



BRIEF



A young man does handstand at Ramakrishna beach in Visakhapatnam, Wednesday.

Pak boat

Ahmedabad: The Indian Coast Guard apprehended a Pakistani fishing boat with 13 crew members for intruding the Indian waters near the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) off the Gujarat coast. These Pakistani fishermen and the boat are being brought to Okha harbour in Devbhumi Dwarka district for a detailed investigation, as per an official release issued on Wednesday.

Watery grave

Datia (MP): A woman and a 16-year-old girl drowned in a reservoir during a religious ritual in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred when several women had gathered at the Angoori barrage for a ritualistic bath, a police officer said. "A teenage girl got pulled into the water and some women tried to save her. However, one of the women drowned," he said, adding that three others were saved by villagers working in nearby agricultural fields.

Suspend

New Delhi: Aviation regulator DGCA on Wednesday said it has suspended the authorisation of RedBird Flight Training Academy for carrying out maintenance of its aircraft after finding deficiencies in an audit carried out in the wake of two incidents of crash landing last month. After the two incidents of aircraft crash landing within a span of one week in October, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had suspended the operations of Redbird Flight Training Academy at all its bases.

Duped

Mumbai: Mumbai Police has registered a case against a builder couple for allegedly duping actor Samir Kochhar and actor Karishma Tanna's husband Varun Bhangera of more than Rs 1 crore after taking advance payment from them for two flats, an official said on Wednesday. Based on a complaint filed by Kochhar, a First Information Report was registered against Pronit Nath and his wife Amisha Nath at Andheri police station in the city under Indian Penal Code sections 120(B) (conspiracy), 409 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating), he said.

'12 metres left' in race to save 41 workers

■ **Trapped in Utt'khand tunnel**
■ **Drilling completed up to 45 metres**

Uttarkashi, Nov 22 (PTI):

Ambulances were on standby and doctors summoned to the disaster site as a multi-agency effort to rescue 41 men trapped in the Silkyara tunnel appeared close to success on Wednesday evening.

At a press briefing around 4 pm, officials at Silkyara said another six-metre section of the rescue pipe had been inserted as an auger machine drilled through debris of the collapsed stretch of the tunnel.

Going by the figures given earlier in the day, this indicated that 45 metre of the escape passage had been created out of the estimated 57 metres stretch of debris beyond which the worker are trapped for more than 10 days.

In Delhi, a press release reporting the progress till 2 pm said the steel pipe



Drilling work underway at the Silkyara tunnel site during the rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the tunnel for 10 days, in Uttarkashi district, Wednesday.

Don't worry, we will meet soon: Trapped workers tell family members

"They told me not to worry and that we would soon meet outside," says Indrajeet Kumar with a renewed sense of hope after he was able to speak to two of his family members who are among the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel here for 10 days. Indrajeet's elder brother Vishwajeet and relative Subodh Kumar are trapped inside the tunnel. "Vishwajeet's three children are waiting for him to return and praying for him. I called him on Diwali but could not get through. When I contacted one of his colleagues, he told me that Vishwajeet got trapped inside the tunnel. I reached here the next day," said Indrajeet, who hails from Jharkhand's Giridih, on Wednesday. He said he saw Vishwajeet and Subodh in a video of the workers released by rescuers on Tuesday. "Both of them are doing fine. Today I heard their voices. They told me that it's a matter of few more hours," he added. Almost every worker had a similar message for their family members, who have been camping here for days, as drilling with the American auger machine resumed at the tunnel overnight to prepare an escape passage for them.

had been inserted up to the 42-metre mark. It said

67 per cent of the auger drilling was completed.

Once the pipe, which is a little under a metre wide

NIA raids 14 places in Punjab, Haryana

New Delhi, Nov 22 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out raids at 14 locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with its probe into attacks on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco in the US earlier this year, an official spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said these places located in north India were raided to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the at-

tacks on March 19 and July 2, involving criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public property and attempts to cause hurt to the consulate officials and set the building on fire through acts of arson.

The locations raided by the NIA were spread across the districts of Moga, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Mohali and Patiala in Punjab and Kurukshetra and Yamunanagar in Haryana.

Minor girl raped in Jashpur, accused held

Jashpur, Nov 22:

A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a man in her neighbourhood in Jashpur district, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, aged 35 years, was arrested after the victim's parents lodged a complaint at the City Kotwali police station, a senior police official said.

The incident took place on Tuesday when the girl was playing near her home. The accused took the girl to a secluded place and allegedly sexually assaulted her, he said.

When her family mem-

About the incident

The incident took place on Tuesday when the girl was playing near her home. The accused took the girl to a secluded place and allegedly sexually assaulted her. When her family members failed to find her nearby, they along with other local people launched a search for her. They later found the child, he said.

The girl was admitted to a hospital and her condition is stated to be stable.

is inserted, workers can crawl out through it.

A team of 15 doctors, including chest specialist, has been deployed at the site in anticipation of the evacuation. Twelve ambulances were on standby at the spot, and the plan was to keep a fleet of 40 ready. A helicopter was also expected to be earmarked for the operation.

A makeshift eight-bed hospital has been set up in the vicinity of the under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route.

At the Silkyara briefing, Bhaskar Khulbe, a former advisor with the Prime Minister's Office, was upbeat, saying that another six-metre section of the rescue pipe had been inserted over the past hour. "Hopefully the next two-three hours will be comfortable in terms of assembling for the next push and attaining what all of us are waiting for," he said, referring to the continuing process of pushing in steel pipe sections. He predicted "similar good news" at a press briefing later in the evening.



Two DRG personnel injured in separate Naxal incidents

■ **In Bastar region**

Raipur, Nov 22:

At least two District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel were injured on Wednesday in separate incidents of pressure IED blast and arrow attack by Naxalites in Sukma and Narayanpur districts in Bastar region, police said.

A DRG team from Dantewada had launched an anti-Naxal operation towards Ursangal village in the Jagargunda police station area under Sukma district on Tuesday night.

"When security personnel were cordoning off forests near Bainpalli village, a jawan, identified as Roshan Nag, inadvertently stepped on a pressure IED connection, triggering the explosion that injured him," a senior official said.

The injured jawan was shifted to a local hospital and later airlifted to Raipur for further treatment, he said, adding that his condition was out of danger. In another incident, a jawan, identified as Hansraj Dehari, was injured when an arrow shot by Naxalites hit him when he was on security duty at a weekly market in Orchha village in Narayanpur district, he said. Dehari was shifted



IED planted by Maoists.

Maoist weapons dump unearthed near Chh'garh border

Malkangiri: Odisha Police unearthed a Maoist dump near a forest in Malkangiri district bordering Chhattisgarh and recovered a huge cache of explosives, officials said on Wednesday. The seized items include six landmines weighing 40kg, 150 gelatin sticks, a countrymade gun, IEDs and ammunition, IEDs, and other articles, police said. Acting on specific information, Odisha's Police's Special Operation Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) conducted a search operation in Mathili area, resulting in the unearthing of the Maoist dump near a forest between Tulasi and Kirimiti villages around 4.30pm on Tuesday, police said.

to the Community Health Centre, Orchha, the official said, adding that the condition of the injured jawan is stated to be stable.

AGNIVEER RECRUITMENT



Candidates participate in physical examination for recruitment in the Indian Armed Forces under the Agniveer scheme, in Lucknow, Wednesday.

BJP rakes up Indira Gandhi's 'insult' of hockey team

■ **Urges EC to act against Rahul, Kharge for remarks against PM**

New Delhi, Nov 22 (PTI):

The BJP on Wednesday urged the Election Commission to act against Rahul Gandhi for his 'panauti' jibe against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and recalled India Gandhi's "insult" of the Indian hockey team during the 1982 Asian Games final while praising its leader's encouragement to cricket players after their World Cup final loss.

A party delegation, which included its general secretary Radha Mohan

Das Agarwal and another functionary Om Pathak, also sought the poll watchdog's action against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, accusing him of falsely claiming that Modi's caste was included in Gujarat's OBC list when he was the state chief minister.

The Ghanchi caste, a community traditionally employed in oil pressing, was included in the OBC list in 1999 while Modi became chief minister in 2001, Pathak said.

"The remarks of Kharge and Gandhi, who are indulging in spreading a web of lies and are habitual offenders, call for initiating criminal proceedings against these offenders and strict action as

they have no respect for moral values in their conduct and even for the electoral laws as well as the Model Code of Conduct guidelines," the party said in its memorandum to the EC. After visiting the EC, Agarwal launched a sting attack on Gandhi and described him as a "senseless, uneducated and valueless" person of "ghatia" (inferior) mindset for making insulting remarks against a "globally respected" leader.

Gandhi, in a poll speech in Rajasthan, had used the 'panauti' barb against Modi as he had attended the World Cup cricket final which India lost to Australia after 10 consecutive wins in the tournament.

Two Army captains among 3 killed

■ **In encounter with terrorists**

Rajouri/Jammu, Nov 22 (PTI):

Three Army personnel, including two captains, were killed and three others were injured during an encounter between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said.

The fierce firefight was going on in the area with the induction of more troops to neutralise two terrorists trapped at the spot, they said.

Officials said two captains and a havildar have lost their lives during the encounter.

A major and two jawans



Army personnel and locals carry the body of an army officer near the site of an encounter with terrorists at Kalakote area, in Rajouri district, Wednesday.

suffered injuries, they said, adding the injured have been shifted to the Army's Command Hospital in Udhampur.

The encounter broke out between terrorists and joint forces of the Army

and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmsal following a cordon-and-search operation, the police said.

Officials said the operation has been intensified

RARE FINDINGS

Scientists discover new species of 'music frog' in Arunachal

Itanagar, Nov 22 (PTI):

Scientists have discovered a new species of 'music frog' in Arunachal Pradesh. The speciality of this new species of frog (Nidirana noadihing) is that both the male and female are vocal, they said.

"This newly discovered frog has a unique call pattern consisting of two-three notes. Initially, we heard the call from a marsh near the Noa-Dihing river, which is quite similar to wild duck species, which we never heard before," the scientists said in an article published in the November 15 edition of the journal Zootaxa. Scientists



Bitupan Boruah, V Deepak and Abhijit Das said they conducted field surveys in Changlang and Lohit districts of the northeastern state between August and September last year during which they discovered the frog, which grows up to 6cm and is characterised by a pale cream-coloured line on the mid-body. Nestled within vegetation in shallow pools of water, the scientists found male

frogs with 'robust' bodies calling loudly. Other specimens were heard from nearby marshy areas, the edges of a newly constructed pond and the side of a nearby road, they said in the article. The scientists said that they have collected five of the Noa-Dihing Music Frogs three males and two females. The new species was named after the Noa-Dihing River, which is near where the specimens were discovered and collected. The frog has a "robust" body, with males measuring between approximately 1.8 inches and 2.3 inches long and females measuring between about 2.4 inches and 2.6 inches long, they said.

Weather
High 31 Low 18

MARKET
NIFTY 19,811.85
SENSEX 66,023.24

BULLION
GOLD 61,292
SILVER 73,029

Cannabis smuggler arrested

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: Police arrested a cannabis smuggler and seized 04 kg cannabis worth Rs 38000 in Supela. Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Supela carried out a joint operation and nabbed the accused at Supela Square.

Senior Superintendent of Police/Deputy Inspector General of Police, Ram Gopal Garg had directed to run a campaign against illegal drug dealers, trace them and take legal action. Under the supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (ACCU) Anurag Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) VD Tripathi, a joint team of



Anti-Crime Cyber Unit and Supela Police Station was constituted for the purpose.

The team led by ACCU in-charge Inspector Naresh Patel, Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela)

started maintaining vigil on the drug dealers and the network of informers was activated. Former habitual drug dealers released from jail were also monitored.

Meanwhile, the police team came to know from informers that near

Sanjay Nagar Ground, a person was waiting for a customer to deliver cannabis. The suspect was carrying cannabis in a black coloured bag. Acting on this tip off, the team swung into action and took the suspect into custody.

During interrogation, the suspect revealed his name as Vinod Mehar (32) son of Jadumani Mehar, a resident of village SinapaliNuapada, Orissa. 04 kg of cannabis worth approximately Rs 38,000 was recovered from the possession of the accused. He was taken into custody and further action is being taken under NDPS Act from Supela Police Station.

ASI Purna Bahadur Karki, Constable Jugnu Singh, Panne Lal, Santosh Gupta, Shiv Mishra, Upendra Yadav, Sameem Khan, ASI Pramod Sinha, Head Constable Santosh Sharma, Constable Surendra Patel, Shyamji, Suryapratap Singh, Ravi Sao and Mahatma Sahu played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Nine arrested for attempt to murder



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: Police arrested nine ruffians including a juvenile on charges of attempt to murder. The victim is Gautam Kannoje, a resident of Utai. Owing to some old rivalry, the accused Ganesh Oriya and his

accomplices attacked Gautam Kannoje with knife, rods and sticks.

The accused shot a video of this incident to establish their terror in the locality. The victim has suffered fatal injuries on chest and head. After committing the crime, the accused escaped

on bikes. On receiving information, Utai Police swung into action and the accused were nabbed within six hours. Police booked nine ruffians including a juvenile under section 307, 34 of IPC. The weapons and vehicles used in the crime have been seized.

SUV hits biker, one killed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: A 49-year-old man was killed after his bike was hit by a rashly moving SUV on Utai Road late evening on Tuesday. Two youths moving in the SUV were also injured as their vehicle turned turtle in this mishap.

Newai Police informed that the incident occurred around 22:30 hrs on Tuesday. Two youths moving in a Mahindra Scorpio bearing registration number CG04-NT-0711 hit a biker near Maroda Sector. The biker suffered fatal injuries in

the mishap.

After hitting the bike, the car collided with the road divider and turned turtle. On information, police reached the spot and all the three injured were rushed to the hospital.

The biker Chandan Kumar (49) a resident of Ruabandha, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. The deceased worked as a security guard and was moving towards the work place when the mishap occurred. Newai Police lodged an FIR against the accused SUV driver under section 304-A of IPC.

Deposit property tax as per the actuals, avail 2% discount

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: BMC through an authorised agency is inspecting the properties including residential, commercial and other buildings of in the area. If any discrepancy is found on the spot between the self-return filled by the building owner and the inspection, then 5 times the penalty amount will be charged on the amount of property tax.

The agency has been authorized to collect revenue from residential, commercial and other buildings in

the corporation area including property tax, user charge, water tax, land rent, shop rent collection. The agency that has received the revenue collection contract is Shree Publications and Stationers Pvt Ltd.

Representatives of the agency are reaching the buildings and checking the constructed floors so that the actual property tax can be calculated by matching it with the self-return submitted by the building owner. In the initial investigation, differences are being found between the buildings and

the self-returns filled by them.

In such cases, the building owner will have to pay a penalty of 5 times the amount of property tax. Building owners can avoid penalty by depositing the difference amount in the corporation fund.

BMC Commissioner Rohit Vyas has appealed to the building and land owners of the corporation area to avail the benefit of 2 percent rebate by November 30 by paying the property tax amount due in lump sum for the current financial year 2023-24.

Second hand vehicle dealers meeting at BMC auditorium today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: A meeting of the second hand vehicle sellers has been scheduled on November 23 at noon in the Bhilai Municipal Corporation Auditorium.

The meeting will be held in the presence of the traffic police to deal traffic issues arising from the dozens of vehicles meant for resale are parked almost on service lanes by dealers.

This is disrupting the traffic system as most of

such resale shops are located next to the service lane adjacent to the National Highway. A letter about the meeting has been sent to all the dealers who sell second hand vehicles from the zone office of the corporation.

Here it needs a mention that on the service road of the corporation next to National Highway in the area of Dakshin Gangotri, Saksharta Chowk, Annapurna Market, Zone 03 office, around

the water tank, in Shivanth complex, there has been a mushrooming of second hand car dealers who park the vehicles on the land next to service road as well as on the service road for display, narrowing the road which in turn affects the Traffic flow.

To find a solution to this problem, this joint meeting of the police department, shop operators and corporation administration has been organised.

DMC Commissioner conducts surprise inspection of offices

36 officers and employees found missing during office hours

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: After the completion of Assembly elections, to speed up the works of public interest in Durg Municipal Corporation, Municipal Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar conducted surprise inspection and checked the attendance register as soon as the offices of the DMC opened.

All the departments were inspected and presence of department heads and employees was checked. During the same inspection, 36 officers, employees and



placement staff were found absent in the department. Instructions were given to issue notice to all the absent officers/employees.

Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar said that the officers/employees should remain prompt in their work and speed up the works of public interest. He said in the instruc-

tions that from time to time the office hours of all the departments will be checked specially of the opening time of 10:00 hrs.

Deputy Commissioner Mohendra Sahu, Health Officer Javed Ali, Revenue Officer Durgesh Gupta, PA to Commissioner Shubham Goir were present during the inspection.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar reached the New Bus Stand the other day. He took stock of the sanitation system. During this, he also gave special guidelines to the concerned officials regarding cleanliness.

Health Department staff including Health Officer Javed Ali were present on the occasion of inspection. The Commissioner said that the Municipal Corporation is taking special steps to keep the city neat and clean. For this which work is being done in a planned manner so that the city has a clean image and looks beautiful and clean.

During his visit, he also inspected the cleanliness status of the new bus stand and gave necessary instructions to the officials. During inspecting, he asked to run a campaign to remove illegal encroachments on the roadside, above the drain and other places. Instructions were also given to issue challan to the shopkeepers who spread filth.

Sanitation Inspector Raju Singh imposed a fine of Rs 2700 on 6 shopkeepers of New Bus Stand for spreading filth in front of their shops. The Commissioner said that the small vendors who operate on the roadside and do their business in the morning and evening should also be prevented from leading garbage behind.



It is necessary to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the spread of such garbage. Although the corporation is reaching every house for door to door garbage collection, the cart and kiosk traders will have to maintain cleanliness around them.

After placing the garbage in a dustbin, giving the

garbage to the sanitation worker reduces the risk of the garbage spreading here and there. The same garbage directly reaches the SLRM center from the dustbin through which it is segregated.

Compost is made from wet waste. Durg Corporation is continuously making efforts for this, but

participation of common citizens is absolutely necessary in this, only then the garbage can be completely removed from the city.

The Corporation has started the process of imposing fine on those who spread garbage. Fines are being imposed on those found throwing and spreading filth. Instructions are also being given to those who keep debris near the drain.

It is often seen that the debris goes into the drain and the drain gets clogged and the sanitation workers have to face a lot of problems in cleaning. Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar has given instructions to the officials to remove the C&D waste and impose fine for the same.

Unauthorized vendors evicted as part of BSP's special drive to ensure Road Safety

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Town Services Department, in association with the Enforcement Department, along with the Traffic Police and Police Department, has taken stringent action against unauthorized roadside shops and vendors along the Central Avenue of Bhilai Township.

Several unauthorized hawkers and vendors running Roadside Carts, Gumthis, Khomchas, Kulfi Vendors, Coconut Vendors, etc., without obtaining any certificate or valid documents from the BSP-TSD and local administration were removed on the second day of the ongoing special drive against the illegal street vendors on November 22, 2023.

A joint team of BSP and Police Officials evicted illegal vendors from the



vending zone to prevent road accidents and also seized half a dozen Kulfi carts after making a Panchnama. All the unauthorized vendors were released after a formal warning to abstain from setting up such shops in the future.

People stopping by these unauthorized carts, lead to overcrowding on Central Avenue, thereby affecting the traffic and increasing the risk of road accidents.

The avenue is lined on both sides by rows of trees and important civic buildings. It is illegal to put any

cart in the vending zone without obtaining a vending license and other requisite approval from the appropriate authority.

