



BRIEF



Devotees worship cows on the occasion of 'Gopashtami', in Varanasi, Monday.

Acquit

New Delhi: Hearing a case regarding the 2020 Delhi riots, a court here acquitted seven accused of all charges on Monday, saying the prosecution failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that they were part of a riotous mob that was allegedly involved in arson, vandalism and theft at the complainant's shop.

Security cover

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Police has put in place a three-tier security cover in and around the assembly for the winter session that begins on Tuesday, officials said. As many as 28 platoons (one platoon comprises 30 security force personnel) along with 100 police officers have been deployed for the duration of the session from November 21 till December 30, they said.

Bail

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Monday granted regular bail to TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the Skill Development Corporation scam case, noting that discretion to grant bail should be exercised judiciously in a humane and compassionate manner. TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh termed the bail as a moment of 'victory' for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Reshuffle

New Delhi: Senior bureaucrat Hara Prasad Nayak has been appointed joint secretary of the National Intelligence Grid (NAT-GRID) as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the central government on Monday. Nayak is a 1995-batch officer of Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS). He has been appointed joint secretary and financial advisor, NATGRID, under the Ministry of Home Affairs for a tenure of five years, an order issued by the personnel ministry said.

Mishap

Hyderabad: Two migrant workers died, and seven others were injured when a concrete slab and a compound wall of an under-construction indoor stadium collapsed in Moinabad area here on Monday, police said. The incident occurred when construction work was underway at the site. The compound wall collapsed on a group of workers resulting in the death of two people and injuries to seven others, they said.

Weather
High 31 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 19,694.00
SENSEX 65,655.15

BULLION
GOLD 60,490
SILVER 72,634

SC FLAGS ISSUE

'Govt picking and choosing judges for transfer'

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday flagged the issue of "pick and choose" by the Centre in clearing the collegium's recommendations for transferring high court judges and said this does not send a good signal.

The court observed that of the 11 names of judges recommended by the collegium for transfer, five have been transferred but six are still pending — four from the Gujarat High Court and one each from the high courts of Allahabad and Delhi.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said of the recently recommended names for judgeship in high courts, eight have not been cleared and some of these judges are senior to those who have been appointed.

"As per my information, you have issued transfer orders for five judges. For six judges, you have not issued. Four of them are

from Gujarat. Last time also, I had said this does not send a good signal," Justice Kaul, who is also a member of the apex court collegium, told Attorney General R Venkataramani.

Asserting that this as not acceptable, the judge said, "Last time also, I did emphasise that don't do selective transfers. It creates its own dynamics."

Observing that the government is following a "pick and choose" policy regarding the names recommended by the collegium for transfers, the bench said, "Just look at it. What is the signal you are sending?"

The bench was hearing two petitions, including one alleging a delay on the Centre's part in clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment and transfer of judges.

During the hearing, the top court said a problem arises when selective appointment takes place as people lose their seniority

"Why will people agree to become judges?" it asked, adding, "This is something on which we had commented earlier that if a candidate does not know what seniority he would stand as a judge, it becomes difficult to persuade other eligible and deserving candidates."

It also referred to some older recommendations made by the collegium and said it included names that have either been reiterated once or twice.

The bench observed that there cannot be a scenario where other names are stopped if the government does not clear one name from those recommended by the collegium.

It said three names were recommended in July where the expected timeline was over for the names to be sent back to the collegium with inputs.

Venkataramani said as far as the reiterated names are concerned, there has been progress.

He requested the bench to take up the matter after



a week or 10 days and said several things are getting cleared.

The apex court posted the matter for further hearing on December 5.

During the hearing, the bench referred to an issue concerning the Punjab and Haryana High Court and said two senior persons, whose names were recommended, have not been appointed yet.

It noted that of the remaining 11 names, where the judges had to be shifted from one court to another, five have been transferred, but six transfers are still pending.

The bench also recorded in its order that in the Gauhati High Court, the name of one of the senior candidates was not cleared at the first instance and the issue was taken up on a very serious note.

NIA books Pannun, SFJ for threats to AI flyers

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI): A case has been registered against designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun for threatening people flying Air India and the airline with closure of operations from November 19, the NIA said on Monday. The case has been registered under the Indian Penal Code and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Health Ministry releases draft National Pharmacy Commission Bill

Seeks comments

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI): The Centre has proposed a National Pharmacy Register with details of all pharmacy professionals as part of a draft Bill that seeks to repeal the nearly 75-year-old Pharmacy Act and replace the Pharmacy Council of India with a national commission.

The Union Health Ministry uploaded a draft National Pharmacy Commission Bill, 2023, on its website on November 10, seeking comments from the public.

The draft Bill aims to provide for a pharmacy education system that im-

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Most Electrocardiogram screenings in 24 hours
Hospitals | Health City | Clinics | Labs | Pharma | One Health
RECORD HOLDERS

About the Bill...

The draft Bill aims to provide for a pharmacy education system that improves access to quality and affordable pharmaceutical education, ensures availability of adequate and high-quality professionals in all parts of the country, promotes equitable and universal health care and makes services of pharmacy professionals accessible to all citizens. It also calls for periodic and transparent assessment of pharmacy institutions, facilitating maintenance of a pharmacy register for India and enforcing high ethical standards in all aspects of pharmacy services.

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professionals accessible to all citizens. It also calls for periodic and transparent assessment of pharmacy institutions, facilitating maintenance of a pharmacy register for India and enforcing high ethical standards in all aspects of pharmacy services.

Two killed in Manipur gunfight

Tribal body declares shutdown in Kangpokpi district

Imphal, Nov 20 (PTI): In a fresh incident of violence, two persons were killed in a gunfight between two rival groups in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Monday, police said.

The shootout occurred at a place between Haraothel and Kobsha villages though the police are not yet sure about how it began.

A tribal organisation, however, claimed that the Kuki-Zo community people were attacked without provocation and declared a "shutdown" in the district. The area witnessed several incidents of gun-

fight between armed villagers since ethnic strife between Meitei and Kuki communities began in the northeastern state in early May.

Additional forces have been deployed in the area and searches are on to arrest those involved in the incident, a police official said.

Condemning the "unprovoked attack" on the Kuki-Zo community people, the Kangpokpi-based Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) declared an "emergency shutdown" in Kangpokpi district.

The COTU, at a meeting, also demanded that the

government make arrangements for separate administration for tribals.

More than 180 people were killed since the violence erupted on May 3 after a Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mainly in the hill districts.

At Visakhapatnam harbour

Visakhapatnam, Nov 20 (PTI): A fire broke out in a jetty area here in which at least 35 fishing boats were gutted, even as the police launched a hunt for 10 to 15 persons who allegedly partied in one of the boats, officials said on Monday.

The fire broke out around 11.30 pm on Sunday in a boat owned by Balaji in zero jetty and was doused by 4 am on Monday, officials said. However, no death or injury was reported in the accident, the officials added. Visakhapatnam

35 boats gutted in huge fire



Flames and smoke rise after a fire broke out in a jetty area, in Visakhapatnam, early Monday.

Harbour Assistant Commissioner of Police B Moses Paul said police are probing the role of the group of 10 to 15 people who quarrelled over a transaction. "After a boat caught fire, the group untied it and

pushed it into the sea but it drifted back towards the boats and sparked a bigger fire," Paul told PTI and said

The blaze occurred in an area near the Visakhapatnam Container Terminal and an Indian

Oil Corporation facility where fishing boats were anchored. Police received the names of the persons involved in the skirmish while Paul said more clarity over the cause of the fire will emerge on questioning them.

Though 25 fire tenders were pressed into service from across the city over time, it was the Navy's Sahara firefighting boat which managed to extinguish the flames by spraying foam and sand, he said.

According to Paul, the fire tenders could not put off the blaze initially because almost every boat had diesel and cooking gas cylinders.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION RAM TEMPLE



Aerial view of under construction Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir, in Ayodhya.

K'taka seer held in POCSO case after court warrant

Chitradurga (K'taka), Nov 20 (PTI): The pontiff of the Chitradurga Murugharajendra Bruhan Math was arrested on Monday, hours after a Court issued a non-bailable warrant in the second Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case pending against him.

The Second Additional Sessions Judge B K Komala in Chitradurga issued the non-bailable warrant and ordered the police to produce Shivamurthy Sharana before her by Tuesday.

He was in custody since September 1, 2022 and was granted bail by the High Court on November

8 in the first of the two POCSO cases against him, following which he was released from jail here on November 16.

After he was set free, the seer was staying at the Virakta Math in Davangere, from where he was arrested by the Chitradurga police on today.

The High Court had imposed several conditions for the bail in one of the two POCSO cases against the pontiff, including that he will not be allowed to enter Chitradurga district till the completion of the investigation in the cases.

He was granted bail on a personal bond of Rs two

lakh and two sureties for similar amounts, and warned not to tamper with evidence or influence the witnesses.

The first complaint against the pontiff and four others was filed by the 'Odanadi Seva Samsthe', an NGO, in Mysuru alleging sexual harassment of minor students studying in the mutt's school and staying in its hostel in Chitradurga.

The Nazarabad police in Mysuru had registered a case under POCSO and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The case was transferred to the Chitradurga Rural police station subsequently.

Boosts morale

Uttarkashi, Nov 20 (PTI): Rescuers on Monday pushed through a six-inch-wide pipeline through the rubble of the collapsed Silkyara tunnel, a breakthrough that will help them supply larger quantities of food and possibly allow live visuals of the 41 workers trapped inside for eight days. Earlier, a four-inch existing tube was being used to supply oxygen and items like dry fruit and medicines into the section of the tunnel beyond the rubble of the collapsed portion of the under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route in Uttarakhand. National

Clean Chit Report Leak CBI chargesheets Deshmukh daughter, daughter-in-law

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI): In a fresh jolt to former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh, the CBI has chargesheeted his daughter Pooja and daughter-in-law Rahat in connection with alleged leakage of the agency's internal draft report in 2021 giving clean chit to the leader in an extortion case against him, officials said.

In its supplementary charge sheet filed before a special CBI court here, the agency has termed Pooja a "co-conspirator" who allegedly planned, directed and provided logistical support to Deshmukh's lawyer Anand Dilip Daga to bribe agency's sub-in-

spector Abhishek Tiwari in order to get the draft report, they said. The report was leaked to the media on August 29, 2021 "to subvert" the Bombay High Court-directed probe against him, the agency has alleged. The Bombay High Court had directed the CBI to probe allegations of extortion worth crores from Restaurants and Bars owners in Mumbai levelled by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh against Anil Deshmukh. The CBI report leaked to the media purportedly mentioned that "no cognisable offence has been committed by

Anil Deshmukh". The agency had arrested its sub-inspector Abhishek Tiwari and Deshmukh's lawyer Daga in connection with the leakage and they were charged in 2021. Continuing its probe into the conspiracy, the CBI has filed its supplementary charge sheet after two years in which a distant relative of Deshmukh - Vikrant Deshmukh - and one Sayajeet Woyal have also been charged in addition to Pooja and Rahat. All the accused have said they have no relation or connection with the allegations levelled against them and they have been falsely implicated in it.

6-inch pipe reaches trapped men in Silkyara tunnel

Satisfactory efforts so far: Dix

International tunnelling expert Arnold Dix also reached the disaster site to review rescue efforts. He heads the Geneva-based International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association. Tunnelling expert Dix expressed satisfaction at the efforts so far. "I have just been down in the tunnel. Enormous amount of work has been done there in preparation, and we are just coming up here at the top of the mountain to consider other options as well," Dix told reporters. "I only arrived on Sunday but the work I have seen even between yesterday and today is extraordinary... The plan for today is working out the best thing to do to get the men out," he said. Dix did not spell out a timeline.



Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) director

Anshu Manish Khalkho called it the "first breakthrough" at the site. "We have sent the pipe 53 me-

tres to the other side of the rubble and the trapped workers can hear and experience us," he said. Drones and robots from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have also been brought to the site to look into the possibility of other escape routes for the trapped men. But rescue workers were yet to resume the horizontal drilling through the debris after a boulder appeared to block the progress of the heavy-duty auger machine earlier this week. Rescuers are also preparing to exercise the option of drilling more than 80 metres down into the hill to reach the workers.

Youth murdered in broad daylight; three arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: Police arrested three suspects of a sensational broad daylight murder that took place in a crowded market area at Minimata Nagar in Khursipar. The deceased was Vijay Paswan (22) son of Ramdev Paswan, a resident of Nandgahyapara, near Durga Temple, Khursipar.

He was allegedly attacked by Bhushan Sahu, Jugnu and Sumit with a sharp weapon on the neck over an old rivalry. The accused escaped from the spot after committing the crime. Injured Vijay Paswan was taken to the hospital for treatment, where he was declared brought dead.

Taking this heinous murder incident into serious cognizance, Ram Gopal Garg (Deputy

City), Anant Sahu, (Additional Superintendent of Police, Rural), Anurag Jha (Additional Superintendent of Police) and Ashish Banchhor (City Superintendent of Police, Chhawani), the teams conducted searching at all possible places and arresting the accused.

During the search operation, the suspect Jugnu was taken into custody within a few hours. Soon the absconding prime suspects Bhushan Sahu and Sumeet were also detained.

As this heinous murder took place in a crowded market, an atmosphere of terror had spread in the area. Within a few hours of



Prime suspect Bhushan Sahu

Inspector General of Police and Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg) immediately constituted separate teams and directed them to arrest the accused immediately. Under the supervision of Abhishek Jha (Additional Superintendent of Police,

this serious incident, the police were successful in arresting all three suspects of the incident.

Inspector Umendra Tandon (SHO, Khursipar), Inspector Naresh Patel (Incharge ACCU), Sub Inspector Yuvraj Sahu, ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, ASI Rajesh Pandey, ASI Purna Bahadur, ASI Yashwant Srivastava, ASI Nagendra Banchhor.

ASI Ajay Singh, Head Constable Satyendra Madhariya, Sagir Khan, Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Rinku Soni, Arvind Mishra, Rakesh Anna, Rakesh Chaudhary, Subhash Yadav, Chumuk Sinha, Tejprakash, Pankaj played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Chhath Puja concludes with offering Arghya to rising Sun

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: On Monday, the four-day festival of Chhath Puja or Surya Sasthi Vrat concluded with offering Arghya to the rising Sun. Devotees reached the ponds and river banks before sunrise and stood in waist deep water. The women observing fast offered Arghya to the rising sun to conclude their 36-hours long fast.

The devotees also offered sugarcane, fruits, cuisines and ethnic cuisine Thekua to the Sun God and ChhathiMaiyya. Huge crowds converged on the Chhath Ghats at Bhelwa



Pond Nehru Nagar, Hudco, Sector 2, Ghasidas Nagar pond, Limha Pond, Suryakund Pond, Ram Nagar Muktidham Pond, Shitala Pond Supela and Sector 7 Pond. Chhath Puja was celebrated with religious fervour across the city. The people of Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who have settled

in Bhilai celebrate this festival with great devotion. People of other regions and religions have also started celebrating Chhath Puja in which Surya Devta (Sun God) and ChhathiMaiyya are worshipped. This is the only festival in the country in which the rising sun is celebrated along with the setting sun.

Surprise inspection finds 150 BMC staff missing from duty



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: After the completion of the voting for the Assembly elections and to bring the works of public interest on track, on the instructions of the BMC Commissioner, the Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi conducted a surprise inspection of all the departments in Corporation Headquarters.

During the checking for the presence of the department heads and employees, it was found that 150 officers and employees were not present in their departments. He inspect all the departments of the Corporation Head Office, Supela and gave instructions be present during office hours from 10:00 hrs.

Among those missing were some department

heads as well. Additional Commissioner Dwivedi has asked the data center to check the Nishtha App of all the officers and employees and prepare a list of officers and employees coming late and present it before the Commissioner. Similarly, the Establishment Superintendent has been instructed to serve notice for the same after examining the attendance register.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: A team has been constituted to audit the target based plantation drive conducted in Bhilai Municipal Corporation area and submit the report in prescribed format within 3 days by the additional commissioner. Also, certificate of competition of numbering of electricity poles and review of the status of cases registered in online complaints.

The Additional Commissioner did this on the instructions of the Bhilai Municipal Commissioner. Prior to the onset of monsoon, Commissioner Rohit Vyas had under the beautification of Bhilai and Hariyar Chhattisgarh scheme instructed for plantation on GE Road, garden, government land, hospital complex, Gauthan, SLMRCentres, commercial areas etc.



For which a target was set for tree plantation in each zone, orders have been issued to form a team of engineers to gather information about the actual status of tree plantation and submit their re-

port in the prescribed format within 3 days.

Team members will visit the site of tree plantation and collect information about dry trees, damaged pipes and will also present details in the prescribed format about reg-

ular supply of fertilizers and water by the contracted agency.

While providing the above information to the officials present in the meeting, Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi further said that

the Commissioner had given instructions to correct the switched off lights along with numbering of all the electricity poles of Bhilai Corporation area, the team members will also provide information about the same.

Similarly, he also reviewed the resolution of complaint letters lodged in the online complaint issued by the state government. The Additional Commissioner gave instructions to the officers to resolve the complaints registered in Sarathi e-App, Janchaupal, Public Complaint within a week and delete the complaints.

Deputy Commissioner Narendra Kumar Banjare, Ramakant Sahu, Commissioners of all zones, Assistant Engineers, Deputy Engineers, Department Heads and other officers and employees were present in the meeting.

Two looters nabbed; one absconding

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: With the arrest of two ruffians, police claimed to have solved a robbery case which occurred with a transporter in Transport Nagar area. Police succeeded to solve this case CCTV footage and network of informers. The accused shaved his beard and hair to hide his identity.

On Nov 08, the victim Rameshwar Singh, a resident of Rajiv Nagar Jamul, filed a complaint at Old Bhilai Police Station. The victim left his office in Transport Nagar Hathkhaj, on Nov 08 at around 21:30 pm, and was moving towards his residence on a motorcycle.

Near BEC Company, three unknown ruffians intercepted him and demanding money. When he did not give money, the accused thrashed the transporters. He suffered injuries on mouth, lips and

elbows. The accused looted an American Tourister bag from the victim.

