 230-member legislative assembly, an election official said. Voting in naxalite-affected Balaghat, Mandla and Dindori districts ended at 3 PM while it will continue till 6 PM in other parts of the state. Polling began at 7 AM across all 230 constituencies. In Balaghat district, Baihar assembly constituency recorded a turnout of 80.38 per cent, Lanjhi 75.07 per



cent and Paraswada 81.56 per cent. There are 2,533 candidates in the fray, including chief minister

Shivraj Singh Chouhan of the BJP and his predecessor and state Congress chief Kamal Nath.

## UNCONSTITUTIONAL HC quashes Haryana govt's 75% quota in private sector jobs

Chandigarh, Nov 17 (PTI):

The Punjab and Haryana High Court Friday quashed a 2020 Haryana government law providing 75 per cent reservation in private sector jobs to the residents of the state. The verdict was pronounced by Justices G S Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan. Senior advocate Akshay Bhan said the bench

quashed the complete act. Bhan, one of the counsels for the petitioners, said it was argued that the Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 violated Articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution. The court had admitted multiple petitions against the implementation of the act that provided 75 per cent reservation in jobs in the private sector to candidates from the state.

## Deepfake video of me doing garba: Modi flags concern

New Delhi, Nov 17 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday cautioned that deepfakes created by artificial intelligence can lead to a big crisis and stoke discontent in society, as he urged the media to raise awareness about its misuse and educate people.



at BJP's 'Diwali Milan' programme at the party's headquarters here, Modi said he recently saw a video of him performing garba even though he has not done so since school-days. Even those who love him are forwarding the video, he said in a lighter vein. "In a diverse society like ours, deepfakes can cause a big crisis and

even stoke the fire of discontent as people generally trust anything associated with the media in the same way anyone clad in 'gedua' (saffron) tends to get respect from others. "A new crisis is emerging due to deepfakes produced through artificial intelligence. There is a very big section of society which does not have a

parallel verification system," the prime minister told journalists at the programme where he aired views about a few things and sought their support to raise awareness. Deepfake videos are synthetic media in which a person in an existing image or video is replaced with someone else's likeness.

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RECORD HOLDER





CM Bhupesh Baghel with his family



BJP Candidate (Patan) MP Vijay Baghel with wife Rajni Baghel



Rajya Sabha member Saroj Pandey



BJP Candidate (Bhilai) Prem Prakash Pandey



Cong candidate (Bhilai) Devendra Yadav with wife Dr Shrutica



HM and Cong Candidate (Durg Rural) Tamradhwaj Sahu



BJP Candidate (Durg Rural) Lalit Chandrakar



Cong candidate (Durg City) Arun Vora



BJP candidate (Durg City) Gajendra Yadav with father (ex RSS state chief) Bisiram Yadav and wife



Cong candidate (Vaishali Nagar) Mukesh Chandrakar with wife Neha Chandrakar and son



BJP Candidate (Vaishali Nagar) Rikesh Sen with his wife



Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal with his wife

## Durg District records over 65% voter turnout

### Polling conducted peacefully in all six constituencies

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 17: Great enthusiasm among people towards voting was witnessed in all the six constituencies of the district on Friday. Under the Assembly Election-2023, polling was completed peacefully across the district. Enthusiasm among people was visible in urban and rural areas.

Voters spontaneously reached the polling stations to exercise their franchise. On one hand the new young voters were eager to vote, on the other hand the elderly and women were also not lagging behind.

Elaborate security arrangements were made in polling stations of



urban areas. Police officers and forces were continuously patrolling the entire district. Even in rural areas, enhanced se-

curity was provided to the polling parties.

According to preliminary information compiled by the District

Election Office, 65.07 percent voting has been estimated in the district. Till filing of this report, the final information was

being compiled by the District Election Office.

Patan (62) Assembly Constituency recorded the highest 75.54 percent voter turnout, Durg Rural (63) registered 69.00 percent, Durg city (64) recorded 62.80 percent, Bhilai city (65) witnessed 63.54 percent voting, Vaishalinagar (66) recorded 53.00 percent and Ahiwara (67) recorded 67.77 percent voting till 17:00 hrs.

The final percentage of voting would be released officially once the closing data is compiled from all the polling stations. Voters used their franchise extensively and showed their awareness in selecting their representative for the next five years.

## Polling stations monitored through webcasting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 17: As per the instructions of Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Kumar Meena, a voting day webcasting control room was established in the conference hall of the District Collectorate. 22 employees from the district were positioned at this control room. They monitored the voting taking place at all the polling centers of the district. The monitoring commenced at 5 am in the morning and continued till the end of voting. CHIPS Director Shruti Agrawal said that monitoring was done in a total of 743 polling stations in the district. Tracking of EVM machines was done through GPS system and information about the routes of buses was also monitored. She said that nodal officers were appointed for various assembly constituencies for



this task. Mukesh Kothari was the nodal officer for 123 polling stations of Patan assembly constituency; Shailesh Bhagat was the nodal officer for 114 booths of Durg Rural, Khyati Netam was the nodal officer for monitoring of 109 polling stations of Durg City, Pawan Thakur was the nodal officer for monitoring 84 polling stations of Bhilai Nagar; Lavkesh Dhruv was the nodal officer for moni-

toring 123 polling stations of Vaishali nagar, Panchram Salame was the nodal officer for monitoring the 130 polling stations under Ahiwara, 50 polling stations for Saja (partial) and Bemetara (partial) were monitored under the supervision of Kavita Patel. Deputy Collector Deepak Nikunj said that the monitoring work was conducted smoothly through the web-casting.

## Huge enthusiasm among women for polling



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 17: Under the Assembly Elections-2023, women's awareness and enthusiasm towards voting was visible across the district. Women enthusiastically exercised their franchise

at polling station number 146 Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium JRD Higher Secondary School. There was huge enthusiasm among voters of all categories including first time young voters, elderly and women of the district.

## Top administrative officers cast their votes

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 17: Collector and District Election Officer Pushpendra Kumar Meena and Senior Superintendent of Police Ram Gopal Garg exercised their franchise on Friday morning. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena and his wife reached Dr Kalpana Joseph Polytechnic College and exercised their franchise. After casting their votes, the Collector and his wife went to the selfie zone and took a selfie. The SSP also took a selfie in the selfie zone. Along with this, he also inspected and took stock of the arrangements at various polling stations in the district. SSP Garg and his wife appealed to all the voters to exercise their franchise. Divisional



Durg Divisional Commissioner Janak Pathak after voting



Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena and his better half after utilizing their franchise



SSP Ram Gopal Garg at selfie point after voting

Commissioner Janak Prasad Pathak exercised his franchise on Friday.

Deputy District Election Officer Bajrang Dubey and former Durg SP

Shalabh Sinha with his wife exercised their franchise at Polytechnic

College, Durg. After voting, they went to the selfie zone and took selfies.

### OBITUARY

Pt Ravishankar Awasthi



Bhilai: Senior member of Kanyakubj Brahman Samaj, Pt Ravishankar Awasthi left for heavenly abode at the age of 84 years on Friday. Funeral procession will be taken out from his residence situated at Maitrikunj Risali around 11:00 hrs on Nov 18 and last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Risali Muktidham. He was the father of Pt Umesh and Pt Arvind Awasthi.



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## Dewangan Samaj submit memorandum to SP

**■ Demanding justice**

Khairagarh, Nov 17:

Dewangan Samaj has submitted a memorandum to the SP demanding justice over the death of Bhupesh Dewangan, allegedly by suicide. As per information, the dead body of youth Bhupesh Dewangan was found hanging in the Thelkadih police station area, and after the body was found, a suicidal post also went viral on social media which is said to be that of the deceased Bhupesh Dewangan.

In the suicide post, Yunus Khan alias Pinta of Rajnandgaon has been accused of encroaching on the land of the deceased, after which the delegation of Dewangan community reached Khairagarh SP office and expressed the fear of murder of the deceased youth Bhupesh Dewangan, and demanded arresting Yunus Khan alias Pinta on the basis



of suicide post. The society's delegation, which reached SP office Khairagarh, informed that SP has gone on a tour and after talking to

him on phone; got assurance of taking immediate action in the whole matter. The society has warned of violent agitation if action is not taken.

## Paddy harvesting work gaining momentum

**■ Shortages of labourers, yet farmers are busy**

Khairagarh, Nov 17:

With the completion of Diwali festival and election voting, paddy harvesting work is now in full swing in the area. On one hand, farmers have become very busy due to paddy harvesting; on the other hand there is a shortage of labourers in villages and cities. In recent times, most of the labor farmers of the region are very busy in farming and at this time, farmers are busy in harvesting and threshing paddy in the fields.

The paddy crop is ripe in the entire area, and especially after harvesting of Haruna (early variety) paddy, threshing is going on. It is being told that harvesting and threshing are



getting faster, but at some places there are problems due to water logging in the fields or excessive moisture in the fields, along with the work of plowing the fields for sowing of gram has also started at a fast pace.

A fortnight ago, due to Diwali festival and elections and other reasons, harvesting and harvesting in the fields had not gained momentum. Although harvesting had started in many areas before Diwali, the work could not gain

momentum due to shortage of labourers. The excitement of the festival had not subsided completely when meanwhile the first phase of elections came in the district. After the voting in the elections, it is now expected that after Devuthani festival (small Diwali of rural life) harvesting will start.

Paddy harvesting work has slowed down due to shortage of laborers across the district, but modern resources have solved this problem in the

last few years in the region. Harvester machines have emerged as a better option for paddy harvesting and foreign harvesters from other states outside Chhattisgarh state are harvesting paddy. In about 50 percent of the fields, paddy crop is being harvested through harvesters only and farmers have opined that harvesting paddy with a harvester saves time and the problem of crop loss.

**Soybean area decreased due to paddy bonus**

The above average rainfall this year has wreaked havoc on the soybean crop. There are estimates of losses in the soybean crop, while the area under soybean has decreased in the last two-three years due to the bonus of paddy and good procurement by the Chhattisgarh farmers are not sowing soybean.

## Sisters and brothers celebrate Bhai Dooj Diwali celebrated with reverence

Kharora, Nov 17:

The festival of Bhai Dooj along with Dhanteras, Diwali, Govardhan Puja was also celebrated with great pomp in the area. Bhai Dooj, a symbol of love between brother and sister, was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Wednesday, in which the sisters applied tilak to their brother and prayed for his long life and happiness and prosperity. The brothers also bought gifts for their sisters and gave them to them, and the splendor of Diwali was visible even on the day of Bhai Dooj.

As per the traditions, the sisters woke up in the morning and started preparations for the festival and performed aarti of their brothers, applied tilak and wore Raksha Sutra and prayed for happiness, prosperity and long



life. In this festival known as Yam Dwitiya Yamuna and Bhai Tika, according to the belief, Surya's son Yam came to meet his sister Yamuna's house, where pleased with his welcome, he gave the boon of protection. Pandit Chetan Prasad Dwivedi told that the sister

takes bath in the morning, wears new clothes and observes a fast for her brothers since morning, takes Akshat, Kumkum, Roli, eight-petalled lotus flower, makes her brother sit in the stool and worships her brother by applying tilak on her forehead.

Kharora, Nov 17:

The festival of Diwali was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the region, by worshipping Goddess Lakshmi and bursting crackers as part of the cultural traditions. The second day was celebrated with great pomp in the form of Lakshmi Puja, expressing gratitude towards the new paddy crop, along with Govardhan Puja and Matar also were celebrated in the villages of the region.

On Diwali, people make attractive rangoli in front of their house and light lamps everywhere in the house in the evening. In the auspicious time, they worshiped Goddess Lakshmi with all the rituals and prayed for happiness, prosperity in the family. Also all the businessmen worshiped Lakshmi with a new ac-



count book in the shop and a special worship were done by decorating the Lord in the temples in the city. People wished each other with many animal rearsers worshipping cows and bulls, and the cattle were fed khichdi and Matar was celebrated with great pomp in rural areas.