Till date, as many as 700 stray cattle have also been caught by the BSP-TSD from various areas of the township and the Plant during this financial year and have been handed over to Kosa Nala Gauthan, run by the Bhilai Municipal Corporation to prevent road accidents. Weekly reports are regularly sent to the concerned departments, for them to contin-

ue to take similar action against the illegal encroachers.

The Public Health Department and Enforcement Department under the guidance of BSP's TSD run similar preventive campaigns in the Plant and Township from time to time.

The BSP Administration has also made an appeal to all the citizens of Steel City-Bhilai, street vendors, and businessmen to cooperate and not create any unnecessary crowds on the roads and roadsides.

Thirty Hours Certificate Program on 'Introduction to Econometrics' inaugurated

At St Thomas College?

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Nov 22: The PG Department of Economics organised the Inaugural session of thirty hours Certificate Program on "Introduction to Econometrics". The Chief Guest of the session was Professor Dr Ravindra Brahma, Head SoS in Economics Pt Ravishankar Shukla University Raipur.

Administrator Father Dr Joshi Varghese, Principal Dr MG Roymond congratulated everyone and appreciated the programme. The session was graced by the Principal in-charge Dr Chanda Varma, IQAC coordinator and 2nd shift in-charge Dr Debjani Mukherjee.

At the outset program convener and Head I/C of



Economics Department Dr Aparna Ghosh welcomed the Chief Guest and all the participants of the session. Dr Brahme, first of all congratulated the organising committee of the Department for selection of this topic. He stressed on various applications of Econometrics

in the field of science, Economics and other domains.

He said that without econometric tools scientific research cannot be performed in economics. The thirty hours certificate programme began on November 20 and conclude on December 01,

2023. Different modules have been set and various experts from outside are coming to deliver their lecture. Fifty plus UG and PG students of St

Thomas College Bhilai and KK Modi University Durg are enthusiastically participating in the program and clearing their all doubts. MA 1st Semester student Harshita pro-

posed vote of thanks and the whole program was conducted by Dr Kiran bala Das Assistant Professor of Economics. Aparna Dutta faculty, all student representatives of the Economic Association "The Wizard" actively participated in the programme.

Strong rooms to be opened at 7 in morning: Dr. Bhure

Process will be videographed

Collector held a meeting about preparations for vote counting



Raipur, Nov 22: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Bhure held a meeting on Wednesday in the Collector's conference room regarding the preparations for the vote counting. He stated that the vote count will take place on December 3 at Sejbahar Engineering College. The strong room will be opened in the presence of ECI observers, returning officers, candidates or representatives of political parties December 3 at 7 in the morning. The political parties should be communicated this information well in advance. The entire process will be videographed. From the strong room, the control units of

EVM machines will reach the counting hall, and the counting of votes will begin at 8 o'clock. Mobile phones are strictly prohibited in the venue. Dr. Bhure stated that identity cards issued to candidates during the nomination, and the identity card issued to the election agent in the format 8 will be valid for their entry in the counting hall. Entry will not be allowed without an identity card. Apart from the candidates and election agents, separate passes have been issued by the election office to the counting agents, table wise, to enter the counting

centre. Counting agents will be able to enter the counting centre only with these passes.

Dr. Bhure further stated that the postal ballots will be counted first. The returning officer will make an announcement approximately half an hour later which will be followed by the counting of votes on EVMs while the counting of postal ballots will continue. 14 tables will be set up for EVMs and 2 tables for postal ballot in each assembly for the vote counting. Each table will have a supervisor who will be of gazetted officer rank, along with counting assis-

tants. The appointment of the counting team will be done after three rounds of randomization.

The first round of randomization will be done in the presence of the District Election Officer, and the second and third randomization will be done in the presence of the Observer. Municipal Commissioner, Mayank Chaturvedi, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Abinash Mishra, Deputy District Election Officer, Gajendra Thakur, and returning officers, along with other officials were present in this meeting.

SUGARCANES ON DEMAND



With the festival of 'Devuthani Ekadashi' tomorrow, the people were found taking pair of sugarcane for the rituals to be performed.

New Delhi Sweets fined Rs 10000

On inspection by RMC's Zone-9 team in Subhashchandra ward

giene and found the complaint related to lack of cleaning in the sweet's shop as correct.

On this the Municipal team led by Commissioner Zone-9 Santosh Pandey, Zone health officer Jainandam Daharia, Virendra Chandrakar from health deptt of RMC's head office, Mahendra Kalihari as Zone's Sanitary inspector and sanitary observer Bhola Tiwari fined a penalty of Rs 10000 to the Director of New Delhi Sweets and issued warning not to get it repeated in the near future. The team asked the owner of the Shop to ensure proper cleaning and hygiene in the shop and this public complaint was sorted out at Zone-level.

Raipur, Nov 22: After getting public complaints, as per instructions by the Municipal Commissioner Mayank Chaturvedi, the RMC's Zone-9 team and health department team of RMC's head office conducted inspection of New Delhi Sweets coming under Netaji Subhashchandra Bose ward No. 31 of Zone-9 of RMC and saw the hygiene and cleanliness. On conducting inspection of the kitchen the municipal team found it with lack of cleaning and proper hy-

Police to run campaign to curb crime in Raipur

SSP took meeting of police station in-charges, gave instructions to increase patrolling



Raipur, Nov 23: The incidents of theft have increased with the arrival of winter. In view of the possibility of incidents of theft and robbery, all police station in-charges should increase night patrolling in their respective areas. Also, complete the pending investigations and complaints as soon as possible. SSP Prashant Agarwal said these things to his subordinates in the crime review organized in C-4 building on Tuesday. The police were asked to remain alert during the wedding season.

Besides, it has been asked to remain alert in the area regarding vote counting on December 3.

The SSP reviewed the crime by holding a meeting with all the ASPs, CSPs and police station in-charges. In the meeting, the SSP gave instructions to immediately dispose of the pending investigations and complaints. Apart from this, he also asked to speedup search and recover the missing persons and take action as per the evidence

received. The SSP said that there should not be any kind of negligence in crimes related to women. Immediate action should be taken in such cases. Police station in-charges were instructed to take action by running a campaign in cases like hooliganism, gambling, liquor, drug trafficking, Arms Act etc.

These are six murder incidents within a week in Raipur. On Tuesday, a youth was beaten to death

in Tikrapara police station area. Earlier, due to old rivalry and abuses, three minors had stabbed a young man to death in the Civil Line police station area. The police arrested all three. The second case is of Rajendra Nagar police station area where a young man who was involved in gambling was beaten to death with rods, sticks and stones. Similarly, in Kabir Nagar police station area, an incident of murder was carried out over a dispute over abusing by a neighbour while lighting a lamp on the day of Diwali festival. In Kusalpur area of Purani Basti police station area, miscreants murdered a youth over an old dispute. In Dharsiwa, six youths killed a youth over a year old dispute.

Woman gang raped by four in a farmhouse

By misleading her in the name of showing her old land in her village

Raipur, Nov 22: A woman from capital city was gang raped in a farmhouse in Abhanpur thana area, near capital city on Wednesday. The accused have given excuse to help her to sell her land and then took her to a farm house and gang raped her and after which all the accused are at large.

The victim filed report in Abhanpur thana that she works as domestic help and is having a land in the name of her husband in her village. Since the land was very old, she was not getting its exact location and due to which she got in touch with

some youths living in that area. It is learnt that these youths first assured the woman to get her land identified and then sell it and it was on Nov 5 they called her to see her land and took her to a farmhouse in the farm. Finding her all alone they lost their intentions and four gang raped her.

After this incident, all four accused are absconding and they even warned the woman of not to disclose anything and threatened her for her life. In this case the Abhanpur police is conducting search of all four accused. In this case it has come to fore that the youths have raped this woman many times earlier and due to threat and fear of losing her life, she did not disclose anything to police earlier.

Dr. Sunil Kalda provided free treatment to 65 patients

Burnt by firecrackers



aid and 10 people were admitted. Due to awareness in the last 33 years the number of patients has reduced in which someone's face gets burnt and someone's hand gets burnt. Dr. Kalra said that accidents happen due to not maintaining suffi-

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Nov 22: In view of the unavailability of doctors and the difficulties faced by the patients during Diwali, Dr. Sunil Kalda, the Director of the state's first and private burn center Kalda Plastic Cosmetic and Burn Center and a well-known plastic cosmetic surgeon of the region, has given 2 days free treatment for burns caused by firecrackers during Diwali. Dr. Sunil Kalda arranged for first aid and gave advice at his hospitals located at Pachpedhi Naka, Dhamtari Road, near Colors Mall and G.E. Road, opposite Rajkumar College. In 2 days, Dr. Sunil Kalda (famous cosmetic surgeon) treated 65 patients free of cost, in which 55 patients were discharged after first

cient distance and caution while handling bombs, anar, rockets etc., burning firecrackers and throwing them on the road, leaving small children alone near burning lamps and candles, allowing children to burn firecrackers alone and due to tilting while bursting the firecrackers, because sometimes firecrackers burst relatively quickly and there is no time for rescue. Some people may get serious burns to their hair and other parts of the body if the firecracker bursts near the body as Sulfur, Potash, Coal, Pebbles, twine, cloth and paper are used in making firecrackers. And if somebody get burnt by a firecracker, then immediately pour water on the burnt area. It is known that Dr. Sunil Kalda has been providing free treatment to people burnt by firecrackers for the last 33 years.

Chhattisgarhi film 'Noni Ke Anthoni' to hit screens on Nov 24



Film Producer Home Deshmukh and other actors with the film's unit

Raipur, Nov 22: Chhattisgarhi film 'Noni Ke Anthoni' is releasing on November 24th. The new film is produced by Homan Deshmukh and Director is Gaurav Ratnakar. Film Producer Homan said that the film has a flavour of romance and comedy with plenty of family drama. The lead actress is Anikriti Chauhan and actor is Vishal. Apart from these, Anil Sharma, Sanjay Mahanand will

also be seen. Homan said that Chhattisgarhi film industry will progress only when more and more people go to cinema halls to watch films. If you talk about neighboring states Odisha or Maharashtra, regional films are played a lot there because people are fond of their language. This thing is missing in our state, he said.

Homan said that he has worked with many banks and was a senior manager

in the insurance sector in a private bank where he received a big pay package. He went to Mumbai for a meeting. There I met some friends who were active in Bollywood. I also got the desire for film making. When I returned, I met Gaurav Ratnakar who has written many episodes of Crime Patrol. It was from here that the foundation of 'Noni Ke Anthoni' was laid under the direction of Gaurav.

Actor Evergreen Vishal said, when I was in class three, I became Sarpanch in the annual function play. I was appreciated a lot. After studies I moved to Mumbai. Apart from OTT, I did some films there. My first Chhattisgarhi film was 'Vaidehi' and the second is 'Noni Ke Anthoni'. It has comedy, romance and family drama.

Fire breaks out in city's Babylon Hotel



Raipur, Nov 22: Fire broke out in the fourth floor of city's Babylon Hotel at Jail Road here on Wednesday evening. Two Fire-brigades reached the site on time and firemen are trying their level best to gain control over the fire. All the residents of the hotels were evacuated well

on time. So far no news about the loss of property or casualties has not being received from the Hotel management.

Till the writing of these lines fire could not be controlled and many nearby residents have gathered near the hotel to witness the same. At the site, the TI of Ganja Thana and other police staff were also present. Meanwhile the exact reasons behind the fire breaking out in the hotel could not be known.

PRSU team enters into semis of Inter University Tennis tournament



Raipur, Nov 22: Host Pt Ravishanker Shukla University (PRSU) team on Wednesday qualified for the All India University Lawn Tennis tournament in both boys and girls category after winning the matches played under the East Region Inter University tournament at VIP Club-based Tennis Court.

PRSU Registrar Dr Shailendra Kumar Patel was chief guest of the inaugural ceremony during which the HoD of School of Studies of Physical Education Dr Vipin Chandra Sharma was also present. Providing the above information, the senior

Sports Officer Rupendra Singh Chouhan said that PRSU Boys team defeated Guru Ghasidas Central University Bilaspur by 2-0 to enter into the semi-final. Lukesh Gautam, Khirman Tandi, Duleshwar Sahu, Monesh Yadav and Piyush Singh were the members of PRSU team.

Similarly, the PRSU Girls team defeated Gorakhpur University with the score of 2-0 to enter into semi-final and qualify for the All India event. Megha Banjare, Urvashi Banjare, Triveni Sonkar and Jiteshwari Sahu were the members of the team.

Two SUVs gutted in fire at IAS officer's residence

Raipur, Nov 22: Two Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs), including an electric car, were gutted in a fire that erupted at the residence of an IAS officer in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, an official said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday evening at the residence of IAS officer Sudhakar Xalxo in the Officers' Colony when his

family members had gone out after keeping the electric car on battery charging, he said.

Xalxo is in Telangana on assembly poll duty as an Election Observer there.

The maid of the house noticed the fire in the vehicles stationed in the parking area and informed the family about the incident, he added. After being alerted, po-

lice personnel and a fire-fighting team rushed to the spot and doused the flames within half an hour, the official said.

A preliminary investigation suggests that the blaze erupted in the electric car due to a short-circuit and another SUV parked behind it also in caught fire, he said, adding that the exact reason is yet to be ascertained.

Woman cheated of Rs 1 cr in the name of investment

Raigarh, Nov 22: A woman living in Jute Mill area fell victim of fraud in the name of investment worth Rs 1 lakh by a start-up company. The woman had made investment in the Company in the name of opening Skill Development Centre, but it turned out to be a Chit Fund company and after getting the amount, the Director of the Chit Fund company stopped lifting her phone calls. Woman had filed a complaint in Jute Mill thana and after which the police has started investigating the case.

Actually a woman living in Radhika Residency near Kabir Chowk met a youth



named Deep Sihag in Raipur in March 2022 and the youth informed her that he has got a start-up company in Taksheela Heights, Gurgam in the name of GAITMC and has given franchisee of the company in different parts of the country. The Company works for skill development centre. The woman fall victim of

false assurance by the youth and sent him two cheques of Rs 50 lakh. After this when the woman kept asking about her investment, the youth kept fooling her of massive returns and asked her to wait.

But when even after one year, She failed to get any return on her investment and start getting threats from the youth when she asked for her refund, she realized that she has been cheated. After this the woman filed report in Jute Mill thana in the name of Deep Sihag and the police has filed a case of fraud against him and taken the matter under investigation.

'To maintain happiness, it is essential to keep moving forward: Brahmaatmaj

Forgetting your negative experiences

Raipur, Nov 22:

Renowned film critic and author Ajay Brahmaatmaj joined the program organized by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation in Kalam Raipur. He was interviewed by Gaurav Giri Shukla, during the event held in Hyatt Raipur, with the support of Shree Cement, Abhikalp Foundation, and Ehsaas Women. Ajay Brahmaatmaj spoke about his literary journey, starting from a village near Darbhanga in Bihar. He mentioned that he wasn't particularly bright in his studies during childhood. After graduating, he went to Delhi's JNU for further education. From 1986 to 1991, he had the opportunity to work in the foreign language department in China. Later, he moved to Mumbai and engaged in freelance journalism and writing for sev-



eral years. During his early days in Mumbai, he formed a friendship with the film actor Irrfan Khan, and their relationship deepened over time.

Based on the suggestions of Irrfan and some other friends, Ajay shifted his focus to film journalism and started working in the field. Recounting a memory, he mentioned interviewing Amitabh Bachchan at his home for two and a half hours, dur-

ing which the legendary actor reminisced about his father and the transformative journey of a son.

Addressing the audience's questions, Ajay discussed the challenges in today's digital world. He emphasized that there are many challenges in the digital era, and it's not wise to constantly compare it with the past. In the past, journalists had the luxury of spending a day to a week reporting on a

single news item, but today, everyone expects a story within an hour. Patience on the part of reporters is crucial in such a scenario. He recalled how, in the 90s, filmmaker Basu Bhattacharya made him wait for a week before giving an interview, a scenario unimaginable in today's fast-paced journalism. Ajay Brahmaatmaj advised to be against dwelling on negative experiences for too long. If a decision goes wrong or relationships sour, one should not mourn for days on end. Moving forward is the essence of life.

During the program, IAS officer Sanjay Alang honored Author Ajay Brahmaatmaj by presenting him with a memento. Kalpana Mishra expressed gratitude to all the attendees, and the program was attended by many literature enthusiasts from the city.

IGNTU researchers develop new tool



Amarkantak, Nov 22: Under the guidance of Professor Shailendra Singh Bhadauria, Head of the Department of Commerce, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, his researchers Amit Gupta and Aditi Saraogi have together developed a new tool, which checks the tax GST being imposed by the government and provides information to the customers. It gives information about how much tax a person is paying to the government on the goods he is purchasing. Vice

● **It checks GST being imposed by the govt, gives information to customer**

Chancellor of the University, Professor Prakash Mani Tripathi, while congratulating the Head of the Department of Commerce, Professor Shailendra Singh Bhadauria and his research scholars on this occasion, said that the understanding of GST has to be increased among the general public. It would be extremely useful if it is ex-

plained in simple language. 'I have full confidence that the equipment developed by the Department of Commerce of our University and its students will prove to be extremely useful not only for the general public but also for the Government'.

On this occasion, Prof. Bhadauria said that this device presents a new way for the common citizens to understand the GST prices. The algorithm on which we are working has been registered in the Patent Office of the Government of India.



CU will become the best research university: VC

Bilaspur, Nov 22: A two-day national symposium is being organized on November 21 and 22, 2023 on the topic 'The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023: The Discovery and Synthesis of Quantum Dots' at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University). The inauguration ceremony of the program was held at 10 am on November 21, 2023 in the Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar.



In the inauguration ceremony, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that to become a great researcher, patience, dedication and continuous efforts are required. Professor Chakrawal stressed, "Inquisitive nature and pithy questions on every point bring factuality to research". He expressed his confidence that Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya will be established as the best institute in the field of research

in the coming times. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakrawal said that Quantum Dot is working effectively in the field of medical care including Artificial Intelligence in the world. Addressing the participants and teachers participating in the symposium, he said that you should stop worrying about resources and focus on quality research useful to the society. Throwing light on the shape of various glass pigments used in ancient times, Professor Arun

Sawant, former Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan University, said that quantum dots create different colors based on shape. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awardee, Professor P.S. Mukherjee of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore discussed the use of quantum dots in various fields and explained in detail about carbometallic compounds. Pro. T.S. Pal, former professor, IIT Khargapur, said that nanotechnology and quantum dots have

brought about a radical change in the field of medicine and technology. Experts called upon young researchers to participate in training and workshops for better research results. The 2023 Nobel Prize has been awarded to three American scientists, Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Aleksey Yekimov, for the discovery and development of quantum dots. Before this, the guests lit the lamp and offered flowers before the statues of Goddess

Saraswati and Saint Guru Ghasidas Ji. The guests were welcomed with saplings. Saraswati Vandana and Kuleet were presented by Tarang Band. Chairman of the symposium, Prof. G.K. Patra delivered the welcome address. Prof. P.K. Bajpai, Dean of the School of Physical Sciences, and the Registrar of the University, Prof. Manish Shrivastava expressed their views on the relevance of the symposium. The guests were honored by presenting them with shawls, shreephal, and mementos. The program was conducted by Dr. Manorama and the vote of thanks was given by the Coordinator of the symposium, Dr. S.S. Thakur. 197 participants registered themselves for the symposium. Deans of various Schools, heads of departments, teachers, officers and a large number of students were present on this occasion.

National Lok Adalat on December 16

Raipur, Nov 22: According to the instructions of the National Legal Services Authority, New Delhi, the National Lok Adalat was earlier to be organized in the state on December 9th, which has now been decided by the State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur to be organized on December 16th. Now National Lok Adalat will also be organized on December 16th in Raipur, Gariaband, Tilda, Rajim and Devbhog. The preparations for Lok Adalat are being monitored meticulously. Claim, family dispute, labour, bank, cheque bounce, traffic, water tax, BSNL, Municipal Corporation, electricity, section 138 NIA cases are being marked in National Lok Adalat.