There were Rs 29,000 cash, ONE+7 Pro mobile, 01 purse, driving license, RC Book, Aadhar card, 2 SBI Bank ATM and two transport bills. On the report of the applicant, a case was lodged under section 394 IPC and taken into consideration by Old Bhilai Police Station.

Taking serious cognizance of the matter, Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ramgopal Garg gave directions for locating the accused and arresting them soon. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha,

Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Anurag Jha and City Superintendent of



Police (Chhawani) Ashish Banchhor supervised the investigations. They constituted a special team led by Inspector Naresh Patel (in-charge ACCU), Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Manish Sharma (SHO, Old Bhilai).

The team activated the network of informers and complied the footage of CCTV cameras installed in the areas around the incident site. After carefully

observing the CCTV footage and on the basis of the appearance described by the applicant, 03 suspects were identified.

The CCTV footage was shared with the informers after which an accused was identified as Suraj Rai, a resident of Balaji Nagar Khursipar. The accused was arrested from his residence in Balaji Nagar Khursipar. The accused kept misleading dur-

ing preliminary interrogation but on strict questioning, he confessed to committing robbery with his two accomplices Vyashu Mahanand and Shiva Manjhi.

Thereafter, the accused Vyashu Mahanand was arrested from Rajiv Nagar, Jamul. Police recovered the mobile, a purse, driving license, RC Book, Aadhar card, SBI Bank ATMs, transport bills, and Rs 700 cash. The accused stated that they have spent the remaining amount. Police are searching the whereabouts of absconding accused Shiva Manjhi.

ASI Shamit Mishra, Hiran Ramteke, Mangala Gupta, Head Constable Sagir Khan, Satyendra Madhariya, Constable Arvind Mishra, Rinku Soni, Bhavesh Patel, Rakesh Anna, Amit Dubey, Rakesh Chaudhary and Nitin Singh played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Shapath Foundation holds Diwali Milan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: The Diwali get-together of Shapath Foundation Bhilai was organized at Nehru Nagar in the presence of Virendra Satpathy, Chief Patron of Shapath Foundation. Also, the birthday of Anil Shukla, patron of Shapath Foundation, was celebrated with joy by the Shapath family. Patron of Shapath Foundation, Ramesh Srivastava, President Ashok

Gupta, General Secretary Amitabh Bhattacharya, President of Swyam Siddha Dr Sonali Chakraborty, Urmila Upadhyay of Shapath Foundation, were present in the program. Rashmi Sagar, Kalpana Swamy, Pushpa Patel, Rukhmani Verma, Sangeeta Shukla, Pushpa Bhattacharya, Sweta Tamrakar, Preeti Gupta, Vikash Jaiswal, Kamhaiya Churhe, Jitendra Haswani, Abhijeet Parakh, Mohan Rao, Arvind Tiwari, Sunil

Yadav, Mohsin Ali, KS Jaiswal, Suraj Sahu, Honey Awade etc were present in the program. During the get-together it was decided to organise the Thank You Bhilai program set for February 02, 2024 in a grand manner in Bhilai Town Ship. Virendra Satpathy, Ashok Gupta, Dr S o n a l i Chakraborty addressed the program and the vote of thanks was conducted by Amitabh Bhattacharya and Anil Shukla.



Wire Rod Mill sets New Records

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Wire Rod Mill (WRM) recorded a new high in rolling of TMT Fe 500 D EQR (earthquake resistant) Wire Rods in sections 8 and 10 millimetre (mm).

A new shift record was made on November 19, 2023 with 628 billets rolled into TMT Wire Rods weighing 609 tonnes in a single shift. Previous best record was 624 billets and 599 tonnes in a shift on May 09, 2023.

Wire Rod Mill also set a new day record on November 19, 2023 by rolling out 1657 Tonnes of TMT Fe 500 D

EQR Wire Rods in sections 8 and 10 millimetre (mm) as against the previous best of 1632 Tonnes on April 10, 2023.

It is worth mentioning that in the first seven months of current fiscal year from April to October 23, Wire Rod

Mill recorded a 31.9 % growth in production over corresponding period of last fiscal year. The Mill recorded production of 2,57,989 Tonnes in the period April to October 2023, as against 1,95,655 T in April to October 2022.



HYU: Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma 'Shodhpeeth' inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 20: Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma Shodhpeeth was inaugurated on Monday in Hemchand Yadav University, Durg. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta. Giving this information, DCDC of the university, Dr Preeta Lal said that the establishment of this research centre will give impetus to research activities in the University like publishing of research papers, organising research seminars and organizing invited lectures on contemporary topics. Dr Lal informed that Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta, in her address, described Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma as a scholar of Hindi as well as a true son of the soil of Chhattisgarh. It is noteworthy that in the decade of 80s, Dr Palta and Acharya Narendra Verma started service simulta-

neously the government DB Girls College located in Raipur.

Dr Lal informed that the state song of Chhattisgarh "Arpa Pairi Ke Dhar" was composed by Acharya Dr Narendra Dev Verma. During the inauguration ceremony, the region's famous litterateur Pardeshi Ram Verma gave a concise address on the importance and analysis of the state song of Chhattisgarh. Verma said that in the state anthem of Chhattisgarh, all the features of the natural wealth spread from North to South and from East to West of Chhattisgarh like rivers, mountains, crops, mineral wealth, religious places etc have been described very well. This is one of the best works written by Acharya Narendra Dev Verma. Pardeshi Ram Verma told that Acharya Narendra Dev Verma had also composed Arpa Pairi Ke Dhar in English language. On this occasion, Registrar, Bhupendra Kuldeep along with all the offi-



cers of the university expressed his gratitude. Many famous Hindi litterateurs and professors from Chhattisgarh region were present in the inaugural ceremony which started with the lighting of the lamp. About a month ago, the University had organised an inter-college video making competition based on the state song of Chhattisgarh. The winners of this competition were awarded by the guests at the inauguration ceremony. The details of these

winners are as follows: First place was given to Ayushi Tiwari, BCA, Rungta College, Durg. Second place was given to Kunal Kuhkar, BSc Part 03, Sri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya, Junwani, Bhilai. Third place was given to Khushi Pandey, MSc 3rd Sem, Kalyan PG College, Bhilai. Fourth position was given to Bhavana Soni, BA Part 02 Rungta College, Durg, Fifth position was given to Shreya Shrivastava, BSc Part 02. Consolation prize

was won by Honey from Confluence College, as consolation prize. Lakshmi Sahu, BEd student of Rajnandgaon, BSc BEd, Shail Devi College, Anda, Mukesh Kumar Yadu, B.Com student, Government Rabindra Nath Tagore College, Murmunda, Netram Yadav MA Government College, Bodla and Purab Sarathi B.Com Government Khubchand Baghel PG College, Bhilai 03 was awarded consolation prize.

The videos made by the best 05 participating winners were also presented. On this occasion, Dr Abhinesh Surana, Dr Shraddha Chandrakar, Dr Ambrish Tripathi, Dr Shankar Nishad, Dr Archana Jha, Dr Shraddha Mishra, Dr Sudhir Sharma, Dr Nisha Shukla, Prahlad Verma, Khadanand Verma, Badriprasad Parkar, Munilal Nishad and all the officials of the university were present in the inauguration ceremony.

Counting in all 33 district hq's on Dec 3

● Total 14 tables to be installed for each VS area; counting of postal ballot papers to be done first in separate tables



Appointment of Counting agent will be given 3 days in advance

The candidate has to give information at least 3 days in advance for appointment of Counting Agent to the Returning Officer. Every candidate contesting the VS polls can appoint one Counting Agent in every table and can appoint an additional Counting Agent for counting of postal ballot table and in this way he can appoint total of 15 agents.

Training to counting personnel at divisional level

For training to Counting observers, Counting Assistants and micro-observers, training programme has been organized in all the five divisions of the state on Nov 21, 23 and 25. For training, each division is being divided into three parts of Vidhan Sabha areas. To sort out the technical flaws in the EVM machines at the time of counting, there will be appointment of engineers in sufficient number from the company manufacturing EVMs and VVPATs.

counting assistant and one micro-observer has been appointed.

In this way there will be total of 1260 counting observers; 1260 Counting Assistants and 1260 micro-observers all over the state.

polling centres will be done less rounds and there the results will start coming soon. Whereas the Vidhan Sabhas with more number of Polling centres the counting will be done in more number of rounds.

Counting of five VVPAT slips in every VS

In every Vidhan Sabha area, a total of five VVPAT slips will be counted by selecting them on random basis. For counting of VVPAT slips, five VVPAT in each Vidhan Sabha will be selected through lottery.

Counting in the Vidhan Sabhas with less number of

RITUALS PERFORMED



The devotees performed rituals on the last day of the 'Chhathi' festival on the banks of Kharun River here on Monday.

Raman says BJP govt will be formed in Ch'garh



Raipur, Nov 20: The way BJP's campaigns of the first and second phase have gone, the party will form the government with a clear majority, former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said. Everyone is waiting for the results on December 3, he said on the counting of votes for the assembly elections to be held on December 3. BJP will come to power in the state because of the hard work of its, he said, adding that party's central leadership too spared enough time in the campaign for the party in elections. According to him BJP is winning at least 52 to 54 seats and BJP government

will be formed.

On infighting in Congress, Raman Singh said, infighting in Congress was visible during the entire election. On Deepak Baij's statement about voting for women, Raman Singh said that women were inclined towards BJP's plans and manifesto.

On the cancellation of trains, former Chief Minister Raman Singh said, this is a temporary arrangement. When the track is completed, everyone's problems will be solved, he said. The facilities of Chhattisgarh will be restored as soon as possible. To a question on whether he will stake claim for the post of Chief Minister Raman Singh said BJP did not yet decide the face. The party already decided on collective leadership, he said and added that selection will be done in the legislative party meeting and there will be no delay in it.

Complaints filed against 9 Collectors, 10 IPS officers and 1 Secretary

During the election phase-I and II

BJP had filed 293 complaint with CEC and CEO; 150 complaints sorted out

Raipur, Nov 20: For the Assembly Polls 2023 there are 9 Collectors of the districts, 10 IPS and one secretary-level officer who are on the target of the main opposition party. BJP Election Commission Contact Samiti has filed 293 complaints during the two phases of Assembly polls 2023 in the state and out of which around 150 odd have been sorted out and are still pending. During the elections, BJP only emphasis was on free & fair polls.

For the first time, it was Union Minister Mansukh Mandviya who reached the Election Commission's office.

It is notable here polling for the 90 Vidhan Sabha elections in the state were held in two

phases on Nov 7 and 17. In the elections held in the first phase, majority of the VS seats were in naxal infested areas. In view of the elections, BJP had already formed 'Chunav Aayoga Sampark Samiti' (CASS) and its command was handed over to Dr Viay Shankar Mishra. This committee started the work with voter revision programme and lodged complaint about absence of BLO at the time of addition or delegation of names in the voter list.

BJP sources informed that the process of filing complaint started when the EC's team from Delhi visited the state. In this the LS MP Sunil Soni, former Minister Brijmohan Agrawal, fice Secretary Naresh Gupta, and Dr Mishra lodged complaint about need for transfer of officials and employees posted at the same place for last 3 yrs and submitted a memorandum for security of its party workers. After this the security of the party workers

was increased. On the other hand, EC also granted green signal for appointment of central security forces.

Had taken decision only to apprise the officials

Reliable sources of BJP say that earlier they have taken decision not to make any charges against the state unit of State Election Commission or constitutional office of the CEO. In view of this during entire election, the Commission was apprised about the complaints by BJP and given information. As to how fast the Election Commission has taken action on the complaints and what action taken is purely their discretion.

But the complaint about gundaism in Ambikapur just a day before the elections on Nov 16 at 2:00 in the night was made to the Commission. In the same way complaint about the main observer not picking up the phone was also made and in this way about a dozen complaints were made on the day of polling as well.

Have targetted Collector in first phase

For free & fair polls in the first phase in Bastar region, BJP lodged many complaints against the Collectors of Bijapur, Dantewada, Jagdalpur, Narayanpur and Sukma. The condition was such that when no action was taken, the Union Minister Mansukh Mandviya himself reached CEO's office. Even on the day of the election, complaint was made against these collectors right from state capital to Delhi as well. The effect of this was such that in the second leg of elections in the state the officers avoided indulging in any wrong moves. Despite this Balodabazar Collector took action under 151 and against which notice was issued to him. In the same way the Kondagaon Collector has stopped a vehicle with permission and on which he also received a strong words.

Department-wise discussions on budget proposals today

Proposals to be discussed on priority basis

Raipur, Nov 20: The start of the departmental level discussions for the budgetary proposal for FY 2024-25 will start from Nov 21 and would continue till Nov 30. During this discussions will be held on proposal for new heads. The size of the proposal for new heads along with departmental budget should not be more than maximum 7 per cent that of the budgetary proposals for 2023-24.

The Finance department in this regard has issued instructions to all the Heads of the Departments for department-wise dates to hold discussions on the budgetary proposals for 2024-25 (including the proposals under new heads). During discussions it is based upon enlisting the priorities, the proposals for new heads can be taken into consideration. The departmental secretaries



have been asked to ensure that the size of the departmental budget along with the proposals for new heads should not exceed 7 per cent of the budgetary proposals for 2023-24.

The Finance Department had sought the proposals for revised budget for 2023-24 and budget estimates for 2024-25 by Nov 7. After the departmental level discussions, the discussions between the departmental secretary and Minister-level will be held on the budgetary proposals. Prior to giving final shape to the budget, the Chief Minister will hold talks with the Departmental Ministers to finalise upon the budgetary proposals for each department.

Speeding Bolero crushes bike riders to death



Pithora, Nov 20: A speeding Bolero vehicle crushed two bike riders to death in the district. As soon as information about the incident was received, the police reached the spot and started investigation.

The accident took place near Saraipali Eva's English Medium School, falling under jurisdiction of Saraipali police station. It is being told that the accident was so gruesome that the body parts of the youth got mutilated. The identity of the deceased youth has not been established yet. The police is busy identifying the dead.

Rape accused arrested

Chhuikhadan police in the district has succeeded in arresting rape accused. A case is being registered against the accused under several sections and action is being taken. According to information available 21-year-old victim had reached Chhuikhadan police station and lodged a report that when she was at her in-laws' house, the accused Bhupesh Verma entered the house and forcibly raped her besides threatening her. The victim had given a written complaint about the entire matter at Chhuikhadan police station. Considering the seriousness of the matter, the police have registered a case under various sections and arrested the accused Bhupesh Verma.

Dead body of a teenage girl found on the roadside in NH



Police investigation underway

Balrampur, Nov 20: The dead body of a teenage girl was found on the roadside near Aurajhariya Ghat on National Highway 343 in Balrampur district. As

soon as the information about the dead body was received, the police reached the spot and started investigation. The incident took place in the area falling under jurisdiction of Kotwali police station. Police have found purse, mobile and money from the dead body. At present the deceased has not been identified. The police is investigating whether this was a murder or a road accident.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Rishabh, Chahak win TT League championship

Shresth, Lavanya win Cadet championship

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 20: Rishabh Nagwani, Chahak Kataria, Shresth Mishra and Lavanya Pandey won the late Pradeep Kedia memorial 5th Raipur District Monthly League Table Tennis tournament being organized under the aegis of Rajdhani Table Tennis Association (RTTA) at Sapre School TT Hall here. Providing the above information, the Raipur Unit Secretary Vinay Baiswade said the above mentioned players won the championship title in various categories. He further informed that Chhattisgarh Table Tennis Association



(CTTA) Vice President Pradeep Joshi was present as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony whereas International Umpire Pravin Nirapure and PN Majumdar were also present on the occasion. Rishabh Nagwani defeated Shivam Singh by 2-0 to win the Senior Men'

championship whereas Chahak Kataria defeated Samaya Pandey to win Women' championship.

Similarly, Shrest Mishra defeated Kavish Kala to win the Cadet Under 13 for Boys whereas Lavanya Pandey defeated Samaya Pandey to win the Girls Cadet championship.

Amandeep to lead Chh'garh team in Vijay Hazare Trophy Cricket

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 20: Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) on Monday announced the team for the Vijay Hazare Trophy being organized under the aegis of BCCI from November 23.

Amandeep Khare from BSP would be leading the team whereas Ajay Mandal, Amitesh Pandey, Ashish Singh Chouhan, Ashutosh Singh, Deepak Yadav,



Eknath Kerker (Pro-Player), Harpreet Singh Bhatia, Mayank Yadav, Rishabh Tiwari, Sanjeet

Desai, Satyam Dubey, Shashank Chandrakar, Shashank Singh, Shubham Agrawal, Shubham Singh and Sourabh Majumdar are the other members of the team.

Chhattisgarh would play against Services, Meghalaya, Hyderabad, Manipur, Vidarbha, Maharashtra and Jharkhand from November 3 to December 5 at Jaipur in Group B matches.

Rebels playing spoilsports for Congress, BJP

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 20: Rebels and defectors of Congress and BJP can spoil the equation of seats in the assembly elections. This feedback was received in the review meetings of both the parties.

Rebellion seems to be affecting the prospect of Congress the most. Of the twenty rebels, 12 belong to Congress white 8 belong to BJP. Congress is also likely to suffer loss from dissidents on 15 seats. In this way, Congress seems to be facing loss on 27 seats, due to which Congress's claim of crossing 75 seems to be limited. Now there seems to be an equal contest between Congress and BJP.

