



### BRIEF



Former Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar leaves the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) office after questioning by ED in connection with the Covid-19 body bag scam case, in Mumbai, Thursday.

### Caste census

**Bengaluru:** Former Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes Chairperson H Kantharaju, the architect of the state's Socio-Economic and Education survey, popularly known as the "caste census" on Thursday asserted that the exercise was "completely scientific", and rejected claims to the contrary. He said everyone has the right to have their opinion on the survey, but commenting even before going through it is not right.

### Wild elephants

**Diphu (Assam):** Four persons including a woman and two children were trapped to death by two wild elephants in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Thursday, a district official said. The two adults, accompanied by the children, were returning from an agricultural field after work when they were attacked by the elephants at Laloobasti in Bokajan area of the district, the official added.

### Family murdered

**Piduguralla:** Three persons of the same family were stabbed to death here by a relative over a marital dispute, a police official said on Thursday. The triple murders came to light on Thursday morning. Police said that D Srinivas Rao (28) stabbed his brother-in-law A Naresh (32), his father A Sambasiva Rao (63) and his mother A Adi Lakshmi (60) at Konanki village of Piduguralla mandal in Andhra Pradesh's Palnadu district. Naresh's wife D Madhuri (26) called her brother Srinivas Rao and father D Subba Rao (62) on Wednesday night as a dispute arose with her husband, as she could not go for agriculture work to their field due to stomach pain, the police official told PTI.

### Shops gutted

**Etawah:** Twelve shops have been gutted in a fire at the Nai Mandi complex here in Uttar Pradesh, a senior official said on Thursday. No casualties were reported in the incident that took place on Wednesday night. Fire tenders were sent to the site after people reported the fire in the market area. It took fire-fighters two hours to control the blaze that gutted 12 shops, the official said. It seems a short circuit led to the fire, according to SDM (Sadar) Vikram Raghav.

**Weather**  
High 31 Low 18

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 19,811.85  
SENSEX 66,023.24

**BULLION**  
GOLD 61,292  
SILVER 73,029

## NDMA on Silkyara tunnel collapse

# 'Workers may be rescued in next few hours'

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI)

41 workers trapped in Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel for the last 11 days are likely to be rescued in the next few hours or by tomorrow, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member Lt Gen (ret'd) Syed Ata Hasnain said on Thursday evening.

The drilling work to pull out 41 trapped workers encountered obstacles, which resulted in a temporary stoppage of rescue efforts. "I expect that in the next few hours or by tomorrow, we will be successful in this operation," Hasnain said in a media briefing.

The NDMA member also said that the horizontal drilling to rescue workers may face 3-4 more hurdles. He also noted that it would not be fair to speculate on the timeline for rescue operations as it is just like fighting a war.

Hasnain further said that 41 ambulances, one each for trapped workers, are in place at the tunnel site, and also facilities are in place to airlift workers in serious condi-



Locals carrying a deity on a palanquin offer prayers at the Silkyara Tunnel's entrance during the rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the tunnel, in Uttarkashi, Thursday.

tion. The men have been trapped for the past 11 days after a portion of the under-construction tunnel on the Uttarakhand Char Dham route collapsed, cutting off its exit. Rescue operations to evacu-

ate the workers resumed on Thursday morning after an overnight hurdle delayed the drilling by several hours.

According to the government's latest media bulletin, NHIDCL

### NDRF plan: Trapped workers will be pulled out on wheeled stretchers

**Uttarkashi:** Once the rescue pipe breaks through the debris at the Silkyara tunnel, NDRF personnel plan to pull out the trapped workers one by one with the help of wheeled stretchers tied to ropes, a senior official said on Thursday. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Director General Atul Karwal, who was present at the site, said the force is fully ready for the evacuation. The NDRF men will go in through the pipe and once they reach the workers, they will use their equipment to start sending them out of the tunnel one by one, Karwal said. The workers will lie upon low-height, wheeled stretchers and NDRF men will pull them out one after another using ropes, officials said.

has resumed horizontal boring from the Silkyara end to rescue workers using an Augur boring machine.