● **State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur took decision**

Raipur and District Judge Abdul Zahid Qureshi has appealed to all the residents of Raipur that if their case is pending in the Civil Court or Revenue Court, they will happily get their case finally resolved in a simple and easy manner. If people want to get it done then they can attend the National Lok Adalat District Court premises on Saturday, December 16th and get benefits in their case through the National Lok Adalat.

District Legal Services Authority Secretary, Praveen Mishra said that residents of the state can call NALSA's helpline number 15100 for more in-

formation about National Lok Adalat or visit the nearest District Legal Services Authority or Taluka Legal Services Committee. Information can also be obtained by contacting. Speedy resolution of pension cases.

Pension cases of officers and employees who have retired from government and semi-government offices will be resolved soon. The purpose of organizing Pension Lok Adalat is to look into the complaints of pensioners, so that their cases can be resolved on the spot.

Regarding pension arrears, pension increase arrears and their pension related matters, pensioners can present their case in the Pension Lok Adalat run at the District Legal Services Authority, Raipur.

'Techno-A-Tech 2k23 6.0: from Nov 30 to Dec 2

Bilaspur, Nov 22: Chouksey Group of Colleges' much awaited and prestigious national level tech fest Techno-a-Tech 2k23 6.0 is being organized on Nov 30 and Dec 1 and 2. This platform of technical festival organized by Chouksey Group of Colleges is dedicated to the students and organized in every second year. In this techfesta large number of students participate from various colleges of Chhattisgarh as well as from colleges of nearby states. In this year also unique competitions are being organized in the technical festival, which include mainly Rhythm Rush is based on dance, Swar Yatra based on singing, Ramp Dance, LAN Gaming (Blur the Car Racing, BGMI The Battle Field Solo and Group), The Titan Games, Bridge Building, Cinematography, Shark Tank, Street Cricket, Treasure Hunt, Best out of Waste, KBC (Quiz), Robo War, Tech Wiz (Circuit Raid and Code Rush), Mission Impossible (The Mystery Room), Paint Ball etc. Similar to last

time, this year also the main attraction of the technical festival will be DJ Night and Celebrity Night. In this year, as a celebrity, singer Gajendra Verma (Issmein Tera Ghata fame) will add charm to the technical festival with his performance. In the techfest prize money worth around Rs 2.5 lakh will be distributed among the winning participants. Each participant will also be given a certificate of participation. This technical festival is being sponsored by Redmoto XEV as main sponsor, King Kalis Developer as special sponsor, BHUGOL and Shail Vastralaya as associate sponsors. While talking about this technical festival, Managing Director of the Group, Dr. Ashish Jaiswal stated that the main objective of this TechFest is to provide a national level platform, where participants will have an incredible blend of Technical, creativity, competition, cultural and also the showcase of talent where passions will ignite and champion will emerge.

Korba, Nov 22: SECL has admitted that it has suffered a loss of Rs 5.39 cr due to the two-day economic blockade organized by Chhattisgarh Kisan Sabha on Sept 11-12. This has been acknowledged in the letter number 2256 dated 21.09.2023 sent by Kusmunda area mine manager Sanjay Mishra to higher officials. This admission is also a proof of the gaining momentum of the movement being carried out by the land displaced people in Korba district demanding employment and rehabilitation. The coal management is troubled by the continuous agitation against it and has now taken refuge in the court to stop it. Kusmunda General Manager has filed a case

in the Katghora Civil Court against four workers of CPI (M), Kisan Sabha and Land Displaced Employment Unity Union, citing the loss caused by the economic blockade. Along with this, it has also made Chhattisgarh government a defendant and has demanded from the court to issue an order to permanently ban the activities of the agitators and the movements.

In his suit, General Manager Sanjay Mishra has said that SECL is a public sector undertaking of the Central Government, which has been mining and transporting coal for the last 30-35 years. He acquires land from time to time with the help of the State Government for expan-



● **Due to economic blockade by land displaced people**

benefits and employment to ineligible people, due to which SECL is facing financial loss. Therefore the movements should be banned. By 'anti-social elements' SECL is directly referring to the respondents, which also includes CPI(M) leader Prashant Jha. CPI(M) leader Prashant Jha has called this suit a conspiracy by the management to crush the movement of land displaced people.

He has also expressed strong objection to the management calling the agitating leaders 'anti-social elements'. He said that the right to form organiza-

tions and fight for our legitimate demands is a constitutional right. The CPI(M) leader said that will SECL tell whether all the cases to which it has been forced to provide employment due to the movement are false? Holding SECL responsible for the agitation of the land displaced people, he said that the reality is that Coal India is refusing to provide employment to the farmers who gave up their land and the last support of their livelihood in the national development yagya. He said that in the coming days, the agitation against the anti-employment policies of Coal India will be further intensified and the workers of CPI(M) and Kisan Sabha are not going to be intimi-

dated by the threat of court proceedings. He warned that the future of SECL officials who want to ruin the future of farmers will be decided by the movement of the displaced people.

It is noteworthy that for the last two years, the displaced farmers have been sitting on an indefinite strike in front of the Kusmunda General Manager's office demanding resolution of pending employment cases. But till date the management has not even taken the initiative to have a positive conversation with them. There is a possibility that this movement will become more violent if the management now takes the help of the court to end this movement.

SECL suffers loss of Rs 5.39 cr

Questions to be asked from 80% of syllabus

● **Currently only 65% of the course has been completed, the examination will start from Dec 7**

Raipur, Nov 22: Schools have reopened from Monday after a long holiday of nine days. On the first day after vacation, 70 to 75 percent students reached school to study. The date of half yearly examination of schools has been announced. Half yearly examinations will start from next month i.e. 7th December. In the half yearly examination, questions will be asked from 80 percent syllabus.

Diwali holidays, 65 to 70 percent of the courses have been completed in schools. There are still 16 days left for the half yearly exams to start. In these 16 days, two Sundays and Guru Nanak Jayanti i.e. three days holiday are falling. In this context, studies will be held in schools only for 13 days. In these days, teachers have to complete 80 percent of the syllabus. The syllabus is already fixed according to the month, that the syllabus for this unit has to be completed by November. The courses in schools which have not been completed due to elections will be completed before the half yearly examinations. Instructions have already been given to schools to complete the syllabus, said



Himanshu Bharatiya, District Education Officer, Raipur.

The number of units of the course to be completed every month is already decided. Studies were affected due to assembly elections in the state. Due to election duty, teachers were not present in the school regularly, as a result the curriculum could not be completed. From the very first day after the

vacation, teachers have started completing the syllabus. Instructions have been given by the principals to all the teachers to complete their respective syllabus before the half yearly examinations.

Till now the school has been conducting half yearly examinations at its own level. Question papers were prepared according to the amount of course completed, but this time

schools will be provided centralized question papers of half yearly examination. Since all schools have similar question papers, it is necessary to complete 80 percent of the syllabus. If the syllabus is not completed, the results of the school will be weak. If the results are weak, there will be a question mark on the school about not providing good education. All the schools want to prepare the students well to give better results in the half yearly exams.

For the first time, centralized question papers are being given to schools in the half yearly examinations. The District Education Officer office is busy preparing the question paper. Question papers are being prepared on the basis of blue print is-

sued by the Board of Secondary Education, so that students can be helped in preparing for the board examination. After the examination, marks will be informed to the students, after checking, the answer sheet of the examination will also be given to the students, so that the students can know their mistakes. Pre-board examinations will start in schools after about one and a half months after the half yearly examinations. Pre-board examinations are likely to start from the last week of January. The timetable for board examinations has not yet been released. Generally, practical examinations are also held in the month of February. Board exams are likely to start from March.

Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary celebrated



● **At Rajiv Bhawan**

Raipur, Nov 22:

Chhattisgarh State Congress Office, Rajiv Bhawan, Shankar Nagar Raipur on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Priyadarshini late Indira Gandhi, paid floral tribute to her. On this occasion, state in-charge Kumari Selja, Joint Secretary and

co-in-charge Vijay Jangid, General Secretary in-charge Malkit Singh Gaidu, Shailesh Pandey, Dilip Lahariya, Vijay Kesharwani, Siyaram Kaushik, Ashish Chhabra, Shailesh Nitin Trivedi, senior spokesperson Dhananjay Singh Thakur, General Secretary Ravi Ghosh, Joint General Secretary Ajay Sahu, Salam Rizvi and Mehmood Ali were present.

Bihar for inclusion of 65 pc quota in 9th Schedule

To make it immune to legal scrutiny

Patna, Nov 22 (PTI): The Bihar government on Wednesday decided to urge the Centre to incorporate the hiked reservation for deprived castes from 50 to 65 per cent in state government jobs and educational institutions in the 9th schedule of the Constitution, so that it is guaranteed immunity from legal scrutiny, an official said.

ward classes at 50 per cent. The Cabinet also increased the dearness allowance of government employees in Bihar by 4 per cent. They will get a DA of 46 per cent with effect from July 1 this year; Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat), S Siddharth, told reporters after the Cabinet meeting. The Nitish Kumar government on Tuesday issued gazette notifications for raising the quota for deprived castes to 65 per cent, after Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar gave his assent to two bills, paving the way for implementing the new reservation system. On

Wednesday, the Bihar Cabinet in a meeting chaired by the chief minister passed a resolution on asking the Centre to include the provision in the 9th schedule of the Constitution, Siddharth said. "The state government is of the opinion that keeping in view the special circumstances, the inclusion of amended provisions of hiked reservation in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution will help in ensuring justice to deprived and backward sections," Siddharth said. The resolution was mooted by the General Administration Department. Following a caste survey in Bihar, the state government tabled

an analysis of it in the assembly earlier this month. The House then passed two bills - Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services Amendment Bill and the Bihar Reservation (Admission in Educational Institutions) Amendment Bill - to increase the quota. The bills sought a hike in the quota for Scheduled Castes (SC) from 16 to 20 per cent, Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 1 to 2 per cent, extremely backward castes (EBCs) from 18 to 25 per cent and other backward classes (OBCs) from 15 to 18 per cent to elevate the total quantum of caste-based reservations from 50 to 65 per cent.

TRIBUTES TO MULAYAM



Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav with party leaders Ram Gopal Yadav and Shivpal Singh Yadav performs a 'havan' on the birth anniversary of his father and party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, in Etawah, Wednesday.

Asthi Visarjan of Saharasri performed

At Sangam in Prayagraj, Varanasi and Haridwar

Lucknow, Nov 22: Saharasri Subrata Roy Sahara's Asthi Visarjan performed at the holy river Ganga in Haridwar and Varanasi, and at the Sangam in Prayagraj by Joybroto Roy, younger brother of Saharasri & Deputy Managing Worker of Sahara India Pariwar, along with O. P. Srivastava, Deputy Managing Worker, Sahara India Pariwar and other senior members of Sahara India Pariwar, including Saharasri nephews. On 22nd November, the Asthi Visarjan ritual performed at Haridwar and on 21st November the same was performed at Sangam in Prayagraj and Varanasi. In each city, large number of people and Sahara Workers assembled and proceeded with the Asthi Kalash for Asthi Visarjan. Furthermore, Saharasri's Asthi Visarjan will



also be performed at Aamby Valley City on 29th November 2023. Saharasri 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

COLORS' upcoming show ropes in Shagun Pandey and Shruti Choudhary

Mumbai, Nov 22: COLORS has consistently built on its tradition of presenting compelling stories with thought-provoking themes, thus raising the bar of entertainment, and driving positive change. Over the years, the viewers have been treated to a plethora of love sagas that have immortalised onscreen couples in the audiences' minds. From the timeless bond shared between Madhubala and R.K. in 'Madhubala - Ek Ishq Ek Junoon' to the passionate love story of Meher and Sarajit in 'Choti Sarrdaarni', and the intense chemistry between Tejo and Fateh in 'Udaariyaan', the shows of the channel have captivated audiences with their depth and emotional quotient. Riding on its illustrious legacy

of storytelling, the channel brings a fresh tale of love in 'Mera Balam Thanedaar' with an underlying theme of underage marriage, featuring Shagun Pandey as Veer and Shruti Choudhary as Bulbul in the lead roles. Set in the colourful land of Rajasthan, 'Mera Balam Thanedaar' outlines the journey of Bulbul (portrayed by Shruti Choudhary) and Veer (portrayed by Shagun Pandey), two individuals who are different as chalk and cheese. While the young Bulbul staunchly believes that a white lie spoken for the sake of others' well-being remains justifiable, the principled Veer, an esteemed IPS Officer, adamantly considers any form of deceit a serious crime.

CIRCOT of ICAR signs MoU with Biofactor for better crop yields

Hyderabad, Nov 22:

Hyderabad-based Biofactor which is into the manufacturing of bio-fertilisers and vital macro and micronutrients, has made yet another big stride in research by strengthening its highly-efficient foliar nutrimation product, 'Belom', which now facilitates improved crop yields in drought and other abiotic stress conditions in commercial and seasonal crops. Biofactor (Biofactors Private Limited) is the world's first manufacturer of Metabolite Assisted Micron Sized (MAMS) nutrimation has launched the product and

grabbed the market attention in a short span of time. LN Reddy, founder of Biofactor, said that the latest research carried out across the country on improved version of Belom series products showed that they yielded excellent results even in drought and other abiotic conditions. He said that using the MAMS technology in foliar nutrimation has 13 vital nutrients required by plants and crops. Going global.. LN Reddy said that the modernised 'Belom' series of products will be taken to the doorsteps of farmers around the world. "These products can be used for all types of crops. The commercial crops

which were grown in the rain-fed regions using Belom series offered excellent quality and quantitative yields. Farmers can cultivate crops at low cost using Belom series even in drought conditions and seasons. Research studies showed that yields increased by 20-30 per cent by using Belom series. Belom series induced systemic resistance to crops against various diseases and sucking pest". The Biofactor's Research and Development Division was approved by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) to carry out research ahead. Over 1 lakh farmers used.

Full scale joint disaster management exercise by Sambalpur Div

At Hirakud station



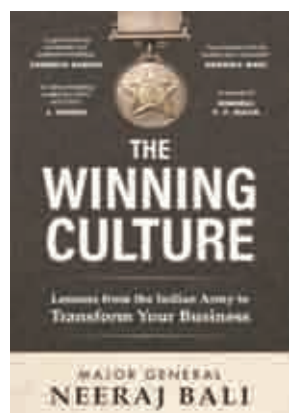
Sambalpur, Nov 22: East Coast Railway, Sambalpur Division organized a Full Scale Joint Disaster Management Exercise at Hirakud Railway Station on 22nd November-2023. In the exercise National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Munduli, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), Local Administration, State Fire service, State health service, Railway Scouts & Guide, Local NGOs and all departments of Railway participated. The exercise was conducted using modern equipments like cutting of Rail coach body, firefighting and quick

medical evacuation. Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur, Vineet Singh visited the site and interacted with all the participants. Singh Said "the exercise will help Railways and all participating agencies to tackle any unforeseen situation in a coordinated manner thus minimizing the hardship to the victims and will also help in minimizing the response time for all the agencies. S.S Nayak, Sr. Divisional Safety Officer thanked all the participating agencies and volunteers for their whole hearted participation in the Exercise.

When an Aussie doctor was bowled over by a gravely-wounded Manekshaw's humour

New Delhi, Nov 22 (PTI):

The legendary Sam Manekshaw is the quintessential Indian soldier who exemplified courage who believed in leading by example, and in a battle with the Japanese during World War II, despite being badly hit with bullets in his belly and lungs, he was able to make the Australian doctor treating him break into a hearty laugh with his humour, says a new book.



"In a battle with the Japanese, Manekshaw was hit nine times with bullets in his belly and lungs. Such was his courage - and the immensity of his death - that the British military commander pinned a military cross on a semi-conscious Manekshaw. But the latter did not fade away, and finally made it on a stretcher to a hospital after 36 hours," the book, published by Pan Macmillan India, says.

Writing about a few incidents involving India's first field marshal Manekshaw, the author says in 1942, the former's troops were among the force guarding a bridge over the Sittoung river in then Burma.

There was confusion in the ad hoc facility and, after some effort, Manekshaw's orderly Sher

Singh managed to summon an Australian doctor and pointed out the multiple bullet wounds to him. Eager to keep Manekshaw conscious by engaging in small talk, the doctor asked him what had happened to him. He replied, "A bloody mule kicked me." The doctor broke into a hearty laugh and said, "I see you have a sense of humour. You might be worth saving!" There is another incident when a soldier wanted to kill Manekshaw over not being promoted.

Indusind Bank Public Notice (Under Rule 3(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/L 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the loan against property availed by them from Indusind Bank Limited (IBL), their loan Credit Facility has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in the books of the bank as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, Bank has issued demand notices to below mentioned under respective borrower / Co-Borrower under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known address of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount mentioned in respective demand notice within 60 days from the date of respective notices as per details given below, together with further interest at the contractual rate on the below mentioned amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the service is also being done by us by way of this publication as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Name and Address of Borrower and Co-Borrower/s	Demand Notice Date & Outstanding Amount	Description of the Secured Assets/ Mortgaged Properties
1. M/S GOURAV FILING STATION (BORROWER)	Demand Notices Dated 30-10-2023	ALL THAT PIECE & PARCEL OF FLAT NO 206 2ND FLOOR, BLOCK A OF KUBER APARTMENT, SITUATED AT PART OF SURVEY NO. 20/4 & 20/16, WARD NO 29, PH NO 110/63, SUBHASH CHANDRA WADIA SHANKAR NAGAR RAIPUR (C.G.), ADMEASURING 1074.46 SQ. FT.
2. MR. RAKESH RAJARAM AGARWAL	38,91,795.84 (Thirty Six Lack One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five and Eighty Four Paise Only) as on 20-September-2023 & Further interest and other expenses thereon	
3. MR. SARITA RAKESH KUMAR AGARWAL (CO-BORROWERS)	NPA Date: 09-May-2022 Loan Account Number: FRV90182N.FRV.00053N	

Date: 22-11-2023
Place: RAIPUR (C.G.)

CENTRUM Housing Finance Ltd. Corporate & Registered Office - Unit No. 801, Centum House, CST Road, Vidyasagar Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U85922MH2016PLC273826

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower/s (the 'said Borrower'), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s issued to them that are also given below.

In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower to pay to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest and other charges till date of repayment of the dues in full, as detailed in the said Demand Notices, from the dates mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrowers. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd by the said Borrowers respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan Account No./Branch	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	NPA Date Sec. 13(2) Notice Date FGL Date	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)
1	Prabhash Divan / Vibhas Diwan / RPRMU19001791 / Raipur	Rs. 11,46,873/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Only)	08-10-2023 17-11-2023 28-11-2023	In the rights, piece and parcel of immovable property-Mauza- Tumgaon, Khata No.- 933 Part of Kh. No.- 1662/5-6, P.H.No.- 136, R.N.M.- Mahasamund, Distt.-Mahasamund - 493445, Chattisgarh.
2	Brajesh K Jangde / Kusum Jangde / RPRDU22007709 / Raipur	Rs. 12,50,538/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Only)	03-10-2023 17-11-2023 28-11-2023	In the rights, piece and parcel of immovable property-Mauja-Kururd, Ward No. 16, Adm. 800 Sq. Ft., P.H.No. 14/19, RNM Durg-1, New Kh. No. 555/74, Plot No. 19, under portion Kurud Nala, Durg - 490026, Chattisgarh. Boundaries:- East :- Plot of sahu, West :- Road, North :- Plot No. 18 of Sangeeta Pandit, South :- Plot No. 20

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to Centrum Housing Finance Ltd as aforesaid, Centrum Housing Finance Ltd shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Chhattisgarh
Date : 23.11.2023

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED Corporate Office: Kohinor Square, 47th Floor, N.C.Kelkar Marg, R.G.Gadkari Chowk, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400028 Email: rajesh.jamani@omkara.com/zuber.khan@omkara.com Tel.: 022-28544000 | Authorised Officer M no.: +918657969233/+918657969231

Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.