## Birsa Munda Jayanti celebrated

Anwari, Nov 17:

The birth anniversary of Birsa Munda was celebrated by the tribal community of village Anwari by remembering his works and worship was performed on the statue, in which Lalit Nagarchi, Chhannulal Nagarchi, Manoj Nagarchi, Komal Dhruv, Sonu Nagarchi, Siyaram, Balram Dhruv, Chinta Markam, Khub Lal Dhruv, Deendayal, Shukalu, Kuljan Singh



Thakur, Jitendra, Bunty Dhruv, Jitesh, Ashok and all the tribal communities were present.

Birsa Munda was a hero in Indian history who, with his revolutionary thinking, changed the condition and direction of the tribal society in Jharkhand, of India in the second half of the nineteenth century and ushered in a new social and political era. By challenging the black laws, he put the barbaric British

Empire to rest. Birsa Munda, born on 15 November 1875 to the tribal couple Sugana and Karmi of Jharkhand, created the word of bravery on the pages of manliness with the ink of courage. Birsa Munda took over the reins of his leadership and the tribal people launched a strong movement against 'begari system'. As a result, work on the houses and fields and forest lands of the landlords and jagirdars came to a halt.

## 'Isar Gaura' festival celebrated in Mudhipar



Khairagarh, Nov 17:

Isar-Gaura festival was celebrated in village Mudhipar with culture and traditional spirit. During this, on the night of Diwali, soil was brought from Shitala temple and Gaura-Chaura Madwa site was worshiped and all the traditional rituals of marriage of God Gaura were completed.

It is believed that these traditions bring prosperity to the village and remove obstacles and on the last day, the women started the Kalash immersion program by singing songs in traditional style. The ritu-

al of beating and eating was followed in cultural spirit by the elders and youth. Radha Rani Dhumal Group along with traditional musical instruments gave a panoramic performance and the Kalash was immersed along with Ishtar Gaura in the local river.

Sisters who installed the Kalash and Matri Shakti sang Gaura songs. Many youths, cultural groups, public representatives Viprav Sahu, Sarpanch representative Ghanshyam Sinha, Madhusudan Sahu, Harshdeep Singh Tinku, Trilok Gond were present in the program.

## Officers and employees fail to return to work after Diwali

Khairagarh, Nov 17:

Even after two days of Diwali holiday, government officials and employees have not returned to work. Only half the employees are going to work, and the general public is suffering the consequences of this. The officers' chambers in the offices remain locked and already the state government had issued orders to government employees to work regularly from 10:30 am to 5 pm for five days a week and to give them a holiday on Saturday.

This order was issued with the aim of increasing the efficiency of the employees and providing adequate rest. The state government had declared two days holiday on Monday and Wednesday for Diwali and instructions were given to open all the offices and to come to work regularly but this instruction had no effect on government employees and officers. In many offices of the



district, department heads did not come to work and their offices remained locked. The subordinate employees also took advantage of the absence of the head of the department and more than half of the employees posted in the departments did not come to work.

There is desolation in these government offices, which includes Collectorate Office, Land Records Branch, Tehsil Office, Municipality, District Education Officer Office, District E-Governance Society, Mineral Branch, Food

Department, Veterinary Department, District Panchayat, Cooperative Institutions, Tribal Development Department, Excise Department, Water Resources, Public Works In many departments including Women and Child Development Department, Forest Department, Public Health Engineering Department, University and less than half of the employees had arrived for work, while the whereabouts of top officials were not known, due to which there was desolation in the administrative offices.

## Laxmi idol installed in Dewar Tilda



Kharora, Nov 17:

Like every year, this year also a statue of Goddess Laxmi has been installed on the auspicious occasion of Diwali at Thakur Dev Chowk in village Dewar Tilda, near Kharora.

Let it be known that in Chhattisgarh, the tradition of worshipping Goddess Laxmi during Diwali first started from village Dewar Tilda, which is being worshiped continuously in a grand manner till today. It was started with the aim of awakening the enthusiasm and religiosity of the festival in the village.

## Children celebrated Children's Day



**■ In Govt Pre-Secondary School Bharwadiah Kala**

Kharora, Nov 17:

Children celebrated Children's Day program in Government Pre-Secondary School, Bharwadiah Kala. As since Diwali vacation is going on, children did

come to school to celebrate Diwali festival, head reader Dinesh Kumar Verma encouraged the children by singing a song for Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Children also presented songs, poems, and speeches in the memory of Chacha Nehru, and the staff congratulated the children on Govardhan Puja and fed them sweets.

## Sahitya Goswami motivates 100% voting with rangoli

Rajim, Nov 17:

Sahitya Goswami, a class 7 student studying at Swami Atmanand School in the city, has carved a magnificent rangoli near the threshold of her house, motivating voting. Sahitya Goswami has made the map of Chhattisgarh through rangoli, in which an electronic voting machine has been made depicting the tricolor flag and how to vote, along with focus has also been placed on 100% voting.



the student has drawn rangoli several times related to public awareness, and her rangoli is discussed time to time in the city. It is important to mention that in the last five-year assembly elections of 2018, 82.86 percent votes were cast in Rajim Assembly. This time Collector and District Election Officer Akash Chhikara has printed invitation letters to make voters aware and the polling booth has also been given an attractive look to be counted as an ideal polling station.

## Raut brothers honoured in village Thuha



Anwari, Nov 17:

In village Thuha, Raut brothers were honored by Sarpanch Anusuiya Jitendra Ratre on the occasion of village's traditional festival Dewari in which Johat Ram Yadav, Shatruhan Yadav, Seva Yadav, Ramsay Yadav, Jageshwar Yadav, Bhagwat Yadav, Rikhi

Yadav . Gautam Yadav, Bhim Yadav, Devnarayan Yadav, Bharat Yadav, Yogeshwar Yadav and prominent citizens of the village Manmohan Lahare, Bhuneshwar Sahu, Pradeep Ratre, Govind Yadav, Sevak Ram, Madhukar, Hiranman Patel, Durga Chandrati and a large number of villagers were present.

## Rohit Sahu highlights BJP's assured victory in assembly election

Fingeshwar, Nov 17:

As the final round of elections unfolds, both major parties have embarked on a rhetorical battle, each scrutinizing the other's manifesto in an attempt to sway voters. The Congress has recently filed a police complaint against BJP workers engaged in "Mahtari Vandana" activities, while the BJP views this move as a sign of the Congress's frustration over the impending possibility of a BJP victory.

Rohit Sahu, the BJP candidate from Rajim Assembly, has accused the Congress of losing its footing in the face of BJP's certain triumph. Sahu attributes this to the promises made by Prime Minister Modi in the

BJP's manifesto, which appear to have unsettled the Congress. Sahu further points to the wavering stance of Congress national leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, who have repeatedly altered the commitments made to the people of Chhattisgarh. This suggests a lack of trust in their national leaders and casts doubt on the credibility of the Congress Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and his government. Instead of focusing on its own announcements, the Congress is placing greater emphasis on scrutinizing the BJP's manifesto. Sahu goes on to assert that the Congress, characterized as "anti-women," is misusing its governmental authority to target BJP workers through the

police and administrative apparatus. This is allegedly being done to obstruct the fulfillment of the Prime Minister's pledges in favor of women. He alleges that when BJP workers attempt to engage with the women of the region to promote the "Mahtari Vandana" initiative, they encounter resistance from the police and administrative officials who appear to align with Congress interests. Sahu concludes by accusing the Congress of failing to deliver on promises to women and feeling threatened by the BJP's commitment to provide benefits to women through its schemes. The political landscape remains heated as both parties vie for voter support in the final stages of the election.



## RPF nabs culprit, recovers stolen laptop and cash

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 17:** The Divisional Task Team, led by RPF Post Raipur's in-charge, M.K. Mukherjee, and Sub Inspector A.Z. Choudhary, along with Head constable V.C. Banjare and Constable Sandeep Giri, successfully apprehended a notorious thief on the prowl.

Raipur Railway Station, Platform No. 1A, Durg End Cabin witnessed the take-down of the culprit, identified as Rajesh Verma alias Sethi, son of late Tika Ram Verma, aged 30 years, resident of Sakin Janata Colony, near water tank, Gudhiyari police station. Verma had been involved in passenger-related theft

and was caught red-handed with a coffee-colored leather laptop bag containing an HP laptop, charger, and a significant sum of Rs 47,000 in cash. The total value of the recovered items amounted to a whopping Rs 1,27,000.

Further investigations revealed that Verma had stolen the laptop, cash, and bag from a female passenger who was sleeping in berth No. 07 of



AC coach A/1 of Train No. 13426 Surat Malda Town

Express, which had made a halt at Raipur Railway Station. The bag originally contained around Rs 1,50,000 in cash. Verma confessed to spending part of the money on his treatment, buying clothes, goods, gambling, and dining extravagantly.

The relentless efforts of the Railway Security Team paid off, as they managed to recover the stolen belongings and bring the thief to justice. Verma has now been handed over to the GRP police station in Raipur, where a crime investigation case has been registered against him (Case No. 18/2023, u/s 41(1+4) CrPC, 379 IPC, dated 16.11.23).

## Raamdeo Agrawal shares his valuable insights

● At IIM Raipur

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 17:** IIM Raipur welcomed Raamdeo Agrawal, Co-founder of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd., to share his wealth of knowledge with PGP II Finance students at IIM Raipur.

He delivered an enlightening session about various topics such as Building a Financial Empire, Importance of Financial Understanding, Market Optimism and Empowering Women in Finance.

Mr. Agrawal highlighted the journey of building Motilal Oswal from the ground up in 1987. Recognizing the need for quality equity research for HNIs, they transformed their vision into a \$2 billion company.



Emphasizing the significance of deeper insights, he urged students to comprehend balance sheets and annual reports thoroughly. Critical skills for navigating the dynamic world of financial services. With confidence, Mr. Agrawal projected India's economy to reach \$8 trillion in the next 8 years. Exciting times ahead for finance professionals as the

industry evolves. Addressing the gender gap, he encouraged women to take on leading roles in finance. Companies seek diversity, presenting a significant opportunity for women in management roles. Engaging with students, Mr. Agrawal spent sixty minutes addressing questions on the current market scenario. He also ex-

tended a separate interaction for female students, focusing on their queries about investment decisions and industry nuances. This was a tremendous opportunity for IIM Raipur students to gain insights from a seasoned industry leader. IIM Raipur would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Agrawal for his valuable contribution.

## Dr Mishra conducts 65th edition of free eye care camp

- Decades of compassionate care during Diwali and Holi
- Over 3000 patients treated for fire-cracker injuries over 33 years



Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 17:** Dr. Dinesh Mishra, a renowned eye and contact lens specialist in the city, has marked a remarkable milestone with the 65th edition of his annual free eye camp, held during Diwali. For the past 33 years, Dr. Dinesh Mishra and his team have been organizing free eye camps during the festivals of Diwali and Holi. This noble tradition began in 1991 to address the lack of medical assistance and the challenges faced by patients with firecracker-related injuries during these festive seasons.

examination and treatment for eye injuries caused by firecrackers. The hospital has remained open during Diwali and Holi without fail for over three decades.

Over the course of 33 years, these camps have offered quick and free treatment to more than 3000 patients suffering from Diwali-related injuries. Additionally, during Holi, the camps have treated more than 1150 patients. The camps have gained recognition beyond Raipur, attracting patients from Rajnandgaon, Patan, Mahasamund, and Balod. Dr. Dinesh Mishra's commitment to humanitarian work extends to the establishment of the Dr. Mishra Foundation, which has been dedicated to serving the community for several years.

This year's Diwali camp, held at Dr. Dinesh Mishra's Raipur Eye Hospital at Phool Chowk, was extended to three days, providing free

## 'Contribution of Bhagwan Birsa Munda is Unforgettable': Prof. Chakrawal

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Nov 17:** The celebration of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas started at Guru Ghasidas Central Vishwavidyalaya on Wednesday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, patron of the program, presiding over the inaugural function of the Tribal Pride Week organized from Nov 15 to 26 by the Department of Anthropology and Tribal Development and the History Department of the University in Room No. 1 of the Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar of the University, paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and congratulated everyone on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

He said that the great contribution of Bhagwan Birsa Munda in protecting the rights of the tribal community and serving the nation at a very young

age is inspiring for all of us. He is our source of inspiration. Professor Chakrawal further said, "Every citizen of India needs to imbibe the life principles of the leader of the masses, Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who fought lifelong for culture, dignity, and freedom.