However, the picture would be crystal clear as to how much damage the

rebels and dissidents have caused to which party only after the election results come out on December 3. Congress faced trouble from rebels and dissidents ever since it released first list of tickets. The party has also taken expulsion, suspension and other action against about 50 such leaders. At the same time, notices have been sent to more than half a dozen leaders and clarifications have also been sought. However, Congress state in-charge Kumari Selja claimed that only Congress will form the government in Chhattisgarh and positive feedback has been received. On the claims of more than 75 seats, she said that there should not be overconfidence in it right now. Congress has suspended

ed Bilaspur Mayor Ramsharan Yadav from the primary membership of the party for anti party activities. The rebels who have been suspended for six years include Pradeep Khes from Jashpur, Guddu Maharaj from Janjgir, Saraipali Kismatlal Nand, Gorelal Burman from Pamgarh, Shankar Agrawal from Raigarh, Roolpal Kosre from Mungeli, Manohar Sahu from Bhatapara, Meena Sahu from Sanjari Balod, Chhatrapal Singh Kanwar from Pali Tanakhar, Yogeshwar Raj Singh, Prabhathela Markam from Samri, Mahendra Sidar from Lailunga, Azhar Ali from Vaishali Nagar, Anoop Nag from Antagarh, Kanti Nag, Amulkar Nag from Dantewada, Vishwajit Behera from Mahasamund and

Premchandra Jayasi from Bilaspur. Congress rebels Pradeep Khes from Jashpur Assembly seat against Congress candidate Vinay Bhagat, Anubhav Tiwari candidate in Sakti Assembly seat against Dr Charandas Mahant, Tekchandra Chandra candidate from Jajaiapur against Baleshwar Sahu, Gorelal Burman from Pamgarh against Sheshraj Harbansh, Chhatrapal Singh from Pali-Tanakhar against Duleshwari Sidar, Sagar Singh Bais from Lormi against Thaneshwar Sahu, Roolpal Kosre from Mungeli against Sanjit Banerjee, Kismatlal Nand against Chaturli Nand from Saraipali, Ajit Kukreja from Raipur North against Kuldeep Juneja, Lokeshwari Sahu

from Dhamtari against Omkar Sahu, Meena Sahu against Sangeeta Sinha from Balod and Gorelal Sahu from Kasdol against Sandeep Sahu. BJP rebels Ram Bai Devangan is contesting election against BJP candidate Lakshmi Rajwade from Bhatgaon assembly seat, Shiv Bhagat is contesting against Raimuni Bhagat from Jashpur, Gopika Gupta is against OP Choudhary from Raigarh, Chandni Bhardwaj is against Dr. Krishnamurthy Bandhi from Masturi, JP Yadav and Sangeeta Ketan Shah are contesting against Rickesh Sen from Vaishalinagar, RK Rai from Gunderdehi against Virendra Sahu and Savitri Jagat against Purandar Mishra from Raipur North.

SEGES faces shortage of teachers!

● Students' education is getting affected

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 20: Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools (SEGES) are being opened continuously in the state, but due to shortage of teachers the quality of education has not improved much. Academic activities started in Swami Atmanand schools for the last four years. Subject teachers are changing every year. Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools have been started with the aim of providing better education than private schools, but due to shortage of teachers in the schools, it is finding it very difficult to compete with the private schools.

Swami Atmanand Schools are being run by the committee. The chairman of the committee is the District Collector. Advertisement is issued for contractual recruitment as per the requirement of teachers in the schools running in the district. The process for recruitment of 71 teachers in 27 schools in Raipur district has started. Of these, 22 are old schools where there are no teachers. Due to shortage of teachers in schools, studies are affect-



ed. Contract teachers are appointed in many schools. They teach for two-four months and as soon as a better option is found, the teacher resigns in the middle of the session. Due to this, studies are badly affected.

Whenever applications are invited for contractual recruitment. Teachers teaching on contract also apply. Due to getting appointment in a nearby school, they resign from a distant school. Due to this, there is always shortage of teachers in schools. To maintain the level of education, permanent teachers will have to be recruited in schools.

There are no lecturers in Physics subject in many Swami Atmanand schools running in Raipur district. Physics classes are being run with the help of

lab attendants, where alternative arrangements are being made to study the subject. Due to excessive pressure, teachers are not able to concentrate on the subject, as a result studies of the students are getting affected. There is no physics teacher in Arundhati Devi Government English Medium Excellent School, Arang, and Priyadarshini Government English Medium Excellent School, Nevra Tilda also. In both these schools, physics studies are being taught with the help of lab attendants. The principals said that they have written letters to the department several times, but no solution has been found so far. Many schools do not have teachers since July-August. The condition of children there is very wor-

rying. How will we be able to compete with private schools without teachers?

The subjects for which there are no teachers in schools are being taught by other teachers. There is a lot of pressure on teachers due to teaching additional subjects along with their own subjects, due to which the quality of education is being affected. In many schools, different teachers come and teach the subject on different days. The way of teaching of every teacher is different, due to which students do not understand.

When discussed about the absence of subject teachers in schools, the principals said that they had written letters to the department several times. Every time we get assurance from the department that teachers will be appointed soon.

Even after several months, the study of the subject is getting affected due to absence of teachers. There is not much problem in ninth and eleventh classes, but there is a lot of problem in class 10th and 12th. These students have to appear for board examinations. Due to lack of regular teachers, preparation for the subject is a big challenge for the students. Board examinations will start from the first week of March.

IMS UROGYNAECON 2023 dedicated to advancing women's health: Dr Sethi

● IMS UROGYNAECON 2023: A Resounding success with leading Gynecologists

Raipur, Nov 20: The Indian Menopause Society (IMS) proudly announces the successful conclusion of IMS UROGYNAECON 2023, a two-day National Conference that brought together esteemed gynecologists, and delegates from across the country. The conference took place on November 18th and 19th, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and advancements in the field of Urogynecology.

Distinguished guests at the event included Dr. Pushpa Sethi, President of the Indian Menopause Society; Hara Patnaiyak, Past President of IMS; Dr. Abha Singh, Ex Vice Chancellor of Pandit DDU Health University Raipur; Dr. Tripuri Nagaria, Dean of Pandit JNM Medical College; Dr. Manoj Chellani, Organizing Chairperson of UROGYNAECON; Dr. Jyoti Jaiswal, Organizing Secretary; Dr. Tanvir Singh, Organizing Secretary and Dr. Bipasha Sen, Treasurer.

The conference served as a hub for knowledge dis-



semination, with expert-led sessions covering a wide range of topics related to Urogynecology. Attendees had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, gain insights into the latest research, and network with professionals at the forefront of their fields.

Dr. Pushpa Sethi, President of IMS, expressed her satisfaction with the event, stating, "IMS UROGYNAECON 2023 has been a remarkable gathering of minds dedicated to advancing women's health. The collaboration and knowledge shared during these two days will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of Urogynecological practices across the nation."

She said that India menopause is 47 whereas in foreign country it is 51.

The conference featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, providing a comprehensive overview of the latest advancements in Urogynecology and assisted reproductive technologies. Delegates left the conference inspired and equipped with valuable insights that will shape the future of women's healthcare in India. Dr. Manoj Chellani, Organizing Chairperson of UROGYNAECON, expressed his gratitude, saying, "It's truly heartening to witness the enthusiasm and engagement of our esteemed colleagues in the field. IMS UROGYNAE-

CON 2023 has been a resounding success, and we are grateful for the support of the Indian Menopause Society and all our participants." The IMS UROGYNAECON 2023 conference not only fostered collaboration among experts but also played a pivotal role in promoting awareness and innovation in Urogynecology. As the event concluded, participants left with a renewed commitment to advancing the well-being of women through cutting-edge research and collaborative efforts. For the conference delegates came from Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Gurgram, Bhagalpur, Bhuvaneshwar and also from UK, US and Australia.

'Woman murdered her mother-in-law'

● On being fed up with repeated taunts' Revelation about blind murder

Janjgir-Champa, Nov 20: An incident of blind murder took place in village Kapan of the district. Police said that the daughter-in-law, fed up with the daily fights and taunts, had killed her mother-in-law. The police have arrested the murderer daughter-in-law and sent her to jail. The incident took place in the area falling under jurisdiction of Naila Chowki.

On November 14, the dead body of a woman was found across village Kapan Nala, who was identified as 60-year-old Gurubari Bai Kewat, wife of Brij Ram Kewat, resident of Kapan village. There were also serious injury marks on the head of the deceased. On receiving this information, Naila Chowki Police registered case (154/2023 Section 174), post-mortem of the dead



body was also done. The post mortem report revealed that Gurubari Bai died due to serious head injury. After this, the police registered crime number 799/2023 under section 302 of Indian Penal Code and started investigation.

During the investigation in the case, the police came to know that there was always a fight between the deceased Gurubari Bai and the elder daughter-in-law of the house, 33-year-old Chhath Bai Kewat, over petty issues. When Chhath Bai Kewat, the suspect in the case, was strict-

ly interrogated regarding the incident, she told that the deceased mother-in-law, Gurubari Bai, used to fight on small matters and taunt her on everything. After being fed up with this, she killed her mother-in-law by hitting her on the head with a stick and an iron rod when she had gone to the drain to defecate on the morning of 14 November. After this, the police arrested the Chhath Bai Kewat in the case and sent her to jail and a bamboo stick and an iron baton were recovered from her possession.

Nehru Library gets the best award for e-learning

● Nehru Library ahead in promoting e-learning in the field of agricultural education

Raipur, Nov 20: Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur has been awarded the 2022 National Award by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for better utilization of Cursotium for e-Resources in Agriculture (CERA) and its best utilization by maximum readers. This award was presented by Librarian Dr. Madhav Pandey to Vice Chancellor Dr. P.K. Raul (Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar) on the occasion of Librarians' Conference and Serra Ambassador Training Program organized at Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar in the presence of Dr HK Tripathi



and senior officials of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and head of SERA, For this award, Nehru Library was selected for best use among the various institutes and agricultural universities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

For better utilization of e-resources, the services of Cursotium for e-Resources in Agriculture

(CERA) are being provided by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi in the Nehru Library of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur, through which thousands of agriculture related indigenous 'The facility of foreign research journals, e-books, research texts, reviews, advances, abstracts and full text articles is being provided to the readers.

It may be noted that Nehru Library has been declared the regional library of Central India by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, where lakh of research materials, research books and e-resources are available, which can be accessed by students every year through research article document delivery service. Not only are they made available, but online re-

search articles are also invited from the libraries of other agricultural universities of the country for the research work of the readers. In the year 2021-22, Sera was accessed the most by readers through 363484 (hits).

Here, not only Raipur but also agricultural scientists, professors and students of other nearby agricultural colleges are being trained for better use of e-resources, for which from the year 2018, Cursotium has been set up for better use of e-resources in agriculture and library. It is being continuously rewarded for its services by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

For this achievement and better use of e-agriculture education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Deputy Director General (Education) Dr. R.C. Agarwal, Assistant Director General Dr. Bimlesh Mann and Vice Chancellor Dr. Girish Chandel and top officials of the university have extended hearty congratulations.

Chhath devotees pay obeisance to rising sun

Raipur, Nov 20: The four-day Chhath Puja celebrations concluded on Monday morning with the offering of Ushakalin Arghya to the rising Sun across the state. Thousands of Chhath Vratists gathered at Mahadev Ghat and they offered Ushakalin Arghya to the rising Sun.

Chhath Puja was celebrated at over 50 Ghats including Mahadev Ghat of Kharun river, Vyas Talab, Chhuhiya Talab, Urala Talab, Jhanjh Lake Naya Raipur and others Ghats in the state capital.

Chhath Mahapary Ayojan Samiti (CMAS), Mahadev Ghat, Raipur Rajesh Kumar Singh informed that Chhath Puja concluded with offering of Ushakalin Arghya to the rising Sun on Monday morning.

Thousand of devotees reached Mahadev Ghat on the bank of Kharun river in few hours to offer Ushakalin Arghya to the rising Sun. Huge crowd converged on Mahadev Ghat and other Chhath Ghats in the state capital. Mahabhandara was held at Mahadev Ghat on Monday morning.



Thousands of people took 'prasad'.

All arrangements were made for Chhath Puja at Mahadev Ghat including lighting, changing rooms for Chhath Vratists, parking and other arrangements were made at the Mahadev Ghat.

Renowned Bhojpuri singer and Sur Sangram winner Alok Kumar, Chhattisgarhi folk singer Dilip Shadangi and Bhojpuri singer Hema Pandey and her two sisters Kareena Pandey and Sovita Pandey mesmer-

ized the audience the whole night at Mahadev Ghat.

Dancers Sonali and Tarun Chopra of international acclaimed dance Group Dharohar Kala Sangam Sanstha Prayagraj also presented 'Nriyta Natika' and enthralled the audience.

Artists of musician and lyricist Venkatesh Agrawal Band also performed. Members of the CMAS Ravindra Singh, Sunil Singh, Kanhaiya Singh, Ramkumar Singh, Parmanand Singh,

Shashi Singh, Satyendra Singh Gautam, Kanhaiya Singh, Satya Prakash Singh, Ram Vilas Singh, Jayant Singh, Brijesh Singh, Amarjeet Singh, Santosh Singh, Jaiprakash Singh, Mukul S r i v a s t a v a , Chandrashekhar Singh, Saroj Singh, Ajay Sharma, Sanjay Singh, Shashi Singh, Anil Singh, Pankaj Choudhary and other members imparted their valuable services to make the Chhath Puja successful at Mahadev Ghat.

Manipal Hospitals enter into partnership with Goel Group

● Stone laid for 500 bedded 'Ginni Devi Goel Manipal Hospitals'

Raipur, Nov 20: Manipal Hospitals along with GOEL Group of Raipur announced a long-term collaboration for setting up a 500 bedded high-end tertiary Care healthcare facility in the city. The foundation stone for the hospital was laid today marking the beginning of construction work in the presence of Dr. Murali Srinivas and Mr. Pramod Alagharu and Mr. Suresh, Mr. Rajendra & Narendra Goel & family. The project is targeted to become operational in 2 years time.

The Hospital named as "GINNI DEVI GOEL MANIPAL HOSPITALS" is a multi-specialty hospital with the State-of-art medical equipment & expert team of doctors along with rich experience of Manipal Hospitals in the field of Healthcare.

The project also comprises of Nursing College, Residential premises for doctors & the attendants of the patients.



It is worthwhile mentioning that Manipal Hospital has an integrated network of 33 hospitals spread across 17 cities with over 9,500 beds and a talented pool of over 5,000 doctors & over 16,000 employees.

Goel Group, in close consultation with Manipal Hospitals, will be engaged in the construction and setting up of the marquee healthcare facility. The greenfield hospital would be built in phases, with an initial bed capacity of 300 beds with a potential to go up to over 500 beds.

The project should be ready for commercial operation in two years from now. This facility, when completed, will provide Manipal Hospitals with its

maiden entry into the state capital in Central-East India and would be best placed to provide ease of access and comprehensive care to everyone across this fast-growing city and the region.

Speaking on the occasion of Bhoomi Poojan, Pramod Alagharu, Regional COO, Manipal Hospitals said, "We are pleased to enter into a partnership with Goel Group on the project and this addition is in line with our strategic imperative to enter state capitals and newer geographies. We believe that with our track record of superior clinical outcomes and patient services, this hospital is a reiteration of our commitment to meet the

healthcare needs of some of the underserved segments in the state of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states."

Narendra Goel, MD, Goel Group said, "We are glad to be starting the work with Manipal Hospitals, who are pioneers in the healthcare industry across the country. The Greenfield project Bhoomi Pooja is a great step towards affordable, quality and accessible healthcare to all people. The pandemic has acted as a transformation catalyst enabling our people for universal access to the best treatment services. The Goel family have always believed that philanthropic activities and business strategy are not antagonistic to each other and synergy between the two is beneficial for the society and the nation at large. Together with Manipal Hospitals, we aim to provide the much-needed fillip to bring in the strong clinical expertise and experience of top specialists from across the country, coupled with the finest infrastructure for which we are known to offer."

GUARD OF HONOUR



Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles inspects tri-service Guard of Honour at South Block, in New Delhi, Monday,

Prez to flag off 3 trains, lay foundation of Badampahar station redevelopment today

Badampahar (Odisha), Nov 20 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu will flag off three trains from the Badampahar railway station in Odisha on Tuesday. These trains -- Shalimar-Badampahar and Badampahar-Rourkela weekly express trains and one MEMU between Badampahar and Tatanagar -- "will connect tribal areas with bigger cities and give a huge boost to the local economy, access to healthcare and tribal tourism, among others," a railway official said.

According to the railways, the Shalimar-Badampahar Weekly Express will be the first ever express train connecting Shalimar near Kolkata in West Bengal with Badampahar in Odisha.



President Droupadi Murmu being received by Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das upon her arrival at Baripada, in Mayurbhanj district, Monday.

The second weekly express train will connect the mineral rich areas of Badampahar with Rourkela, the Steel City of India. The third train -- Tatanagar-Badampahar MEMU -- will be important for daily commuters as it will run six days a week

except Sunday. According to the railways, this will be an additional service between Badampahar and Tatanagar, an important industrial city of Jharkhand. The South Eastern Railway (SER) zone, under which these

Murmu urges Santali writers to focus on children

For spread of OI Chiki language

President Droupadi Murmu Monday urged Santali writers to focus on children to spread OI Chiki by publishing magazines in the language for them and regularly interacting with them. Writers play a big role in popularising any language, Murmu, who spoke in OI Chiki through out the programme, said addressing the 36th Annual Conference and Literary Festival of All India Santali Writers' Association. OI Chiki has the potential to expand as an Indian language, the president said and called upon Santali writers to carry forward their writing for the overall development of the language.

areas fall, said that these trains will pass through mineral rich and industrial areas and will facilitate faster connectivity.

Raghav Chadha moves HC challenging summons in defamation complaint

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI):

AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Monday approached the Delhi High Court challenging the summons issued to him by a trial court in a criminal defamation complaint filed by Delhi BJP leader Chhail Bihari Goswami.

As the matter came up before Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, Chadha's counsel said that they wanted to file certain additional documents in the case and sought some time. The high court listed the matter for hearing on December 11.

A magisterial court had earlier issued summons to AAP leaders Satyendar Jain and

Raghav Chadha in the defamation complaint and the sessions court upheld it on November 9, saying that the summoning order was "perfectly correct and legal on facts as well as in law". Chadha challenged the sessions court order before the high court.

Goswami had filed the complaint before a metropolitan magistrate here accusing Jain, a former Delhi minister and sitting MLA, and Chadha, a Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, of having made alleged defamatory remarks against him over North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) funds. Goswami was the chairperson of the NDMC Standing Committee.

Heart touching tributes to 'Sahasrasri'

Lucknow, Nov 20:

Managing Worker and Chairman of Sahara India Pariwar, one of the biggest conglomerates of India, Subrata Roy Sahara, fondly called Sahasrasri, received heart touching tributes from people from all walks of life. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Hon'ble Shri Yogi Aditya Nath expressed his deepest sorrow on the death of Sahasrasri while the former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Akhilesh Yadav said it was an emotional loss of the state and our country as Sahasrasri was not only a successful businessman but also a person of big heart who helped and supported countless individuals.