CIN: U67100T22014PTC020363

[Appendix - IV-A] [See proviso to rule 8 (6) r/w 9(1)]

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) r/w 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. Further, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd (OARPL) (acting in its capacity as Trustee of Omkara PS 30/2021-22 Trust) has acquired entire outstanding debts of the below accounts vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.09.2021 from Indusind Bank Ltd (Assignor Bank) along with underlying security from assignor bank. Accordingly, OARPL has stepped into the shoes of assignor bank and empowered to recover the dues and enforce the security. The Authorised Officer of OARPL took handover of the physical possession of the below mentioned secured property from the Borrower/Mortgagor/Co-Borrower. The Authorised Officer of OARPL hereby intends to sell the below mentioned secured properties for recovery of dues and hence the tenders/bids are invited in sealed cover for the purchase of the secured properties. The properties shall be sold in exercise of rights and powers under the provisions of sections 13(2) and 13(4) of SARFAESI Act; on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" for recovery of amount shown below in respective column due to OARPL as Secured Creditor from respective Borrower and Co-Borrower(s) thereon. Details of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors, Securities, Owner, Outstanding Dues, Date of Demand Notice sent under Section 13(2), Possession Date, Reserve Price, Bid Increment Amount, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Date & Time of Inspection is given as under:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagors	Details of the Secured Asset	Owner of the property	Outstanding Dues as on 30.06.2023 (IN INR)	Demand Notice Date	Physical possession Date	Reserve Price (IN INR)	Bid Increment Amount (IN INR)	EMD (IN INR)	Date & Time of Inspection
1.	M/S Galaxy Marketing Through its Proprietor Mrs. Anrita Neelam alias Mrs. Anrita Talsija	All the part and parcel of property bearing Shop No. 48 at Lower Ground Floor of Shyam Square admeasuring Bull (Up Area - 215 Sq. Ft) situated Part of Plot No. 1, Part of Survey/Khasra No. - 117/2 & 136/1, Devendra Nagar Scheme No. 32 of RDA, Village Panch Tarsi, P.H. No. 106, Shand Hemu Kalam Ward No. 35, City, Tarsi and District-Raipur, Chhattisgarh and bounded by (as per Sale Deed): North: Open Space South: Corridor East: Shop No. 46 West:-Shop No. 49	Mrs. Anrita Neelam alias Mrs. Anrita Talsija	Rs. 43,04,347.04 (Rk. Forty Three Laks Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty Seven and Paise Four only)	23.08.2021	28.06.2023	Rs. 40,85,000/- (Rupees Forty Laks Eighty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 4,09,000/- (Rupees Four Laks Nine Thousand Only)	05.12.2023 01.00 PM to 4.00 P.M.
2.	Mrs. Anrita Nathani alias Mrs. Anrita Talsija	North: Open Space South: Corridor East: Shop No. 46 West:-Shop No. 49	Mrs. Anrita Nathani alias Mrs. Anrita Talsija	****The details of the property are more specifically described in the Deed No. 3471(kh) dated 19.08.2015 in the name of Smt. Anrita Talsija alias Anrita Neelam with Mr. Ravish Kumar Talsija						
3.	Mt. Ravish Kumar Talsija									

Account No.: 05505010221, Name of the Beneficiary: Omkara PS 30/2021-22 Trust, Bank Name: ICICI Bank, Branch: Bandra (E) Mumbai, IFSC Code: ICIC000555

Last date and time for submission of bid letter of participation/KYC Document/Proof of EMD: 11.12.2023 till 5:30 pm
Date of E-Auction & Time: 14.12.2023 12:00 to 2:00 pm

TERMS & CONDITION OF THE AUCTION: For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditor's (OARPL) website i.e. <http://omkara.com/auction.php> or website of service provider i.e. <http://www.banksauction.com>.

STATUTORY NOTICE FOR SALE UNDER RULE 8(6) R/W 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

This notice is also a mandatory notice of not less than 15 (Fifteen) days to the Borrower(s) of the above loan account under Rule 8(6) r/w 9(1), of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 and provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, informing them about holding of auction/sale through e-auction on the above referred date and time with the advice to redeem the assets if so desired by them, by paying the outstanding dues as mentioned herein above together with further interest from 01.07.2023 and all costs charges and expenses any time before the closure of the Sale. In case of default in payment, the property shall at the discretion of the Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor be sold through any of the modes as prescribed under Rule 8 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Date: 23.11.2023
Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Omkara Assets Reconstruction Pvt Ltd.
(Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of Omkara PS 30/2021-22 Trust)

Collector holds meeting, inspects counting venue

For smooth conduct of counting work; responsibilities assigned

Kawardha, Nov 22:

As per the dates declared by the EC and Chief Electoral Officer Chhattisgarh the counting for all the 90 Vidhan Sabha (VS) seats in the state will be held on Dec 3. For the polling held in Pandaria and Kawardha area coming under Kabirdhaam VS area, the counting will be done at the new Krishi Upaj Mandi (KUM) in Kawardha.

Collector and DRO Janmajay Mahobe as per instructions by EC and CEO convened a meeting related to counting for VS No. 71 Pandaria and VS



No. 72 Kawardha. For the counting work, officers of different departments have been handed over various responsibilities to ensure smooth completion of counting work. After the meeting, the Collector also conducted inspection of the counting venue. Collector and DRO informed that the training for the counting for assembly polls 2023 at different levels will be organised in Panchayat Rajnandgaon on Dec 25 from 10:00 am.

For this training the Dy.DRO, Returning Officer, Tabulation in-charge, Asst. Programmer, District Returning, Master Trainer will have to be present at stipulated time without fail. The meeting was attended by Upper Colelector Indrajeet Burman, Returning Officer VS No. 71 Pandaria Sandeep Thakur, Returning Officer VS NO. 72 Kawardha- PC Kori, Joint Collector Monika Koudo, Dy. DRO Rituraj Singh Bisen, Dy. Collector

Lekha Ajgale and Akanksha Nayak. Officers given separate responsibilities for counting work:

Collector and DRO Janmajay Mahobe has handed over separate jobs to the officers for smooth conduct of counting work. To issue magisterial orders for law & order system at the counting venue, Upper Collector Indrajeet Burman has been handed over the job. Along with this the work that of formation of team of officers and employees for counting and counting of ballot papers and training was handed over to CEO Sandeep Agrawal. The responsibility for the postal ballot work was given to Joint Collector Monika Koudo; the work that of formation of team of counting observers, counting assistants; micro-ob-

servers; forming team for counting for observers; making entry of Encore software provided by the Commission; making arrangements of slips for the draw; Slip Register system for counting of VVPAT Register counting; making arrangements for Engineer at the counting venue and for preparing different types of flexes-Returning officer VS 71 - Pandari- Sandeep Thakur and RO VS-72 Kawardha PC Kori were handed over the job. Similarly separate responsibilities were given for drinking water for the officers and employees and media personnel at the counting venue; laying of tables-chairs, writing materials; barricading; fencing, stage, media room and telecommunication centre and LED, photography, videography and other such works.

Accused nabbed in an attempt for murder case

Khairagarh, Nov 22:

The police has nabbed the accused involved in making an attempt for murder against a couple. As per report by complainant Kanhaiya Lal Lihare on Nov 20, that on Nov 19 accused forcefully entered their house in the night and using a sharp edged weapon and tried to kill KL Lihare and his wife Pushpa Bai Lihare. Due to this they received serious injuries on their hands, sleeves. A case under section 458 and 307 of IPC was filed against the unknown.

It was as per instructions by SP Khairagarh-Chuikhadan-Gandai (KCG) Ankita Sharma and Addl. SP Neha Pandey that a special team was formed under leadership of TI Anil Sharma. As per information in this regard, the complainant wife had family dispute with the brother of his rel-



ative's younger brother Nutan living in Botepar and on which the Lihare's wife was threatened.

So it was based upon the evidences and proofs about Nutan's involvement, the police team conducted search of his location and on finding him nabbed him. On interrogation he accepted his crime saying that it was he was shown disrespect

by mother-in-law of the brother in front of every and it was to settle the issue that he decided to take revenge. It was in a pre-planned manner the accused entered the house of the complainant from the staircase late at night and had beaten brother's mother-in-law Pushpa. During this with husband of Pushpa- Kanhaiya Lal waking up, he even made life-threatening attack him with iron sharp weapon on his head. The police has recovered the iron weapon used in the crime and the motorcycle as well.

The accused was taken into arrest and was produced in the Court and sent to judicial remand. In the above action, ASI Thana Gatapar KK Rai, head constable Suresh Khute, Inspector Ashish Chandravanshi, Ved Prakash, Hemant sahu and others played an important role.

Women observe 'Awala Navami'



Offer prayers to tree and enjoyed lunch

Dongargaon, Nov 22:

Women in large number offered prayers to Awala tree located in Nagar Panchayat premises on occasion of 'Awala Navami' here on Tuesday. Thereafter all enjoyed lunch sitting beneath/ near the tree in the prem-

ises. In this festival, people from all sections of the society gathers and offer prayers and oblations as per their faith and devotion and meet each other and extended greetings as well. One such festival is that of 'Awala Navami' wherein women and children in large number offer prayers to Awala tree and then there is belief that taking lunch sitting beneath the tree, it offer blessings as the fruit and

Awala tree has lots of good health qualities and is important for humans.

The Awala plant planted in the Nagar Panchayat premises has now taken the form of a big tree and here there are more than 100 trees of 'Awala'. Here after cleaning the premises beneath the tree, the women offers prayers and during this the Nnagar Panchayat employees also were present and took lunch.

One JCB, Hywa seized illegally excavating 'Murrum'



Anwari, Nov 22:

The Mineral Department has once again become active and taking a major action seized JCB and one Hywa involved in illegal excavation of 'murrum'. The department was getting complaint about illegal excavation of 'murrum' from Banjari area of Kurud region for last few days. Taking prompt action on complaint by the villagers, the Mineral Department seized the JCB and one Hywa vehicle on the spot and took it under its possession. In this the person using JCB and Hywa belonged to gram Banjari itself.

'Gopashtami' celebrated in Gram Borjhara

By performing age-old traditions

Anwari, Nov 22:

'Gopashtami festival' was celebrated in Gram Borjhara coming under Rampur- Pali circle by the members of Kosaria Yadav Samaj (KYS) and the chief guest of the function was Hansu Falendra Sinha, Janpad member Kurud and it was chaired by Leela Ram Yadav President Yadav Samaj Kurud. The special guests on the occasion were Mahendra Sahu, Rahul Chandrakar, Santosh Yadav, Kamta Prasad Sahu, Milu Ram Sahu, Pilu Ram Nishad, Vasudev Patel, Parmanand Sen, Tejeshwar Kurre, Omprakash Banjare, Domar Singh Sahu, Narayan Lal Sinha,



Doman Lal Sahu, Nohar Yadav, Rajaram Patel, Gyanik Nishad.

The guests present and Rampur Pali Yadav Samaj members first garlanded the photo of Lord Shri Krishna and offered prayers. Pali Yadav Samaj (PYS) also took out massive 'Kalash Yatra' in the village and it passed through all main thoroughfares and concluded at venue near Sahada Dev at Bazar Chowk.

During this the guests offered prayers oil paint-

ing of Lord Shri Krishna and offered prayers to 'Gaumata' and 'Khichadi' was offered and celebrated the 'Gopashtami' festival as per the traditions. During this the guests also highlighted on the historical points related to 'Gopashtami parv'.

Youth President of Yadav Samaj Mahesh Yadav discussing with our correspondent informed that it is on 'Kartik Shukl Paksh' on the 8th day that 'Gopashtami parv' is celebrated. On this day, Lord

Shri Krishna started 'Gau Charan Leela'. On this day there is tradition to offer prayers to a cow and her calf. On this day by waking up early in the morning and taking bath, the cow and calves are offered bath as well and then prayers are offered and 'Khichadi' is served to them. On this day, Lord Shri Krishna dedicated his entire day for service to cow and since then it is on 'Kartik Shukl Paksh' that 'Gopashtami Parv' is celebrated.

In this programme Santosh Yadav, Mahesh Yadav, Chetan Yadav, Balram Yadav, Bhisma Yadav, Bodhan Yadav, Purshottam Yadav, Rammath Yadav, Shankar Yadav, Motiram Yadav, Toran Yadav, Devendra Yadav and others from Yadav Samaj were present in large number.

Paddy purchase starts with bio-metric system

In Gram Banji and Koudimar

Manendragarh, Nov 22:

Under the guidance of Collector and DJM Narendra Kumar Dugga, the purchase of paddy from paddy purchase centre (PPC) Banji started on Nov 21 and from PPC Koudimar on Dec 23-24 using bio-metric system. On the first day the paddy from Banji was purchased by the first farmer Prem Kumar Singh of Gram Chipchipi and 100 quintals from Koudimar by farmer Premlal A Raghunath.

Apart from this 19.20 quintal was purchased from Shambhunath. As per



information in this regard, there are total of 20000 gunny bags in PPC Banji and another 500 are PDS gunny bags which are available. Food Officer Sanjay Thakur directed the PPC in-charges to purchase paddy

with standard moisture content and as per the quality and standards laid down by the department. During this Nodal Officer, District Co-op Central Bank Ltd Anand Singh, Sarpanch and farmers were present.

Five gamblers arrested with cash of Rs 21000



Jagdalpur, Nov 22:

Kotwali police station of the district received information that some gamblers were gambling by betting cash by playing cards near Hata Ground of the city. Raid action was taken by the police team to act on the information. During the raid, 5 gamblers Arun Kumar Choubey, Budheshwar Thakur, Dharmendra Kumar Jhali, Bal

Mukund Rath and Harish Kumar Pathak were arrested on the spot. A cash of Rs 610 and Rs 21000 was recovered from the gambling lot along with pack of cards. Section 3(2) Gambling Act has been filed and all five have been taken into arrest. A criminal case has been registered under the Gambling Prohibition Act 2022 and action has also being filed.

Four cases of child pornography registered in one day

In Chuikhadan area of KCG

Khairagarh, Nov 22:

The police team of District Khairagarh, Chuikhadan and Gandai (KCG) has shown seriousness in child pornography case and according to which four pornography cases were registered in Chuikhadan case on one day. It is learnt that few anti-socials have made indecent videos of children viral by misusing the internet. Now the police has taken the matter seriously and is now on the action mode. It is notable here that keeping the videos of child pornography in the mobile or sharing it through social networking sites or forwarding comes under the category of serious crime. SP Khairagarh Ankita Sharma informed that not only in Khairagarh district, but in



entire state the Police department has launched campaign against cyber crime all over the state. The main reason behind these crimes is greed and on which the SP Sharma has made an appeal to always take precaution in answering to any unknown calls on the mobile and should get in touch with the police, without any fear, in case of any cyber fraud. She further said that they continue to get cyber tiplines related to child pornography and on which the police takes prompt action. In this regard she held the need to create more public awareness about the same.

Sensation in the area due to Narendra Pal's murder

Police arrested accused Sumit Das



Korba, Nov 22:

There was a sensation in SADA Colony under Darri police station in Korba when the news of murder of a person came to light. Narendra Pal Singh alias Rosie, working at Tata Motors Chhuri, was murdered. It has come to light that a person named Sumit Das was murdered, the reasons for which he committed the crime are not known. The police have filled the Panchnama of the body and sent it for post-mortem and are investigating the matter.

It is being told that the deceased was working at Tata Motors in Rosy Churi, who had gone to the accused's house for some work last night. It was here that the deceased had a dispute with the accused over some issue, after which the accused murdered Rosie. Accused Sumit Das works online in a company in Mumbai and lives on rent in Rishabh Kashyap's house located in Sada Colony. After the incident came to light, the police arrested the accused. The main reason behind this incident has not been revealed yet. At present the police is interrogating the accused, only after which this murder case will be revealed.

Accused arrested in minor's rape case

Khairagarh, Nov 22:

Khairagarh police has nabbed the accused involved in molestation of a minor girl with promise to get married. The victim got the report filed in the Thana that on Nov 15 at around 5:30 pm the accused Umesh Ghoghare, S/o Narayan Ghoghare, (23), R/o Gram Devkatta, Thana Dongargarh, District Rajnandgaon, had taken a minor girl with all sorts of allurements and false promises to her and took her to his relative's place in Gram Sutiya. It was staying with the minor girl the accused molested her for last two days and even threatened to kill her if any disclosure in this regard is made.



lice team was formed under leadership of TI Khairagarh thana Rajesh Devdas and the accused Umesh was taken into arrest from his residence in Gram Devkatta. On serious interrogation the accused accepted his crime and he was produced in the court and sent to judicial custody.

Wool market set to welcome winters

Fingeshwar, Nov 22:

The wool market of the region, with a variety of woollen clothes is all set to welcome winters, as slowly the season is gaining momentum in chill. Though the chill is yet to be felt, people are preparing themselves with woollen clothes and other accessories of winter season to brave the season. Shopkeepers of the region though have opined that, inflation has hit the woollen market too, as there is negligible purchase though stock from Delhi and Punjab has reached the shops. Meanwhile, people have started shopping for woollen for little children and school goers as per the requisite of the school calendar.



India resumes e-Visa services for Canadians after diplomatic row

Ottawa/New Delhi, Nov 22 (PTI): India on Wednesday resumed issuing electronic visas for Canadian nationals after suspending it following a diplomatic row over Ottawa's accusation of possible Indian government involvement in the murder of a Canadian Sikh separatist leader.

The latest move is being seen as a step that could reduce tensions between the two countries.

India had started issuing Entry visa, Business visa, Medical visa, and Conference visa from October 26 after halting its visa services for Canadian nationals following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of the "potential" involvement of

Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

Tensions flared between India and Canada in September after Trudeau's allegations. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". Days later, New Delhi announced it was temporarily suspending the issuance of visas to Canadian citizens and asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in India.

On Wednesday, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa issued a notice on X, saying Indian eVisa facility has been restored

with effect from 22 November 2023, for all eligible Canadian citizens holding Regular/Ordinary Canadian passports.

"Holder of any other category of Canadian passport will need to apply for regular paper visa, in accordance with the existing modalities - details may be found on the respective websites of High Commission of India, Ottawa; Consulate General of India, Toronto and Consulate General of India, Vancouver," it said.

eVisa may be applied at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>, the notice said.

Since Trudeau's remarks in the Canadian Parliament, India and Canada have expelled a

senior diplomat each. India has also forced "parity" in diplomatic presence at Canadian missions here leading to the withdrawal of 41 diplomats.

India has said that Canada had not provided any evidence to back Trudeau's claims.

"If you have a reason to make such an allegation, please share the evidence with us. We are not ruling out an investigation and looking at anything which they may have to offer. They haven't done so," Jaishankar said during a visit to the UK recently.

India had also asked Canada to come down hard on terrorists and anti-India elements operating from its soil.

INDIAN NAVAL SHIP SUMEDHA



Personnel of India's and Mozambique's Navy pose for a photo after Indian Naval Ship Sumedha as part of its ongoing extended operational deployment to Africa, arrived in Maputo, Mozambique.

SC accepts jailed former premier Imran Khan's bail plea

Islamabad, Nov 22 (PTI)

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday accepted for hearing the bail plea of jailed former premier Imran Khan in the cipher case and issued notices to the Federation and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), seeking their responses in the matter.