He was a true lover of nature and the pioneer of the struggle for tribal rights. He always stood for human rights and fought against the British. Such brave men are rare in this world. This is the reason why he has been given the status of God in India. The country can never forget the work done by him. His contribution is unforgettable." On this occasion, the special guest and keynote speaker of the program, Dr. Ashutosh Shandilya of Government Dental College, Raipur, remembered Birsa Munda. Throwing light on the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda,

### Janjatiya Gaurav Divas inaugurated in Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya



he said that Lord Birsa Munda worked to give a new direction to the society. He always sacrificed his entire life for the advancement and upliftment of the tribals. He fought against the British for water, forest, land and tribal identity. Tribal society is the king of the jungle. Tribals do not

tolerate anyone's slavery. A tribal is a lover of nature. At the same time, the Chief Guest, Professor Ashok Kumar Pradhan remembered the sacrifices of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and tribal revolutionaries and threw light on the social and cultural heritage of the tribal society. He

said that tribal societies are an integral part of Indian culture. The culture of tribal society is quite rich. We need to know, understand and assimilate their knowledge tradition for the development of the country. Before this, the program started with Honorable

Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, Professor Ashok Kumar of the Faculty of Anthropology, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur and special guest Dr. Ashutosh Shandilya, Registrar in-charge, Dr. Suraj Mehar, Coordinator of the program, Professor Mukesh Kumar Singh, Co-coordinator, Dr. Subal Das and Dr. Ghanshyam Dubey lighting the lamp and offering flowers before the statues of Goddess Saraswati, Saint Guru Ghasidas, and Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The guests were welcomed with saplings. On this occasion, the guests were honored by presenting shawls, shreephal, and mementos. The program was conducted by the Co-coordinator, Dr. Ghanshyam Dubey. Deans of various faculties, heads of departments, officers and students were present in the programme.

## An exceptional Diwali celebrated with children



Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Nov 17:** Here in the region, an exceptional Diwali was celebrated when, Lala Sahu, president of Sahu Samaj Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti, celebrated Diwali differently. For years,

Lala Sahu has been celebrating festivals by distributing crackers and sweets to small children of his locality and Sahu said that he likes to distribute crackers and sweets to small children, and when a small child receives crackers as a gift

during the Diwali festival, his happiness knows no bounds. He has realized that children are very happy after receiving gifts and I remember my own childhood, that's why for years I have been celebrating Diwali with small children from all sections of the locality. 10 years ago I used to work as a teacher, at that time I was a pedagogue in a primary school where I used to teach small children and then I felt very happy seeing their innocence. It is said that God resides in innocent children, therefore for this reason also I have special affection and love for small children, Sahu concluded.

## IIM Raipur and SIDBI join forces



- To foster innovation and entrepreneurship

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 17:** IIM Raipur is excited to announce that the institute has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) to collaborate on initiatives aimed at cultivating innovation

and a vibrant startup ecosystem. The event was graced by Dr. Subhransu Acharya, Chief General Manager, SIDBI, Anamika Rajkumari, Manager, PDI, SIDBI and Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director, IIM Raipur. This partnership will focus on inspiring young individuals to embrace an entrepreneurial mindset and pursue their entrepreneurial dreams.

NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE	NAME CHANGE
<p>It is informed to the general public that I, Bhavesh Mohatewar, son of Chinteshwar Mohatewar, aged 42 years, resident of Qr No 2/C, Street NPA, Sector 8, Bhillai, Tehsil &amp; District - Durg (CG), have changed my old name Bhavesh Kumar Mohatewar son of Chinteshwar Mohatewar. So in future, I should be recognised by my new name that is Bhavesh Mohatewar, son of Chinteshwar Mohatewar in all government and other documents.</p> <p><b>Bhavesh Mohatewar</b> Qr No 2/C, Street - NPA, Sector 8, Bhillai, Tehsil &amp; District - Durg (CG)</p>	<p>I, JAGMOHAN Residing at Vill.- Kouwatal 493344, I have changed my father name Motilal to Motilal Patel and DOB -01/01/1964 to 01/01/1967 vide affidavit dt- 12/09/23 and my mother name Rameshwari to Rameshwari Bai Patel and DOB - 01/01/1960 to 01/01/1975 vide affidavit dt- 12/09/23, Sworn before notary in J. F. BLAH Shillong Meghalaya .</p>	<p>He deponent, Riyaz Lalani, father of Ahmed Lalani Resident- House No. E-4 Capital city phase 2, Near R.K. Sarda School, Vidhan Sabha Road, Saddu Chhattisgarh . I make the following statement on oath that:- 01. That my name and address as above are true and correct. 02. That, my name is registered as Riyaz Lalani in my Aadharcard 988248573364. Which is true and correct. My name is registered in J8944511 as Riyaz Ahmed Lalani. That I want to register my Aadhaar card name as Riyaz Lalani in my said passport. 03. That I am submitting this affidavit in support of the above statement. verification I the above affiant, do verify that the information given by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>Swearer <b>Riyaz Lalani</b></p>

## Voters' guideline plaque fell down from wall

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Nov 17:** A plaque containing essential guidelines for voters at Polling Station 97, located within the Government Primary Girls School in the city, has fell from the wall.



the wall, ensuring clarity for voters. Polling Station Presiding Officer, Gopal Ram Sahu, along with Polling Officers Puneet Ram and Praveen Tiwari,

acknowledged that the polling station faced challenges, such as a lack of provision for drinking water and the necessity to order food from outside.

**NOTICE**

This is to inform all the concerned peoples that M/s JD Steel Industries Private Limited has been granted Environmental Clearance by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide its File No.- IA-J-11011/432/2021-IA-II (IND-I) and EC Identification No. - EC23A1001CG5670115N dated 15.11.2023 for expansion in Induction furnace unit [from 29200 TPA to 198000 Tons/ Year], Establishment New Rolling Mill [capacity = 528000 Tons/ Year] with Coal gasifier [1 x 5000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/ Hour and 16000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/ Hour], new Briquetting unit [100 kg/ Hour] and new slag crushing unit [50000 Tons / year] located at Borai Industrial Growth Center, Rasmada, Tehsil and District; Durg [C.G.]. The aforesaid Environment Clearance letter is available on website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India (MoEF&CC) [parivesh.nic.in] and copies are also available at Head Office of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector - 19, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District Raipur and Regional Office, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, 5-32, Bhillai, Tehsil and District; Durg [C.G.]

For, M/s JD Steel Industries Private Limited

**YES BANK** Regd. & Corp. Office: Yes Bank House, Off Western Express Highway, Santacruz East, Mumbai-400055. CIN: L65190MH2003PLC143249, E-mail: communications@yesbank.in, Website: www.yesbank.in

**Publication of Notice u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act.**

Notice is hereby given that the under mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) (whichever applicable) who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and whose loan accounts have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on their last known addresses, but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower (s)/ security provider/s	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Amount outstanding
1. Mr. Sunil Kumar Sahu S/o Tamen Lal Sahu 2. Mr. Tamen Lal Sahu S/o Gunaram Sahu Both are at- 45, Urla, Ward No. 56, Mohan Nagar, Near Water Tank, Durg, CG-491001	All that residential house built on ground floor, comprising approximately a total area of 2240 Sq.ft., situated at Mouza- Urla, Kharsa No. 569/12, P.H. No. 177, R.I.C. Durg-2, Sikola (New), Ward No. 56 (Old), 58 (New), Tahsil and Dist.- Durg (CG) & butted and Bounded as follows: North: 15 feet wide road, South: Land of Rama Sahu, East: 20 feet wide road, West: Land of Mayaram.	27th Oct., 2023	30th Sep., 2023	Rs. 33,57,936.38/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six and Thirty Eight paise only) under the Loan A/C No. MIC004701435785, due as on 20.10.2023

The above Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of said 60 days under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. Furthermore, this is to bring to your attention that under Section 13 (B) of the SARFAESI Act, in case our dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by us are tendered at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by us, and no further step shall be taken by us for transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 18.11.2023  
Place: Durg

Authorised Officer  
For YES BANK Limited





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Race Against Time Trapped Workers Await Rescue

Rescue teams in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi are battling against time to evacuate 40 construction workers who have been trapped under debris for over 120 hours following a tunnel collapse. The workers' prolonged confinement within the tunnel is raising serious concerns about their health and well-being. On November 12, tragedy struck as a section of the under-construction Silkyara Tunnel collapsed, sealing the fate of these workers within its unforgiving embrace. In a race against time, elite rescue teams from Thailand and Norway, including the remarkable team that saved trapped children from a cave in Thailand in 2018, have converged to assist in the ongoing rescue operation. The effort, which has seen rescuers drill up to 30 meters into the debris, is nothing short of heroic. They have worked tirelessly to fit five pipes, providing essential food and oxygen to the beleaguered workers. Every moment counts, and their dedication is commendable. However, the rescue operation is not the only concern at hand. As these workers endure the unimaginable, their physical and mental well-being is on the line. The need for comprehensive rehabilitation is pressing, as their prolonged confinement may necessitate extensive recovery processes. Psychologists have emphasized the trauma these workers are likely experiencing. Dr. Archana Sharma, a consultant clinical psychologist at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, Delhi, rightly points out the emotional turmoil they may be enduring. Their minds are likely filled with apprehension, uncertainty about their future, and the haunting specter of survival. They are, in all likelihood, experiencing fear, helplessness, and the lasting effects of trauma. Moreover, the physical toll of their predicament cannot be underestimated. Dr. Ajay Agarwal, Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital, Noida, raises the alarming possibility of panic attacks resulting from the protracted confinement within an enclosed space. He highlights the adverse impact of ambient conditions, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, on their physical health. Prolonged exposure to subterranean cold temperatures could even lead to hypothermia and unconsciousness. It is a harrowing ordeal that tests the limits of human endurance. The perils of construction sites are well-documented, and falling debris is among the foremost hazards. The injuries sustained from falling objects can be devastating, often resulting in fractures and open wounds. These wounds, exacerbated by unsanitary conditions, heighten the risk of infections, adding another layer of peril to the already dire situation. Dr. Ajay Kaul, Chairman of Cardiac Sciences at Fortis Hospital, Noida, draws attention to the looming threat of elevated carbon dioxide levels within the enclosed space. This ominous factor can exacerbate breathing difficulties and potentially lead to asphyxiation, a grave concern. Lack of oxygen is a life-threatening problem that cannot be underestimated. Amidst this grim scenario, a glimmer of hope has emerged with the deployment of an 'American auger' machine, airlifted from New Delhi. This specialized equipment, known for its efficiency and power, is expected to cut through 70 meters of rock, much of which has hindered rescue efforts. In an estimated 12 to 15 hours, this remarkable machine may provide the breakthrough needed to reach the trapped workers. The urgency is palpable, and every resource must be harnessed to ensure the success of this operation. The very lives of these workers hang in the balance, and as a nation, we cannot afford to falter in our commitment to their rescue. The Silkyara Tunnel, part of the ambitious Char Dham project, embodies the spirit of national progress and connectivity. However, it is our moral duty to ensure that the lives of those who toil to make these dreams a reality are safeguarded at all costs. Our nation's conscience is being tested, and our response to this crisis defines our humanity. We must rise to the occasion, leaving no stone unturned in our quest to bring these trapped workers back to safety and restore their hope for a brighter future.