Sahasrasri passed away on 14th November 2023 at 10.30 pm due to cardiorespiratory arrest following an extended battle with

complications arising from metastatic malignancy, hypertension, and diabetes at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute in Mumbai. He was brought to Lucknow on 15th November and last rites took place on 16th November. In this moment of sorrow his wife Smt. Swapna Roy, daughter in laws Mrs Richa Roy - wife of his elder son Mrs Sushant Roy and Mrs Chandni Roy - wife of younger son Seemanto Roy received immensely emotional condolences from thousands of people. The spokesperson of Sahara India Pariwar said that at this moment of great sorrow both the Deputy Managing Workers of Sahara India Pariwar O.P. Srivastava and J.B. Roy - younger brother of Subrata Roy Sahara provided paternal support to



Amitabh Bachchan accompanied by his son Abhishek Bachchan and his daughter Ms. Shweta Bachchan Nanda coming out of Sahara Star hotel at Mumbai after meeting Mrs Swapna Roy.

the family and the entire Sahara India Pariwar. Amongst the first who met with Mrs Swapna Roy in Mumbai immediately after the death of Sahasrasri was Amitabh Bachchan who was accompanied by his son

Abhishek Bachchan and his daughter Ms. Shweta Bachchan Nanda. They reached Sahara Star hotel at Mumbai to pay their last respects. Amitabh Bachchan used his blog also to mourn the loss. World Badminton

Champion P.V. Sindhu said, "It is heartbroken to learn about the passing of Sahasrasri. He has always treated me with nothing but love, affection, and respect."

On the question of what is the way forward for the group, Sahara said "Sahara India Pariwar is a professionally managed organization. The organization has robust fundamentals and well-defined organizational structure. All the business verticals are already headed by the efficient and professionally skilled people of their respective fields. Hon'ble Sahasrasri Ji has always been and will always remain our source of inspiration. Sahara India Pariwar is committed to uphold his legacy and will continue to honour his vision in driving the organization with the same force and determination."

HC directs release of Rs 1 cr compensation to deceased constable's family

New Delhi, Nov 20 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the city government to release within four weeks the ex-gratia compensation of Rs 1 crore to the family of a police constable who died in 2020 after contracting COVID-19 while performing his duties.

Justice Prathiba M Singh observed that under an order passed by the Delhi government on November 3, compensation was granted to the wife and father of the deceased constable Amit Kumar. "The amount in terms of the order shall be released in four weeks," the

court ordered. In the order, the government approved the release of Rs 60 lakh and Rs 40 lakh to the wife and father of the deceased, respectively, in terms of a cabinet decision dated May 13, 2020.

Advocate Arun Panwar, appearing for the Delhi government, said the authorities would comply with the direction. The high court was hearing a petition by Kumar's wife who said her husband passed away on May 5, 2020 when she was expecting a child. Kumar, a young Delhi Police constable, was posted at Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital to ensure adherence to COVID-19 lockdown measures.

ROAD SHOW



PM Modi during a road show ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections 2023, in Bikaner, Monday.

Committee formed to prepare Bengali plaque on UNESCO honour to Santiniketan

Kolkata, Nov 20 (PTI):

Visva Bharati University on Monday said a committee has been formed to finalise the new Bengali plaque in place of the earlier one on UNESCO recognition to Santiniketan as a heritage site.

The committee will also look through the already prepared Hindi and English texts of the new plaque to see that it is according to the instructions of the union education ministry, spokesperson of the central university, Mahua Banerjee said in an official statement. She said the acting Vice-chancellor Sanjoy Kumar Mallick has been advised that the installation of the official text of the UNESCO statement recognizing Santiniketan as a heritage site is of "immediate priority" and the ministry was assured that the university has no intention for unnecessary delay in carrying out the work. The ministry was informed

that soon after the receipt of the draft statement, a committee was formed to finalise the Bengali version of the text of the plaque and to look through the texts for those in Hindi and English for parity of statement across the three languages as the university has no intention of any unnecessary delay, Banerjee said.

that soon after the receipt of the draft statement, a committee was formed to finalise the Bengali version of the text of the plaque and to look through the texts for those in Hindi and English for parity of statement across the three languages as the university has no intention of any unnecessary delay, Banerjee said.

'Fire Bird' wins the 6th JCB Prize for Literature

New Delhi, Nov 20:

Melting,' was awarded by Lord Bamford, Chairman



(L-R)Sundaram Kannan, Tamil Publisher Manasi Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief, Penguin Random House India Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director, JCB India Limited on behalf of

Lord Bamford, Chairman JCB, to Sundaram Kannan, and Manasi Subramaniam, the Tamil publisher and the Editor of the English translation as author Perumal Murugan and Translator Janani Kannan were unable to join the event. Talking about the award, Deepak Shetty said: "The JCB Prize for Literature was institutionalised by Lord Bamford as a symbol of the Bamford family's commitment and affection for India. In a period of just six years, it has made a place for itself because of its unique structure, which awards and celebrates writing in Indian languages, representing different cultures."

Deepak Shetty, CEO and Managing Director, JCB India Limited on behalf of

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Varanasi, Gujarat - 362286. Branch Office- Sky Park, unit Nos 402 & 403, 4th Floor, Adjacent G E Road, Ravi Nagar Opp. Ram Sati Mandir, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. APPENDIX IV(See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Possession Notice for Immovable Property. Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued a demand notice dated 22-08-2023 calling upon the borrowers Kewal Kumar Jadwani, Amar Jadwani, M/S. Amar Infrastructure, mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 7,32,59,063.41/- (Rupees Seven Crore Thirty Two Lac Fifty Nine Thousand Sixty Three and Forty One Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

INDIAN BANK. Branch - Ramsagar Para, Raipur (C.G) Branch - Smriti Nagar, Bhilai (C.G) Branch - New Khursipar Bhillai (C.G) POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties) (Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the INDIAN BANK under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as on below mentioned dated calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

Bhojpuri Samaj annoyed over lack of cleaning

Near the ghat and river by Nagar Palika staff

■ Were forced to clean on their own

Baghbahra, Nov 20:

The members of Bhojpuri Samaj faced annoyance with the Nagar Palika over lack of cleaning of ponds for 'Chath Puja' and to clean the area near the banks of the river and remove the filth and waste lying nearby, the heads of the Samaj and workers had to work on their own. Few sanitary labourers sent by the Nagar Palika did not carry out proper cleaning of ghats and nearby areas and due to which the Bhojpuri Samaj had to celebrate the festival amidst filth and dirt. This type of condition was seen for the first time, when despite request by the members of Samaj a week in advance, there was lack of desire to



do the same. There is great deal of resentment among the members of Bhojpuri Samaj on this issue. Samaj's president Arjun Gupta along with Aachelal Sharam, Banesh Yadav

and others when reached the arrangements made for the 'Chath Puja' at the Ghat, they met with annoyance and found lot of waste and filth in that area. There were broken

liquor bottle and disposal lying along with 'dona-patal' and others near the same and they were all shocked to see the same. In this regard the Bhojpuri Samaj head tried to get in

touch with the CMO of Nagar Palika, but he was not available.

The members of Bhojpuri Samaj informed that they even went to meet CMO in this regard to his office, but he was not present.

Heads of Samaj said that the Department's employees have done cleaning near the ghat, but the cleaning was not upto the mark and it was more of mere formality and half the waste and garbage was left there itself and they left it there only.

They tried to get in touch with the Nagar Palika president and talk to CMO, but it was in vain. Finally the members of the Samaj had to take to streets and carry out cleaning on their own and the members of Samaj are strongly condemning the attitude of senior officers of Nagar Palika.

DEO expresses gratitude for smooth and peaceful voting

Fingeshwar, Nov 20:

Dhananjay Netam, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and Returning Officer for the Rajim Assembly, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the collective efforts that led to the seamless and peaceful conduct of the 2023 Assembly Elections in Rajim.

Netam extended his gratitude to all the officers, staff members, and security personnel, as well as the district's citizens, who played pivotal roles in organizing and executing the voting process flawlessly.

He commended the dedication and commitment exhibited by the officers and staff members entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the substantial voter turnout.

Security personnel, in their role of ensuring a secure environ-



ment, were also lauded for their exceptional performance. The voters of Rajim assembly constituency displayed unwavering faith in democracy by actively participating in the electoral process, upholding the principles of the electoral system. Notably, first-time voters exhibited enthusiastic engagement, and women, senior citizens, and disabled individuals exercised their right to vote.

Netam also expressed his appreciation for the

invaluable contributions of the media representatives, whose extensive coverage kept the public informed. Additionally, he highlighted the commendable role played by Scouts-Guides, NCC, and NSS students during the voting process.

Acknowledging the indispensable support of vehicle drivers responsible for transporting polling parties, Netam emphasized that their unwavering dedication had significantly contributed to the success of the election.

Furthermore, he recognized the crucial roles played by various organizations, including self-help groups and social organizations, in ensuring the smooth conduct of the election. In conclusion, Netam expressed gratitude to all involved and extended his warm congratulations for their collective efforts.

Secure storage of EVMs marks post-election tranquility in Mungeli



Mungeli, Nov 20:

Following the assembly elections, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) from Mungeli and Lormi assembly constituencies now rest safely within the confines of the Government Agricultural Engineering College in Chatarkhar, guarded by armed personnel and a network of CCTV cameras. Upon the arrival of

the voting parties from the district's three assembly constituencies, the EVMs underwent meticulous counting in the presence of candidates and their election representatives at the Government Agricultural Engineering College in Chatarkhar. Subsequently, the EVMs were securely sealed. EVM machines from areas falling under the

Bilha assembly constituency were dispatched to Bilaspur under stringent security protocols, as some polling stations for Bilha assembly were located in Mungeli district. Polling teams from Mungeli district were entrusted with the safe transport of all EVM machines to Bilaspur.

The EVMs of Mungeli and Lormi assembly constituencies now remain safeguarded in the district's strong room. As the machines were sealed, the electoral fate of candidates such as Punnulal Mohle from BJP for Mungeli Assembly, Sanjit Banerjee from Congress, Sarita Bhardwaj from Chhattisgarh Janata Congress, as well as candidates from Aam Aadmi Party and BJP for Lormi Assembly, were sealed along with them. The sealed EVMs will be unsealed and their contents revealed on December 3, eagerly anticipated by all concerned parties.

FIR filed against Hostel Suptd

■ On charges of overtaking a biker closely and then scolding him

Khairagarh, Nov 20:

It was based upon complaint by a person that the Salhewara Police filed an FIR against the Hostel Superintendent.

As per information in this regard it was on Saturday one Laxminarayan S/o Tikaram Verma (20), R/o Devpuraghat had come and filed report in Salhewara Thana that on Nov 13 at 4:00 pm he was going in his motorcycle from Salhewara to Devpuraghat and he was being followed by Hostel Superintendent in his car at a

high-speed and he had a close shave near Electricity Office when Joshi tried to overtake him.

Due to this Laxminarayan lost control of his bike and narrowly escape falling down.

On this he shouted loudly against Joshi after he narrowly escaped and questioned him as to what his intentions are?

On this Joshi came down from his car and started using foul language and held him with his collar and started beating him.

Here Joshi tried to turn on the finger of his right hand and due to which he suffered injuries.

It was based upon complaint by the victim, police had filed a case under section 294 and 323 of IPC against Hostel Superintendent.

Youth thrilled over World Cup finals

Had made lots of preparations



Dongargaon, Nov 20:

There was lot of enthusiasm and thrill among the youth related to the World Cup between India and Australia and the residents of city, specially the youth and cricket lovers started their preparations two days back.

The match will be telecast live on LED near city's Handi Pasra and old Bus Stand and with massive arrangements the presence of DJ has increased enthusiasm for

the match. Seeing the wonderful performance of Indian team in this World Cup lot of crackers are being busted and on score of every four or six, the youths are busting crackers on every good shot.

Not only this the sports lovers were making all their own arrangements and for the live telecast at public place they are ensuring that every person wears Indian team's jersey and carrying the Indian flag

in their hand. The city's cricket lovers are highly enthusiastic and optimistic about the World Cup Final and say that India will definitely win. On the other hand, the residents are expressing their views on the team's batters and bowlers.

Meanwhile for security and traffic, police too has been deployed to streamline city's traffic and patrolling under leadership of TI Upendra Shah is in progress.

KUM has become white elephant due to limited resources

Khairagarh, Nov 20:

The Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) in Amlipara has become like a white elephant and it is due to sheer negligence on part of KUM by the local district administration and due to the 'Souda Patrak Adhiniyam' that the farmers are not getting a single benefit.

It is notable here that it was 27 yrs back that Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) was established on 19.61 acre land in Amlipara of Khairagarh. But with the passage of time the farmers are not able to get the due benefits. On the other hand, on the other hand, with no profit being passed onto the farmers and due to lack of interest on part of the local administration that it has now become a white Elephant.

It is notable here that the very objectives with which the Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) was established in Khairagarh has not been fulfilled. It was on 17 June 1995 that the ex-CM of the then undivided MP Digvijay Singh and in the presence of LS MP late Shivendra Bahadur Singh and MLA late Devbrath Singh that KUM was dedicated. At that time the

farmers were directly linked to the KUM and were getting benefited as well. But in last 18 yrs due to 'Souda Patrak Adhiniyam' during rule of ex-CM Dr Raman Singh now the Mandi is of no use. There is no sale or purchase of any produce of the farmers from this KUM and questions are being raised on its existence itself. There were hopes that the pro-farmer government of CM Bhupesh Bgahel would introduce some scheme in order to make KUM's existence worthwhile, but no such thing happened in five yrs of Baghel's government either.

Due to constant negligence on part of the public representatives the very objective of KUM is not being fulfilled. Meanwhile the Mandi President is making efforts to generate additional revenue, but due to imposing of model code of conduct, the scheme at present is in cold storage. There are hopes that after December 3 and formation of the new government that some better efforts can be made in this direction.

Farmers made distance from KUM due to Souda Patrak:



At one place where due to the 'Souda Patrak Niyam' the traders and officers are getting benefited, on the other, the farmers have been deprived of any benefit directly from Mandi and due to which the farmers have now started maintaining distance from KUM.

Opening of Rice mills can bring competition:
For the present condition of the KUM, the lack of Rice Millers in the region could be one of the major reasons. Presently there are only four rice millers functional in the region and the Govt Rice Mill functional in Piparia for last many years is closed now, as the officers posted here made quick bucks through it. Reliable sources informed that with more strength of

Rice Millers, the competition would go up and this will directly benefit the farmers. If the four rice mills of Khairagarh are compared with other districts, then there are 100 in Rajnandgaon district and more than 150 in Rajim and more than 200 in Durg and Bhatapara area and more than 300 in Dhamtari district and here due to stiff competition, the farmers are being getting benefited.

It is learnt that the government is charging 3% as Mandi fee; 2% as Farmer Welfare Fee and 0.20% as 'Nirashrit Fees' from the traders. The same now is 1% fee by millers and for Farmers Welfare fee and 0.20% 'Nirashrit shulk' which is being paid by the farmers. Those closely associated with Mandi in-

- Not getting any revenue benefit
- Objectives are not being fulfilled
- In last 18 yrs public reps too are not paying any attention
- Traders are drawing benefit from MNaid, but farmers put a bay
- Due to 'Souda Patrak Niyam', farmers have maintained distance

formed that 18 yrs back the Raman government passed the 'Souda Patrak Adhiniyam' and due to which the traders got benefited and the farmers were left uncared. In the last five years, even after change of power there were hopes that the 'Souda Patrak' content would be changed and farmers would be able to get linked with KUM directly, but this has not happened till date.

Mandi not having sufficient admn force:
The grain traders of the region are involved in evasion of Mandi fees on regular basis and due to 'Souda Patrak Niyam' the farmers are forced to sell

their produce to the traders and in turn the traders sells huge quantity of farmers produce hiding all charges and at exorbitant rates. On the other hand KUM is not having sufficient administrative strength to put a check on all such evasions and ensure smooth working. Out of 5 Sub Inspectors, only one is working and as compared to the set-up for peon, data entry operators and other posts, many are still lying vacant. At the same time no elections have been held in KUM for last many years and it is being run purely on the basis of nominated representative or some officer given additional charge of it.

Efforts being made to increase Mandi's revenue:
Since KUM in Amlipara of Khairagarh is close to the state highway, efforts are being made to increase additional revenue. KUM President Dashmat Uttam Janghel informed that due to 'Souda Patrak Niyam' there are many problems and therefore we are paying attention to increase its additional revenue. Being closed to the state highway, Complex will be constructed in the Mandi premises and for which a

proposal of Rs 27.74 lakh has been sent to the state government and sanction of Rs 26.94 has been received as well. On the other hand 9 'Kissan Kutir' will be constructed in Khairagarh block from Mandi's funds and this will be done in Dokarabhata, Sonpuri (Ragra), Borampur, Madouda and Jalbandha Samiti of Khairagarh VS and ini Vicharpur, Bhandarpur, Pandadah, Gaharitola (Baihatola) of Dongargaon VS at the cost of Rs 13.50 lakh and for which sanction from the government has been received.



Demand made to purchase the yield: Meshram
Secretary KUM Khairagarh Pawan Kumar Meshram informed that after formation of the district, in line with other district, demand has been made to the government to

purchase produce of farmers in the Mandi premises. To increase revenue of Mandi is the main focus and at present there is no additional administrative staff available in KUM.



President KUM Dashmat Uttam Janghel said that continuous efforts are being made to purchase crops in the Mandi premises. Apart from talks with the government, talks have been held with the MD of Mandi Board. At the same time request has been made from Collector to start purchase of grains in line with Rajnandgaon. Efforts are being made that oilseeds and pulses can at least be purchased here. Presently there is no purchase being made in the Mandi and this has reduced the sources of income for Mandi. After formation of district there were hopes that the purchase would increase, but it did not happened.

Women make up more than half of 22 ministers in new Spanish Cabinet

Madrid, Nov 20 (AP)

Women will hold 12 of the 22 posts in the new government named Monday by Spain's recently reelected Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

"The new government is going to have a marked feminist accent with four women deputy prime ministers and more female ministers than male ministers," Sanchez said.