In March 2022, Khan and his foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were alleged to have violated the secret laws of the country while handling a communication (cipher) sent by Pakistan's embassy in Washington. The diplomatic cable reportedly went missing from Khan's possession.

A three-member bench comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, and Justice Yahya Afridi de-

clared as admissible the bail petition filed by the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chairman through his lawyer Salman Safdar.

At the outset of the hearing, Safdar read out loud the first information report registered against Qureshi and Khan in the case after which Justice Masood inquired how far the matter dated back to and the punishment it carries if a person is found guilty.

It is from 2022, the lawyer replied.

Safdar then briefed the court on the inquiry report and accusations made against the former prime minister in the case.

He added that Khan's then-principal secretary Azam Khan also accused the PTI chief of misusing the cipher.

Justice Masood then in-

quired whether the role of the co-accused was determined in the case.

The lawyer stated Azam Khan from being an accused was turned into a witness for the case.

He added that Azam was "kidnapped" and after the "kidnapping" his statement was recorded under Section 164.

"Look, this is how the truth comes out," said Justice Masood.

On this, Safdar then contended that his client was being politically victimised.

During the hearing, Justice Malik asked the lawyer what was the central ground of his case.

"Our case is that this case is not maintainable," responded Safdar. The sections included in the FIR against the PTI chief are those that are included in espionage offences.

Qatar announces Israel-Hamas truce-for-hostages deal



Palestinians evacuate survivors of the Israeli bombing in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Wednesday.

Jerusalem, Nov 22 (AP)

Qatar on Wednesday announced a truce-for-hostages deal between Israel and Hamas that would bring the first temporary halt in fighting in a devastating six-week war, win freedom for dozens of hostages held in the Gaza Strip, and also lead to the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said it would announce within a day when the clock will start ticking on a four-day truce, during which 50 hostages will be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Those freed by both sides will be women and children.

Humanitarian aid to besieged Gaza would also increase.

The announcement came hours after Israel's Cabinet approved the deal. It capped weeks of

indirect Qatari-led negotiations between Israel and Hamas, an Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years. The United States and Egypt were also involved in stop-and-go talks to free hostages.

Hamas said the deal includes the release of 50 hostages and 150 Palestinian prisoners, all women and minors.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the deal calls for a four-day cease-fire, during which Israel will halt its military offensive in Gaza while Hamas frees "at least" 50 of the roughly 240 hostages it and other militants are holding.

"The government of Israel is committed to bringing all of the hostages home. Tonight, the government approved the outline for the first stage of achieving this goal," the office said in a

statement. The statement made no mention of the release of Palestinian prisoners and increased humanitarian aid.

Hostage releases will begin roughly 24 hours after the deal is approved by all parties, said a senior White House official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive mat-

ters.

Ahead of the Cabinet vote, which came after a six-hour meeting stretching into the early morning, Netanyahu said the war against Hamas would resume after the truce expires.

"We are at war, and we will continue the war," he said. "We will continue until we achieve all our goals."

Israel-Hamas cease-fire to start Thursday morning

Jerusalem, Nov 22 (AP): Egypt's state-run Qahera TV says the Israel-Hamas truce will take effect at 10 am local time (0800 GMT) on Thursday.

Egypt helped mediate the four-day cease-fire, which will facilitate the release of dozens of hostages captured by

Hamas during its October 7 attack into southern Israel.

The deal will also see the release of dozens of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel and the entry of more humanitarian aid into Gaza. Israeli media also reported that the truce would begin Thursday at 10 am.

Germany to extradite an Italian man suspected in the killing of a woman

Berlin, Nov 22 (AP)

A German court on Wednesday ordered the extradition of an Italian man suspected in the killing of a 22-year-old woman that stirred outrage in Italy.

The Higher Regional Court in Naumburg, in the eastern German state of Saxony-Anhalt announced the 21-year-old suspect's extradition, according to German news agency dpa.

The suspect, Filippo Turetta, was arrested on the weekend near the eastern city of Leipzig and is currently in custody in Halle. The court said Turetta agreed to the extradition. He will remain in custody until he

is handed over to the Italian authorities. It was not immediately clear when the extradition would take place. Italy had requested his extradition on Tuesday, dpa reported.

Police in Germany over the weekend arrested Turetta, who had been on the run since November 11, when he was last seen fighting with 22-year-old Giulia Cecchetti, hitting her in a physical attack that was captured by roadside video cameras.

Cecchetti's body, reportedly with multiple stab wounds, was found wrapped in plastic on Saturday in a ditch near Lake Barcis, in the province of Pordenone north of Venice.

Pak's caretaker PM Kakar summoned by HC in missing Baloch students case

Islamabad, Nov 22 (PTI)

A top Pakistani court on Wednesday summoned caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar to personally appear before it on November 29 in a case involving 55 missing students from the restive Balochistan province and asked the government if it should refer the matter to the UN.

The Islamabad High Court directed Kakar to appear before it if he did not secure the recovery of the missing Baloch students according to the recommendations of the Baloch Enforced Disappearance Commission, Dawn News

reported.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani passed the order while hearing a case regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

The commission was established in 2011 to trace missing persons and fix responsibility on the individuals or organisations responsible for it.

At the previous hearing, held on October 10, the IHC instructed the state to fulfil its responsibility in recovering the missing Baloch students, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

At today's hearing, the additional attorney gen-

eral requested Justice Kayani to not summon the ministers or the prime minister. Expressing his disapproval, the judge said: "There is nothing wrong in this [summoning the Prime Minister and other ministers]. Everyone is trying to make a joke out of this [the case]."

He remarked, "What more injustice can there be towards the people of this country when they are being disappeared?"

"Should we refer this matter to the United Nations and cause an insult to our country?" the judge asked, expressing concern about the increasing number of missing people.

Four Indian nationals imprisoned for conspiring to steal apparel from retail store

Singapore, Nov 22 (PTI)

Four Indian nationals in Singapore were sentenced to between 40 and 65 days in jail for conspiring to steal over SGD 1,700 worth of apparel from a retail store by removing the items' price tags.

Shihora Ridham Mukeshbhai, 20, Hun Smit Ashokbhai, 21, Kuvadiya Milan Ghansyambhai, 26, and Chauhan Ruchi Sanjaykumar, 25, studied at different schools but lived together in the same apartment in Singapore.

They removed the price tags that contained radio-frequency identification (RFID).

By removing it, they contrived to steal the

items without setting off the store's security alarm, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

They then bought tote bags at the self-checkout area, stuffed the apparel into the bags, and pretended they had paid for all of their items.

The four shoplifters were on student passes in Singapore.

The youngest, Ridham, pleaded guilty to one count of theft in dwelling and another count of attempting to commit a similar crime. He was dealt the heaviest sentence.

The other three admitted to one count of theft in dwelling or attempted theft each. Other similar charges were taken into

consideration for sentencing. Deputy Public Prosecutor Maximilian Chew told the court that one of the shoplifting incidents happened on October 12 at the Uniqlo outlet in Orchard Central.

Three other Indian nationals, identified in court documents as Bhavik, 24, Vishal, 23, and Darshan, 22, were also involved in the conspiracy. Bhavik and Vishal planned to steal from the outlet and roped the rest into the plan. The group went to the store at around 6 pm that day, removed the price tags after picking the items, went to the self-checkout area and bought three tote bags to keep the apparel.

EGYPTIAN EXHIBITION



Visitors walk past the coffin of Ramses II, as part of the exhibition titled "Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs", at the Australian Museum in Sydney, Australia. The exhibition features a collection of artifacts including sarcophagi, animal mummies, jewelry, royal masks, amulets, and golden treasures showcasing the workmanship of Egyptian artisans.

University College London unveils 100 new scholarships for Indian students

London, Nov 22 (PTI)

University College London (UCL) has announced a new scholarship scheme to enable 100 of India's brightest students to study in the UK as well as its first-ever Summer School for pre-university students in the country.

UCL, one of the UK's leading universities, said on Tuesday that its new India Excellence Scholarships will support Indian students with an outstanding academic record to pursue full-time Master's degree studies at the institution.

For the 2024-25 academic year, 33 scholarships will be available for exceptional students who have or are on track to achieve a first-class degree. A further 67 scholarships will be awarded during the following two years.

"We are delighted to be able to offer these new and diverse opportunities that both illustrate our ongoing commitment to Indian students and strengthen our connection with India," said Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost of UCL.

"Indian students are vital members of UCL's global community and we are dedicated to providing more resources and support to help the very best of them share their knowledge and expertise with us in the UK," he said.

As part of the UCL India Excellence Scholarships, which the university describes as its most extensive Indian scheme to date, prospective Master's students in any discipline can receive 5,000 pounds towards their studies.

"I'm delighted that many of India's brightest young people recognise

the value of studying at a world-class institution such as UCL.

दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे
निविदा सूचना संख्या: काम/कां./पीएच/23, दिनांक 15.11.2023.

(1) कार्य का नाम: बिलासपुर मंडल के पुरवांसिन हाट-रेला स्टेशन में पांच (5) वर्ष की अवधि के लिए हाट काटेक्टर की नियुक्ति हेतु निविदा अधिसूचना। (2) स्टेशन के नाम: पुरवांसिन। (3) अनुबंध की अवधि: पांच वर्ष। (4) निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य: नि:शुल्क। (5) निविदा प्रारंभ की तिथि: 22.11.2023। (6) निविदा प्रपत्र के जमा करने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान: 21.12.2023 को 11:00 बजे से 21.12.2023 को 15:30 बजे तक बिलासपुर मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक, दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे, बिलासपुर। (7) निविदा सूचने की तिथि व समय: 21.12.2023 को 16:00 बजे। नोट: यदि अंतिम तिथि एक बरकरारी छुट्टी या घोषित छुट्टी किसी भी कारण के लिए होती है तो, निविदाओं को जमले कार्या दिवस पर खोला जाएगा।

प्रमुख मानदंड: 1. निविदा की तारीख पर आवेदक की आयु 18 वर्ष से कम नहीं होनी चाहिए। कक्षा दरवर्ती पास के पाठ्य बोर्ड में दक्षिण जर्मनी विद्यालय में सीमा पर जर्मनी के आधार के रूप में लिया जाएगा। 2. आवेदक को उरी हाट-रेला स्टेशन का रवारी निवासी होना चाहिए। आवेदक को आवासीय प्रमाण के लिए आइडेंटिफिकेशन, वेटरन आई की, राशन कार्ड, अकार्ड कार्ड या राहवीलद्वारा द्वारा जारी निवास प्रमाण पत्र की प्रती निवास प्रमाण के रूप में संलग्न किया जाना चाहिए। 3. आवेदक को उरी हाट-रेला स्टेशन से दूरी 100 से अधिक कि.मी. की दूरी पर निवास प्रमाण पत्र की प्रती संलग्न करनी होगी। इसमें यह स्पष्ट होना चाहिए कि वह किसी भी प्रकार की संलग्नक बीमारी से मुक्त है एवं उचित स्वास्थ्य सहायक सेवा करने के लिए ठीक है। 4. आवेदक को आवेदन पत्र के साथ राशन कार्ड/आयकर द्वारा जारी स्वस्थ प्रमाण पत्र की प्रती संलग्न करनी होगी। 5. आवेदक को अपने स्थानीय पुलिस स्टेशन से दूरी प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा। 6. आवेदक को अपने स्थानीय पुलिस स्टेशन से दूरी प्रमाण पत्र प्रमाण पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा कि उसमें निम्नलिखित कोई भी अपराधिक प्रकरण संलग्न नहीं है। निविदा दर्ताकरण, पाठ्य मानदंड विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए, वाणिज्य प्रबंधक, बिलासपुर मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक, दक्षिण पूर्व मध्य रेलवे, बिलासपुर, जर्मनीलाय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस पर संपर्क करें एवं निविदा दर्ताकरण प्रपत्र के साथ www.sec.in पर उपलब्ध है।

सीपीआर/10/305
दि. मंडल वाणिज्य प्रबंधक, बिलासपुर
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Global Waters Shared Prosperity

In the grand tapestry of international relations, few issues are as vital as the secure and unimpeded access to international waters for world trade. It is within these aquatic realms that the lifeblood of global commerce flows, and it is our solemn duty to safeguard this vital conduit of prosperity. India, with unwavering resolve, reiterates its commitment to the principles of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters. Our dedication to these global norms was emphatically proclaimed by our Defence Minister during a momentous address in Jakarta, where we stood shoulder to shoulder with our ASEAN partners and dialogue counterparts. In an era where collaboration and partnerships are the harbingers of peace and prosperity, it is disheartening to witness the escalating assertiveness of China in the South China Sea. Their strategy, marked by incremental advancements and territorial encroachments, has left our neighboring nations in a state of profound apprehension. China's disputes with a staggering 13 countries and its forcible occupations, such as Tibet, paint a troubling picture. In stark contrast, India remains steadfast in its commitment to a multilateral rules-based international order, emphasizing the sanctity of sovereignty and territorial integrity. China's expansionist policies have garnered global attention and, more often than not, warranted censure. Under the guise of infrastructure development, they ensnare neighboring nations in a web of debt, with projects that frequently prove financially unsustainable, exacerbating economic vulnerabilities. This coercive approach forces smaller nations to divert precious resources towards fortifying their territories, pushing them towards the brink of economic crises. In contrast, India extends a hand of friendship and cooperation, assisting smaller nations in critical infrastructure development across various sectors, from hydroelectric facilities to port development and healthcare facilities. Moreover, India's vision extends beyond regional boundaries. We have embarked on a visionary initiative—the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which seeks to connect the realms of Alexander's Greece and Porsus's India in the contemporary 21st century. This monumental undertaking, proclaimed during the G20 summit in New Delhi, has seen the European Union and a consortium of seven nations, including India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, and Italy, signing a memorandum of understanding. It exemplifies India's soft power—a power that transcends borders and fosters economic integration. The scrupulous adherence to international treaties designed to safeguard the world's oceans is imperative. In densely populated Asia, cooperation among nations can catalyze significant advancements in trade and bolster collective economies. India plays the role of a guide and mentor to its neighboring nations, refraining from initiating aggression and steadfastly respecting land and maritime borders. The consequences of conflicts are all too evident—loss of human lives, livelihoods, and adverse implications for food and energy security. Our Defence Minister's address underscores India's dedication to fostering a collaborative and secure regional environment. Together, the nations of the world possess the potential to wield substantial influence over global trade. However, the pervasive lack of trust and unity remains a formidable impediment. It obstructs regional progress and hampers the realization of shared objectives, casting a shadow on the promise of shared prosperity.

Empower Women A Global Imperative

Arka Goswami

Recent research conducted by the esteemed University of Oxford has laid bare a disquieting truth—a truth that should send shockwaves through our society and compel us to rethink our values and priorities. The revelation is nothing short of alarming: the rights and opportunities afforded to women in a given society are inextricably linked to the very structure of their brains. In this era of purported gender equality, where the battle for women's rights has made significant strides, the findings of this study are a harsh reminder that we still have much work to do. The study, which examined over 7800 individuals between the ages of 18 and 40, unearthed a distressing correlation between the prevalence of gender inequality and the thinning of the female brain. In regions plagued by gender disparities, such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the thickness of a woman's brain was found to be up to 5 percent thinner than that of her male counterpart. However, in Scandinavian countries like Sweden and Norway, where gender equality is more deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric, there was no significant difference in brain thickness between the sexes. In some areas, women even exhibited thicker grey matter than men. The implications of these findings are profound, as they point to the undeniable consequences of living in an unequal environment. The brain regions affected—the anterior cingulate cortex and orbitofrontal cortex—are crucial for managing stress and emotions. Prolonged exposure to gender inequality appears to damage the connections between brain cells and lead to the shrinking of grey matter. This phenomenon is not unlike the brain abnormalities observed in patients with schizophrenia, a stark reminder of the profound toll that gender inequality takes on a woman's mental health. However, we must remember that this is not an isolated issue affecting a few individuals; it is a crisis that threatens entire populations within regions. We must recognize it for what it is—a silent pandemic. If allowed to persist unchecked, it will undoubtedly erode the quality of our human resources, burdening our society with a legacy of diminished potential. A scarcity of women in academia, business, and the economy will have far-reaching consequences, hindering our collective progress. The responsibility for addressing this issue lies not only with governments but also with every family and individual. It is imperative that we treat women with the respect they deserve and provide them with the rights enshrined in our constitution and modern democratic norms. Governments must remain vigilant, monitoring access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for women. They should actively create diverse pathways for women to spread their wings and reach their full potential. A society's true strength lies in the well-being and empowerment of all its members. Women constitute a vital part of our social fabric, and their rights and opportunities should be upheld as a fundamental human right. To overlook or undermine this principle is to weaken the very foundation upon which our societies are built. We must strive for a future where gender equality is not just a lofty ideal but a lived reality for all. A society that values and empowers its women is a society that reaps the rewards of their boundless potential. It is a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can contribute to their fullest capacity, fostering innovation, progress, and a brighter tomorrow.

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

DEV UTHANI EKADASHI



Retailers purchase sugarcane at a wholesale market ahead of 'Dev Uthani Ekadashi', in Agra, Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Shooting our own foot

Misuse of medicines is making infections difficult to treat

SHOBHA SHUKLA



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and become resistant to (or no longer respond to) medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result of drug resistance, medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat. That is why AMR ranks among the top ten global health threats worldwide. "Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals, and results in critical medicines losing effectiveness to treat infections," said Thomas Joseph, Head, AMR Awareness, Advocacy and Campaigns, World Health Organization (WHO), at a recent pre-conference meet of 22nd International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA).

"AMR is associated with 5 million deaths a year. Besides this, there is the huge burden of morbidity and healthcare expenditure that can affect household welfare severely. The World Bank estimates that Global GDP could fall by \$1 to \$3.4 trillion annually after 2030 due to AMR," he added. The World Bank estimates that an additional 24 million people would be forced into extreme poverty by 2030 if no action is taken on AMR today. Drawing attention to World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) which is celebrated between 18-24 November every year, Thomas cautioned that "All stakeholders should realize that if we do not act now, we could go back to a pre-antibiotic era, when even simple infections become untreatable".

Antimicrobials should be regarded as global public goods
There are several issues of access and equity affecting AMR. "Research and development of new treatment options, including new antibiotics, is not prioritized due to a sector-wide market failure. As a

result, we are running out of treatment options and new drugs are not coming into the market. Even when new medicines finally reach the market, low- and middle-income countries are not able to access these due to intellectual property and pricing constraints. Antimicrobials should be regarded as global public goods. Governments should strengthen their health systems and push for universal health coverage, so that all have access to the needed antimicrobials prescribed by registered healthcare providers," said Thomas.

Be the change: Sharing personal experience of surviving AMR
Vanessa Carter, an AMR patient survivor, One Health advocate, Chairperson of the WHO Taskforce of AMR Survivors, and founder of The AMR Narrative was one of the speakers at the 3rd Annual Global Media Forum on AMR, hosted by Global AMR Media Alliance in lead up to WAAW 2023.

She shared her eye-opening personal experience of her battle with AMR
"In 2004, I was 25 years old. I had a severe car accident in Johannesburg, South Africa, and ended up in a hospital with a lot of massive injuries. I had been resuscitated on the side of the road, I was put on life support, I had multiple fractures in my face—a broken jaw and a broken nose—and also lost one eye. I also had a head injury, major abdominal injury, fractured pelvis, neck, and back injury. But the most complicated injuries were to my face, and it took me 10 years to recover from them, during which time I have had 4 different facial prosthetic implants," said Vanessa.