### Embracing the Essence Celebrates the Power of Knowledge

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma



As we commemorate National Library Week in India, from the 14th to the 20th of November, it's the perfect time to reflect on the profound impact that libraries have on our lives and the society at large. With the theme "There's More to the Story" for National Library Week 2023, we delve into the multifaceted role libraries play in our communities, going beyond the conventional boundaries of bookshelves. Libraries have been an integral part of our cultural landscape since time immemorial. They serve as guardians of human knowledge, preserving the wisdom of generations past while embracing the innovations of the present. In India, the celebration of National Library Week since 1968 has been a testament to our commitment to the invaluable institutions known as libraries. It's not just a week of festivities; it's a declaration of the pivotal role that libraries, librarians, and library workers play in shaping our society and individual lives. At the core of the library's mission lies the democratization of knowledge. They act as gateways to a world of learning, transcending barriers of age, background, and socio-economic status. Libraries are where curious minds embark on journeys of exploration, where dreams take shape, and where lifelong learning thrives. In an era where information is abundant but discernment is scarce, libraries offer a sanctuary of reliable resources and expert guidance. National Library Week 2023 beckons us to explore the myriad dimensions of libraries. "There's More to the Story" encapsulates the idea that libraries are not mere repositories of books; they are dynamic hubs of community engagement. Beyond the printed word, libraries provide access to technology, the internet, and physical spaces that foster collaboration and connection. In a world often divided by screens and virtual interactions, libraries bring people together, creating spaces for shared experiences and shared knowledge. The importance of libraries in promoting reading habits among students cannot be overstated. They serve as beacons of literacy, encouraging young minds to discover the joy of reading. Through carefully curated collections, engaging programs like book clubs and story times, and dedicated librarians who inspire a love for literature, libraries ignite a lifelong passion for learning. In an age of digital distractions, libraries remind us of the timeless magic of turning pages and getting lost in the world of words. But libraries are not just about books; they are about empowerment. They empower communities by providing vital resources and opportunities. In an increasingly digital world, access to technology is not a luxury but a necessity. Libraries bridge the digital divide by offering electronic learning resources and Wi-Fi access, leveling the playing field for students and workers who lack internet access at home. They become lifelines for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs, providing support and resources that contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. The impact of libraries goes beyond education and economic empowerment; they are also champions of inclusivity. Libraries are welcoming spaces that celebrate diversity and embrace all members of society. They offer programs and collections that reflect the rich tapestry of our communities, ensuring that everyone feels represented and valued. In a time when social cohesion can feel fragile, libraries serve as a unifying force, fostering understanding and empathy among diverse groups. National Library Week is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the unsung heroes of our communities - librarians and library workers. Their dedication and passion are the driving force behind the transformative impact of libraries. They are the guides who help us navigate the vast sea of information, the champions who champion the love of learning, and the custodians of our collective wisdom.

(Writer is Professor & Principal (Rtd) and newspaper columnist.)

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

### CHHATH PUJA FESTIVAL



Devotees dry wheat for preparing food during the celebration of 'Chhath Puja' festival, in Patna, Friday, Nov. 17.

### Women's empowerment is incomplete without male sensitivity



PRIYANKA SAURABH



Suppose someone from a previous century comes to our time today. How shocked they will be when they see women driving planes, cars, buses etc. Imagine their confusion when they learn that one-third of villages in India are headed by female sarpanches, while men may take care of ageing parents or other household chores at home. All this may seem like an everyday thing to us today, but for someone who has very rigid and strict gender-based views, lives and believes in gender-based norms and views society through the prism of patriarchy, women will be more shocked by interference in their marriages and increasing acceptance of other genders.

Gender roles and expectations have been prevalent in society for centuries. Girls are expected to be obedient, submissive, and nurturing, while boys are expected to be strong, determined, and competitive. These expectations often come with restrictions and demands that can be equally harmful for both sexes. The problem is not only that patriarchy and gender-based segregation are still very prevalent today, but the issue is also that it continues to flourish despite knowing it. If it handicapped a woman by unreasonable and illogical restrictions, it handicapped a man by excessive and unnatural expectations.

Even today girls are seen as an economic and social burden in the

family. As a reason, a young girl's dreams are often cut short, and she is disposed of as a burden on another family at an early age. This is not just a phenomenon in developing or poor countries, even developed countries with good human indices are witnessing an increase in child marriage. When a young girl, who has no prospects in life except bearing children and doing household work, is married into a family, there too she is treated as a burden or, in the worst case, her husband's property. In such cases, women lack any economic agency. They become victims of domestic violence, abuse, marital rape, mental health issues etc. The role of women has been systematically confined to the four walls of the home and whatever role they might have had in society has been taken away in the name of modesty. Women's education has been stopped and they are forced to live a life of slavery in the name of good religious practices. The essence of patriarchy has become so embedded in our minds that we often don't even realize when and how we put it into practice.

Restrictions can have a detrimental effect on girls' self-esteem and confidence. When girls are constantly told what they can't do or what they shouldn't do, they begin to believe that they aren't capable of achieving their goals. This can lead to a lack of ambi-

tion and a fear of taking risks. She may choose a different career path that she is not passionate about. Apart from this, restrictions imposed on girls can also affect their mental health. They may feel trapped and suffocated by the expectations placed upon them, which can lead to anxiety and depression. For example, a girl who is constantly told to be submissive and avoid attracting attention may feel ashamed of her body and struggle with body image issues. The contribution of depressive disorders to disability caused by neuropsychiatric disorders in women is close to 41.9% compared to 29.3% in men. Most women would be sceptical about travelling alone or going out at night. Even though it will not save them from the harm caused to Nirbhaya, still, they will still get a psychological sense of security in the company of someone they know.

But to say that only women are victims of this mentality would be half the truth. In recent times, there has been greater awareness regarding the impact of patriarchy on men, especially given the unfair demands that they have to meet. Since ancient times, most of our stories have centred around a strong and virtuous man who is worthy of ruling the world and must be willing to fight for it without shedding a tear. Such stories have set very high, yet very toxic standards of masculinity on men. From a very young age, these unnatural expectations and hero complexes begin to shape the psychology of impressionable children, leading them to become leaders in whatever field they enter. They are allowed to feel only masculine emotions, power, anger, and passion and should not give place to feminine emotions like love, compassion, nurturing etc. This creates cognitive dissonance and conflict in their mind because there appears to be a mismatch in what is happening. What

they feel and what society expects them to feel. The pressure that is placed on them usually stunts their emotional development and cognitive well-being. In the end, good people face issues like depression, anxiety etc and people with weak moral capacity commit crimes like gang rape, domestic violence, murder etc. Boys who are taught to be strong and assertive may feel like they need to prove their manhood through these behaviours, leading to a culture of violence and abuse.

It is time we understood that nature is extremely generous when it decides to bestow capabilities on humans. Apart from the ability to reproduce, nature does not discriminate based on gender. Today we live in a society where we have the freedom to live the life we want and create artificial standards and barriers, which means moving against the natural flow of the tide. Today we recognize the role that women can play in economic development as well as the role that men can play in supporting the family. We are on the verge of revolutionizing society by giving marital and conjugal rights to other genders. We must start by empowering our women as well as sensitizing our men. Small changes like changing comments to gender-neutral, pay parity, paternity leave, etc. are being implemented in many places. With the rise of social media, it has become easier to find one's role models based on their achievements and not gender. Women today are occupying more responsible positions in almost every field. We need to make more efforts at the legal level also. We need gender-neutral laws to protect the interests of not only women but also boys. At the same time, we should try to develop healthy sex education and open communication between different people.

Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Breathing Matters

Clean air is a necessity, yet perspectives on air pollution in India vary widely. The Supreme Court advocates for clean air, while liberals push for enforcing cracker bans. The right wing sees bans as a challenge to tradition, and some citizens accept pollution during Diwali as a yearly occurrence. Comparing to countries like the US, UK, Canada, and Europe with their pristine air, we question why India lags behind. The truth is, many Indians seem indifferent to air quality, unconcerned about AQI levels reaching 400 or 700. It's high time we prioritize clean air and take collective responsibility for the air we breathe.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Tuition Fee Outrage

Delhi University has raised the tuition fee for PhD students of the English department more than eightfold at one go. This is another horrific attempt to deprive umpteen number of students of our country of their right to education. Given DU is a government university, it reflects badly on government policy towards education. Being a backbencher in the Human Development Index (132nd position), India must emulate high ranking countries in the HDI which provide quality higher education free of cost for all - even for the refugees and visitors, instead of spending money on the sun, moon and planet missions.

Sujit De, Kolkata

#### What a win

The Indian cricket team has stormed into the World Cup finals after an electrifying semi-final match against New Zealand. What a performance by our star batsman Virat Kohli and Suresh Ayer, who smashed century and star bowler, Shami! He bowled like an absolute champion, tormenting the opposition with his impressive skills and precision. Now, as we gear up for the finals, it's time for the entire nation to unite and rally behind our team. Let's continue supporting them with all our heart and soul as they chase the dream of bringing the World Cup trophy back home.

MJ Azizi, Mumbai

#### Bihar towards educational reform

Many commendable initiatives related to education have been taken in Bihar for some time now. This will bring employment as well as educational improvement in the coming time. The decision to appoint about one lakh teachers, arrange security guards in schools and arrange houses for teachers to live near schools will prove to be effective. The decision to give engineers a chance to become teachers will bring further improvement. This will provide employment to many educated unemployed people in Bihar and students will also get quality education.

Ibne Ali, Sitamarhi

### Rohit Sharma: The Leader Who Deserves This World Cup



Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

As a passionate cricket enthusiast, I couldn't be prouder of India's victory over New Zealand in the Shami-Final at Mumbai's iconic Wankhede Stadium during the ODI World Cup. The adrenaline-pumping moments, the heart-stopping performances, and the unforgettable memories will forever be etched in my cricket-loving heart. While the cricket world celebrates the likes of Mohd. Shami's sensational bowling and Virat Kohli's record-breaking 50th ODI century, I firmly believe that the unsung

hero of our triumph is none other than our captain, Rohit 'The Hitman' Sharma.

From the very beginning of the tournament, Rohit's presence on the field has been electrifying. He might not always grab the headlines with flashy innings, but his impact is immeasurable. It's his fearless approach that sets the tone for our team, making the opposition wary right from ball one. In a format where quick starts are crucial, Rohit's ability to provide solid openings has allowed batsmen like Kohli and Shreyas Iyer to settle in and play their natural game.

What makes Rohit's contribution even more significant is his selfless approach to the game. He isn't concerned about personal glory; he's dedicated to the team's success. His aggressive yet calculated batting style puts tremendous pressure on the opposition and often forces them into making mistakes. In my opinion, this is where his true quality lies. It's not about the quantity of runs he scores but the impact those runs have on the game's outcome.

Rohit Sharma's leadership



qualities have also been on full display throughout the tournament. His astute bowling changes and strategic field placements have been nothing short of brilliant. I can't help but applaud his decision to position Jadeja strategically, resulting in three consecutive catches in a crucial match. His ability to rally the team and encourage proactive fielding and bowling efforts when

needed most has been remarkable.

It's easy to mistake Rohit's laid-back demeanour for a lack of intensity, but I've come to realize that behind that mask of aloofness lies a tactical cricketing genius. He understands the game's nuances and has a knack for making the right decisions at critical junctures. While others may chase big numbers, Rohit fo-

cuses on making impactful contributions that shape the outcome of the match. Moreover, Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid, in their respective roles, have instilled a sense of calm and ruthlessness in Team India. They've managed to reduce the pressure and intensity while maintaining a laser-sharp focus on winning. This transformation has been evident in our team's performances, and it's a testament to their leadership.

Let's not forget to acknowledge the sportsmanship displayed by our opponents, New Zealand. Daryl Mitchell's incredible form and Kane Williamson's composed leadership were commendable. Despite the disappointment of not lifting the trophy, their grace in defeat and their willingness to applaud the victorious opposition speak volumes about their character and the values instilled by cricket. Rohit Sharma's fearless captaincy, his strategic brilliance, and his selfless approach have guided India to this historic triumph, and for that, he deserves our utmost appreciation and admiration.