The Cabinet will include nine new ministers while key posts remain unchanged. Nadia Calvi o keeps the economy portfolio, Jos Manuel Albares remains in charge of foreign affairs and Margarita

Robles stays at defense.

Sanchez's Socialist party will hold 17 ministries and its leftist Sumar (Joining Forces) coalition partner will have five portfolios. The outgoing government's former far-left coalition partner, Unidas Podemos (Unite We Can) will have no ministries and the party's former star Equality Minister Irene Montero will be replaced by Ana Redondo of the Socialist party. Sanchez was reelected prime minister on Thursday with the support of 179 lawmakers in the 350-seat Parliament. His election was opposed by 171 deputies from the right of center Popular

Party and the far-right Vox. The socialist prime minister's new term has gotten off to a stormy start after he clinched the support in parliament of two Catalan separatist parties in exchange for a controversial amnesty proposal for hundreds of people in legal trouble over the Catalonia region's failed secession attempt in 2017.

The proposal has triggered massive protests called by the Popular Party and Vox. Several held by extreme right-wing groups close to the Socialist party's headquarters in Madrid have ended in clashes with police.



Colombian performer Shakira, center, arrives at court in Barcelona, Spain, Monday. Global pop star Shakira is summoned on Monday to a Barcelona courthouse for the opening day of her trial for allegedly defrauding Spanish tax officials of millions of euros.

Security officials foiled an alleged far-right attack by an 18-year-old

Berlin, Nov 20 (AP): An 18-year-old right-wing extremist was arrested in central Germany on suspicion that he was planning a "serious act of violence endangering the state," security officials said Monday.

The man, whose identity was not given in line with German privacy rules, is accused of having an "established violent, anti-semitic and right-wing extremist attitude," investigators said.

He was arrested last week by special forces in the state of Hesse.

"The 18-year-old had repeatedly threatened in relevant forums to kill people in pursuit of his political goals," Hesse criminal police and local prosecutors said in a statement. He is also suspected of having violated the Weapons Act.

The suspect's home was searched last week, too, and computers and cell phones as well as weapons and ammunition were seized.

1 crew dead after a Turkish cargo ship sinks in Black Sea

Ankara, Nov 20 (AP)

Turkish rescuers on Monday recovered the body of a crew member of a cargo ship that sank off Turkey's Black Sea coast in severe storms, officials said. Eleven other crew were reported missing.

The Turkish-flagged Kafkametler sank on Sunday after hitting a breakwater outside the harbor off the town of Ereğli, some 200 kilometers (124 miles) east of Istanbul. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu said

the vessel, which was on its way to the western Turkish port of Izmir, lashed into the breakwater several times before it sank.

The search-and-rescue operation was delayed by several hours because of the severe weather. But as the condition eased, rescuers on Monday found the body of the ship's cook, Uraloglu said.

The severe storms that hit northwestern Turkey caused widespread damage and disruption on Sunday, including the breakup of another cargo ship and the evacuation of a prison.

Sunak urges world to use AI and science to end malnutrition

London, Nov 20 (AP)

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Monday that the UK is setting up a new science initiative to help develop flood-tolerant rice, disease-resistant wheat and other crops that are more resilient to climate change.

Sunak was joined by ministers, diplomats and philanthropists from about 20 countries at a one-day Global Food Security Summit in London, where he urged world leaders to harness artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge technology to end malnutrition around the globe.



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delivers a speech at a college in north London, Monday.

Sunak told delegates that a "fundamental shift" is needed to confront a food-security crisis that is being worsened by climate change. He focused on the role of sci-

ence and said the UK would set up a "virtual science hub" linking international researchers working on more resilient crops. The UK hub will be part of a global research partnership known as CGIAR.

The event was co-hosted by Somalia and the United Arab Emirates alongside the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The conference venue was picketed by activists from Medical Aid for Palestinians calling for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war to get urgent-

ly needed food and humanitarian aid into Gaza.

"It is good that they are talking about addressing food and security in the world. But if they're going to do that seriously, they cannot ignore the situation in Gaza, where 2.2 million people are at risk of starvation," said the group's chief executive, Melanie Ward.

"Because of the siege that's been imposed on Gaza, the amount of aid that's gotten in the last month is only enough for about two normal days in Gaza. So less than 10% of the food needed to keep people in Gaza alive is actually getting in."

Pak authorities arrest seven terrorists

Lahore, Nov 20 (PTI)

A major terror attack was foiled after law enforcement authorities arrested seven terrorists, including a key commander of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), who were planning a major terror attack in the country's Punjab province, police said on Monday.

The terrorists were arrested from different places in Punjab province on Sunday after the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the provincial police received intelligence about their attack plan in their respective areas, fol-

lowing which they in collaboration with an intelligence agency foiled their plot. "The CTD in collaboration with an intelligence agency has foiled a major terror plot in the province by arresting seven terrorists mostly belonging to the TTP," a CTD spokesperson said in a statement. A spokesperson of the CTD department said that the terrorists were arrested from Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Rawalpindi and Sargodha districts of Punjab while the commander was arrested from the Bahawalpur area.

Shell hits Gaza hospital, killing 12, as heavy fighting breaks out

Khan Younis, Nov 20 (AP)

A shell hit the second floor of a hospital in northern Gaza, killing at least 12 people, according to the Hamas-led Health Ministry and a medical worker, as Israeli troops focus on clearing medical facilities where they say Hamas militants take cover.

Heavy fighting broke out around the Indonesian Hospital, which has housed thousands of patients and displaced people for weeks.

The fighting came a day after the World Health Organization evacuated 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City, the territory's largest, where they were among



A Palestinian woman sits by houses destroyed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Monday.

more than 250 critically ill or wounded patients stranded there days after Israeli forces entered the compound. Israel says Hamas uses

civilians and hospitals as shields, while critics say Israel's siege and relentless aerial bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians after Hamas' October 7 rampage into southern Israel. More than 11,500 Palestinians two-thirds of them women and minors have been killed since the war began, according to Palestinian health authorities, who do not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people are reported missing. Some 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mostly during the October 7 attack, and around 240 were taken captive by militants.

More than 400,000 Afghans return home from Pak following crackdown on migrants

Islamabad, Nov 20 (AP)

More than 400,000 Afghans returned to their home country following the ongoing crackdown on illegal foreigners in the country, Pakistani authorities said Monday.

Zabihullah Mujahid, chief spokesperson of the Taliban-led government in Afghanistan, confirmed the number and told The Associated Press that the majority have been using the border crossings of Torkham and Spin Boldak to return home.

An estimated 1.7 million Afghans had been living in Pakistan when authorities

announced its nationwide crackdown, saying that anyone without proper documents had to leave the country by October 31 or else get arrested.

However, Pakistani officials said the other 1.4 million Afghans registered as refugees need not worry as only people without proper documentation were sought after. In the 1980s, millions of Afghans fled to neighboring Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of their country. The numbers witnessed a spike after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

Pakistan also introduced plans under which

hundreds of thousands of residents in the southwestern border town of Chaman would need visas to cross between the two countries. They previously had special permits.

On Monday, hundreds briefly blocked a key road leading to the Chaman border, disrupting traffic and the repatriation of some of the Afghans.

Residents in Chaman have been protesting repeatedly, asking Pakistan to allow them to continue using the special permits for business purposes and to meet with relatives who live in the Afghan border city of Spin Boldak.

Bangladesh reels under worst dengue outbreak

Dhaka, Nov 20 (PTI) Dengue cases in Bangladesh have crossed the 300,000 mark as the nation grapples with its worst outbreak of the vector-borne disease, media reports said on Monday.

Bangladesh's overall tally of dengue infections stood at 301,255, with the country logging 1,549 deaths by the viral disease this year, the bdnews24.com news portal reported, citing data from the Directorate General of Health Services.

On Sunday alone, 1,291 new cases of the viral fever were reported, according to the report. A total of 4,949 patients, including 1,127 in Dhaka, are receiving treatment at hospitals across the country. After August saw 71,976 cases and 342 deaths, a record 79,598 dengue cases and 396 deaths were recorded in September amid the worst outbreak of the disease, while 67,769 cases and 359 deaths were reported in October. The death toll in the first 19 days of November was 201, while 30,080 new dengue cases were recorded during this period.

Indore-born London Deputy Mayor Rajesh Agrawal eyes Parliament seat from Leicester

London, Nov 20 (PTI)

Indore-born entrepreneur and London's Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal, has been selected by the Opposition Labour Party as its parliamentary candidate to contest from the constituency of Leicester East in the next general election.

Agrawal, 46, took to social media on Sunday to announce his selection and pledged to deliver as a member of Parliament for all residents of a constituency that represents one of the largest South Asian origin populations in the UK.

In a local parliamentary contest, he beat another Indian-origin prospective candidate Councillor Rishi Madhani to be named Labour's choice for the next polls expected in 2024.

"I'm honoured to be selected as the Labour Party's Parliamentary candidate for Leicester East," Agrawal posted on X. "It's time to use this



auspicious moment to reset Leicester East, with a Labour MP who'll deliver for everyone who lives here. Together, let's get Britain's future back," he said. The Labour politician, who has the backing of London Mayor Sadiq Khan among others, pledged to continue to champion the ideals he has been committed to as London's Deputy Mayor. "As London's Deputy Mayor for Business, I've flown the British flag and championed our ideals around the world, attracting hundreds of millions in international investment; creating hundreds of thousands more jobs and giving over 255,000

people better employment conditions. I'll bring similar successes to Leicester East and make sure it gets its fair share," reads his mission statement.

He reflects on his migrant journey 22 years ago when he arrived in the UK from India with little in his pocket and went on to set up a successful fintech business.

"As a fintech entrepreneur, I built a team that challenged the status quo by lowering the cost of moving money for migrant workers and businesses alike. I'm passionate about entrepreneurship and opportunity. It's why I'm standing to become your next Labour MP for Leicester East because I believe there's a Labour way to grow our economy; one that's pro-worker and pro-employer too," states Agrawal.

He lists championing Leicester's economy, helping residents with the cost-of-living crisis and creating affordable homes among his top priorities.

Pakistan's anti-graft body ordered to record ex-PM Nawaz Sharif's statement by Nov 30

● Toshakhana corruption case

Islamabad, Nov 20 (PTI)

An accountability court here on Monday ordered Pakistan's anti-graft body to record former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's statement by November 30 in the Toshakhana corruption case. Judge Muhammad Bashir of the accountability court in Islamabad heard the Toshakhana corruption case against the 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo who returned to Pakistan on October 21 after about four years of self-imposed exile in London. Sharif's lawyer, Qazi Misbah, urged the court to issue directions to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on recording the three-time prime minister's statements in the case. "A supplementary reference needs to be filed in the absence of Nawaz," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper. "We

want the NAB to record Nawaz's position," he added. The NAB prosecutor sought time to go through the petition. However, Judge Bashir ordered the accountability bureau to record Sharif's statements in the case by November 30 and adjourned the proceedings till then. "What is the problem? Call Nawaz Sharif and record his statement," Judge Bashir was quoted as saying. In June 2020, an accountability court issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Sharif when he was in London and, in September, declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicle case.

Former president Asif Ali Zardari, 68, and ex-prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, 71, are also accused in the same case.

In the case, the NAB accused Sharif and Zardari of illegally retaining expensive vehicles gifted to them by various foreign countries and dignitaries instead of depositing them in the Toshakhana, the state depository.

संचालनालय, आयुर्वेद योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छात्रीसंगठ

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क्रमांक/1/स्था./महा./प्रवेश/2023-24/4283 नया रायपुर दिनांक 18/11/2023

बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रमों में सत्र 2023-24 में राज्य कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश हेतु

स्टूडेंट्स वेबसाइट काउंसिलिंग के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन सूचना

भारतीय चिकित्सा प्रवृत्ति राष्ट्रीय आयोग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र दिनांक 09.11.2023 एवं राष्ट्रीय होम्योपैथी आयोग, नई दिल्ली के पत्र दिनांक 09.11.2023 द्वारा शैक्षणिक सत्र 2023-24 में आयुर्वेद होम्योपैथी स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश की अंतिम तिथि में 30 नवम्बर 2023 तक वृद्धि करते हुए minimum percentile criteria में निम्नानुसार कमी की गई है-

Category	UR/URWS	OBC	SC	ST	UR/URWS-PwD	OBC-PwD	SC-PwD	ST-PwD
Revised Cut-off percentile for UG/PG Courses for A.Y. 2023-24	45th	35th	35th	35th	40th	35th	35th	35th

अतः शैक्षणिक सत्र 2023-24 में छात्रीसंगठ राज्य के बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रमों में प्रवेश हेतु स्टूडेंट्स वेबसाइट के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन आवेदन दिनांक 19.11.2023 से 22.11.2023 रात्रि 11:59 बजे तक आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है।

Registration and Payment	Choice filling and Locking	Process of Seat Allotment	Result Publish	Scrutiny and Admission Process
19/11/2023 (from 12:00 PM) to 22/11/2023 (till 11:59 PM)	19/11/2023 (from 12:00 PM) to 22/11/2023 (till 11:59 PM)	23/11/2023	24/11/2023	30/11/2023 (till 05:00 PM)

छात्रीसंगठ आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम प्रवेश नियम, 2023 की कटिबंध 5 के तहत आयुष पाठ्यक्रमों के समस्त रिक्त सीटों को अनाश्रित श्रेणी में परिवर्तित किया गया है।

अतः बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यक्रम प्रवेश परीक्षा (NET (UG) 2023) में 45 परसेन्टिल (दियोग के लिए 40 परसेन्टिल) एवं छात्रीसंगठ आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम प्रवेश नियम, 2023 की कटिबंध 3 (2) (क) (बी) के अनुसार बी.ए.एम.एस./बी.ए.एम.एस. पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश हेतु अर्हताएं अनुसूचित अर्हतावादी अभ्यर्थी को प्रदान करें। ऑनलाइन परीक्षण करने के पूर्व छात्रीसंगठ आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम प्रवेश नियम, 2023 एवं सूचना पत्र (Information Bulletin) का पूर्ण अध्ययन कर ही ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रवेश करें, जो वेबसाइट <https://cgayush.admissions.nic.in> में उपलब्ध है।

वे अभ्यर्थी जो पूर्व में आवेदन कर चुके हैं तथा आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश नहीं लिये हैं, उन्हें स्टूडेंट्स वेबसाइट की काउंसिलिंग में भाग लेने हेतु परीक्षा परिधान करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, लेकिन काउंसिलिंग प्रोटॉल में लॉगिन कर विकल्प चयन करना अनिवार्य होगा। प्रथम, द्वितीय, तृतीय-अथ राउण्ड तथा स्टूडेंट्स वेबसाइट के माध्यम से आमंत्रित अभ्यर्थी आगामी स्टूडेंट्स वेबसाइट हेतु अपात्र होंगे।

वे अभ्यर्थी जो पूर्व में आवेदन कर चुके हैं तथा आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रम में प्रवेश नहीं लिये हैं, उनमें से प्रवेश के इच्छुक हैं। जिस महाविद्यालय में प्रवेश नहीं लेना है उसका विकल्प चयन न करें। रिक्त सीटों के विवरण एवं निर्धारित वेबसाइट <https://cgayush.admissions.nic.in> का अवलोकन करें।

संचालक द्वारा अनुमोदित।

राज्य संचालक आयुर्वेद, योग एवं प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा, यूनानी सिद्ध एवं होम्योपैथी (आयुष) छात्रीसंगठ

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CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 50

Billion Hearts Shattered

Heart of cricketing frenzy at the Narendra Modi Stadium, a poignant hush descended over the sea of Indian supporters as their dreams of World Cup glory unraveled before their eyes. Pat Cummins, the Australian captain, orchestrated this silence with a gritty performance that saw his team claim their sixth World Cup crown, leaving the partisan crowd crestfallen. It was a night of disappointment, but it was also a night to reflect on the essence of cricket, where the outcome can be as capricious as the weather. Travis Head, a name that had been on the sidelines due to injury for the first five matches of the World Cup, emerged as the brightest star on that Sunday night. His resolute century, the second of the tournament, paved the way for Australia's six-wicket victory. With 137 runs off 120 balls, Head led his team from the brink of adversity, with Australia reeling at 47/3 within seven overs. The packed stadium had been electric, urging the home team forward, but Head, in tandem with Marnus Labuschagne, weathered the storm and counterattacked in true Australian fashion, forging a 192-run partnership. They drained the fight out of the Indian team, and as their partnership flourished, the colossal stadium fell into a hushed reverence. India had entered the final with nine victories in the round-robin stage and an emphatic win in the semifinals. Expectations were high, and the fans demanded nothing less than victory. Captain Rohit Sharma's fiery start, amassing 47 off 31 balls, raised hopes, but his dismissal in the 10th over marked a turning point. The runs ceased to flow, and the Indian batting order struggled to regain momentum. The Australians, exceptional in the field, displayed acrobatic fielding skills, saving at least 20 runs with their boundary-line heroics. In the final 40 overs, a mere four boundaries were struck, painting a vivid picture of the relentless Australian pressure. Kohli's dismissal for 54 was a pivotal moment, and his prolonged stay at the crease, as he stared in disbelief at the fallen stumps, conveyed the magnitude of the situation. India's hope rested on Australia faltering under the weight of the intense crowd's expectations, but the Australians, true to their nature, fought back admirably. Virat Kohli's performance throughout the tournament earned him the Player of the Tournament accolade. With 765 runs, including three centuries and six half-centuries, at an average of 101.57 and a strike rate of 90.69, Kohli's contribution was monumental. He not only equaled but also surpassed the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most ODI hundreds, notching his 50th century in the format. Travis Head, named the Man of the Match for his match-winning 137 off 120 balls, expressed his disbelief at his extraordinary performance. He acknowledged the significance of the decision to bowl first after winning the toss, which set the tone for Australia's victory. While disappointment may linger, the spirit of the game endures. The Indian team's journey in the World Cup was marked by exceptional talent, determination, and resilience. It serves as a testament to their commitment and their nation's passion for cricket. The world of cricket may have witnessed a stunning defeat, but it also witnessed the indomitable spirit of a billion fans who will continue to support their team through victories and defeats alike.