But the worst was yet to come. Six years into the accident and after her fourth implant, one day, while getting into her car, Vanessa saw moisture seeping all over her face. It was pus oozing out from her 4th implanted prosthetic. She underwent emergency surgery, and the doctors did "debridement" and reconstructive surgery to fix up the damaged tissue. Two weeks later, the infection returned. She got more of tissue reconstruction done. But the infection kept on returning and it worsened over time. This went on for the next 11 months during which she was kept under the care of several specialist surgeons.

Vanessa was eventually diagnosed with highly antibiotic resistant form of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) infection. She could not undergo any more surgeries for one year, as the doctors had to wait for tissue to recover. "I had to cover my face

as I looked terrible. My face was very red, full of fluid and swollen. I could not wear my artificial eye. I could not go to fetch my child from school because the kids would get scared looking at me", she recalls.

"I lost ten valuable years of my life between 25-35 years of age, being in and out of hospital, and not being able to look in the mirror without seeing a changed face. I nearly got a bloodstream infection and sepsis and almost died. But I am also living with a severe disability now—facial disfigurement which was partially caused by the accident but exacerbated by the fact that we could not treat this infection. When I learned about antibiotic resistance, it came as a surprise that why was it not a common knowledge even though it is such a widespread global threat," she shared in the forum.

Political commitment on AMR
World leaders at next year's UN General Assembly will be convening a United Nations High Level Meeting on AMR. "We are at a critical point in time to act against AMR. The attention to AMR is growing and it is rightly so. The UN High Level Meeting on AMR next year is a critical opportunity to further accelerate the action to AMR," said Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar, Uganda's Minister of State for Environment, and Member of Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). "Out of the 5 million AMR related human deaths that occur every year, most of them are happening in low- and middle-income countries. These are the countries where the burden of diseases is also higher. That is why Uganda is spearheading action against AMR across sectors such as human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and the environment," added Minister Beatrice.

One Health Approach
The health of humans, animals, (domestic and wild), plants and our environment are closely interlinked and interdependent. "This means that whatever happens to one of them, the others will be inevitably affected and impacted for better or for worse", says Javier Yangueros-Marcos, Head of Department Antimicrobial Resistance & Veterinary Products at World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). We cannot ignore one at the cost of another. Agrees Emmanuel Kabali, AMR Project Coordination Consultant at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), that "AMR is a complex issue that impacts human, animal, plant and environmental health. Antimicrobials are used exten-

sively in humans, and in animal and plant production".

"The drivers of AMR are in several sectors. Misuse or overuse of antimicrobials happen in human health, animal health, food and agriculture, and several other sectors", adds Dr Philip Mathew, Technical Officer, World Health Organization (WHO). As per WHO, One Health is an integrated unifying approach to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and our environment. By linking humans, animals and the environment, One Health can help to address the full spectrum of disease control and contribute to global health security.

Information, knowledge, action gap?
"When it comes to addressing AMR, mere information is not enough. Information has to be translated into knowledge and action. We need to bridge that knowledge-action gap. In context of sustainability, we often say - think global, act local. What we do at the local level or what we do in our house, community, school, or organisation, also makes a huge difference. Key message is grounded in promoting appropriate use of antimicrobials, and to stop misappropriate or inappropriate use of antimicrobials in human health, animal health and livestock, food and agriculture, and environment. That is why quadripartite agencies of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) have united to advance progress on One Health approach in addressing challenges such as AMR," said Wondwosen Asnake Kibret, Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, UNEP.

"Calling AMR a 'silent pandemic' might convey a wrong message that it is a very distant issue which may affect us sometime in the future". AMR is not a distant issue as it is killing millions right now - even one death is a death too many when it comes to preventable threats like AMR. AMR can happen to anybody at any time", cautions Philip. That is why all sectors across the One Health spectrum spanning human, animal, plant, and the environment must work together to ensure the responsible use of antimicrobials while taking preventive measures to decrease the incidence of infections. The medicines which we have today to combat diseases have to be handled with care and used responsibly.

What does sonar do to marine animals?
Some of the information on what noise might do to humans under water comes from studies and observations of animals. While they typically don't have outer ears (except for sea lions), marine

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BCCI's baffling omission

Kapil Dev Nikhanj, India's legendary all-rounder and the 1983 World Cup-winning captain, remains an icon of cricket history. Yet, a surprising omission at the ICC World Cup cricket final left him expressing his disappointment: "I wasn't invited," he said, raising questions about the BCCI's intentions. While film stars, politicians, and others graced the event, the man who transformed Indian cricket felt overlooked. Perhaps his open support for women wrestlers protesting in Delhi played a role. Kapil Dev, however, took the high road, praising Indian skipper Rohit Sharma on Instagram and urging the team to stay proud despite their final loss. Kapil's words remind us that even in defeat, this Indian team displayed remarkable consistency, and one setback should not define their incredible journey.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee

Citizen Responsibility

Air pollution is a severe threat to public health. The Supreme Court took a commendable step on November 7 by banning firecrackers, particularly those containing hazardous chemicals, across India. This proactive move aimed to curb air pollution and safeguard the environment. However, despite these rules, some reckless citizens persist in bursting firecrackers, endangering not only themselves but also their families and neighbors. The escalating air pollution affects our entire community. It falls upon us, vigilant citizens, to ensure collective efforts to maintain good air quality and control air and noise pollution, ensuring the safety of the air we all breathe.

Taufiqur Rahmani, Mumbai

T20 Series Concerns

The recent unveiling of India's squad for the upcoming T20 series against Australia has ignited discussions among cricket enthusiasts. While the prospect of our talented cricketers representing the nation is always thrilling, certain selection choices have left fans puzzled. The continued exclusion of Sanju Samson, despite his consistent performances in domestic and IPL matches, raises questions about the selection process's fairness. Additionally, appointing Suryakumar Yadav as the captain for such a vital series, while recognizing his skills, has surprised many. Clear explanations behind these decisions would provide much-needed transparency and ease concerns among passionate Indian cricket supporters. We urge the authorities to shed light on the selection process and ensure deserving talents like Samson are given fair opportunities based on performance and potential.

Maimul Safui, Howrah

What is a sonar pulse and how can it injure humans under water?

Christine Erbe

Over the weekend, the Australian government revealed that last Tuesday its navy divers had sustained "minor injuries", likely due to sonar pulses from a Chinese navy vessel. The divers had been clearing fishing nets from the coast of Japan. According to a statement from deputy prime minister Richard Marles, despite HMAS Toowoomba communicating with internationally recognised signals, the Chinese vessel approached the Australian ship and turned on its sonar, forcing the Australian divers to exit the water. The incident prompted a response from the Australian government, who labelled the incident "unsafe and unprofessional". But what exactly is a sonar pulse, and what kinds of injuries can sonar cause to divers?

What is sonar?

Light doesn't travel well under water even in clear waters, you can see perhaps some tens of metres. Sound, however, travels very well and far under water. This is because water is much denser than air, and so can respond faster and better to acoustic pressure waves sound waves. Because of these properties, ships use sonar to navigate through the ocean and to "see" under water. The word "sonar" stands for sound navigation and ranging.

Sonar equipment sends out short acoustic (sound) pulses or pings, and then analyses the echoes. Depending on the timing, amplitude, phase and direction of the echoes the equipment receives, you can tell what's under water the seafloor, canyon walls, coral, fishes, and of course ships and submarines.

Most vessels from small, private boats to large commercial tankers use sonar. However, compared to your off-the-shelf sonar used for finding fish, navy sonars are stronger.

What are the effects of sonar on divers?

This is a difficult topic to study, because you don't want to deliberately expose humans to harmful levels of sound. There are, however, anecdotes from various navies and accidental exposures. There have also been studies on what humans can hear under water, with or without neoprene suits, hoods, or helmets. We don't hear well under water no surprise, since we've evolved to live on land. Having said that, you would hear a sonar sound under water (a mid-to-high pitch noise) and would know you've been exposed.

When it comes to naval sonars, human divers have rated the sound as "unpleasant to severe" at levels of roughly 150dB re 1 Pa (decibel relative to a reference pressure of one micropascal, the standard reference for underwater sound). This would be perhaps, very roughly, 10km away from a military sonar. Note that we can't compare sound exposure under water to

what we'd receive through the air, because there are too many physical differences between the two.

Human tolerance limits are roughly 180dB re 1 Pa, which would be around 500m from military sonar. At such levels, humans might experience dizziness, disorientation, temporary memory and concentration impacts, or temporary hearing loss. We don't have information on what levels the Australian divers were exposed to, but their injuries were described as minor. At higher received levels, closer ranges, or longer exposures, you might see more severe physiological or health impacts. In extreme cases, in particular for impulsive, sudden sound (which sonar is not), sound can cause damage to tissues and organs.

What does sonar do to marine animals?

Some of the information on what noise might do to humans under water comes from studies and observations of animals. While they typically don't have outer ears (except for sea lions), marine

mammals have inner ears that function similarly to ours. They can receive hearing damage from noise, just like we do. This might be temporary, like the ringing ears or reduced sensitivity you might experience after a loud concert, or it can be permanent.

Marine mammals living in a dark ocean rely on sound and hearing to a greater extent than your average human. They use sound to navigate, hunt, communicate with each other and to find mates. Toothed whales and dolphins have evolved a biological echo sounder or biosonar, which sends out series of clicks and listens for echoes. So, interfering with their sounds or impacting their hearing can disrupt critical behaviours. Finally, sound may also impact non-mammalian fauna, such as fishes, which rely on acoustics rather than vision for many of their life functions.

(Writer is Director, Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Curtin University)

BRIEF

SDB inauguration



Surat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the newly-built Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) building, part of the Diamond Research and Mercantile (DREAM) City, in Gujarat on December 17, its office-bearer said on Tuesday. The SDB building is located at Khajod village near Surat city. A total of 135 diamond trading firms started operations at their offices at the SDB on Tuesday. Of these, 26 diamond traders permanently shifted their offices from Mumbai to SDB, while others were operating from Surat and other parts of Gujarat, SDB's media convener Jayanti Navadiya said in the statement.

Fully subscribed

New Delhi: The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Tata Technologies, which provides engineering and product development digital services, was fully subscribed within minutes of opening for subscription on Wednesday. The Rs 3,042.5 crore IPO received bid for 8,73,22,890 shares against 4,50,29,207 shares on offer, translating into 1.94 times subscription as per NSE data till 11:21 hrs. The category for non-institutional investors was subscribed 2.72 times while the quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 1.98 times subscription. The portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) got subscribed 1.63 times. Tata Technologies, an arm of Tata Motors, on Tuesday said it has collected Rs 791 crore from anchor investors. This is the first company from Tata Group to float an initial public offer in nearly two decades.

Hydrogen hub



Chennai: Tamil Nadu was leading the green energy transition revolution and was in the process of developing a green hydrogen hub, Industries Minister T R B Rajaa said here on Tuesday.

Road transportation

New Delhi: Promoting a safe transportation system requires a holistic approach, including engineering of roads, engineering of vehicles, enforcement, education and emergency care, International Road Federation president emeritus K K Kapila said on Wednesday. He also highlighted that India accounts for more than 11 per cent of global fatal road accidents, highest in the world.

Rupee volatility low, exhibited orderly movements relative to peers: RBI Gov

Mumbai, Nov 22:

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the rupee has witnessed "low volatility" and orderly movements as compared to its peers. Speaking at the annual FIBAC event, Das said household inflation expectations are becoming more anchored, but added that headline inflation is vulnerable to recurring and overlapping food price shocks. It can be noted that the rupee closed at an all-time low of 83.35 against the dollar on Monday, but gained some lost ground in Tuesday's trade. "On the exchange rate front, the Indian rupee (INR) has exhibited low volatility and orderly movements relative to peers despite elevated US treasury yields and a strong US dollar," Das said. He said this is courtesy the strength of the underlying macro-fundamentals of our economy and the reassuring forex buffers. In the last three or four days, the US DXY (dollar index) has slightly soft-



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das with IBA Chairman and MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of Mahindra Group Anish Shah, FICCI President Subhrakant Panda and SBI Chairperson Dinesh Kumar Khara during FIBAC 2023, organised by FICCI and IBA, in Mumbai, Wednesday, Nov. 22.

ened and treasury yields in the US have also softened. Crediting RBI's rate hikes, liquidity tightening moves and supply-side measures undertaken by the government for the headline consumer price inflation cooling off to 4.9 per cent in October, Das stressed that the RBI is "completely focused" on getting the headline inflation down to 4 per cent. The monetary policy will be "watchful" about the emerging trends and "actively disinflationary",

Das said, adding that it will be supporting growth as well. He said the softening in the core inflation gives the RBI the conviction that "monetary policy seems to be working". The headline inflation can come under pressure because of "overlapping and continuing shocks from food inflation", Das said. He also reiterated the Arjuna analogy to speak about the resolute focus of the central bank on inflation, and also borrowed from the 'Swayamvar'

scene in the mythological text to say that just like Arjuna focusing on the bird's eye while calculating the ripples and sound in the room, the central bank also takes into account various other aspects.

Meanwhile, he said household inflation expectations are becoming more anchored and cited recent surveys by the Reserve Bank which illustrate this. Das, who has been at the helm since 2019, said he has focused on communication to set the expectations of households and ensured that the central bank reaches the last person. He said the world is grappling with an unending stream of challenges like volatile commodities, uncertainty around monetary policies, geopolitical events and climate shocks since 2020, making it a "complicated and deadly mix of challenges". He also pitched for reforms in agri marketing and connected value chains for sustained high growth, durable price stability and mitigating price shocks.

FY24 to end with strong growth performance, macroeconomic stability: Finmin report

New Delhi: The current financial year should conclude as projected with a strong growth performance and macroeconomic stability as more than half of this fiscal has witnessed positive developments in the economy, a finance ministry report said on Tuesday. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a 6.5 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year ending March 2024. In the Monthly Economic Review for October, the ministry also said the downside risk will continue to be inflation that should keep both the government and the RBI on high alert. Financial flows in the external sector need constant monitoring as they impact the value of rupee and the balance of payments, the report said, adding that a fuller transmission of the monetary policy may also temper domestic demand. On the inflation front, it said the decline in international crude oil prices and continued moderation in core inflation are likely to control inflationary pressures going forward.

SBI's unsecured lending to see moderation after RBI's tightening: Chairman

Mumbai, Nov 22:

SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara on Wednesday said there will be "moderation" in the bank's unsecured lending portfolio following the Reserve Bank of India's tightening of norms. He said the impact of higher risk weights will have a 0.02-0.03 per cent impact on its net interest margins in the December quarter, but a better picture will emerge in the next quarter. "Whatever we were doing, we will continue to do, but there will be a moderation," Khara told reporters on the sidelines of a FIBAC event here, when asked about the RBI's tightening of norms. After asking lenders to be cautious, the RBI increased risk weights on unsecured lending for banks as well as non-banks earlier this month. The RBI has asked lenders to allocate more funds against each risky loan that will result in higher buffers in case of any stress. The move also means personal loans and credit card borrowings will become dearer. Khara said interest



rates on such loans will also go up as the cost of funds goes up, pointing out that there will be a capital cost that will have to be borne by the bank because of the new norms. About any possible change in risk perceptions, Khara said there will not be any change from a diligence perspective and that its norms were already "robust". He said the bank's gross non-performing assets from unsecured loans portfolio stands at 0.70 per cent. Earlier this month, Khara said the bank is not concerned with its unsecured loan portfolio and attributed the strong performance of the portfolio to its strategy of lending to salary account customers or those working for well-rated corporates.

Govt to meet social media platforms on deepfake issue today



New Delhi, Nov 22: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has called a meeting with representatives of social media platforms on the issue of deepfakes on Thursday, according to a source. The move comes amid concerns over misuse of technology and the government's firm resolve to push digital plat-

forms to crack down on deepfakes. According to a source, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will meet social media platforms on the issue of deepfakes on November 23. Recently, several 'deepfake' videos targeting leading actors went viral, sparking outrage and raising apprehensions over misuse of technology and tools for creating fake content and narratives. On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned that deepfakes created by artificial intelligence can lead to a big crisis and stoke discontent in society, and urged the media to raise awareness about its misuse and educate people.

Nirmala Sitharaman to inaugurate Digital Acceleration and Transformation Expo today

New Delhi, Nov 22: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Thursday inaugurate the Digital Acceleration and Transformation Expo (DATE), an event that will spotlight India's rising digital ambitions, its tech transformation and discuss new-age innovations. The two-day event will also see Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar speak about the growing impact of emerging technologies and India's digital aspirations, as the chief guest and speaker. The event - being hosted by Trescon - comes at a time when the nation's digital achievements and swift adoption of groundbreaking solutions are reshaping the economic landscape, positioning India as a force in the new world order and global value chains. DATE is



bringing together India's most influential and innovative technology leaders, startups, investors, enterprise decision-makers and policy makers at the Yashobhoomi (IICC Dwarika) in New Delhi. Sitharaman will inaugurate the event, according to a release. Notable speakers at the expo include Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; Tejasvi Surya, MP; and

Abhishek Singh, MD and CEO of Digital India Corporation (DIC), and President and CEO, NeGD. Other eminent speakers are Kamal Bali, President and Managing Director of Volvo Group in India and Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) South India; Sanjiv Bajaj, Joint Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Capital; Gopal Asthana, CEO of Tata CliQ; and Himanshu Chakrawarti, CEO of Snapdeal, among others. The power-packed sessions would see captains of the industry engage in brainstorming sessions on topics ranging from future of Generative AI, to rise of conversational commerce, and from democratising software development, to navigating multi-Cloud, AI, ML, Low-Code environment.

E-Sim to make tracking of lost smartphone easier: Airtel CEO

New Delhi, Nov 22:

Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service provider, today, in a customer letter emphasized the advancements in mobile technology with embedded SIMs (e-SIMs) and encouraged Airtel users to make the switch to an e-SIM. Bharti Airtel has streamlined the e-SIM upgrade process through the Airtel Thanks App, simplifying the transition from a physical SIM to an e-SIM. An e-SIM is an online extension of one's regular SIM card, eliminating the need to physically access SIM

card on one's phone. In today's digital first lifestyle and with increasing penetration of newer models of smart wearables, smartphones, etc being e-SIM enabled, the shift from physical SIM can provide seamless connectivity between multiple devices. In the customer letter, Gopal Vittal, MD and CEO, Bharti Airtel cited a few examples where an e-SIM comes in handy for users. Like when going for a morning jog, now Airtel e-SIM users can just wear their smartwatch and be connected to their phone without having to physically carry it.

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India unveils new corporate brand campaign

Spotlights New India's growth trajectory

Mumbai, Nov 22:

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) - a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel, two of the world's leading steelmakers - has announced the launch of a new television commercial titled 'Banaunga Main, Banega Bharat'. The campaign aims to evoke collective enthusiasm for and pride in India's progress and its diverse skilled workforce, who are powering the country's development. With a focus on engaging and motivating young people, the advertising film showcases recent national triumphs that underscore India's ad-

vancement in areas such as high value-added manufacturing, science, and technology. Building on AM/NS India's growing brand value, underpinned by the 'Smarter Steels, Brighter Futures' brand promise, this initiative serves as a platform to strengthen AM/NS India's position as a leading player in the sector. It also reflects the company's dedication to manufacturing steel which plays a fundamental role in driving the overall development of the country. Mr. Dilip Oommen, Chief Executive Officer, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS INDIA): "Building on our last year's

'Reimagining' campaign success, the latest endeavour reflects our unwavering commitment to contributing to a New India. In its journey towards the goal of Amrit Kaal, India is embracing steel-intensive growth through the Make in India program to ascend to new heights of prosperity. We are proud to be part of the country's progress - a bright spot in the world economy - with our brand promise 'Smarter Steels, Brighter Futures.' The advertising film has been created by Creativeland Asia, and will be rolled out by iProspect - a unit of Dentsu India - in the television and digital media space.