## Home guard jawan killed after Nihangs open fire at gurdwara

Sultanpur Lodhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

A home guard jawan was killed while four policemen suffered injuries when a group of Nihangs resorted to "unprovoked" firing at them in Punjab's Kapurthala early Thursday, officials said.

Five people were arrested in the incident, they said.

According to police, there was a dispute between two factions of Nihangs over the possession of Gurdwara Akal Bunga Sahib here.

The incident took place when policemen tried to get the gurdwara vacated from a faction of Nihangs led by Baba Mann Singh.

Special Director General of Police Arpit Shukla said there was an "unprovoked" firing at the policemen after they reached here on Thursday morning. Speaking to reporters in Kapurthala, Shukla said a murder case has been registered. "Five people have been arrested and weapons recovered," said Shukla, adding that further investigation was underway.

While policemen were standing on the road, some Nihangs opened fire at them, Kapurthala Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Tejbir Singh Hundal told PTI.

The Nihangs fired indiscriminately, said police.

## EC issues notice to Rahul Gandhi for 'panauti', pickpocket remarks targeting PM

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI)

The Election Commission (EC) issued a show-cause notice to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday for his "panauti", "pickpocket" and "loan waiver for the super rich" jibes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and asked him to respond by Saturday. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had approached the poll panel against the former Congress president, saying it was "unbecoming" of a "very senior leader" to use such language.

The EC reminded Gandhi that the Model Code of

Conduct prohibits leaders from making unverified allegations against political rivals. The Congress leader used those words targeting the prime minister at recent rallies in poll-bound Rajasthan. In its representation to the EC, the BJP had asserted that the allegation of grant of waivers to industrialists of Rs 14,00,000 crore over the last nine years was "not borne out on facts".

The EC notice said the expression "panauti" ex-facie falls in the equity of the prohibition of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, dealing with corrupt practices. Clause 2, sub section (ii) of section

123 states that any person who induces or attempts to induce a candidate or an elector to believe that he, or any person in whom he is interested, will become or will be rendered an object of divine displeasure or spiritual censure, shall be deemed to interfere with the free exercise of the electoral right of such a candidate or elector, the notice reminded Gandhi. The Congress leader had used the "panauti" barb against Modi in a poll speech in Rajasthan as the prime minister had attended the World Cup cricket final that India lost to Australia after 10 consecutive wins in the tournament.

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RECORD HOLDER

## Top LeT commander among two terrorists killed in encounter



Army and police personnel shift bodies of two terrorists killed during an encounter at Bajimaal area, in Rajouri district, Thursday.

Rajouri/Jammu, Nov 23 (PTI):

Two terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander trained in Afghanistan, were killed in a gunfight with security forces on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

On Wednesday, four army personnel, including two captains, were killed and two others injured in the operation against the terrorists in the Dharmasal belt's Bajimaal area.

The officials said firing was halted in the night and the area was put under cordon. Firing resumed on Thursday morning, and two terrorists were killed, they said and added that

the operation is in its final phase. Earlier in the day, a defence spokesman said in the firing, a Pakistani terrorist has been killed. Later, officials said another terrorist has been eliminated. The area was cordoned off and more security personnel were deployed in the night to ensure the terrorists do not escape from the thickly forested area, the officials said. On the Pakistani terrorist killed, the defence spokesman said he has been identified as Quari, a Pakistan national and hardcore terrorist. "He has been trained on the Pakistan and Afghanistan front. He is a highly ranked terrorist leader of the Lashkar-e-Taiba," he said.

## SC grants last opportunity to defaulting states to pay arrears to lower court judges

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

The Supreme Court granted a last opportunity to the defaulting states and Union territories on Thursday to clear the salary arrears and other dues of lower court judges in accordance with the recommendations of the Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC).