CHHATH PUJA FESTIVAL



Devotees perform rituals of 'Chhath Puja' on the bank of Yamuna river, near Taj Mahal in Agra, Monday, Nov. 20.

Doctorate becomes business, 'quacks' are doing treatment



PRIYANKA SAURABH



People all over the world have seen doctors as gods and why not? God is the one who selflessly gifts life to others. But according to government figures, there are only 10 lakh registered doctors in the country for India's 1.3 billion people. According to this, there is only 1 doctor for every 13000 citizens in India. The World Health Organization considers a 1:1000 ratio as justified and necessary in this context, that is, it is mandatory to have 1 doctor for every 1000 citizens in our country. But to do this, India will have to multiply the number of doctors it currently has. While there are 58 percent of qualified doctors in urban areas, this figure is less than 19 percent in rural areas.

Due to a lack of qualified doctors, the number of quack doctors in the country is increasing day by day. Due to these quacks, the lives of patients are in danger. The health department is turning a blind eye to this matter. Due to the negligence of the department, quacks are making money. This situation is even worse in villages. In every village in India, many quacks are robbing patients. This industry has become so successful that people are entering this business indiscriminately. In villages, such quack doctors are fooling people by openly running clinics.

Due to the negligence of the health department, a large number of quacks are thriving in the country. Everywhere from villages to cities, such doctors are opening clinics and treating patients who do not even have a medical degree. Most of the doctors are intermedi-

ate or graduate pass. When the condition of the patients worsens, they are referred to a private hospital in the city. They also get a commission for this. The burden of this commission also falls on the patient.

If we believe, the business of these quacks is going on with the blessings of the health department officials. The ignorance of the top officials of the health department towards these illegal businessmen does not affect their business. The culture of these quacks (doctors who are neither registered nor have the proper degree) is very dangerous for our health system. The World Health Organization has stated in its report that 57.3% of doctors in India are actually without medical degrees. And, it is not surprising that most of them are found in rural areas of the country.

The Indian Medical Council Act 1956, Delhi Medical Council Act 1997, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 state that only a registered doctor can prescribe allopathic medicines. "For the Indian System of Medicine, the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 states that any person other than a practitioner of the Indian System of Medicine who holds a recognized medical qualification and is enrolled in any State Register or Central Register of Indian Medicine is an Indian Will prescribe medicine for patients in any medical and any state.

Apart from this, if anyone else is found doing so, then the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 mentions the punishment of imprisonment which can be up to one year, or a

fine which can be up to Rs 1,000. "Strict punishment" is mentioned in clause (27) under the Delhi Medical Council Act, 1997. It can be imprisonment for up to three years or a fine up to Rs 20,000 or both. The Indian Penal Code also deals with these cases under sections 429 (impersonation), 420 (fraud), and 120 B (criminal conspiracy).

But despite all this, why is this happening in the country? The reason for this business to flourish so much is the lack of government health services. Also, the government medical officers come from big families and do not like to see patients especially in villages, due to which they focus more on their private hospitals. The reason behind the flourishing of the quack business is the negligence of the doctors posted at health centers. Patients do not get doctors on time at community and primary health centers. Due to a shortage of doctors in the health centers established by the government, the patients of the villages have to resort to these quacks.

The villages are full of doctors without the required degree. Some are becoming doctors after working in a medical store for three years, while some ancestors have been treating them. These people provide immediate relief to the patients through painkillers and injections, but the patients are suffering its side effects. These quacks are playing with the lives of patients by treating them with fake medicines. It has also been seen that many quacks are also involved in the drug trade. In such a situation, these clinics running in villages are busy breeding the saplings of drug addicts. But despite information from the administration across the country, no action is taken to crack down on them.

The lives of patients are being played with by these fake doctors. Unregistered doctors are running clinics at many places across the country. Not only this, the names of the clinics are kept on the lines of the clinics of big cities, due to which people get easily influenced. Patients consider themselves to be good doctors and get treatment, but

they are not aware that their treatment is being done with the trust of God. Fake doctors have also collaborated with private hospitals to make this business more profitable. When the patient's condition becomes serious, they send him there, from where they get profit in the form of commission. The business of fake doctors is flourishing in rural areas. Fake doctors have established branches at the village level and run clinics without resources on the lines of big doctors. Fake doctors prescribe medicines only for which they get a commission. Often such cases are seen that due to treatment by fake doctors, the patient's life is in danger.

Our education system is also equally guilty of giving rise to such businesses. Every year many fake institutes in the country hand out innumerable fake medical degrees. Politicians have vested interests in such private educational institutions which are promoting all this. The government should rein in such institutions. The Central Health Ministries should work with the district administration across the country to crack down on these quacks and people should also become self-aware that they should go to the government health center of their village instead of going to these quacks.

Rural Panchayats should make efforts in this direction so that there is no shortage of staff and necessary medical service equipment at the health center in their village. If so, then they should demand from the government to get them completed first. Government doctors should be banned from staying at night even where they are on duty. If the rules of service are implemented on every medical worker in rural areas and there is a legal restriction on their private practice, then these quacks will automatically end.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Finals Frustration

In the finals at Narendra Modi Stadium, India's dream turned into a nightmare. With 1.3 lakh fans in the stadium and a billion more watching, hope faded as Rohit Sharma's fiery start fizzled out. The team's intent waned, resembling a white-ball test match. In contrast, Australia shone in the crucial moment with Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne making it look effortless. Though saddened, India remains proud of their Men in Blue and vows to support them, determined to bring home victory against the Yellow brigade next time.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Maratha Quota takes a new turn

Almost all parties are agreed even OBCs have no objection for providing maratha quota while Maharashtra Minister Chhagan Bhujbaj on Friday urged the State government not to yield to pressure from the Marathas and ensure that reservation for the OBCs is not curtailed while fulfilling the community's demand for a quota. It is not right from any point of view that two big societies of Maharashtra should clash with each other. They all should solve the matter from all the angles.

Mohammad Taukirk, West Champaran

A Prayer for Safety and Security

On the occasion of World Children's Day, I pray earnestly that all children of the world remain safe and secure just as I wish for my son. Never should any parent lose their child due to fangs of Raging. Never should a father have to bring the coffin of his son on becoming a victim of terrorism or accident. Fatal calamities due to strike of thunderbolt or cancer are unavoidable. But never should the light of any parent get extinguished for ever due to man-made factors and callousness. Wishing the best for my child as well as of all children under the sky.

Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

False promises of election

In the assembly elections of five states, inflation is currently an important issue and in this context, especially in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, the election manifesto issued by the BJP has given special importance to domestic gas cylinders. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the party has promised to provide gas cylinders for Rs 450. It should be noted that the price of a gas cylinder that an average income household currently getting is around Rs.900. If the government can provide a gas cylinder for 450 to 500 rupees then why is it not feasible for the country. Why is this announcement being made only for electoral states?

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

Inequality-ridden high-rise of cards

Sujit De

Amir Jahan, 45 old mother of three daughters, had been starving for four days in a rented room in Moradabad town in Uttar Pradesh. She had an Aadhar card and had applied for a ration card under the BPL category but it was rejected. Her husband used to pull a rickshaw till he got TB. After some treatment, he moved to Pune and had not been in touch with her for two months. Amir Jahan's neighbour, Shabana Begum, also poor, but after hearing the girls sobbing, she gave Amir six chapattis. But when her daughters had also been starving, how could a mother eat even a single chapatti? So, Amir Jahan distributed all six chapattis to her three daughters and went to bed on an empty stomach. Her eldest daughter, Rehana said, "Mother gave us all of it despite our protest, saying she was stronger than us and would survive. She hadn't eaten for four days." Next day, Amir Jahan passed away. Shabana took her to a hospital where doctors told her that she had nothing in her stomach. It was the Republic Day of 2018. The very next day was the day one of IPL bids. On that day, English all rounder Ben Stokes had entered into one year playing contract with Rajasthan Royals for Rs.12.5 crore. Kings XI Punjab paid 11 crore to Lokesh Rahul and 7.6 crore to Ravichandran Ashwin. Kolkata Knight Riders gave 9.6 crore to Chris Lynn, 9.4 crore to Mitchell Stark and 7.4 crore to Dinesh Karthik. Sunrisers Hyderabad spent Rs. 11 crore for Manish Pandey and 9 crore for Rashid Khan. There were many other such deals involving enormous amount. These two back-to-back incidents showcased the ugliness of inequality. At one end of this inequality-ridden economy, Amir had to die for not being able to deprive her children of food and at the other end it was a generous fun game of crores of rupees. Apart from ugly inhuman face of inequality, the durability of inequality-ridden economic structure is always at stake. It is like a house of cards. If we keep on giving priority only on our lopsided GDP growth and beating drums of trillion dollar economy - completely ignoring growth in human development - then it would be like a game of building a shaky high-rise with cards. According to the World Inequality Report 2022, India is the most unequal nation in the world. India's top 1% of the population hold more than one-fifth of the total national income and the bottom half just 13%. The report stated that the economic reforms adopted by India have mostly benefited the top 1%. It has been observed that the deregulation and liberalisation policies implemented in India since the mid-1980s have led to "one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality in the world". There is also high gender inequality in India as the female labour income share is equal to 18% which is one of the lowest in the world. The report suggested that a modest progressive wealth tax should be levied on multimillionaires. It can generate significant revenues for government because of the high concentration of wealth. In our country, write-off of huge amounts of bank loans for the rich has been done without much ado while subsidies to the poor are questioned as rewards. This glaring inequality must immediately be bridged. Our banking sector needs to sanction more micro-loans for farming, cottage and small enterprises that can mainly generate employment and less NPA-generating macro-credits. Moreover, the poor who are reeling from high inequality, rising inflation, nagging unemployment and negative growth in real wages as per the Economic Survey of 2022-23, must not be further burdened with GST. GST should exist only on luxury and non-essential goods. But essential goods must have zero GST. Policy makers should take corrective measures. Otherwise inequality-ridden economic edifice would any time be crashed like a house of cards. Inequality and poverty not only cause stagnation in the market but also lower the quality of workforce in skill and health.

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

TAKE A PAT CUMMINS

Kajal Chatterjee

No kudos is enough for the Pat Cummins - led Australian team for winning the World Cup final by displaying impeccable character and professionalism at its best. What an extraordinary comeback despite languishing at the bottom half of the table during early stages of the tournament. Apart from excellent piece of batting by Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne despite losing 3 wickets with the total being mere 47; the gentle behaviour, innocent smiles, humility and grace as displayed by the Aussies even after taking stupendous catches, crucial wickets or cracking flawless centuries need to act as an eye-opener for all students of the gentleman's game. What a drastic change from the earlier

avatar of the Australians whose on-field behaviour with the Opposition had often been found to be ruthless.

Probably Captain Cummins deserve greatest credit for such a moral transformation for the bettor who is not only leading from front as mainline bowler, superb late order batsman (excellent piece of courageous batting against Afghanistan and South Africans in vulnerable stages) and shrewd leadership; but also with impeccable behaviour.

However the attitude of Cummins is hardly surprising, given his background of a warrior with a thing named heart. With Australia winning the Ashes following the final Test in Hobart in January 2022, the cricketers were posing with the Ashes 'urn' in front of the camera amidst a champagne shower. As captain

Cummins noticed the absence of Usman Khawaja in the frame as the latter harbored reservations about alcohol due to religious sentiments, the former instructed others to put the bottle away and invited him to join the whole team in the celebrations!

And now the frame has no trace of champagne bottles, rather Khawaja is being seen to be embraced right in the middle of the front row just beside the captain with all heartily laughing and sharing the joy unitedly! Can there be any better picture of divinity, humanity and brotherhood in these communally-vitiated times where feelings of hatred with dominant mindset have been turned into a synonym of "masculinity" and "nationalism". This attitude of rising above petty barriers of ethnicity, race, religion, color and country/conti-

nent of origin transmit a strong message that national unity cannot (as well as should not) be pursued through dominance of majority by usurping the identities of minorities so as to make a "homogeneous whole"; rather national cohesion needs to be pursued through sincere nurturing of heterogeneity where irrespective of numerical strength, people of all demographic backgrounds can enjoy equality in all respects right from honour dignity work opportunity to pursuance of respective culture with head held high.

After all these form the noble demand of democracy and ultimate humanity. Yes, democracy does not mean "dominance of majority" by overriding sentiments of minorities; rather it's essence lies embedded in "equality of all" with sentiments of all

sections or even a single minority being adhered to. And to achieve such a humanitarian goal, even a brute numerical majority should also have to compromise a bit as gallantly done by the White cricketing members of Team Australia after that Ashes victory.

Lot of thanks to Pat Cummins for helping the team to attain moral height as well which has a positive reflection within the field as well in terms of performance and behaviour; thereby providing us a nice educative entertainment in the World Cup which every genuine cricket lover, irrespective of national affiliation, would not hesitate to acknowledge.

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

BRIEF

Lay off



New Delhi: Edtech firm Physics Wallah may lay off up to 120 employees due to performance issues, according to the company. The company in a statement said that less than 0.8 per cent of its total workforce will be impacted due to the performance review exercise, PW, CHRO, Satish Khengre said in a statement. "At PW, we regularly assess performance through mid-term and end-term cycles. For the cycle ending in October, less than 0.8 per cent of our workforce, ranging from 70 to 120 individuals with performance concerns may be asked to transition."

Bright future

New Delhi: The future of coal in India is bright as there are technologies available which can help the country extract, use and combust the dry fuel far more sustainably, FutureCoal on Monday said. Coal is considered to be the biggest contributor to climate change with thermal electricity being responsible for nearly 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. "The future of coal in India is bright.....we believe that there are technologies that are available which can help India extract coal far more sustainably, use it far more sustainably, combust it far more sustainably, and post combustion treatment to coal can reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 99 per cent," FutureCoal Board member Sunil Chaturvedi said.

IPO price

New Delhi: Rockingdeals Circular Economy Ltd (RDCEL) has fixed the price band at Rs 136-140 per equity share for its initial public offering (IPO). The maiden public issue will open for public subscription on November 22 and conclude on November 24, while the offer for anchor investors will open on Tuesday the company said on Saturday. The IPO will comprise a fresh issue of 15 lakh equity shares with a face value of Rs 10 each.

Signs pact



New Delhi: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday said it has signed an agreement with Australia's primary securities exchange, ASX, to provide next-generation clearing and settlement platform to the Australian market. ASX will implement TCS BaNCs for market infrastructure to enable the transformation. The TCS product will be used to replace ASX's existing platform for cash equities clearing and settlement, TCS said in a statement.

Startups will play important role in helping India become 3rd largest economy: CEA Nageswaran

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 20: Startups will play an important role in helping India become the third largest economy in the world, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Union government V Anantha Nageswaran has said. Nageswaran said that tier-2 and 3 cities, including Kerala's capital, have become game-changers in helping startups flourish in the country due to improvements in infrastructure and supportive policies of the government, according to a KSUM release.



The CEA, during his Leadership Talk on the concluding day of the Huddle Global 2023 organised by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM), said that India was the fifth largest economy on course to become the third largest in a few

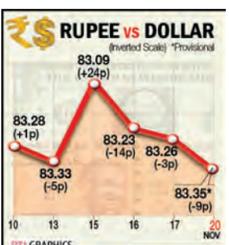
years. "In fact, I will say 7-in-7 is the buzz slogan, that is 7 trillion USD economy in seven years. Seven trillion USD economy size by 2030 is possible if India maintains its present growth trajectory, and in that journey start-up entrepreneurs are going to play an important role," he is quoted as having said in the release. He was of the view that

the active participation of startups in India in developing business models on the foundation of expanding physical and digital infrastructure will continue to generate efficiency, revenue and economic returns for the country.

"The last decade has seen an exceptional transformation in the startup landscape in India, which has emerged as the third largest ecosystem globally, with over 1.12 lakh startups presently recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) across 763 districts.

"Among them, more than 110 are unicorns with a total valuation of around USD 350 billion," he said. The CEA further said that the country ranks second in innovation quality.

Rupee falls 9 paise to close at all-time low of 83.35 against US dollar



Mumbai, Nov 20: The rupee declined by 9 paise to settle at its all-time low of 83.35 against the US dollar on Monday tracking a negative trend in domestic equities. Foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.25 and settled at its lifetime low level of 83.35 against the dollar, registering a fall of 9 paise from its previous

close. On Friday, the rupee settled at 83.26 against the American currency. Earlier, the rupee closed at its lowest level of 83.33 against the dollar on November 13, this year. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.42 per cent lower at 103.48. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.66 per cent to USD 81.14 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 139.58 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 65,655.15 points. The Nifty declined 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,694.00 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday as they sold shares worth Rs 477.76 crore, according to exchange data.

Commercial vehicle segment set for growth with expanding economy: VECV MD

New Delhi, Nov 20:

Domestic commercial vehicle industry is expected to touch the peak sales volume of 2018-19 this fiscal and grow briskly over the next few years coinciding with the growth of the overall economy, VE Commercial Vehicles MD and CEO Vinod Aggarwal said on Monday. He noted in the first seven months (April-October), the heavy duty truck segment has grown by 15 per cent. "We are expecting that this year the industry should either be very near to the peak or it may even cross earlier peak of 2018-19," Aggarwal told PTI here in an interaction. The industry is expected to grow over the next few years with the economy slated to cross the USD 5 trillion mark, he noted. "There are

WORLD HERITAGE WEEK



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the inauguration of a photo exhibition on the occasion of World Heritage Week at Thiagarajar College, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Monday, Nov. 20.

GDP growth to dip marginally to 6.3 pc in 2024: Report

Political uncertainty in election year main risk

Mumbai, Nov 20: India's real GDP growth will decline marginally to 6.3 per cent in 2024 from the 6.4 per cent estimated for 2023, an American brokerage firm said on Monday. The next calendar year will be of two halves, wherein the government spending before the upcoming General Elections will be the key driver for growth, while after the elections, it will be the re-acceleration in investment growth, especially from the private sector, Goldman Sachs said in a report. From a fiscal year perspective, the brokerage said it expects growth to accelerate to 6.5 per cent for FY25 from the 6.2 per cent it has projected for the ongoing FY24, it added. "India has the best structural growth prospects in the region. We believe GDP growth is likely to stay robust at 6.3 per cent y-o-y (year-on-year) in 2024," the

brokerage said, adding the country is less sensitive to potential external shocks like longer rates globally, persistent dollar strength and geopolitical uncertainties. The brokerage said risks around the growth outlook are evenly balanced but added that "the main domestic risk" is emanating from political uncertainty, with elections approaching in the April-June quarter of 2024. The election season is already underway with Assembly polls in five states, which will be followed by the General Elections later, it said, adding that outcomes of these elections will be "keenly watched" by investors from the standpoint of economic reforms and/or policy continuity. It expects headline consumer price inflation to come at 5.1 per cent for 2024, against 4.7 per cent estimated by the Reserve Bank.