**BRIEF**

**Solar energy**



**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday directed energy department officials to formulate guidelines for the solar energy scheme at the earliest. Presiding over a meeting of the energy department, he said the present state government has announced to provide a 40 per cent subsidy to the youth of the state on the installation of solar projects capacity ranging from 100 KW to 1 MW and the department should implement this scheme and prepare the complete outline of the scheme. Besides providing self-employment opportunities to the youth, the scheme will also go a long way in strengthening the efforts of the state government to make Himachal Pradesh a green energy state by March 31, 2026, he said in a statement issued here.

**Investors invited**



**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday called upon investors to become partners in the state's transformation into a world-class economy by investing in its flourishing tourism sector. Kerala is all set to transform itself from being the best tourism destination to the "perfect tourism investment destination" in the country, he said, speaking after inaugurating the Tourism Investors Meet here. By investing in Kerala Tourism, investors would also be a part of this tremendous transformation, he said. "Kerala is the only state in the country with four international airports. We have numerous national and State highways. Soon one can travel from Kerala's northern end to its southern end on water. Kerala has the highest number of 5-star hotels in the country."

**IPO opening**

**New Delhi:** Pen maker Flair Writing Industries Ltd has set a price band of Rs 288-304 a share for its Rs 593-crore initial public offering (IPO), market sources said on Friday. The maiden public issue will open for subscription on November 22 and conclude on November 24 and the anchor book of the offer will be opened for a day on November 21, they added. As per the red herring prospectus (RHP), Flair Writing's IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 292 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of equity shares worth up to Rs 301 crore by promoters and promoter group entities. At present, promoters and promoter group entities own 100 per cent stake in the company.

# India grants record 41,010 patents in 2023-34 so far: Goyal

New Delhi Nov 17:

The Indian patent office has granted "highest" number of 41,010 patents till November 15 this fiscal year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. In 2013-14 fiscal year, 4,227 patents were granted. "It's a record. Highest ever number of patents granted so far in 2023-24," he said in a post on social media platform X. On this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this is a "notable feat" and it marks a milestone in India's journey towards an innovation-driven knowledge economy. "India's youth will be great beneficiaries of such strides," he said. The prime minister recently stated that the rise in patent applications in India demonstrates the rising innovative zeal of



its youth and is a very positive sign for the times to come.

According to a World Intellectual Property Organization report, patent applications by Indians grew 31.6 per cent in 2022, extending an 11-year run of growth unmatched by any other country among the top 10 filers. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has called upon the world leaders to join hands as a global commu-

nity to construct a future where climate action is not a burden but an opportunity for innovation and growth. While speaking at the APEC Informal Leader's Dialogue in San Francisco on November 16, the minister also highlighted India's environmental leadership in meeting the renewable energy target of 175 gigawatts nine years ahead of the target. "He called upon the world leaders to join hands as a global community to construct a future where sustainability is not a distant aspiration but a way of life and where climate action is not a burden but an opportunity for innovation and growth," the commerce ministry said. Goyal also participated in the Investor Forum of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII). The

Forum was co-hosted by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Senior Advisor to the President Amos Hochstein with the discussion centred on collaborative actions and shared priorities to increase private investment in the Indo-Pacific. Raimondo highlighted the continuing partnership between India and the US through the Green Transition Fund. The minister also joined the world leaders at the IPEF Leader's Meeting. The engagement was attended by several world leaders including US President. Several IPEF initiatives such as Critical Minerals Dialogue, Investment Accelerator, Catalytic Fund, Investor Forum, IPEF Networks were announced during the meeting.

## Made-in-India Honda Elevate to debut in Japan next year

New Delhi, Nov 17:

Japanese auto major Honda is all set to introduce its India-made mid-sized SUV Elevate in the Japanese market next year. It would be the first instance that a product manufactured by Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), a wholly-owned unit of the Japanese firm, will be exported to the highly regulated Japanese market.

HCIL is rolling out Elevate from its Tapukara (Rajasthan-based) production facility. "After its successful debut in India earlier this year, Elevate is scheduled for Spring 2024 launch in the Japanese market under the brand name WR-V," an HCIL spokesperson said in a statement. In a first for



HCIL, the model will be manufactured in India and exported to Japan, it added.

"This strategic move is a strong reflection of manufacturing capabilities of India operations and also solidifies our vision of making the country a key export hub in Honda business," the spokesperson said. The company's Tapukara-based plant is fully equipped to take care of the domestic as well as export requirements, the spokesperson added.

## Sensex, Nifty decline on selloff in banking, financial stocks

Mumbai, Nov 17:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined on Friday, dragged down by heavy selling pressure in banking, financial and energy stocks amid mixed cues from global markets. Shares of bank and NBFC firms fell after the Reserve Bank tightened norms for consumer credit as it asked them to assign a higher risk weight for unsecured personal loans, a move aimed at making the lenders more cautious about such advances.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 187.75 points or 0.28 per cent to settle at 65,794.73. During the day, it fell 342.74 points or 0.51 per cent to 65,639.74.



The Nifty skidded 33.40 points or 0.17 per cent to 19,731.80.

Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of India fell 3.64 per cent, followed by Axis Bank (3.03 per cent). Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Wipro, and Reliance Industries were among the

## SBI to soon launch 'Yono Global' app in Singapore and US

Singapore, Nov 17 (PTI)

State Bank of India (SBI) will soon launch its banking mobile app 'Yono Global' in Singapore and the US, offering digitalized remittance and other services to its customers, Vidya Krishnan, Deputy MD (IT), said. "We are continuing to invest in Yono Global to offer the best services available as we want to give superior experience to our customers," Krishnan told PTI at the three-day Singapore Fintech Festival (SFF), which ends on November 17. Krishnan held talks with Singapore-based digital platform enablers as well as the local regulator and central bank, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). "We are constantly working on the remittance story between India and Singapore, given the large number of Indian diaspora in the city state." Currently, SBI offers Yono Global services in 9 countries, starting with the UK operations in September 2019. SBI's foreign operations have a total balance sheet size of USD 78 billion.

## India stands ready to share technical capabilities: DEA Secy

### For empowering people of Global South

New Delhi, Nov 17:

India stands ready to share its technical capabilities relating to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and knowledge resources for empowering the people of the Global South, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Friday. G20 Leaders at the New Delhi Summit in September committed to improving access to digital services and digital public infrastructure and leveraging digital transformation opportunities to boost sustainable and inclusive growth. Speaking at the second Voice of Global South Summit, Seth said another focus area of the Indian presidency is the role of technology in social transformation and economic empowerment, particularly in financial inclusion. Relying on India's success story, the G20 policy rec-



ommendations for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains through digital public infrastructure endorsed by the leaders can serve as a valuable guide for rapidly advancing financial inclusion, he said. "The G20 financial inclusion action plan for 2024 to 2026, also prioritises the deepening of engagement with the Global South. India stands ready to share its technical capabilities and knowledge resources for empowering the people of the Global South," he said. Another notable achievement of the G20 is the groundwork for formulation of a globally coordinated policy and regulatory framework for the crypto assets, he said.

## India's forex reserves drop USD 462 mln to USD 590.321 bln

Mumbai, Nov 17:

India's forex kitty decreased by USD 462 million to USD 590.321 billion for the week ended November 10, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had increased by USD 4.672 billion to USD 590.783 billion. In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended November 10, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD

108 million to USD 522.004 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by Reserve Bank of India.

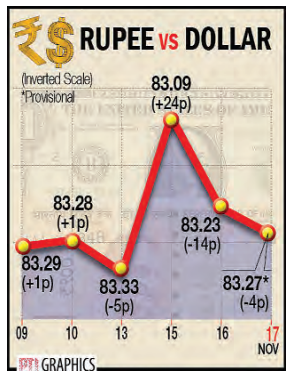
Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves were down by USD 608 million to USD 45.515 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 36 million to USD 18.011 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) was up by USD 3 million to USD 4.791 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

## Rupee edges 4 paise lower at 83.27 against US dollar

Mumbai, Nov 17:

The rupee declined by 4 paise to 83.27 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday as a firm greenback in the overseas markets and losses in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiment. Fresh FII inflows and crude oil prices trading near four-month lows helped the rupee restrict losses, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened flat at 83.23 against the US currency following overnight losses in crude oil prices. The local unit moved in a tight



range of 83.23 to 83.28 in the day trade. The currency finally closed lower by 4 paise at 83.27 against the dollar. It closed at 83.23 against the greenback on Thursday. The rupee de-

clined marginally as the dollar index remained within a range near 104.10, Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, said.

"Broadly, the rupee has been moving within the range of 82.90-83.35, with the RBI interventions preventing it from falling below the 83.35 levels while facing resistance around 82.90-83.00," Trivedi said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, touched a high of 104.53 before edging lower by 0.11 per cent at 104.23 in afternoon trade.

## Expand operations

New Delhi, Nov 17:

Global IT firm Innova Solutions has shifted its focus back to India and will look to expand operations and rope in talent from the country next year, a senior executive of the company said. Pradeep Yadlapati, Senior Vice President, India Head & APAC Special Business Unit Head, Innova Solutions, said the company operates in various segments, including health, BFSI, communications, and media. "This year, we shifted our focus to India. Large corporates are looking at India for skills and technology, not just cost capital. India is emerging as a growth market for technology and talent," Yadlapati told PTI.

## Domestic power demand to grow by 7 pc in FY24: Fitch

New Delhi, Nov 17:

The domestic power demand is expected to rise 7 per cent year-on-year in 2023-24, driven by robust industrial activity, according to Fitch Ratings. In a report, the ratings agency said it also expects the receivable days (payment cycle) to further shorten in the near term. "Fitch Ratings expects India's power demand to increase by about 7 per cent in FY24, following a 7.1 per cent rise in 1HFY24, driven by robust industrial activity. This compares with a 9.5 per cent rise in FY23. The strong power demand

should keep the average thermal power plant load factor (PLF) above 60 per cent," the report said. It further said that regular payments under the central government's late payment surcharge (LPS) rules have lowered total dues from distribution companies (discoms) to power generation companies (gencos) to around Rs 70,000 crore, from Rs 1.3 lakh crore in June 2022, when LPS was launched. Fitch expects the receivable days for Fitch-rated gencos to further shorten in the near term, although at a slower rate than the sharp improvement in FY23. However, the

long-term sustainability of gencos' better receivables position depends on structural changes to boost the operational and financial profiles of discoms. This includes timely and adequate tariff adjustments, state subsidies and greater operational efficiency.

On the coal stock situation, it said thermal coal inventory fell to around 8.4 days at end-September 2023, against around 18 days normative. This was despite government efforts to maintain adequate coal stock through increased local supply and encouraging higher coal imports in the past six months.

## Sebi eases rule for physical securities' holders without PAN, KYC details

New Delhi, Nov 17:

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Friday decided to do away with the provision of requiring the freezing of folios without PAN, KYC details and nomination for all holders of physical securities. The move, aimed at simplifying the rule, will come into force with immediate effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. The decision has been taken after receiving feedback from the Registrars' Association of India and investors.

Under the rule, it was mandatory for all holders of physical securities in listed companies to furnish PAN, nomination, contact details, bank account details and specimen signature for their corresponding folio numbers. The folios wherein any one of such documents are not available on or after October 1, 2023, is required to be frozen by the Registrars to an

Issue and Share Transfer Agents (RTA), Sebi said in May. Amending the circular issued in May, Sebi said that reference to the term 'freezing/frozen' has been deleted. "Based on representations received from the Registrars' Association of India, feedback from investors, and to mitigate unintended challenges on account of freezing of folios and referring frozen folios to the administering authority under the Benami Transactions (Prohibitions) Act, 1988 and/or Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, it has been decided to do away with the above provisions," Sebi said. Further, frozen folios were required to be referred by the RTA or listed company to the administering authority under the Benami Transactions (Prohibitions) Act, 1988, and/or Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, if they continue to remain frozen as on December 31, 2025.