The SNJPC recommendations cover the pay structure, pension and family pension and allowances, besides dealing with the issue of establishing a permanent mechanism to determine the subjects of the service conditions of the district judiciary. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of

India D Y Chandrachud noted that despite its directions dated May 19, some states have not complied either fully or in part with those. "We are, prima facie, of the view that the chief secretaries of all defaulting states and Union territories are in contempt. In order to grant one last opportunity of compliance, we direct that the directions shall be effectuated on or before December 8, 2023, failing which the chief secretaries of all defaulting states and Union territories shall personally remain present before this court," the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said.

The court also clarified

that compliance shall mean actual crediting of the amount payable to each judicial officer and in the case of family pension, the surviving spouses.

In another direction, the bench also allowed the High Court of Telangana to increase the superannuation age of judicial officers from 60 to 61 years, in line with that of the state government officials. Describing the district Judiciary as the backbone of the judicial system, the apex court had, on May 19, directed all the states to clear the salary arrears and other dues of lower court judges in accordance with the SNJPC's recommendations.

## Royal Bengal Tiger travels over 2,000 km in search of suitable territory

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23 (PTI):

A Royal Bengal Tiger, which has been spotted in a forest in Odisha, has travelled more than 2,000 km across four states, perhaps in search of a suitable territory, a forester said on Thursday.

The same big cat was earlier found in a Maharashtra forest, he said.

The male tiger, whose stripe pattern was found to be similar to a big cat photographed in a forest in Maharashtra, has been sighted in the Mahendra forest range in Odisha's Gajapati district since September, Paralakhemundi divi-

sional forest officer S Anand told PTI over the phone.

After sighting the big cat in its jurisdiction, the Paralakhemundi forest division officials in Gajapati district have been tracking the movement of the wild animal, he said.

As the tiger was cited for the first time in the area, they sent the pictures and other details of the tiger to the Wildlife Institute of India to find its original territory, Anand said.

"The WII has confirmed that our camera trap image matched with a tiger previously photographed in the Brahmapuri forest division of Maharashtra.

## Fire breaks out in 24-storey building

11 suffer from suffocation

Mumbai, Nov 23 (PTI):

At least 11 people suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out at a 24-storey residential building in central Mumbai's Byculla area in the early hours of Thursday, officials said.

All of them were admitted to hospitals and their condition was stated to be stable.

The blaze started around 3.40 am on the third floor of the building located inside New Hind Mill Compound at MHADA Colony in Ghodapdeo area. The flats in the building -- 12 on each floor -- have been allotted to former textile mill workers under a government scheme. Flames spread to the



A senior citizen being evacuated from a 24-storey residential building where a fire broke out on the third floor, at Byculla area, in Mumbai, Thursday.

upper floors through electric wires passing through the ducts, leading to a "horrible situation", one survivor said.

Five fire engines and three water tankers besides other fire brigade vehicles were sent to the spot and the fire was doused by 7.20 am, a fire brigade offi-

cial said. The cause of the fire is suspected to be a short-circuit, he added.

As many as 135 people were rescued by the fire brigade -- 25 were evacuated from the terrace, 30 from the refuge area on the 15th floor and 80 from the refuge area on the 22nd floor.

**EKADASHI FESTIVAL**

Devotees take part in Shyam flag procession on the occasion of Prabodhini (Dev Uthani) Ekadashi festival, in Varanasi, Thursday.

## Murder accused facing Interpol Red Notice brought back from Saudi Arabia

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

A murder accused facing an Interpol Red Notice was brought back from Saudi Arabia on Thursday in an operation coordinated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), officials said.

Sudheesh Ramachandran was wanted by the Kerala Police in a 2006 murder case registered at the Thumba Police Station in Thiruvananthapuram, they said. The Red Notice was issued against him on May 26, 2021, on the request of the Kerala Police. The notice is issued by the

Interpol on the request of a member country to detain a fugitive located in a foreign jurisdiction. Ramachandran, who was absconding for several years, was located in Saudi Arabia by the Global Operation Centre of the CBI which was coordinating with the Interpol. "With the close assistance of INTERPOL NCB - Riyadh, he was returned on November 23, 2023 from Saudi Arabia to India by a team from Kerala Police," according to a statement issued by the CBI. The CBI is the National Central Bureau of India responsible for coordination with the Interpol.