EPFO adds 17.21 lakh net members in September

New Delhi, Nov 20:

Retirement fund body EPFO recorded a net addition of 17.21 lakh members in September, according to payroll data released on Monday. Month-on-month comparison of payroll data shows an increase of 21,475 net members over August 2023, a labour ministry statement said. Year-on-year comparison of payroll data reflects an increase of 38,262 net members over September 2022. Around 8.92 lakh new members enrolled during September 2023, the ministry said. Among these newly joined members, the age group of 18-25 years constitutes 58.92 per cent of total new members added during the month. This demonstrates that a majority of the members joining the organised sector work-

force of the country are youth, who are mostly first-time job seekers, it explained. Payroll data shows that approximately 11.93 lakh members exited but rejoined EPFO, it stated. These members switched their jobs and re-joined the establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO and opted to transfer their accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, extending their social security protection, it explained. As compared to the previous month, the number of exits decreased by 12.17 per cent with 3.64 lakh exits in September 2023. The data indicated that the number of members exiting the EPFO has been declining since June 2023. The ministry stated that out of a total of 8.92 lakh new members added during the month, around 2.26

lakh are female members, joining EPFO for the first time. Also, the net female member addition during the month stood at around 3.30 lakh. State-wise analysis of payroll data denotes that net member addition is the highest in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Haryana. These states constitute around 57.42 per cent of net member addition, adding a total of 9.88 lakh members during the month. Of all the states, Maharashtra is leading by adding 20.42 per cent of net members during the month. Month-on-month comparison of industry-wise data displays significant growth in the members working in establishments engaged in the sugar industry, courier services, iron and steel, hospitals, travel agencies etc. Of the total net mem-



ber ship, around 41.46 per cent addition is from expert services (consisting of manpower suppliers, normal contractors, security services, miscellaneous activities etc.) The above payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise, as updating employee record is a continuous process. The previous data hence gets updated every month. From April 2018, EPFO has been releasing payroll data covering the period from September 2017 onwards. In monthly payroll data, the count of members joining EPFO for the first time through an validated Universal Account Number (UAN), existing members exiting from coverage of EPFO and those who exited but re-joining as members, is taken to arrive at net monthly payroll, it stated.

noted. Secondly, the new age customers like e-commerce companies seek better turnaround time and therefore old trucks are expected to be replaced by new ones leading to enhanced sales for the industry, he said. "When new trucks are offering a better cost of ownership then it means the old trucks cannot do the job...the e-commerce customers, they define very clearly that my goods need to be delivered in so many hours. They do not tolerate if a truck delivers late...So therefore all the older trucks will come back for replacement," Aggarwal said. Besides, there is huge investment lined up for infrastructure development in the country and that augurs well for the growth of the commercial vehicle industry, he noted.

Investment via P-notes slip to Rs 1.26 lakh cr in Oct

New Delhi, Nov 20:

Investments in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) dropped to Rs 1.26 lakh crore in October-end after rising for seven consecutive months. The latest data includes the value of participatory note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process. Before registering a decline in October, investments through P-notes have been increasing con-

tinuously since March, following the stable Indian economy against an uncertain global macro backdrop. According to the latest data from markets regulator Sebi, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets — equity, debt, and hybrid securities — stood at Rs 1,26,320 crore at the end of October compared to a six-year high of Rs 1,33,284 crore at September-end. This was the highest level since July 2017 — when investment through the route stood at Rs 1.35 lakh crore. In comparison, investment through the route was Rs 1.28 lakh crore in August, Rs 1.23 lakh crore in July, Rs 1.13 lakh crore in June, Rs 1.04 lakh crore at May-end, Rs 95,911 crore at April-end, Rs 88,600 crore at March-end, Rs

88,398 crore at February-end and Rs 91,469 crore at January-end. The growth in P-notes generally aligns with the trend in FPI flows. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases, and vice-versa. Of the total Rs 1.26 lakh crore invested through this route till September, Rs 1.18 lakh crore was invested in equities, Rs 8,055 crore in debt, and Rs 385 crore in hybrid securities. In addition, assets under custody of FPIs fell to Rs 56.8 lakh crore in October-end from Rs 58.45 lakh crore in the preceding month. Meanwhile, FPIs pulled out Rs 24,500 crore from Indian equities in October while they infused close to Rs 6,400 crore in the debt market.

Domestic air passenger traffic touches record high on Nov 19

New Delhi, Nov 20:

The domestic air traffic touched a new high on Sunday as airlines carried 4,56,910 passengers, marking two "consecutive days of historic numbers". On Saturday also, the air traffic number reached a new high of 4,56,748 passengers, according to official data. "Post-Covid, India's domestic aviation's turnaround story has not just been overwhelming but inspiring as well. Positive attitude, progressive policies, and deep trust among passengers are taking it to new heights with every flight, every day," the civil aviation ministry said in a post on X on Monday. There were 4,56,910 domes-

tic air passengers and 5,958 flight movements on Sunday (November 19). The count was much higher than the 3,93,391 passengers and 5,506 flight movements recorded on November 19 last year. Sharing the record numbers, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Monday said there is no stopping the country from becoming the world's largest aviation market. "The josh is high-est sir! India's air passenger traffic breaks the previous day's record, thus marking two consecutive days of historic numbers. More than a feat for the aviation industry, it is a collective achievement for the people of India.

Higher risk weight on unsecured bank loans credit positive: Moody's

New Delhi, Nov 20:

The RBI's decision to tighten norms for unsecured personal loans is credit positive because lenders will need to allocate higher capital for such loans, thus improving their loss-absorbing buffers, Moody's Investors Service said on Monday. The Reserve Bank last week raised risk weights on unsecured retail loans, credit cards and lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 percentage points. Moody's said unsecured loans have been growing rapidly in the past few years, exposing financial institutions to a potential spike in cred-

it costs in case of sudden economic or interest rate shocks. "The tightening of underwriting norms through higher risk-weighted assets is credit positive because lenders will need to allocate higher capital for such loans, thus improving their loss-absorbing buffers and may dampen their growth appetite," Moody's said in a statement. It said that over the past few years, India's unsecured lending segment has become very competitive, with banks, NBFCs and financial technology (fintech) companies, including several new entrants, aggressively growing loans in this category. In

the past two years, personal loans grew around 24 per cent and credit card loans rose 28 per cent on an average compared with the overall banking sector's credit growth of around 15 per cent, Moody's said. "We expect banks would be able to absorb higher risk weights on their capital because the overall banking sector's exposure to unsecured retail credit is small at around 10 per cent of loans as of September 2023 and the sector's overall capitalization is at historically high levels with a Common Equity Tier 1 ratio of 13.9 per cent as of March 2023," Moody's said.

Markets fall for 2nd day amid sell-off in auto, commodity stocks



Mumbai, Nov 20: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the second straight session on Monday as investors offloaded auto, utility and commodity stocks amid fresh foreign fund outflows. In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 139.58 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 65,655.15.

During the day, it fell 246.93 points or 0.37 per cent to 65,547.80. The Nifty slipped 37.80 points or 0.19 per cent to 19,694. Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors and JSW Steel were the major laggards. Bharti Airtel, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Maruti were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green, while Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended with marginal gains on Friday.



॥ जय दीनानाथ ॥

पंजीयन क्रमांक 122201967026

॥ जय छठी माई ॥



महादेव घाट छठ महापर्व आयोजन समिति रायपुर (छ.ग.)

आभार

हम गर्वोन्मत हैं,
आभारी है...

राज्य में छठ महापर्व के उत्सव में महामहिम राज्यपाल जी ने सहभागिता निभाई एवं राज्य के यशस्वी वर्तमान एवं पूर्व मुखिया मान. मुख्यमंत्री जी एवं राज्य के जनप्रतिनिधि, संत समाज एवं प्रबुद्ध जानो ने महादेव घाट पहुंचकर सभी व्रतधारियों व जनमानस को अपनी शुभकामनाएं प्रेषित की। उन सभी के सहयोग व छठ महापर्व में सहभागिता के लिए जिन्होंने छठ महापर्व के समस्त कार्यक्रमों में अपनी उपस्थिति देकर सूर्य अर्घ्य, महाआरती व दीपदान में हिस्सा लेकर महादेव घाट के आयोजन को प्रखर उल्लासमय व गरिमामय बनाया।



राजेश कुमार सिंह

(संस्थापक अध्यक्ष एवं आयोजन प्रमुख)



कन्हैया सिंह

संचालक, छठ महापर्व आयोजन समिति
महादेव घाट, रायपुर

समस्त सूर्य भक्तों का महादेव घाट छठ महापर्व आयोजन समिति रायपुर,
आभार प्रकट करती है...

Rohit named skipper of ICC's Team of World Cup featuring six Indians

Dubai, Nov 20 (PTI):

Rohit Sharma was Monday named the captain of the ICC's Team of the Tournament after the conclusion of the World Cup, with a total of six Indians including the Player of the Tournament, Virat Kohli, featuring among the XI.

Rohit led the team from the front as his fearless batting won him praise from all corners, with the Indian skipper finishing as the second highest scorer in the tournament with 597 runs in 11 matches at 54.27 with one century and three fifties.

Kohli, who became the first batter ever to score more than 700 runs in a single World Cup edition, finished with a total of 765 runs with three centuries and two fifties.

In the course of the tournament, Kohli also surpassed batting legend Sachin Tendulkar to have scored most ODI centuries when he recorded his 50th ton in the semifinal.

With more than half of the ICC's Team of the Tournament comprising Indian players, it was yet



another indication of the fact that despite not winning the title, the hosts were the best side in the competition having registered a record 10 wins on the trot.

Wicketkeeper-batter and vice-captain KL Rahul, who made 452 runs at 75.33 with one century and two fifties, finished as the eighth-highest run-scorer in the World Cup and was named in the Team of the Tournament.

Despite missing four matches of the league stage initially, Mohammed Shami finished as the best bowler with 24 wickets in only seven matches at 12.20. "Only four players in the history of the men's

game have taken more Cricket World Cup wickets than Shami's 55. Mitchell Starc (65), Muttiah Muralitharan (68) and Glenn McGrath (71) with Shami's returns coming in ten fewer matches than any of those above him in the list," the ICC said on its website.

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was the fourth most successful bowler in the World Cup with 20 wickets in 11 matches at 18.65, also features in the ICC XI.

"No bowler to have played more than a single game in the tournament was able to return a better economy rate than

Bumrah's 4.06 an even more remarkable stat considering he was so often in action when the fielding restrictions were in place," the ICC said.

Ravindra Jadeja featured in the team alongside Australia veteran Glenn Maxwell for his all-round exploits in the competition.

"India's spin-bowling all-rounder played a crucial role for his team, taking key wickets throughout the middle overs and consistently turning the screw," the ICC said.

South Africa's wicket-keeper-batter Quinton de Kock, who is now retired from the ODI format given the World Cup is over, was named as one of the two openers in the competition having scored four centuries for the Proteas during their excellent run in the league stage.

The coveted No 4 slot went to New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell, who was the only batter to have dominated the Indian bowlers when they were on song during their two meetings one at the league stage and the other at the semifinals.

Djokovic wins record 7th ATP Finals title by beating Sinner in straight sets

Turin (Italy), Nov 20 (AP):

Novak Djokovic ended the year just as he started it by setting records.

The top-ranked Djokovic won a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title on Sunday with a straight-set victory over home favorite Jannik Sinner.

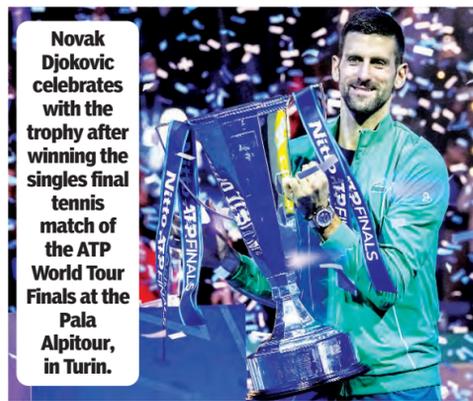
Djokovic took 1 hour, 43 minutes to win 6-3 6-3 as the Serbian continues to reach new heights at the age of 36.

He started 2023 with a record-extending 10th Australian Open title and went on to claim his 23rd Grand Slam singles trophy at the French Open, breaking Rafael Nadal's mark. Djokovic, who lost the Wimbledon final to Carlos Alcaraz, also won the U.S. Open.

"One of the best seasons I've had in my life, no doubt," Djokovic said.

"To crown it with a win against a hometown hero in Jannik, who has played amazing tennis this week, is phenomenal."

Djokovic entered Sunday's final tied with Roger Federer on six titles at the season-ending tournament for the year's top eight players.



Novak Djokovic celebrates with the trophy after winning the singles final match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin.

And he stretched out his arms and beamed broadly after clinching his seventh when Sinner double-faulted.

The victory had echoes of the clinical way Djokovic dispatched second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz in Saturday's semifinal encounter.

"I'm very proud of the performances these last two days against Alcaraz and Sinner, probably the best two players in the world next to me and (Daniil) Medvedev at the moment, and the way they have been playing I had to step it up," Djokovic said.

"I had to win the match-

es and not wait for them to hand me the victory and that's what I've done. I think I tactically played different today than I have in the group stage against Jannik, and just overall it was a phenomenal week."

It was his fourth win over Sinner, who had recorded a first-ever victory against Djokovic in the group stage in Turin and was the first Italian to reach the final.

But Djokovic was in imperious form on Sunday and won 14 straight points from the end of the first set to the third game of the second to leave him firmly in control and sub-

due the Turin crowd. Djokovic had already secured the year-end No. 1 ranking for a record-extending eighth time by winning his opening match at the ATP Finals.

After this tournament, Djokovic will become the first player to hold the No. 1 ranking for 400 weeks, with Roger Federer at 310 the only other man to eclipse the 300-week mark.

It was also only the second time in the last 15 years that a player has made the finals of all four Grand Slam tournaments and the ATP Finals. The only previous occasion was when Djokovic did it in 2015.

Sinner came into the final having won all of his matches in Turin and backed by a fervent home crowd, who had dreams of him becoming the first Italian to win the tournament in its 54-year history.

But the 22-year-old Sinner could offer little in response to a master class from Djokovic, especially in a blistering first set that lasted just 38 minutes and saw the Serbian win 20 of 22 service points. Djokovic also served up 13 aces during the match.

Cummins boards Sabarmati river cruise boat, poses for photos with World Cup trophy

Ahmedabad, Nov 20 (PTI):

A day after winning the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, Australian captain Pat Cummins on Monday posed for photos with the trophy on a Sabarmati river cruise vessel housing a restaurant in Ahmedabad.

Australia defeated hosts India by 6 wickets on Sunday in the final match at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera in Ahmedabad to lift the ODI World Cup for the sixth time — the most by any team in the world.

Cummins, along with International Cricket Council (ICC) officials, reached the iconic Sabarmati Riverfront in the morning and boarded a floating restaurant named



Australian captain Pat Cummins poses with the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup trophy during a photo shoot at the Atal Pedestrian Bridge, Sabarmati Riverfront, in Ahmedabad, Monday.

'Akshar River Cruise' in the river for a photoshoot with the trophy. "It is a matter of great pride for all of us that the ICC selected the Sabarmati Riverfront, an iconic place, for its official photoshoot. Cummins gave various poses with the trophy on the upper deck of the cruise. He was also served a variety of food items," said Suhag Modi, director of Akshar Travels Pvt Ltd, which operates the cruise restaurant.

In some of the photos clicked by the ICC's official photographer, the 30-year-old fast bowler could be seen standing with the World Cup trophy on the deck with the iconic Atal Bridge in the background. Modi said Cummins also gave an interview on-board the cruise vessel.

Sarita bags bronze; Sheetal, Rakesh in line for gold

Bangkok, Nov 20 (PTI):

Sarita Devi won a bronze, while India is also assured of at least two silver medals with Rakesh Kumar and Sheetal Devi entering the finals of their events in the Para Asian Archery Championship here on Monday.

Sarita got the better of Jyoti Balyan 139-135 in an all-Indian bronze playoff in the women's compound open section.

Fresh from winning the Para Asian Games gold, Sheetal overcame Sarita 143-138 in an all-Indian semifinal to make the gold medal clash in the women's compound open category. Sheetal will take

on Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim who defeated Jyoti 150-138 in the other semifinal. Rakesh assured India of another silver advancing into the men's compound open final. Rakesh pipped Yuya Oe of Japan 143-142 in the last four match.

India will also be looking to add to their six quotas (four compound and two recurve) for Paris Paralympics from the qualifying event that will begin here from November 23. India, however, failed to win any medal in recurve section with Tokyo Paralympic bronze medalist Harvinder Singh making a pre-quarterfinal exit.

Pak call up 3 uncapped players for Australia tour

Lahore, Nov 20 (PTI):

Pakistan on Monday called up uncapped players Saim Ayub, Aamir Jamal and Khurram Shehzad for the three-Test series in Australia, starting in December after fast bowler Naseem Shah couldn't recover from a shoulder surgery for the tour.

Shan Masood will be leading the 18-member squad against Australia with new chief selector, Wahab Riaz also recalling left-arm pacer, Mir Hamza for the tour for which nine players from the World Cup squad have also been retained.

Pakistan plays three Tests before moving on to New Zealand for five T20 internationals but Wahab only named the Test squad on Monday.

While swashbuckling opener, Saim Ayub has played 8 T20 internationals and Aamir Jamal four T20 matches, pace bowler Khurram Shehzad has been called up for the first time by Pakistani selectors due to his impressive performances in domestic cricket.

Former captain, Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, Saud Shakeel, Agha Salman, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Hasan Ali, Imam ul Haq, Abdullah

Shafique, Muhammad Wasim junior have been retained from the WC squad.