# RBI's tighter regulatory risk weight to hit banks' capital adequacy by 60 bps: S&P

New Delhi, Nov 17:

The Reserve Bank's decision to tighten norms for consumer credit by raising risk weight for unsecured personal loans is likely to hit banks' capital adequacy by 60 basis points, S&P Global Ratings said on Friday. The move will curtail riskier bank lending to consumers and is expected to squeeze the nonbank sector in particular. The RBI on Thursday increased risk weights on unsecured personal loans, credit cards, and lending to nonbank finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 percentage points. This will likely lead to higher lending rates, lower credit growth, and increase the need for capital raising

among weak lenders, S&P Global Ratings said, adding that higher risk weights will ultimately support asset quality. "Slower loan growth and an increased emphasis on risk management will likely support asset quality in the Indian banking system."

"However, the immediate effect will likely be higher interest rates for borrowers, slower loan growth for lenders reduced capital adequacy, and some hit on profits. We estimate that the Tier-1 capital adequacy of banks will decline by about 60 basis points. Finance companies will be worse affected as their incremental bank borrowing costs will surge, in addition to the capital ad-

equacy impact," S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Geeta Chugh said in the statement. These changes will not have any immediate effect on India's financial sector ratings, and this will also not affect the risk-adjusted capital ratio for the rated banks and finance companies, the agency said.

Unsecured personal loans and credit card debt have risen rapidly in the past few years in India. Such loans have grown 26 per cent in the 12 months ending September 2023. This type of loan, along with consumer durable lending, represented about 9.8 per cent of total loans in the banking system as of September 22, 2023. Small-ticket person-

al loans of less than Rs 50,000 are particularly at higher risk. Reported delinquencies (90-plus days past due) for this type of lending was 5.4 per cent as of June 2023, according to credit bureau Transunion Cibil.

While these small borrowers are often highly leveraged and may have other lending products, loans below Rs 50,000 comprise only 0.3 per cent of total retail loans. Financial technology firms are more exposed to these loans, as around 80 per cent of their personal loans are in this customer segment, the rating agency said. Notwithstanding the risk of a potential buildup of imbalances in some categories of retail loans, the

delinquency rate of 90-plus days past due is at acceptable limits for this product category, it added. Specifically, as of June 30, 2023, the delinquency rate was 1.6 per cent for credit cards and 0.8 per cent for unsecured personal loans. "NBFCs face a double-whammy of higher risk weights on their unsecured loans and on bank lending to NBFCs. This will squeeze the reported capital adequacy of non-banks and push up their funding costs," said S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Deepali Seth Chhabria. While NBFCs are not homogeneous, many retail-focused finance companies have a much higher exposure to unsecured loans than banks.



## Around 61.43% polling recorded in Bilaspur div

### Till 5:00 pm; Divisional Comm, Collector, SP cast their votes, took selfie



Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Nov 17:** The Divisional Commissioner Bilaspur KD Kunjam cast his vote at the Model Polling Centre No. 59 of Mission School in Bilaspur here on Friday. He also took a selfie at the selfie-point at the centre and made an appeal to all the voters to cast their votes without fail.

**Collector, SP cast their votes:** Collector and DRO Bilaspur Avneesh Sharan and SP SK Singh exercised their franchise at the model polling centre of Mission HS School in Bilaspur VS

area here on Friday. SP SK Singh exercised his franchise along with his family. Municipal Commissioner Kunad Dudawat, CEO District Panchayat Ajay Agrawal also exercised their franchise here itself.

On this occasion Collector held handshake with the jawans on duty and motivated them to exercise their responsibility with dedication and commitment and he also appealed to all the officers and employees of the polling centre to complete their job seriously and wished them all the best. Collector and SP also took selfie at the selfie-point



made at the polling centre and extended greetings to all the voters to cast their votes with full awareness.

**'Matdata Mitra' extended help to voters in polling centres:**

**Bilaspur:** Voter Assistants (Matdata Mitra) were appointed in all the polling centres in the Bilaspur VS area and they were helping the voters to find out their name in the voters list and about the polling centre.

In addition to this the NCC cadets, scouts & Guides and NSS workers working as Vote Assistants helped the 'divyang', senior citizens and those who

were not physically fit and took them to the polling centre and dropped them back.

They also helped the voters in pulling their wheelchair, providing water and primary health to those in need. The voters said that it is for this help that they have come to exercise their franchise at the polling centre and hailed this particular facility provided by the local district administration.

**Male, female voters of 'Baiga' tribe took part in large number:**

**Bilaspur:** Participation of all the voters in this festi-



val of democracy tops all priorities and one should cast his or her votes to strengthen the democracy.

There are around 5000 'Baiga' primitive tribes living in 32 villages of Kota Block of Bilaspur district and this time they exercised their franchise in large number by casting their votes and they also took a selfie with big smile on their faces.

In Gram Karka, Kurdar, Dindoland others of Kota block, the backward primitive tribe 'Baiga' voters gave introduction of their awareness. They left behind all their works and

Shiv Singh, Kartik Ram, Siyaram, Mrs Budhwaria, Mrs Parvati Bai and other from Gram Dindol came to cast their votes in the polling centre and opted for path of development.

**Around 61.43% polling till 5:00 pm:**

**Bilaspur:** As per information from the voting control room, till 5:00 pm around 61.43% of polling was recorded in Bilaspur district. Under this 59.08% was recorded in Beltara VS are; 56.28% in Bilaspur; 66.39% in Bilha; 65.69% in Kota and 61.50% in Takathpur and 59.50% in Masturi VS area approximately.

## Enthusiastic voters turn out peacefully in Anwari



**Impressive turnout at Adarsh and Sangwari polling centers**

Central Chronicle News

**Anwari, Nov 17:** The Assembly General Election-2023 witnessed peaceful and active participation in the villages of Kurud Assembly Constituency No. 57, with a special focus on the serene village of Anwari.

From early morning, voters turned out in significant numbers to exercise their franchise, reaffirming their deep awareness

of the importance of their voting rights. The Adarsh and Sangwari polling centers, as well as polling stations dedicated to disabled and senior citizens, witnessed a tremendous influx of voters, highlighting the growing awareness among rural residents.

By 1 p.m., more than 43 percent of eligible voters had cast their votes, showcasing their commitment to shaping the future through the ballot box. Notably, in village Anwari, where two polling booths were set up, an impressive 80% voter turnout was recorded by evening.

## Polling centre decorated on forest theme

### In the name of 'Safe Tiger, Safe Forest' in Nagri

Central Chronicle News

**Dhamtari, Nov 17:** As such the Sihawa city existing amidst thick jungle is known for 'rishimunis', wild animals and tall teak trees, but this time in the biggest festival of democracy, at the model polling Centre No. 151 at Government Sringerishi Excellent English Medium School (GSEEMS) Nagri, the centre was decorated on the theme of 'Safe Tiger, Safe Forest', apart from an appeal to save the Sitanadi Jungle, protection of the lion, deer, bear, and



other wild animals of the forest; and a hut exhibiting



the tribal lifestyle and made out of bamboos and

'chind grass' was the centre of attraction.

In order to ensure cent per cent participation of voters in the polling procedure, this booth was decorated on forest theme. Through this booth, efforts were made to motivate voters to exercise their franchise and here the photos of lion, deer, bear and others were displayed so as to welcome the voters. The hut made out of bamboo and 'chind' grass was the centre of attraction for the voters and they took out a selfie reaching near it.

## Operation Jeevan Raksha: RPF save 25 lives

**Safety Measures Implemented Successfully**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur/Bilaspur, Nov 17:** In a display of heroism and commitment to passenger safety, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South East Central Railway has emerged as a beacon of hope. Under their laudable initiative, "Operation Jeevan Raksha," the RPF has successfully saved the lives of 25 individuals, including men, women, and children, spanning the months of October 2022 and 2023.



Central Railway, is not just safeguarding railway property but also embracing its social responsibility with unwavering dedication. Beyond assisting passengers in need, they have undertaken a relentless cam-

campaign to ensure the safety and support of all passengers, particularly women and children. One notable facet of their heroic efforts involves rescuing passengers who inadvertently find themselves in

perilous situations while attempting to board or disembark from moving trains. In such life-threatening moments, RPF personnel courageously risk their own lives to save others.

Moreover, during the festive seasons of Diwali and Chhath Parv, when trains and stations are brimming with passengers, the RPF members have diligently conducted extensive investigations at major stations. Their surveillance has effectively targeted suspicious drug-related activities, and they have skillfully managed crowd control, enhancing railway station safety while providing valuable assistance to women and children.

## 100% polling reported in 3 VS



**Of Bharatpur-Sonhat VS area No 1**

Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Nov 17:** There are report of 100 per cent polling in the three

polling centres of the Vidhan Sabha No. 1 of Bharatpur-Sonhat. As per information in this regard, in Gram Shehradhand, Kanto, Rawala polling centre, all the voters cast their votes going to the polling centre.

Collector and DRO Korea Vinay Kumar Langleh expressed happiness towards all the villagers and said that these voters residing in the remote areas have exercised their franchise rightly.

## Voters brave the sun to exercise their rights

**Inadequate facilities at Sangwari and Adarsh polling centers**

Central Chronicle News

**Rajim, Nov 17:** Voters at Sangwari and Adarsh polling centers faced challenging conditions as the facilities failed to meet their needs. Both male and female voters endured hours of standing under the scorching sun while exercising their right to vote, with mothers and their children facing additional hardships.

In an effort to encourage voter turnout, the administration had transformed Atmanand School into the Sangwari polling center and Government Primary Boys School into the Adarsh polling center. These centers were decked



out with welcoming gates, selfie zones, and even carpeted walkways. However, the lack of adequate shade and slow response from presiding and polling officers left long lines of voters waiting in the sun throughout the day.

The most affected were women who had arrived with their young children,

enduring hours of exposure to the hot sun in long queues. Some had to sit outside the lines due to the absence of shade, while others struggled with the lack of drinking water facilities. Despite these challenges, the voters displayed unwavering dedication to exercising their democratic rights.



Sangwari polling station attendees, including Suruj Chaturvedi, Karuna Kurre, Neha Banjare, Divya, Achala Gaikwad, Dujbai Kurre, and Nirmala, expressed their concerns, emphasizing the need for shade in such conditions. Even 70-year-old Ghasinbai, tied to vote, endured the sun's heat for

hours. According to Returning Officer Dhananjay Netam, voter turnout reached 20% by 11:00 am and 42% by 1:00 pm. Despite the challenges faced, the commitment of the voters shines as a testament to the importance of participating in the democratic process.

## Bemetara district average 72.93% polling

**Highest 73.44% voting in Bemetara assembly constituency**  
**Female voters polling more compared to male voters**

Central Chronicle News

**Bemetara, Nov 17:** In the assembly elections held on November 17, a total of 72.93 percent polling took place in the district and this includes 71.83% male and 74.05% female voters. A total of 557600 voters exercised their franchise in the district, including 276315 men and 281283 women.



District Election Office, a total of 58.41% voting had taken place in the district at 3 pm. That means 446600 voters had cast their votes. Of which 223230 are male (58.15 percent) and 223368 are female (58.92 percent).

According to the assembly wise data received, the highest voting percentage was 73.44% in Bemetara assembly constituency i.e.

a total of 181497 voters participated in the voting. Of these, 88534 were male voters whose percentage was 71.73 and 92961 female voters whose percentage was 75.15. Similarly, a total of 72.73 percent voting was recorded in Navagarh assembly constituency. A total of 193986 voters cast their votes there.

## Around 80% polling reported in Kurud VS area

### Initially Gram Panchayat Charbhata villagers had boycotted the polls

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Nov 17:** The villagers of Gram Panchayat Charbhata had taken a decision to boycott the polls on the mining issue which remained unsolved till the day of polling.

But it was finally the letter in support of the surface action on this issue shown to the people of Gram Panchayat Charbhata by the Collector that the villagers allowed the polling team to go to their polling centre late in the evening and today the villagers took part in large number and exercise their franchise.



By around 1:00 pm, around 1031 voters of



Gram Panchayat Charbhata, including both men and women have cast their votes. Despite the work of harvesting and other agriculture work in the villages, the people took part in the polling procedure in large number and ensured their participation in the VS polls 2023.