FASHION SHOW



Models walk the ramp showcasing a collection of bridal jewellery during a fashion show, in Kolkata.

NBFCs likely to see assets growth moderating to 16-18 pc in FY24: CRISIL

New Delhi, Nov 22:

India's NBFC sector is expected to record a moderate growth of 16-18 per cent in the current fiscal because of relatively slower expansion on unsecured retail loans due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the Reserve Bank of India, CRISIL Ratings said on Wednesday. Assets Under Management (AUM) of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are set to log a healthy 14-17 per cent growth next fiscal on the back of continued strong credit demand across retail loan segments, it said in a release. "Growth may be moderately lower than 16-18 per cent expected in the current fiscal, as unsecured retail loans, the fastest growing seg-

ment in the NBFC AUM pie so far, are likely to see a relatively slower growth as NBFCs recalibrate their strategies due to the recent regulatory measures issued by the Reserve Bank of India," it said. Going forward, diversification in product offerings and funding profile will be key constituents of their growth strategy, it added. The rating agency further said retail credit growth continues to be driven by sound underlying macro and micro factors. "Private consumption is trending well above the long-term average as retail spends on homes, vehicles and consumer durables remain strong. And backed by healthy balance sheets, NBFCs have been agile to ride this retail credit-growth

wave," it said. Speaking at a webinar, CRISIL Ratings Managing Director Gurpreet Chhatwal said the recent regulatory measures are targeted at unsecured retail loans and do not impact the secured asset classes where growth is expected to be steady. "Importantly, the regulatory changes do not impact HFCs," he said. According to the agency, the two largest traditional segments of home loans and vehicle finance now comprise 25-27 per cent each of the NBFC AUM. Both segments are expected to report steady growth. In the home loan segment, growth of 12-14 per cent next fiscal will be driven by HFCs' focus on affordable home loans (ticket sizes of less

than Rs 25 lakh), while vehicle finance is expected to grow 18-19 per cent this fiscal and sustain 17-18 per cent growth during 2024-25 on the back of solid underlying-asset sales. "Unsecured loans is now the third largest segment in the NBFC AUM pie. And this segment is likely to see a moderation in growth due to the regulatory measures which affect NBFC AUM growth on both their asset and liability sides on three fronts," said Chhatwal. As per CRISIL Ratings' estimates, bank loan borrowing costs for NBFCs could increase 25-50 bps. However, its impact on the balance sheets of NBFCs will be lower and linked to the extent of their reliance on bank funding.

Exports of Samsung, Apple mobile phones help boost shipments of electronic goods: DGFT

New Delhi, Nov 22:

Increasing exports of mobile phones by companies like Samsung and Apple are helping boost the electronic goods sector, a senior government official said. Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said there has been an "exponential" jump in exports of electronics goods from India. From 11th or 12th a few years back, the sector is the fifth highest exporting commodity from India now, he added. "The jump has been exponential and largely on account of Samsung and Apple phones being exported from our country. So, there are certain sectors which are going to see rapid



growth in exports and electronics, especially mobile phones and a lot of IT hardware...will become high export commodities in future," he said here at a function on MSME exports. Electronic goods exports rose by 27.7 per cent to USD 15.5 billion during

April-October this fiscal. The sectors like electronics, value-added agri products, renewable energy items like solar panels and modules, and electric vehicles would help in taking the country's goods and services exports to USD 2 trillion by 2030, he added. "I can see that there is an enthusiasm among exporters to send more and more value-added products. So, in the coming years, it will be a major sector for exports," Sarangi said, adding that the EV industry is also shaping up well. Large companies like Tata and Mahindra are experimenting big on these vehicles, and exports from this segment will also rise in the coming years, he noted.

Emphasis should be given on increasing paddy procurement: Collector

Intensive cataract testing campaign will be conducted from Nov 22 to 30

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Nov 22: Collector Vijay Dayaram K. emphasizing on increasing paddy procurement by giving priority to the work of common interest, directed the concerned departments and committee managers to get the paddy procurement work done on priority.

To speed up the cataract treatment activities in the district, the Collector gave instructions to conduct an intensive cataract testing campaign from Nov 22 to 30. The Collector gave the above instructions in the time-limit meeting on Monday evening.

The Collector congratulated all the officers for conducting the election work smoothly and successfully completing the

Bastar migration program of the special guests.

During the discussion on time-limit issues in the meeting, discussions were held regarding improving the system of Lala Jagdalpuri Library. Besides, instructions were given to complete the road bridge construction in Bodli area on priority.

On this occasion, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, DFO Uttam Gupta, Addl Collector CP Baghel, Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi and district level officers of all de-



partments were present.

In the meeting, the progress of construction work of urban PHC and availability of doctors were discussed. Also instructions were given to conduct a compaction screening campaign for cataract from Nov 22 to 30.

Apart from this, he also asked to run a campaign for making Ayushman card from Nov 23.

In the meeting, the progress of the sub-division and Tehsildar office under construction was reviewed and all SDMs were instructed to in-

spect the said works.

Instructions were given to give utility certificate and completion certificate of the progress of works approved under Bastar Area Tribal Development Authority and other development fund works by the construction

Livestock, Fisheries and Agriculture Department. The Collector discussed about the index of aspirational district, work of NRLM, providing insurance claims to the members of self-help groups.

The Collector asked the District CEO to provide information about the progress of the works of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, cash and non-Aadhaar information in the pension schemes operated under the Social Assistance Program on priority basis.

After the meeting, after reviewing the works related to CSR items, emphasis was laid on getting the works completed on priority basis. He asked NMDC officials to conduct joint inspection and release funds for the completion of the works.

Three die, one injured as car hits two bikes

In Nagpur road accident

Central Chronicle News

Nagpur, Nov 22: In a road accident on Nagpur road, three persons died. It is learnt that the car driver who was in the state of intoxication hit the two on the bike. In the bike a brother and sister were going to Badawar of Surajpur viz. Bilal and Sairabano died on the spot.

In another bike, there was a man and woman andin which Shankar Rai of Gram Semra died, whereas the woman Neeta Jaiswal, R/o Bachara Podi got injured and she has been referred to hospital for treatment. The car driver Rajendra Yadav and Kishan Baiga R/o Kotama are getting treatment in Manendragarh hospital.



The driver of the car is absconding from the place. Similarly in the road accident of Barbaspur of NH-43, five persons have died in last two days under Nagpur CHowki. Just a day before, two persons have died on Nagpur-NH-43.

Training of four districts for vote counting work

Master trainers of State Election Commission imparted training

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Nov 22: Training for four districts Bastar, Sukma, Dantewada and Bijapur was given in the Prerna Hall of the District Office for the vote counting work to be held on December 3 under Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections-2023.

The master trainer who arrived from the State Election Office gave information on other important topics like preparation before counting of votes, arrangement of human resources and necessary resources, counting of postal ballot, arrangement of counting of votes through EVM machine, counting software, arrangement of filling index card.

Detailed information was given about the rules



to be followed in the strong room and counting room for the counting day. The entire process of postal ballot counting and control unit counting was explained.

On this training, CEO District Panchayat Prakash Sarve,

Additional Collector CP Baghel, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, Deputy District Election Officer Hitesh Baghel, Master Trainer Rupesh Verma, Rashmi Verma, Sunil Sharma and Deputy District Election

Officers of all four districts were present in the training.

Also all the returning officers, assistant returning officers, police officers for security, information officers of NIC and trainers of the districts were also present.

Discussion held on proper utilization of ground

Including better maintenance; in the meeting of Hata Ground & City Ground sub-committee

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Nov 22: Hata Ground and City Ground located in the heart of Jagdalpur city are the heritage of the city, it is the responsibility of all of us to decorate and maintain it for the future generations.

Collector Vijay Dayaram said this in the meeting of Hata Ground and City Ground sub-committee of Bastar Stadium and Sports Ground Operation and Promotion Committee in Astha Room of the Collectorate, here on Wednesday.

In the meeting, ideas for the use of Hata Ground



and City Ground including better maintenance were discussed - The decision was taken after discussion.

Collector Vijay said during the meeting that in order to provide necessary facilities to the sports talents of Bastar, it is necessary to maintain these two sports grounds of the city in good condition. The players should consider the infrastructure that has been created as their own

and use it.

'We will all together make positive efforts in this direction'. The Collector asked to take necessary initiatives under the chairmanship of the Municipal Corporation Commissioner for necessary infrastructure development and maintenance of both the playgrounds.

Under which grass cutter machine, water system, security guards etc.

are included. The members of the sub-committee also gave their valuable suggestions for the development and maintenance of both the above mentioned sports grounds of Jagdalpur city.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, District Sports Officer Rajendra Dekate and members of the sub-committees related to both the sports grounds were present in the meeting.

Maintain safe-distance from alcohol: Thakur

People in rage committing serious crimes

Korea, Nov 22: Additional SP Monika Thakur said that majority of the road accidents and crimes are taking place due to consumption of alcohol. She informed that it is just in sudden enrage-ment that incidents like murders are taking place.

Expressing concern that coming under influence of alcohol a person loses his mental peace and balance and is giving rise to such incidents. She made an appeal to the youth never to drink and drive and always use seat belt while driving four wheeler and wear helmets while driv-



Monika Thakur

ing two-wheelers and always drive carefully.

Thakur further said that be it the case of fami-

ly dispute or that of property dispute or case of doubting husband or wife's character, it is only after consumption of alcohol that people are indulging in crimes like murder and molestation and others.

She said that liquor is a very bad habit and it always spoils not only an individual's life, but his entire family. She made an appeal to all heads of the society to contribute in saving societies, families from falling victim of habitual drinking and save the society from such crimes.

Accused nabbed in an attempt for murder of two

On some old property dispute

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Nov 22: The Magarlod police has nabbed the accused of making a life-threatening attempt using a sharp-edged iron weapon after scolding a person over some old land dispute and when the person asked not to scold him.

As per information in this regard the complainant Ramraj Sahu came face-to-face with the accused Dhansai Sahu over some land dispute last on Nov 19 at around 7:45 pm and started scolding him. On this the Ramraj's son Ukesh Sahu



asked him not to use foul language and on which the accused left the house with warning for threat to his life.

He came back immediately holding a 'tangiya' (iron made sharp edged

weapon) in his hand from his house and attacked Ukesh Sahu on upper part of his left ear with an intention to kill him. He got seriously injured and started profusely bleeding. When Ramraj tried to

take him away, the accused Dhansai again attacked him below his neck area and facing which he also started bleeding from the chest area. It was based upon the complaint, a case of an attempt for murder

was lodged against the accused.

As per instructions by SP Prashant Thakur for immediate action, it was under guidance of Adll. SP Madhulika Singh and under leadership of SDOP Kurud KK Vajpayee, the TI Dhamtari thana was asked to get the medical examination of the two injured person and noted the statement of the witnesses at the site of the attack and recovered the 'tangiya' used by the accused to attack the two.

The Magarlod police filed a case under section 307 of IPC and sent him to judicial remand. The accused is Dhansai Sahu, S/o Pyarelal Sahu (35), R/o Gram Rakadih, Thana Magarlod, Dhamtari.

Dy. Director appeals farmers not to burn stubble

In their farms

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Nov 22: The harvesting of 'Khariff' crop is nearing completion and after which generally there is incident of stubble burning starts and it leads to release of many poisonous gases including carbon mono-oxide, nitroxide causing pollution and it is very much harmful for humans and animals as well.

Set aside this by burning the stubble in the fields it also destroys the micro elements in the soil including the small insects reducing

the soil's quality and moisture content and it leads to loss of friendly insects like ringworms, spiders etc.

Dy. Director Agriculture informed that if there is at all any incident of stubble coming which comes to notice of the department, then a penalty will be imposed and under this for a farmer with 2 acre land, a penalty of Rs 2500 will be charged and for farmers with 2.5 acre land, penalty of Rs 5000 will be charged and for farmers above 5 acre penalty of Rs 15000 will be charged apart from provision of imprisonment. Dy. Director informed that they have



asked the farmer not to burn the stubbles in the farm, rather make proper arrangements for its removal.

In the suggestions issued, after the crop harvesting in the field the farmers are advised to plough the

field and sprinkle some water on it and then 'Trichoderma' should be sprayed over it. It is after deep ploughing in the field after this the remaining of the crops turns into fertilizer and it helps in providing essential elements for the

next crop.

In the land restored with stubbles and the carbonic elements which forms the quality of soil, not only help in improving its fertility, but it also helps in improvement of soil's content and moisture and others elements, apart from increasing water storing capacity of the soil.

The stubble of paddy can be used as digestive and good supplement as fodder for animals after treating it with urea. Dy. Director Agriculture has made an appeal to all the farmers not to burn the stubble in their farms and help in preserving the environment.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha keeps devotees immersed

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Nov 22: On the sixth day of Shrimad Bhagwat Katha going on in village Sonpur, Govardhan Sharan Maharaj Shirakatti Dham Kutena described the incident of Krishna Bal Leela, butter theft and Govardhan Puja in the story.

He said that to protect the people of Brij from the torrential rains, Krishna held Govardhan Mountain on his smallest finger for seven days and the Gop-Gopikas lived happily under its cover and God placed Govardhan down and ordered to celebrate Annakoot festival by performing Govardhan puja every year.

Since then this festival started being celebrated by the name of Annakoot. Hearing the story, the Lord devotees became emotional



and describing Shri Krishna's act of stealing butter, the seer further said that when Lord Krishna came out of the house for the first time, he formed a circle of friends outside Brij and all the friends used to go together to steal butter every

day, as Lord Krishna was mischievous in his childhood. There is huge enthusiasm among the devotees to listen to the story related to various Leelas of Lord Shri Krishna and to become participants in the story in large numbers.

New Format, New Beginnings

India's young T20 stars face first real test vs Australia

Visakhapatnam, Nov 22 (PTI):

Suryakumar Yadav will have to suppress the massive disappointment of a World Cup final defeat somewhere in the deeper confines of his heart while leading a sprightly bunch of 'Gen-Next' stars against a strong Australian side in a five-match T20 International series, starting here on Thursday.

The scars of defeat are too deep and it would take time for those wounds to heal.

With just around 96 hours of turnaround time from World Cup to the next series, it hardly leaves 'SKY' with any chance of introspection as he gets ready to play his favourite format.

As the captain of the side, he will not only want to win the series but also check out some of the best young Indian exponents of the shortest format, who will be on trial for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in June and July in the Americas (West Indies and USA).



The young guns like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Jitesh Sharma and not-so-young Mukesh Kumar have all made their international debuts in past few months but their first real Test will be against a very strong Australian T20 side which will have some of their World Cup heroes like opener Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and former skipper Steve Smith in its ranks.

Then there are IPL performers like Marcus Stoinis, Nathan Ellis, Tim David to name a few and



Australia's Marcus Stoinis bowls during a practice seeing ahead of the T20I match between India and Australia, at Dr YSR ACA VDCA Stadium, in Visakhapatnam, Wednesday.

even the T20 side, without its premier pacers, bears a formidable look under Matthew Wade, who will be leading in the series.

With skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul not being con-

sidered for the shortest format since the 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final defeat, one will get a real idea about the bunch of players, earmarked by the national selectors for next year's mega event.

Seamer Mukesh Kumar eyeing a long run with Indian team

Visakhapatnam: Right-arm seamer Mukesh Kumar, who made his international debut across all formats earlier this year during the West Indies tour, has set his sights on a long stint with the Indian team starting with the upcoming T20I series against Australia.

The 30-year-old Mukesh is determined to make the opportunity count as he looks to build on his success earned in the domestic circuit and the Indian Premier League, which led to his national call-up.

"I want to regularly play for my country, that will be my first achievement. I want to continue focusing on the processes. I am seeing the results of sticking to them, so, I want to keep focusing and moving forward," he told Jio Cinema.

Mukesh, who plays for the Delhi Capitals in the IPL, believes that the T20 competition produces "toughest matches" and help the Indian



players prepare well. "IPL produces the toughest matches. All teams are filled with international players and that too, they are amongst the best. To play on this stage is really very tough and a very good experience for me," Mukesh said. Having shared the dressing room with senior India pacer Ishant Sharma, Mukesh recognises the support the lanky pacer has provided to him. "As far as the role of Ishant bhaiya (Sharma) is concerned, he supported me a lot. He explained my role in the team very clearly, so I just wanted to be honest with what I was expected to do," he said.

Lakshya, Srikanth lose in China Masters



Shenzhen, Nov 22 (PTI):

Star Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth suffered contrasting losses to bow out of the China Masters badminton tournament -- the season's last BWF Super 750 event -- here on Wednesday.

World No. 17 Sen, who won the Canada Open this year, went down 19-21 18-21 to seventh-seeded Chinese Shi Yuqi, while world No. 24 Srikanth suffered a 15-21 21-14 13-21 loss to world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

It was a third consecutive first-round exit on the World Tour for Srikanth, who has just four quarter-final finishes to show this season. Both Sen and

Srikanth are fighting to be inside the top 16 by April 28 next year to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Young Indian Priyanshu Rajawat also bowed out after losing 17-21 14-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in 46 minutes.

Srikanth lagged behind in the opening game from the start as Vitidsarn grabbed an 11-6 advantage at the break. The Indian narrowed down the lead to 12-13 but the Thai moved ahead to take the opening game. Srikanth soon regrouped and opened a slim 3-0 lead. Thereafter, there was a tight fight but the Indian managed to establish a 13-10 advantage after the break and kept his distance to roar back into the contest.

'Challenge is to make yourself ready in such a short time'

Melbourne, Nov 22 (PTI)

Gearing up for their first Test at home in almost a decade, Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur feels the biggest challenge will be to adapt to red-ball cricket in a short span of time given the hectic international schedule.

The Indian team is scheduled to play two Tests at home -- first against England from December 14 at Navi Mumbai followed by a match against Australia beginning December 21 in Mumbai.

However, the lack of enough red-ball cricket for the Indian women is a concern for Harmanpreet, who has played just three



Tests in her illustrious career so far.

"The Test series is something which we are really looking forward to because I haven't played in front of a home crowd [since 2014], so I'm really excited for that," Harmanpreet was quoted as saying.

"The challenge for us is that we haven't played with the red ball. We have

been playing with the white ball for so many years.

"Even in domestic cricket also, we don't have red-ball cricket back home. So the challenge for us is to make yourself ready in such a short time."

Harmanpreet has scored just 38 runs at an average of 7.60 in 3 Tests but has nine wickets to her name that she claimed during her only home Test in November 2014 against South Africa. Her remaining two Tests were against England in Wormsley (2014) and Bristol (2021).

While she is currently in Australia for Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), Harmanpreet will be playing Melbourne Renegades' final game versus

Melbourne Stars at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 25, leaving her just 19 days to prepare for the England Test beg.

However, she would also be featuring in the three-match T20I series against England beginning December 6, which precedes the Test, thus curtailing her red-ball preparations.

Harmanpreet had planned on practising with the red ball during her WBBL stint but the packed schedule has sent her plans for a toss. "I had that thought if I can simultaneously do some red-ball practice also, but because it's such a packed schedule you can't mix things," she said.