The selectors have overlooked opener Fakhar Zaman, fast bowler Haris Rauf, leg spinner Usama Mir, all-rounders Shadab Khan and Iftikhar Ahmed for the Test tour from the WC squad.

Former captain and keeper, Sarfaraz Ahmed, spinner, Abrar Ahmed, spinner Noman Ali all played in the Test series in Sri Lanka in June-July while all-rounder Faheem Ashraf's last Test appearance was in December 2022 against England.

India seek inspiration from famous 2019 stalemate against Qatar in rematch

Bhubaneswar, Nov 20 (PTI):

India will take inspiration from their famous goal-less draw against Asian champions Qatar four years ago when they face the same opponents in a 2026 FIFA World Cup second round qualifiers match here on Tuesday.

Their confidence boosted after the 1-0 away win against Kuwait on November 16, India will hope to give a tough fight to Qatar, though the fancied visiting side will start as firm favourites.

India had surprised the football fraternity when they soaked up waves of attacks to hold Qatar 0-0 on September 10, 2019 in

their 2022 World Cup second round qualifiers in Doha. Qatar were then in red-hot form, having won the Asia Cup title in early 2019.

Talismanic India captain Sunil Chhetri was absent in that match as he was indisposed and he would be eager to show his class at the Kalinga Stadium on Tuesday, though scoring chances for the hosts are expected to be far less than the visitors.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who had captained the team that night in Doha in front of a partisan expatriate crowd, will have to be at his best again on Tuesday to

thwart the marauding Qataris as he had done four years ago.

Ranked 61 in the world, Qatar are coming off a 8-1 thrashing of Afghanistan in their earlier match in Doha on November 16, and they would be looking to make the record of the drawn game in 2019 straight with a dominating win against the 102nd-ranked India.

Qatar were 1-0 victors in the reverse fixture of the two teams in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Star striker Almoez Ali, who struck four times against Afghanistan the other day and was the top-scorer for Qatar at the 2019 Asian Cup with nine goals,

would be the man to watch out for as he can create trouble at the Indian defence, which looked weak in the absence of Anwar Ali.

Sandhu would remember that he and India were lucky in Doha in 2019 as Ali was denied by the upright and the Indian custodian will have to marshal the defence, along with veteran Sandesh Jhinghan.

Head coach Igor Stimac could not use the services of both Ali and defensive midfielder Jeakson Singh in the Kuwait match due to injuries, and it was a blow to the plans of the Croatian tactician though India won the match.

Mbapp has reached 300 career goals faster than Messi or Ronaldo

Paris, Nov 20 (AP):

Kylian Mbapp has scored 300 career goals faster than Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. Former France great Thierry Henry has nothing but admiration.

Mbapp achieved the feat over the weekend in a 1-0 rout of Gibraltar at the age of 24 years and 333 days. Both Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the game's two biggest stars in the 21st century, were older when they reached the milestone.

"What this kid is doing is really out of this world," said Henry, who is now in charge of leading the new generation of France's players as coach of the Under-21 team. "It's just unbelievable." Mbapp was



often compared to Henry earlier in his career. Both attended France's Clairefontaine academy before playing as left wingers at Monaco, where each won the French league titles as a teenager. Mbapp then replicated another of Henry's accom-

plishments when he won the 2018 World Cup in his first major tournament with France. Henry won the 1998 tournament. Mbapp has also been compared with Brazil great Pelé for his precocity. But in terms of style, with his devastating speed and

skills, he is closer to Henry. "He's a goalscorer, he delivers assists, he knows how to do everything," Henry said. "Of course, there's room for improvement, but that's not the point." With his 17th career hat-trick, Mbapp brought his season tally to 21 goals in 19 matches. It was the PSG star's 46th goal in 74 international appearances. He is now just five goals behind Henry on France's all-time scoring list and 10 off teammate Olivier Giroud's national record total. The exact number of goals in Pelé's career will forever be a topic for debate. He often said one of the reasons he should be considered the greatest player of all time was because of his feat of scoring more than 1,000 goals.

India captain Savita eyeing hat-trick of Goalkeeper-of-the-Year titles

Bengaluru, Nov 20 (PTI):

India captain Savita Punia remained in contention for securing a hat-trick of Goalkeeper-of-the-Year Award after she was nominated for the recognition for a third time in a row at this year's FIH Hockey Star Awards.

"I never thought I would win this award for two straight years, and get nominated yet again," said Savita who had won the prestigious titles in 2021 and 2022. "I feel really great, and it's a proud moment for me, my family and my teammates as well." Savita has led the country to various important wins in recent years, including the title triumph

at the inaugural FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2022 in Spain that helped India earn promotion to the FIH Pro League 2023-24. "When I started playing, I never thought I would come this far, and it is all due to the support of my family and my teammates. "In team sport, no achievement is based on individual efforts but is an outcome of teamwork. It's great to be recognised for your hard work, and it motivates the entire team," she added. She also led the team to the bronze medal at this year's Hangzhou Asian Games followed by the title win at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi.

India look at young guns to take their legacy forward after WC heartbreak

Bengaluru, Nov 20 (PTI):

An expressionless Virat Kohli gave a quick handshake and hug to an equally expressionless Shubman Gill before going to collect his runners-up medal. It was the most poignant moment of a teary Sunday night for the Indian cricket team. It, perhaps, was the most visible sign of the imminent generational shift in Indian cricket after the hosts failed to grasp a third World Cup. Of course, veterans such as Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami might be around for some more time, but now it is up to a younger crop to take the team forward and build a new legacy unscarred from the past fail-



ures. Gill (24), Shreyas Iyer (28), Ishan Kishan (25), Ruturaj Gaikwad (26) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (21) will soon, hopefully, be joined by a recovering Rishabh Pant (26) as India will hit the road to the T20 World Cup 2024 and beyond. These players already have considerable experience at top level cricket and have showcased

their talent more than once, but living up to the heritage of titans like Kohli and Rohit is not a simple task. These players have built some tall edifices over the last decade and half, symbolising their skill, durability and mental fortitude in the high-pressure world of modern-day sports. That they had to cope with the extra burden

of captaincy on their shoulders, makes their achievements all the more glittering. An empathetic leader with conviction is the driving force behind a team in any sport.

So, in whom India should make investment as the future leader?

Former India batsman Robin Uthappa thought Shreyas could be the one who fits into that role. "Shreyas Iyer has demonstrated significant dedication and confidence. He appears quite impressive, particularly at the No. 4 position. "If he keeps up this level of performance, it wouldn't be astonishing to see him lead the Indian team, especially in white-ball cricket," said Uthappa in his YouTube channel.

Gavi's knee injury overshadows Spain's 3-1 win against Georgia

Valladolid, Nov 20 (AP):

Ferran Torres scored and had an assist for Spain in its 3-1 home win against Georgia in a European Championship qualifying game that was overshadowed by a potentially serious knee injury for midfielder Gavi. Gavi was in tears when he limped off in the 24th minute in Valladolid on Sunday. Gavi's goal for Spain in a 1-0 win at Norway in October had already secured spots for both Spain and Scotland at next year's tournament in Germany. The 19-year-old Barcelona player took a hard hit to the side of his right knee when he collided with an opponent. He kept playing

for a few minutes and appeared to hurt the same leg while trying to control the ball. After that he immediately signaled to the team that he could not continue. Spain coach Luis de la Fuente embraced his young player before Gavi was taken into the locker room with team doctors.

Robin Le Normand gave Spain the lead four minutes into the game when Torres curled a cross to the second post for the Real Sociedad central defender to head home. Georgia's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia equalized on a counterattack in the 10th after some hesitant defending by Le Normand and Dani Carvajal.

'Nothing more important than dynastic politics, corruption for Cong'



Jaipur, Nov 20 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Congress government in Rajasthan cannot think of anything except appeasement politics and wants to eradicate sanatana dharma.

Ahead of the November 25 assembly polls in Rajasthan, the prime minister addressed rallies in Pali district and in Pilibanga in Hanumangarh district on Monday.

At the election rally in

Pali district, he asserted that Rajasthan needs a government which gives top priority to development, whereas for the Congress there is nothing more important than corruption and dynastic politics.

He also accused the Congress and its allies of having an anti-women mindset.

"Ever since the law giving reservation to women (in Lok Sabha and state assemblies) was passed, they have started a campaign against women. The leaders of 'ghamandiya' alliance have made very objectionable comments about our mothers and sisters," he charged.

Prime Minister Modi has often targeted the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) as "ghamandiya" (arrogant) alliance.

The prime minister said

the Bihar chief minister used derogatory words against women in the assembly but no Congress leader said anything about this. "This is the real face of Congress, which the people of Rajasthan have recognised," he said.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, while emphasising the importance of education among women to control the population, had recently put forward a vivid description in the state assembly of how an educated woman can restrain her husband during intercourse. He had later apologised for his remarks.

Modi said the Bihar chief minister also used derogatory language against a former chief minister because he was from a very backward family.

"...because he (the former CM) comes from a very backward family,

hence he (Kumar) took pleasure in insulting him. Congress does not have the wisdom to tell (him) that it was wrong," he said.

The prime minister also accused the Congress of turning a blind eye to incidents of atrocities against Dalits.

"Congress closes its eyes when it sees those committing atrocities against Dalits," he said.

"The Congress government here thinks of nothing except appeasement," he said and added that because of this policy, those with the mentality of riots and terrorism flourished in the state in the past five years.

He alleged that the Congress and its allies want to destroy sanatana dharma.

"Destroying Sanatan means destroying the culture of Rajasthan," he added.



Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Sachin Pilot during a public meeting ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Jahazpur, Monday.

CONG WORKER'S DEATH

Murder bid case registered against party candidate in MP polls

Chhatarpur, Nov 20 (PTI): Police have registered a case against a Congress candidate from Chhatarpur on charges of attempt to murder in connection with an incident wherein a party worker died during the Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, an official said on Monday.

The Congress worker, identified as Salman Khan, died during a clash between BJP and Congress workers in Rajnagar constituency in Chhatarpur district on Friday when the assembly polls were held in the state.

According to police, Khan was run over by a vehicle. Congress leader Digvijaya Singh had alleged that Khan was not

killed in an accident, but it was a murder.

After the incident, the Khajuraho police on November 17 registered a case against Rajnagar BJP candidate Arvind Pateria and 20 other workers of that party under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant provisions.

The BJP had accused the police of adopting a biased attitude under the Congress' influence.

Following a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha district president Neerav Chaturvedi, the police on Sunday night registered an FIR against Congress candidate Vikram Singh Nati Raja and eight others along

with some unidentified persons under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder), 341 (wrongful restraint), 147 (rioting), 149 (unlawful assembly), 294 (obscene act), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 427 (mischief), the official said.

According to the FIR, Vikram Singh and his supporters attacked Pateria with sticks and also fired at him but it missed the target.

Superintendent of Police Amit Sangh said two FIRs have been registered in connection with the incident.

A scientific investigation will be carried out in this case and further legal steps will be taken on the basis of facts, he said.

'KCR is number one in corruption in the country'

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (PTI):

Alleging that Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar is "number one in corruption" in the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the BJP would conduct a probe into the BRS government's "corrupt deals" if it comes to power in the state and put those who indulged in corruption behind bars.

Addressing a poll rally at Jangaon, he also referred to alleged scams during the BRS regime, including the Kaleshwaram project, liquor scam and land deals at Miyapur in Hyderabad.

"KCR is number one in corruption in the country. By conducting an inquiry into all their corrupt deals, the BJP will put those who indulged in corruption behind bars," he said.

The BJP's manifesto re-



leased two days ago said, the party, on assuming power, would appoint a commission of enquiry to probe into various projects commissioned in the name of development, including Kaleshwaram and Dharani, that have seen huge cost escalations and corruption. Shah reiterated the BJP's promise to make a backward caste leader the chief minister of the state if the party is voted to power in the November 30 elections and also arrange darshan free of cost at the Lord Ram temple at Ayodhya.

Owaisi slams BJP for its promise to implement UCC

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (PTI):

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday said the Uniform Civil Code is not required in the country, criticising the BJP for promising to implement it, and stressed the need for more freedom of speech and expression whereby people will not be targeted for their attire and religion.

Reacting to BJP's promises in its Telangana election manifesto, including to implement UCC, to officially mark September 17 as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' and organise free yatras for Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and Kashi for senior citizens, the Hyderabad MP told reporters here that the BJP "indulges" in such things



"instead of addressing" the core issues relating to the development of the country.

The BJP on November 18 said the Uniform Civil Code would be implemented in Telangana if the party came to power in the state in the November 30 assembly elections.

Amit Shah, who released BJP's manifesto for the legislative assembly polls, said that if the BJP

forms a government it would constitute a committee to implement the Uniform Civil Code in Telangana within six months.

Hitting out at Shah, Owaisi said, "As far as UCC is concerned, I wish and hope that Amit Shah goes to Adilabad, Khammam and Warangal and stands in the midst of all the Adivasis and tells them about implementation of the UCC. He does not have the "intellectual guts" to go and say this thing, because the Adivasis will reject the BJP".

The Adivasis have constitutional protection to protect their culture, the AIMIM leader said, adding that the UCC is not what is required.

'Silent revolution against BRS in Telangana'

Hyderabad, Nov 20 (PTI):

There is a silent revolution against the ruling BRS in Telangana and people are gaining confidence that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's government will lose and the BJP will come to power in the upcoming Assembly polls, state BJP chief G Kishan Reddy said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference, Reddy, also Union Minister for Tourism, said despite some false survey reports being circulated, the BJP candidates are good at getting good response in the field and people were receiving the party's manifesto positively. Alleging that based on



former AICC chief Rahul Gandhi's instructions the Congress government in Karnataka is levying "Telangana election tax" on people, Reddy said the amount is being sent here.

"The BJP is in the forefront in several constituencies. It is like a silent revolution against the BRS party. People are responding positively to

BJP's campaign. People are voluntarily not allowing BRS campaign vehicles into their villages," he told reporters.

The only solution to Telangana's problems is to bring a "double engine" government to the state, he said.

He alleged the voters are not happy with the BRS government as they are not getting schemes such as Dalit Bandhu and BC Bandhu and their panchayats were not getting funds from the state government.

He claimed that 60 to 70 per cent of those aged between 18 and 35 in Telangana are fully in favour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'KCR promises to set up food processing units across Telangana'

Manakondur (Telangana), Nov 20 (PTI):

As Telangana became successful in producing huge quantities of paddy, BRS, if voted to power, will be setting up food processing industries everywhere which will become employment resources for local youth, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao said on Monday.

Addressing a poll rally, Rao, also known as KCR also promised to abolish the "fitness certificate" system which is required to be taken by autorickshaw drivers every year.

Hitting out at the Congress, he said it was that party which merged Telangana with Andhra Pradesh (in 1950s) against the people's will.

The BRS chief reiterated that the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure was plagued by starvation deaths, naxal movements and encounters.

He recalled that until former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao (undivided Andhra Pradesh) came to power and offered rice at Rs 2 per kg to people, it was only a life of starvation.

He also slammed the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly not sanctioning even one medical college and Navodaya School to Telangana.

"Since we have been producing crores of tonnes of paddy, we will be setting up food processing units wherever they are required so that local people will get employment. We will be



constructing double bedroom houses on a war-footing, in the next five years we will construct houses," he said.

Rao said due to the measures and pro-farmer welfare schemes by his government, the state now tops with three crore tonnes of paddy production annually in the country annually.

"As many as 7,500 pro-

urement centres were set up across the state to purchase paddy from farmers, though the government incurred loss to some extent. Today, we are producing three crore tonnes of paddy," he said, listing out the measures taken for the growth of the agriculture sector.

Attacking the Congress, he said leaders of that party say that KCR is wasting taxpayers money and giving Rythu Bandhu (a support scheme for ryots) to farmers.

"Is Rythu Bandhu a wasteful expenditure, he asked people, who enthusiastically shouted "no."

If the BRS is voted to power again, not only continuing the Rythu Bandhu scheme, but the amount will also be increased to Rs

16,000 gradually from the existing Rs 10,000, he promised.

He charged that the Congress leaders were making irresponsible statements that 24-hour free power to farmers is not required and just three hours is sufficient.

He said the grand old party says if voted to power, it will abolish "Dharani," an integrated land administration portal which will lead to the regime of corrupt officials and middlemen.

Alleging that the NDA Government had asked the state government to fix meters to agriculture pump sets, Rao said he refused to implement it and as result the state lost Rs 25,000 crore fund from the Centre during the last five years.

ROAD SHOW



BJP national president JP Nadra during a roadshow ahead of the Telangana Assembly election, at Malkajgiri in Hyderabad.

'From ports to airports, PM 'controls' everything'



Jaipur, Nov 20 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "controls" everything - from ports to airports - and he is working towards making people "slaves".

Addressing a public

meeting in Anupgarh in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan ahead of the November 25 assembly polls, Kharge said the Congress will work to address people's issues and concerns and deliver on the promises made to them.

"Perhaps the prime minister is also touring this area. Wherever we intend to go, we do not get permission to fly. This means everything is under his control. Air, land, ports and airports, all are under his control. He is working towards making people slaves," the Congress president said, without elaborating.

Re-polling on Nov 21 at a booth in MP's Ater assembly seat

Bhopal, Nov 20 (PTI):

The Election Commission of India has ordered re-polling on November 21 at a booth in Ater assembly constituency in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district, according to an official release.

Re-polling has been ordered because of breach of secrecy as some people shot videos of voting on November 17 at the booth concerned in Kishupura, a district official said.

Four members of the polling team have been suspended for the breach of secrecy, district collector and returning officer Sanjeev Shrivastava said.

Voting will be held on Tuesday at booth number 3 under polling centre number 71 at Kishupura between 7 am and 6 pm, the release said, adding that indelible ink will be applied on the middle finger of voters.

The order of re-polling has been issued to the district returning officer, it said.

Shrivastava said voters will not be allowed to enter the booth with mobile phones during re-polling and all other rules regarding the model code of conduct will be followed.

The re-polling process will be videographed, he said. BJP's sitting MLA

from Ater, Arvind Singh Bhadauria, is facing ex-legislator Hemant Katara of the Congress.

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