By evening 5:00 pm the polling got completed in most of the Centres and around 80-85% of polling is reported in this region. In the Kurud VS area, as compared to the male voters, the percentage of female voters casting their vote is higher in Gram Bharda, Kukkuha, Dahdaha, Mouri Khurd, Bhaismudi, Nari, Sirsida, Gudguda, Parkhanda, Gadadih, Umarda, Mandaroud, Charra, Mongra, Kokadi, Khaira, Katalbod, Bangar and others. Till the writing of these lines, around 80% of the polling was reported in most of the polling centres.



# KL Rahul the Keeper of India's fortunes

**When 'Dhoni' Review System' became Decision 'Rahul' System**

Ahmedabad, Nov 17 (PTI):

There was an Instagram reel by a social media influencer that went viral last year when the interviewee was asked to decipher an incomplete footage of a DRS call.

Without having a look, he says "out hai sir" and then asks the interviewer to shift the focus of the photo and there stood Mahendra Singh Dhoni behind, taking another immaculate call in what has come to be known as the 'Dhoni' Review System (DRS).

But in this World Cup, it won't be a misnomer if KL Rahul gets the DRS moniker in his name and we call it the 'Decision 'Rahul' System'.

At least on five occasions over the course of the World Cup, the Indian wicket-keeper prevented an excited bowler or his skipper from raising a "T" for the umpire.



A lot of moving parts have come together in the tournament and one of the important cogs in the wheel is Rahul, whose 386 runs at near 99 strike-rate and 77 average has slipped under the radar because of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami's brilliance but he has been that calming influence which is a pre-requisite of every team.

Magnificent when in full flow and completely lousy other times, a picture of calm when in form but ready to play a dishevelled stroke now and then, Rahul has been an enigma in Indian cricket for close to a decade.

For someone with Test centuries in Sydney, Lord's and Centurion, a man of his calibre could be termed an "under-achiever" as he is no less compared to a Rohit or Kohli, when it comes to the talent quotient.

But between spells of brilliance, there has been those lulls which, also by his own admission, let self doubts creep in but in this World Cup, if anyone has been a symbol of assurance, it is Rahul, the keep-

er. That catch to dismiss Devon Conway in the semi-final, would have certainly warmed the cockles of Mahendra Singh Dhoni's heart. With 16 dismissals in 10 games (15 catches and 1 stumping), he is second only to Quinton de Kock, a specialist keeper.

For someone, who wasn't a regular keeper till a few years back, this effort has been phenomenal. What has also stood out is Rahul's judgement of DRS calls. The reason for that is his perfect footwork behind the stumps as he has a perfect idea of where the ball finishes, says former India keeper Deep Dasgupta.

"DRS is not just a wicket-keeper's call only. The wicketkeeper can neither gauge the impact nor the height. The impact (whether pitched within stumps) is generally a bowler's call or the skipper standing at mid-on or mid-off. "The guy stationed adjacent to square leg umpire needs to check the height while the keeper with his movement would get an idea where the ball finishes," Dasgupta explained the whole process.

# I just try and bowl stump to stump: Shami on his World Cup success



Ahmedabad, Nov 17 (PTI):

and three fifters.

Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami has said there is nothing extraordinary in his bowling, adding he just focuses on stump-to-stump length and putting the delivery in "a zone" to get wickets.

Shami has been India's go-to bowler in the World Cup, where he is currently the side's top wicket-taker, scalping 23 wickets in six matches at an economy of 5.01, including a four-for

He grabbed seven wickets in the semifinal against New Zealand in Mumbai on Tuesday.

"I always look at what the situation is, how the pitch and the ball are behaving and if the ball is swinging or not," Shami told Star Sports.

"And, if the ball is not swinging, I try and bowl stump to stump while trying to land it in a zone where the ball can catch an edge of the batters

(when they) are driving." Shami missed the initial four matches of the World Cup, with all-rounder Hardik Pandya being the preferred pacer in the team before an ankle injury ruled him out for the remainder of the competition.

Since then, Shami has been phenomenal with his pace and seam, getting the ball to move in every condition.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri also believes that Shami will have a significant role to play in the final against Australia in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

"The very first ball, if he (Shami) is sprinting in, (I wish) good luck to the batters. The seam presentation, the way the ball lands... What he has done in this World Cup is to consistently hit the right lengths," he said during an event in Chennai on Friday.

"Even in Mumbai, he was troubling the batsmen with his skills. Not many got the ball to move around, but he got to do it and got the outside edges," added Shastri.

# Ticked a lot of boxes, will definitely win World Cup one day: Miller

Kolkata, Nov 17 (PTI):

Experiencing a fifth World Cup semifinal loss is frustrating, but South Africa will definitely take pride in their performances in this edition of the event and veteran batter David Miller believes it's only a matter of time before they clinch the coveted trophy.

World Cup's perennial chokers' South Africa, having taken the group stage by storm with their power-packed batting, fell short in the semifinal, but Miller's century backed up by a disciplined bowling show kept Australia on the edge in their nervy three-wicket win over the Proteas here on Thursday.

"It's pretty frustrating to be honest. Quinny (Quinton De Kock) mentioned with his four hundreds, he is okay not to score any runs and win the trophy," Miller told reporters here. "You want to get through to the final and have a crack at the trophy. We're happy to have



hung in there and put up a total. That's the game of cricket." The likes of pace bowler all-rounder Gerald Coetzee, who made his ODI debut only in March this year, along with left-arm quick Marco Jansen have been impressive for South Africa in this World Cup. "Before the tournament started, we talked about just hav-

ing great memories, and enjoy the journey. We ticked a lot of boxes, can definitely look back and say we had a great time. It doesn't help losing a semifinal but guys showed a lot of character," Miller said. "We all played in different tournaments, different teams. It's one of these things. It wasn't to be this occasion. But the guys are definitely going to win a World Cup. We showed what we can do," he said.

Their last World Cup choke was in the 2015 semifinal against New Zealand in Auckland, where the co-hosts won with one ball remaining in a rain-affected match.

Asked about the mood this time, Miller said: "There were a lot more tears in Auckland. Not a great feeling to lose a World Cup semifinal. But we had a great campaign from the team, consistent performances (in this edition). Individuals have stood out, to lose this is pretty frustrating," he said.

# No real weaknesses in Indian team: Hazlewood

Kolkata, Nov 17 (PTI):

Bracing up for the World Cup final against India, a team he describes as one without "any real weaknesses", Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood says he saw a "few cracks" while rattling their top-order in their tournament opener.

Australia, who lost that game in Chennai by six wickets after reducing India to 3/2 in the second over, set up a big-ticket title showdown against the formidable hosts with a nervy three-wicket win over South Africa here on Thursday.

In the tournament build-up, the two teams were engaged in a three-match ODI series with India winning 2-1. "We got one in the series, lost that 2-1, but no, we've played them a lot of times. We know them inside out, same with them."

"They're a quality team, they've been on a march the whole tournament, no real weaknesses in their team, so, yeah, look forward to playing them on Sunday," Hazlewood said of India



after the win over South Africa. The pacer added, "I guess we saw a few cracks when we played them in Chennai chasing a small target, we were lucky enough to get a couple early." India bowled out Australia for 199 in their first game in the showpiece.

It will be a repeat of the 2003 World Cup final which a batting-heavy Australia won in a lopsided contest.

Hazlewood, who rocked the South African batting along with fellow new ball bowler Mitchell Starc, hoped they would recreate their magic against India in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

# No need to do anything different in final, Shastri tells Indian team

Chennai, Nov 17 (PTI):

India will be overwhelming favourites in the upcoming World Cup final against Australia, the team's former head coach Ravi Shastri said on Friday while urging the hosts to stick to their game plans.

On the sidelines of an event in the city, Shastri spoke on India's approach in the title clash saying they do not need to do anything different.

"I think they will be relaxed. They are playing at home, and it's a very experienced side. And they don't need to do anything different."

"The way they have played... it will be around the way they had left in the last game. They should be holding that cup very soon. "India will win the World Cup. They will start as favourites in the final. They have played outstandingly well," Shastri said. Despite having beaten Australia in the league stage, India will be under



pressure against the five-time world champions, who have a great record in ICC finals. But Shastri believes that if the Men in Blue are able to stay calm and soak in the pressure, then they can emerge triumphant.

"They just need to be composed and calm, handling and soaking in the pressure. You (India) don't want to be over-excited just because it's a final."

"You (India) know what your roles are, and the good thing is this team doesn't depend on one or two players. There are eight or nine players performing game after game,

so that's a brilliant sign," he said. The former India all-rounder also praised in-form seamer Mohammed Shami for his outstanding display in the tournament in which he leads the bowling chart with 23 wickets, including picking seven wickets in the semifinal against New Zealand in Mumbai.

He believes Shami will have a significant role to play in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

"The very first ball, if he (Shami) is sprinting in, (I wish) good luck to the batters. The seam presentation, the way the ball lands... What he has done in this World Cup is to consistently hit the right lengths," he said.

"Even in Mumbai, he was troubling the batsmen with his skills. Not many got the ball to move around, but he got to do it and got the outside edges."

"I say this is the best Indian bowling attack. When you look at the variety and skill set, it's amazing."

# We want to take on the best: Mitchell Starc

Kolkata, Nov 17 (PTI):

"We want to take on the best," Mitchell Starc asserted after five-time champions Australia set up a mouth-watering World Cup summit showdown with tournament hosts India.

Heading into the final with a perfect 10 wins, India have been the team to beat in the World Cup, and Australia are relishing the challenge of crossing swords with the formidable home side.

Australia on Thursday prevailed over South Africa by three wickets in a see-saw contest at Eden Gardens. "We want to take on the best," Starc said at the post-match media interaction. "They've been the best in the tournament so far and we both find ourselves in the finals. So that's what World Cups are about. It's why we play the game. "We certainly come up against a team that have obviously led from the front through the tournament and they're undefeated," Starc said.

Both teams had crossed swords in their opening fixture of the tournament in what turned out to be a one-sided affair with India winning by six wickets after bowling them out for a paltry 199 in Chennai. "We played them in the



first game of the tournament, now we get to take them on in the last. So yeah, what a place to be at the end of a World Cup," he added. Chasing 213 against South Africa, their batters faltered against the South African spinners to make it a nervy win in the end. Asked whether they would be wary of facing India's spinners at Ahmedabad, he said: "I guess we'll find out when we get to Ahmedabad tomorrow and see if it's a fresh wicket or an old wicket."

# Argentina loses 1st match since World Cup title

Buenos Aires, Nov 17 (AP):

Lionel Messi could not help Argentina extend its unbeaten streak since its World Cup title. Uruguay beat Argentina 2-0 at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires on Thursday in a World Cup qualifying match, its biggest victory so far under new coach Marcelo Bielsa. Argentina hadn't lost a competitive match since its group-stage opener against Saudi Arabia during last year's World Cup in Qatar.

Brazil continued its so far poor campaign in qualifying with a 2-1 loss at Colombia, its second consecutive defeat in the round-robin competition.

Striker Luiz Diaz scored twice on headers to lead an impressive turnaround at the Metropolitan Stadium in Barranquilla, with his father celebrating in the stands only days after being released by kidnappers.

Argentina still leads the 10-team South American qualifying group with 12 points from five matches. Uruguay is second with 10 points. Colombia has nine and Venezuela eight. Brazil will host the World Cup champions at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in fifth position,



with seven points. Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have five points each. Bolivia has three and Peru one.

The 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico

and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams from South America. The seventh-place team can earn a berth in an intercontinental playoff.

**URUGUAY 2, ARGENTINA 0**  
Uruguay was aggressive from the start against the World Cup champions. Darwin N nez nearly opened the scoring with a crossed shot in the 10th minute after a mistake by defender Nicol s Otamendi. For the first time since Argentina's World Cup title, coach Lionel Scaloni looked jittery as his midfielders struggled to block Uruguay's wingers. His players didn't heed the call and their punishment came in the 42nd minute, when Matias Vi a easily stole the ball from Nahuel Molina and gently made a low cross into the penalty box. Ronald Ara jo smashed it into the back of the net.