Gambhir returns to Kolkata Knight Riders as 'mentor'

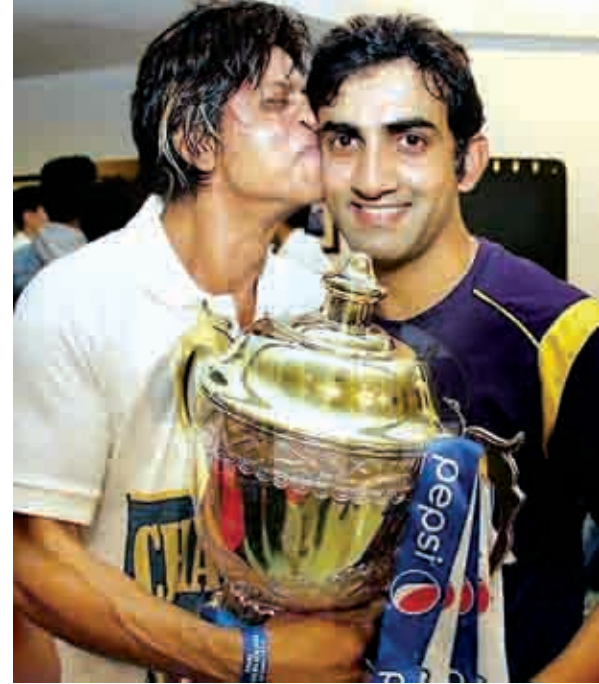
Kolkata, Nov 22 (PTI):

Gautam Gambhir was on Wednesday named the 'mentor' of Kolkata Knight Riders, an IPL franchise that he had led to title victories in 2012 and 2014.

Gambhir, the hero of India's T20 and 50-over World Cup wins, had led Shah Rukh Khan-owned-KKR from 2011 to 2017 before parting ways. For the past two seasons, he was at the helm of Lucknow Super Giants as their 'mentor'.

Lucknow qualified for play-offs in both seasons but were unable to go the distance which prompted the franchise to bring in former Australia opener and T20 World Cup winning coach Justin Langer as their Head coach.

Once the Sanjiv Goenka-



owned franchise roped in Langer, Gambhir's exit was always on the cards.

A lengthy meeting between Gambhir and Shah Rukh at Bollywood superstar's Mumbai home had created a lot of buzz but both LSG and Gambhir had vehemently denied his exit. Venky Mysore, the all-powerful CEO of KKR, announced that Gambhir will join hands with head coach Chandrakant Pandit.

"I am not an emotional person and not many things move me. But this is different. This is back to where it all started. Today, there is a lump in my throat and fire in my heart as I think about slipping into that purple and gold jersey once again," Gambhir was quoted as saying in a press note, issued by franchise.

Haris Rauf's PCB contract could be revised after refusing to play Tests

Karachi, Nov 22 (PTI)

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf faces the risk of being downgraded in his central contract and could also be denied permission to play the Big Bash League after opting out of next month's three-match Test series in Australia.

A reliable source said that some senior officials in the Pakistan Cricket Board were unhappy at the attitude of Haris and also over the statements made by his Lahore Qalandars coach Aqib Javed, who defended the express pace bowler.

Pakistan's new chief selector Wahab Riaz hit out at Haris on Monday for first agreeing to be considered for the Tests in Australia before making himself un-



available two days later citing workload and fitness concerns. Wahab, himself a fast bowler who appeared in three World Cups, made it clear that being a centrally contracted player, Haris should have been available for the Test series.

"I and the Director of Pakistan team, Muhammad Hafeez, we went and spoke

to him in detail and told him that both the captain and coach wanted him (Haris) to play in Australia as he was an impact bowler and we assured him he would not bowl more than 10-12 overs in a day in Australia," Wahab had said at his press conference while announcing the squad for Australia.

Six franchises spend Rs 3.9 crore to select 145 players in UKK players draft

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22 (PTI):

Six franchises picked up 145 players from a pool of 290 exponents during the Ultimate Kho Kho (UKK) Season 2 draft, held here on Wednesday.

On a day when the franchises spent Rs 3.9 crore, 18 players were retained, while 33 youngsters between 16 and 18 years of age were also picked. Mumbai Khiladis picked 16-year-old Sunil Patra from Odisha, while 17-year-olds M Mugilan of Puducherry and Maharashtra's Ganesh Borkar were drafted by Chennai Quick Guns and Rajasthan Warriors respectively. Maharashtra's Mahesh Shinde became the first pick of the draft for the second successive season. The 28-year-old defender was drafted by Mumbai Khiladis, which also retained Gajanan Shengal and Sreejesh S

after their impressive performances in the inaugural edition. Vijay Hajare, Adhithya Ganpule and Laxman Gawas were the other star players to be picked by Rajasthan Warriors, Telugu Yoddhas and Chennai Quick Guns, respectively. Gujarat Giants and Rajasthan Warriors drafted 25 and 22 players respectively to complete their squads, while defending champions Odisha Juggernauts too ensured a good balance of youth and experience.

"Ultimate Kho Kho will be driving young Indian fans in Season 2. What makes it special is that 33 players in Season 2 will be between 16 and 18 years of age. With an average age of 22.5 years, Season 2 is poised to be faster, stronger and bolder," UKK CEO and League Commissioner Tenzing Niyogi said in a statement.

Hundred to expand to 10 teams to attract Indian and US investors

London, Nov 22 (PTI):

"The Hundred", the lucrative short-form cricket league run by the England and Wales Cricket board (ECB), might be expanded to 10 teams in a bid to attract investors from India and US, according to a leading British newspaper.

According to a report in 'The Telegraph', ECB will continue to hold meetings with counties to discuss the road ahead with "a further two teams to be added to the Hundred in the coming years."

"It is understood the buyers from India and the US are already showing interest in the current eight teams," the report stated.

The league which was launched two years ago hasn't been able to estab-



lish itself overseas and there have been reports of Indian Premier League franchises showing interest in taking a stake in buying Yorkshire County

Cricket Club.

The report said that the expansion to 10 teams would happen in the next five years and "the likeliest locations are the south-west, in Bristol and Taunton, and the north-east, at Durham".

Private equity firm Bridgepoint had offered 300 million pounds for a 75 per cent share of the whole competition last year on the basis that the competition remains a closed league without promotion and relegation, which was rejected by ECB. However, under chief executive Richard Gould and chair Richard Thompson, ECB opened discussions with the counties this year, offering five options to counties after the season ended.

Croatia seals final automatic qualifying spot for Euro 2024

Washington, Nov 22 (AP):

Croatia overcame some nerves and a stubborn Armenia team to win 1-0 and secure the last automatic qualifying spot for next year's European Championship.

The Croats needed a win to guarantee qualification along with Group D winner Turkey. But it was tense in Zagreb until midfielder Ante Budimir headed in Borna Sosa's cross in the 43rd minute.

The celebrations were tinged with relief for 38-year-old midfielder Luka Modric and a Croatia team that had 23 attempts on goal. A slipup would have given Wales hope if it beat Turkey in Cardiff, but

coach Rob Page's team drew 1-1. Neco Williams put the Wales ahead early before attacking midfielder Yusuf Yazici equalized with a penalty in the 70th.

The top two finishers from each of the 10 groups advance, while host Germany was automatically qualified.

Wales now hopes to be one of the three teams qualifying via the playoffs in March with 12 teams involved.

Elsewhere, France's perfect record in qualifying came to an end when it drew 2-2 at Greece in Athens. Kylian Mbapp hit the crossbar in the final seconds after coming off the bench for World Cup runner-up France.

Argentina beats Brazil 1-0 in World Cup qualifying

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 22 (AP):

Many fans came to the Maracana Stadium to watch Lionel Messi in his likely last match in Brazil, a superclásico in World Cup qualifying against the hosts.

Instead, they saw Nicoló Otamendi score the only goal in a 1-0 win for Argentina after a brawl between fans that delayed the start of the game.

The World Cup champions inflicted the first home defeat on Brazil ever in World Cup qualifying. It was Brazil's third consecutive loss in the round-robin tournament another negative mark for new coach Fernando Diniz.

Messi left the pitch in the 78th minute amid a



Brazil's Andre pulls the jersey of Argentina's Lionel Messi during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

mixture of jeers and applause from Brazil fans. Dozens of children arrived at the Maracana wearing the shirts of Barcelona, the star's previ-

ous club, and Inter Miami.

The Argentine star wasn't able to end one of his last barriers in the sport at the Maracana, though, to score against the

Brazilians in a World Cup qualifier: Argentina will return home not only after the South American qualifying standings but also having given its fans one more chance to celebrate a victory at the historic stadium in Rio de Janeiro. Two years ago, ngel di Maria scored the only goal in an empty Maracana to give his team the Copa America title.

The violent pre-match incident, starting shortly after the national anthems, stalled the start for 27 minutes. Argentina, led by Messi, headed to the locker rooms for 22 minutes. At least one fan left the stadium bleeding from his head. Rio police said they had arrested eight people due to the brawl.

Mexico and Jamaica come from behind late to qualify for 2024 Copa America

Mexico City, Nov 22 (AP)

Edson Alvarez saved Mexico from elimination with a goal in the 11th minute of second-half stoppage time and El Tri beat Honduras 4-2 on penalty kicks Tuesday night to qualify for next year's Copa America along with Jamaica, which rallied past Canada.

Mexico's Cesar Huerta was twice allowed to retake his penalty kick in the shootout after two saves by Edrick Menjivar when Salvadoran referee Iván Barton ruled the goalkeeper moved too early. Huerta scored on his third attempt for the 4-2 lead and

Andy Najar, who spurned the USA national team to play for Honduras, put his shot wide as Mexican players celebrated. Honduras led 2-0 from Saturday's win in Tegucigalpa, but Mexico tied the aggregate score 2-2 in the home-and-home, total-goals series on goals by Luis Chavez in the 43rd minute and by Alvarez, who scored 1 1/2 minutes after the nine minutes of stoppage time that was signalled. Jamaica rebounded from a 2-1 home loss in the first leg and a one-goal halftime deficit for a 3-2 win at Toronto. That left the aggregate 4-4, and the Reggie Boyz advanced on 3-2 away goals.



PM slams Cong, says anyone who speaks truth in party is shunted out

Jaipur, Nov 22 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday accused the Congress of punishing Sachin Pilot after meting out the same treatment to his father Rajesh Pilot, saying anyone who speaks the truth in the party is shunted out of politics.

"Whoever said or spoke anything in front of the Congress family...is as good as finished," he said addressing a public meeting in Kotri of Bhilwara district.

"Rajesh Pilot ji had once challenged this Congress family for good, but this family is such that after punishing Rajesh ji, they are bent upon punishing his son also," Modi said.

He was apparently suggesting that late Rajesh Pilot lost favour with the Congress leadership after contesting against Sitaram



Kesri for the party president's post in 1997.

Sachin Pilot has been involved in a power tussle with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and the prime minister has been referring to it in his poll campaign.

Modi also charged that Congress makes anti-people and anti-national decisions. "Congress policy is to be soft on terrorists, rioters and criminals. And the policy of Congress is blatant corruption. These policies of Congress have taken

Rajasthan to the top in crime," he said.

Modi said the pride of Rajasthan is the pride of the entire country, but under the rule of Congress, the culture of Rajasthan is also under great threat.

"The path taken by Congress for appeasement will lead Rajasthan towards destruction. Congress has given free rein to fanatic people here," he charged.

He said Chief Minister Gehlot does not have the right to stay even for a moment in the state.

"When ministers give clean chit to rapists in the Assembly, how can our mothers, sisters and daughters remain safe? Congress has left no stone unturned in looting Rajasthan in the last five years," Modi said.

The need of the hour is to remove the Congress government from Rajasthan forever.

"Your one vote for lotus

can wipe out Congress. The lotus button should be pressed and Congress should be wiped out," Modi told the gathering.

Earlier addressing a rally in Sagwara of Dungarpur district, Modi asserted that his guarantee outweighs all "false promises" made by the Congress, and asked the people of Rajasthan to wipe out the Gehlot government to free the state from oppression and corruption. Modi's guarantee, he said, begins from where the hope from Congress for welfare of poor and public ends.

"Wipe out Congress and free Rajasthan from riots, crimes and corruption. Congress departure is also necessary for quick implementation of Centre's schemes," he said.

He said that the Congress government has "committed scam" in every government recruitment in Rajasthan.

PUBLIC MEETING



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot during a public meeting ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Malpura, Wednesday.

'TPCC chief Reddy was caught red-handed trying to 'purchase' BRS MLAs' 'Don't fall for Congress' lies'

Tandur / Kodangal (Telangana), Nov 22 (PTI): BRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Wednesday attacked Telangana PCC chief Revanth Reddy alleging that the latter was caught red-handed while trying to purchase BRS (then TRS) MLAs and has no moral values.

Kodangal is one of the keenly watched seats in Telangana with Reddy being the Congress candidate. BRS pitted Patnam Narender Reddy against the Congress leader in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Addressing poll rallies at different places, KCR said the Congress, if it comes to power, will dump Dharani, an integrated land administration portal in Bay of Bengal which may lead to the resumption of the regime of corrupt officials and middlemen.

"In order to destabilise the state, to purchase BRS (then TRS) MLAs, Revanth Reddy was caught red-handed with Rs 50 lakh. The police ar-



rested him and put him in jail. He is shameless even after spending time in jail," KCR alleged.

Rao predicted that the Congress will not get even 20 seats in the polls and Revanth Reddy will not become the Chief Minister.

"Don't vote for the Congress thinking that Revanth Reddy will become CM. Don't get tempt-

ed by the money and liquor they would offer and vote for the Congress," Rao warned the people.

The CM slammed the TPCC chief saying that Reddy came to Kamareddy to defeat him. However, voters there will defeat him.

"We should get rid of these miserable people. They are not fit to be in politics," he said, referring to the TPCC chief.

Seeking votes for BRS candidates, Rao said it was the Congress which merged Telangana with Andhra Pradesh without people's consent which led to 58 years of suffering.

Alleging that the Congress failed to even provide drinking water in its 50 years rule, he said through Mission Bhagiratha, clean drinking water is being provided by the government at every doorstep.

According to Rao, there were several problems such as no proper current facilities, no drinking water, no irrigation water and migration of people when Telangana was formed and he said all the problems have been solved. He said Congress leaders were saying that the BRS government is wasting taxpayers' money by giving schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, investment support to farmers.

If the BRS government is elected again, not only the Rythu Bandhu scheme

will be continued but also the amount under it will be increased to Rs 16,000 from the existing Rs 10,000, he promised.

KCR claimed that the PCC president has been saying that giving 24 hours free power to farmers is a waste, just three hours is enough and if they form the government, they'll dump Dharani in the Bay of Bengal.

"This is a serious issue. This is a life and death issue of farmers. So I request you to think seriously. They are saying they'll remove Dharani and implement the old system. Again, the regime of corrupt officials and middlemen starts if Dharani is removed," he said.

Comparing the welfare measures, Rao said the BRS government spent Rs 12,000 crore on minorities welfare against Congress' Rs 2,000 crore during its rule in ten years before 2014.

He reiterated that as long as KCR is alive, Telangana will remain a secular state.

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (PTI): Senior BJP leader B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday accused the Congress of deceiving the people of Karnataka by not implementing its five pre-poll guarantees after coming to power.

The former Karnataka CM also urged the people of Telangana not to fall for Congress party's "lies and empty promises".

Addressing reporters here, he said "Karnataka model" is Congress' election model in other states.

The Congress had promised five guarantees to voters in Karnataka and won the elections in May this year. It is selling "Karnataka model" in Telangana and other poll-bound states, he said.

"The party has, in fact, hoodwinked the people in Karnataka after winning the elections as its government has failed to implement the guarantee schemes," he added.

"The Congress manifesto includes six guarantee schemes only to cheat



the voters of the state. I appeal, request the people of Telangana not to get cheated by Congress party's lies and empty promises," he said.

Referring to the poll promises made by the Congress in Karnataka, Yediyurappa said the "Yuva Nidhi" scheme has not seen the light of the day. Though 'Gruha Lakshmi' was an attractive pre-poll guarantee of the grand old party, the people are complaining that the amount promised has not been transferred

to their bank accounts. The government is citing technical glitches and procedural issues, he alleged.

On the 'Shakti' scheme of free bus travel for women, Yediyurappa said, "in a clear sign of cheating the people", the government has reduced the number of buses in service."

Under 'Gruha Jyoti', the Congress had promised free power up to 200 units to all domestic consumers. But, after coming to power, it imposed a condition that only those who have consumed less than 200 units on an average per month in the previous 12 months are eligible, he said.

Listing out BJP's promises in its manifesto, the veteran politician said the party has promised to make a backward caste leader as CM in Telangana if it came to power and also categorization of SCs.

"No guarantee for Congress MLAs in Telangana as most MLAs shifted to BRS. Congress and BRS are one and the same," he added.

'Kharge hits out at PM over ED's action against National Herald'

Says Cong will not be scared

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (PTI):

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Enforcement Directorate attaching assets of the party-promoted National

Herald newspaper and said they will not be scared of the BJP and that the Congress will fight it out.

Kharge, who addressed an election rally at Alampur in poll-bound Telangana, attacked PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the ED's action, saying that they thought of closing down a newspaper that

was started by the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

"I feel sad today. My party's paper, which was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, National Herald...our three papers, Modi yesterday seized the property of the Congress. That property was not of any individual. Pandit Nehru brought out that paper for the free-

'Cong will conduct caste census in Raj if it retains power'

Jaipur, Nov 22 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said a caste census will be conducted in Rajasthan if his party retains power in the state.

Addressing rallies in poll-bound Rajasthan's Dholpur and Bharatpur, Gandhi also slammed the introduction of the Agnipath scheme, saying it has shattered the dreams of lakhs of youth who wanted to defend the nation.

"The first thing that the Congress will do after returning to power in Rajasthan is conduct a



caste census. It will also be conducted at the national level after the Congress comes to power at the Centre," Gandhi said.

A caste census is necessary as the country's Dalits and people belonging to backward classes

should know their real numbers, he said.

Gandhi said the big question is how wealth is being distributed in the country today.

He said, "Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi used to call himself an OBC but as soon as I demanded a caste census, he started saying there is only one caste in the country—the poor."

The Congress leader further accused Modi, billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of picking people's pockets.

"PM Modi diverts atten-

tion, Gautam Adani picks people's pockets and Amit Shah wields the lathi," Gandhi said.

At the rally in Bharatpur's Nadbai, he said, "Modi comes from the front. He is seen on TV and diverts your attention by talking about Hindu-Muslim. Adani comes from behind and picks your pockets. Amit Shah watches from the other side with a stick. This is how the government of India is running."

Modi is seen on TV channels round the clock because Adani owns them, the former Congress chief said.

DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN



Telangana Pradesh Mahila Congress President and party candidate Sunitha Rao Mogili during a door-to-door campaign ahead of Telangana Assembly elections, at Gowliguda in Hyderabad.

Azharuddin is an 'unsuccessful politician': Owaisi

Hyderabad, Nov 22 (PTI): AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday called the Congress candidate from Jubilee Hills assembly segment, Mohammad Azharuddin an "unsuccessful politician" and expressed hope that voters would support his party candidate there.

Addressing the media here, the Lok Sabha MP also ruled out a hung Assembly in Telangana after the November 30 polls and said the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS will return to power in the state.

"I'll tell you that the Congress candidate (Azharuddin) is an unsuccessful politician.



Moradabad is one of the prestigious seats in UP. He got votes there, but he did not do anything for the constituency. He did not even look back and see," Owaisi said.

He further said the former India cricketer unsuccessfully contested in Rajasthan and also did not bother to take care of his constituency there.

"He is not a serious politi-

cian...he is a good cricketer. He scored three centuries after making his debut," he quipped and referred to the criminal cases filed against Azharuddin related to alleged corruption in Hyderabad Cricket Association during his tenure. Replying to a query as to why the AIMIM fielded a Muslim candidate in Jubilee Hills against Azharuddin, Owaisi said several segments in the state witness contest between two candidates of the same caste.

On the possible outcome after the polls, the MP said "I am pretty sure that after this election KCR will become the chief minister for the third consecutive time. People of Telangana are

very wise." Replying to a query, he said Rahul Gandhi was able to win in Wayanad as the Muslim League ensured 35 per cent of Muslims' vote for him there.

Advertisement for 'गंजेपन का इलाज' (Treatment for hair loss) featuring a product image and contact information.