Argentina came close to levelling the scoring on a free kick by Messi and a close-range shot by Otamendi, which forced goalkeeper Sergio Rochet to make a key save near the end of the first half. After the break, Uruguay kept the pressure on Argentina, which once again counted on Messi and substitute Angel di Maria to find its best chances. Messi hit the bar with a free kick in the 57th minute. N nez scored in the 87th minute on a

counter after the Uruguayan defence stopped Messi at the edge of its box.

**COLOMBIA 2, BRAZIL 1**

With Neymar and Casemiro out with injuries, Brazil coach Fernando Diniz had some major restructuring to do ahead of what he called "a physical encounter" at Colombia. Gabriel Martinelli and midfielder Andr were picked as substitutes. Martinelli opened the scoring in the fourth minute after a quick exchange of passes with Vinicius J nior. Brazil's momentum stalled after the Real Madrid winger left in the 25th minute with a left thigh injury. Colombia's game up front depended almost exclusively on Diaz. The striker nearly scored after dribbling past several Brazilians in the 30th minute and was stopped by goalkeeper Alisson on two more dangerous shots in the second half. Diaz equalized with an easy header in the 75th minute; he didn't even need to jump. He added a second goal four minutes later. His father, Luis Manuel Diaz, fell on top of some people next to him in the stands as his son celebrated.

# PCB names Wahab Riaz as new chief selector



Lahore, Nov 17 (PTI):

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday named the country's former fast bowler Wahab Riaz as their new chief selector, a week after accepting the resignation of legendary batter and ex-captain Inzamam ul Haq. Inzamam had on October 30 resigned as the chairman of the national selection committee after the PCB initiated an inquiry to probe if his association with a company that manages a number of national team players amounted to conflict of interest.

The 38-year-old Riaz's first assignment will be to select the squads for the Test tour of Australia and the T20I rubber in New Zealand. Pakistan will play their Test series in Australia from 14 December to 7 January and a five-match T20I away series against New Zealand from January 12 to 21. The PCB is expected to announce the other national selectors in a couple of days after consulting Riaz.





### CONG T'GANA MANIFESTO

## Free internet for students, Rs 4,000 old age pension, LPG at Rs 500

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (PTI):

AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday released Congress party's manifesto which includes six guarantees and various declarations for Telangana, including Rs 4,000 old age pension and LPG at Rs 500.

After releasing the 42-page manifesto, 'Abhya Hastham', the Congress chief said the mood of the people of Telangana is such that the grand old party has to be brought to power; "come what may".

The six guarantees of the Congress include the promise of Rs 2,500 per month and gas cylinders at Rs 500 for women, as well as 200 units of free electricity for all households, if the party comes to power in the state after the November 30 polls.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with Telangana Congress president A Revanth Reddy and AICC Telangana in-charge Manikrao Thakare releases the party's manifesto ahead of Telangana Assembly elections, in Hyderabad, Friday.

The party also promised to scrap Dharani, an integrated land administration portal and replace it with a new revenue system. Under Rythu Bharosa, the party promises Rs 15,000 investment assistance for farmers every year, while farm labourers will get Rs

12,000. Under 'Cheyutha', Rs 4,000 old age pension and Rs 10 lakh health insurance cover will be given to eligible beneficiaries. Under Vidya Bharosa Card, financial assistance card of Rs 5 lakh will be provided to students, which can be used in the payment of

college fees (in addition to fee reimbursement) and other education related expenditure. "Free internet through Wi-Fi facilities will be provided to all students," it said.

The manifesto also promised that a judicial inquiry will be conducted by a sitting high court judge into all irregularities and corruption in the construction of the Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation Project.

The Congress, if voted to power, will waive off crop loans of Rs two lakh at once, the poll document added. The party has also promised to provide financial assistance of Rs 12,000 per year to every auto rickshaw driver, besides offering 50 per cent discount on pending traffic challans through a one-time settlement scheme.

### TRANSGENDERS EXERCISE RIGHTS



Voters from the transgender community show their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting their votes during Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Jabalpur, Friday.

## 'BJP scattered in Raj, doesn't have CM face'

Jaipur, Nov 17 (PTI):

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claimed on Friday that the BJP is scattered in Rajasthan and it does not have a chief ministerial face for the upcoming state Assembly polls.

The Congress general secretary also took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent visits to the poll-bound state, saying it seems that he is out to find a chief ministerial face for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"The BJP is a scattered party in Rajasthan and it does not have a face for the chief minister's post. The prime minister is roaming every corner of the state. Sometimes, it seems that he is out to find his chief ministerial face," Gandhi said while addressing a



poll rally at Sagwara in Durgapur district.

"Modi is seeking votes in his name. Who will run the state? He will not come from Delhi to run the state, a local leader is needed for that," she added.

Gandhi also asked the voters to be careful if emotions and religion are used with a design to get their votes. "If emotions and religion are used in politics, one has to be careful. If your emotions are being used, then you will have to

be careful and think whether they are working for you or just taking the name of religion," she said.

Hitting out at the BJP-led Centre, the Congress leader said people across the country, including farmers, are suffering due to inflation.

She said the voters will have to decide what kind of leaders they want -- those who work for them or those who only talk of religion and do not work for them.

"The situation in the country is such that a farmer earns an average of Rs 27 a day and big industrialists like (Gautam Adani, who is a special friend of Modi, earns Rs 16,000 crore a day. The government provides complete assistance to him and loans are waived.

## 'Not in race for CM's post'

Gwalior (MP), Nov 17 (PTI): Union minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday said he was not in the race for the chief minister's post in Madhya Pradesh.

Scindia on Friday cast his vote at a polling booth in Gwalior. "I have told you (media) earlier, I am not in the chief ministerial race. I was neither in this race earlier nor today. You have asked me repeatedly in 2013, 2018 and now and I told you the same," he said after casting his vote.

The civil aviation minister also said that the people of the state would make Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win this election with full majority in order to secure their future, and for development and progress. The BJP has not projected any chief ministerial face in the state, where polling for the 230-member assembly is currently underway. The



Congress government under state party chief Kamal Nath, which came to power after the assembly polls in 2018, collapsed in March 2020 following a revolt by several MLAs loyal to Scindia. It paved the way for the return of Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the chief minister, while the rebel MLAs and Scindia joined the BJP.

## 'Cong leaders from Delhi used Raj as ATM'

Jaipur, Nov 17 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday attacked the Congress, saying it considered Rajasthan as its "ATM" where its leaders from Delhi swiped card to withdraw money.

Addressing a public meeting at Vijay Nagar of Ajmer, he said the Congress crossed all limits of appeasement politics for keeping its vote bank.

The state ranks number one in terms of corruption, appeasement, rape and other crimes against women, cyber crime and inflation index, he said.

"The Gehlot government ran an ATM to swipe card and withdraw money. The Congress party turned Rajasthan into an ATM where its leaders



from Delhi swiped the card to withdraw money. Such a government should be ousted," Shah said.

Attacking the Congress government further, he said, "The Gehlot government has crossed all lim-

its in Rajasthan for vote bank politics. Kanhaiya Lal was murdered in Udaipur, but not a single word came out of their mouth. They have made Rajasthan a state of riots," Shah said.

The state goes to polls on November 25 and the results will be announced on December 3.

If the Congress comes back to power, organisations liked the banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) will get a free hand and Rajasthan will never be safe.

"When you cast your votes in the upcoming elections, do not think that you are just going to make someone an MLA. Rather, your single vote is to form a double engine government under the leadership of Narendra Modi ji."

## CM PRAYS AND CASTS VOTE



(L-R)CM Baghel offers prayers to his family deities and ancestors before casting his vote. Baghel waits to cast his vote, in his native village Kuruddih, Durg District.



## CoE for Head and Neck Cancer at APCC

Chennai, Nov 17:

Apollo Proton Cancer Centres (APCC) announced the inauguration of its groundbreaking Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Head and Neck Cancer. With a comprehensive approach to cancer management and cutting-edge technologies, APCC is set to revolutionize the way head and neck cancer is treated, offering patients the best possible oncological outcomes while preserving their functionality and cosmesis. Head and neck

cancer is a significant public health concern, with 57.5% of cases worldwide occurring in Asia. India bears a heavy burden, accounting for 30% of all head and neck cancers globally. In 2018, India recorded 1,19,992 new cases and 72,616 deaths due to oral cancers, earning the country the unfortunate title of being the "capital of oral cancers." This alarming trend is often attributed to unique habits, such as tobacco chewing, and the high incidence of oral cancer associated with smokeless tobacco

use. Dr. Sapna Nangia, Director - Breast, Head & Neck, Department of Radiation Oncology, APCC, emphasized the gravity of the situation, saying, "The prevalence of head and neck cancer in India is a cause for concern, and it necessitates a specialized and integrated approach to treatment. APCC's Centre of Excellence for Head and Neck Cancer is committed to providing the best possible oncological outcomes while prioritizing functional and cosmetic outcomes for our patients."

### T'gana to witness Congress 'toofan': Rahul

Hyderabad, Nov 17 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said Telangana is going to witness a 'toofan' (storm) of support for his party in the legislative assembly polls and that the ruling BRS would lose badly. Addressing a rally at Pinapaka in Khammam district, he alleged that the corruption of BRS can be seen all over the state. He said the first aim of the Congress is to "make a people's government in Telangana" and after that "dislodge" the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. "KCR has come to know that a Congress 'toofan' is going to come in Telangana... Such a storm is going to come that KCR and his party would not be seen in Telangana," Gandhi said.



Hyderabad, Nov 17 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said Telangana is going to witness a 'toofan' (storm) of support for his party in the legislative assembly polls and that the ruling BRS would lose badly.

## Joint efforts to conquer hidden hunger

Mumbai, Nov 17:

Nutriso announced its partnership with NGO Sarvani as the official Nutrition Partner for Sarvani Paatashala. This collaboration will provide meals made with Nutriso, a subsidiary brand of CLRK Industries Pvt Ltd., a renowned Indian exporter of non-basmati rice, to 120 students at Sarvani Paatashala, aimed at addressing the issue of malnutrition in India and supporting the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to combat hidden hunger.



the nutritional value of the rice, making it a powerful tool to fight the hidden hunger prevalent in many parts of the country. The partnership with NGO Sarvani underscores Nutriso's commitment to addressing the pressing issue of malnutrition among children, especially in underprivileged communities. By providing Nutriso meals to 120 students of Sarvani Paatashala on a regular basis, the company aims to contribute to the over-

all health and well-being of these young learners. Proper nutrition is essential for the physical and cognitive development of children, and Nutriso is a nutritious and tasty option that will make a significant difference in their lives.

Commenting on the partnership, Bipin Agrawal, Chairman and Director of CLRK Industries Pvt Ltd., stated, "We are thrilled to partner with Sarvani NGO and extend our support to the students of Sarvani Paatashala. Nutriso is not just a brand; it is a commitment to fighting malnutrition in India. Our goal is to ensure that every child has access to a nutritious meal, and this partnership takes us one step closer to that vision."

Sarvani, an NGO dedicated to providing quality education and holistic development for underprivileged children, welcomed this collaboration with open arms.

## 'Narottam Mishra's statement on Pak an attempt to cover up BJP's sins'



Jitu Patwari

Indore, Nov 17 (PTI): Congress leader Jitu Patwari on Friday alleged that Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra's remark that there will be celebrations in Pakistan if any party other than the BJP wins the state election was an attempt to cover up the saffron party's

"sins". Polling is underway on Friday to elect 230 members of the Madhya Pradesh assembly. In a statement made this morning, Mishra asked voters to press the lotus flower (BJP's election symbol) button on the electronic voting machines considering "national interest" as paramount. He said if any party other than the BJP wins the election, there will be celebrations in Pakistan. Talking to PTL, Patwari said Mishra's statement is an attempt to cover up the BJP's sins. "When ordinary citizens become unemployed and die due to COVID-19 because of lack of treatment, then people who talk about Hindu-Muslim and India-Pakistan do not even feel ashamed," he said.

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