# Police conducts intensive checking drive

## Strict action taken against hooligans, goons and traffic violators



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** Durg Police conducted an extensive checking drive across the district on Wednesday evening. Under the direction of Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg, Ram Gopal Garg and under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Abhishek Jha and Additional Superintendent of Police, Rural,

Ananth Kumar, the intensive checking was conducted by all the police stations and chowkis of District Durg.

The campaign was launched at 17:00 hrs and concluded at 21:00 hrs. During the checking campaign, strict action was taken against people carrying sharp weapons, bikes with two pillion riders and vehicles with modified silencers.

The simultaneous action

in the evening at all the police station areas created panic among the miscreants and those roaming suspiciously. Action was taken against more than 226 drivers in the police station area of the entire Durg district.

Police targeted the miscreants and goons roaming unnecessarily, bikes with two pillion riders and suspects. To carry out this special operation, police had set up points around

the sensitive areas and in the areas where the miscreants often gather. Cops laid blockades on the road to carry out the checking campaign.

In the checking campaign in the entire police station area of district Durg, action was taken against more than 226 riders, including 38 who were roaming unnecessarily.

Three public service passenger vehicles were caught without docu-

ments. These vehicles were seized and the challan will be presented before the court. Apart from this, cops intercepted 06 bikes with modified silencers.

All these vehicles were Royal Enfield Bullet bikes and were found making huge noise. The silencers were removed and have been seized. Fine was imposed on more than 150 drivers under the Motor Vehicle Act.

# Introduction prog for marriageable youth on Nov 26

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** District Sahu Sangh, Bhilai Nagar has organized an introduction programme for marriageable youth on November 26 at Nehru House of Culture, Sector-1 Bhilai. The programme will begin with offering prayers to Mata Karma at 10:30 hrs.

Thereafter, Rangoli competition, cuisine competition and cultural program will be organised from 11:00 hrs. After the arrival of guests, the magazine Parinay Bandhan, containing details of marriageable youth will be

released.

After 13:00 hrs, the marriageable youth will be invited to come on the stage and give their introduction. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu will grace the function as chief guest while Arun Sao (MP, Bilaspur and BJP State President) will be the guest of honour.

The event will be presided over by Tahal Singh Sahu, President, Chhattisgarh State Sahu Sangh, Raipur. Special guests will be Deepak Tarachand Sahu (former president, Handicraft Development Board, Chhattisgarh), Khilavan Singh Sahu

(Vice President Chhattisgarh State Sahu Sangh Raipur), Neeraj Pal (Mayor Municipal Corporation Bhilai), Girwar Bunty Sahu (Speaker, Municipal Corporation Bhilai), Vijay Sahu (Member, CREDA), Dr Bharti Sahu (Convener, Women's Cell, Durg Division, Chhattisgarh State Sahu Sangh), Sanir Sahu (Convener, Youth Cell, Durg Division), MK Sahu (Architect Engineer) and Toran Atal (Director Shri Atal Group Bhilai). This information was given by Haridwarika Sahu, President, District Sahu Sangh Bhilai Nagar.

# First randomization of counting teams conducted

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** Under the Assembly Elections 2023, the first randomization for the counting teams for the counting work of 62 Patan, 63 Durg Rural, 64 Durg City, 65 Bhilai Nagar, 66 Vaishali Nagar and 67 Ahiwara assembly constituencies was done in the NIC room of District Collectorate Durg. Collector and District Election Officer was present during the randomization. According to the information, during the first randomization of the counting teams, Bajrang Dubey (Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer), Ashwani

Dewangan (Chief Executive Officer, District Panchayat and Nodal Officer, Counting Team Formation) and LB Singh (District Information and Science Officer, Durg and Assistant Nodal Officer) were present. A total of 630 employees were randomized for vote counting work. Randomization of 130 counting supervisors, 130 counting assistants and 130 micro observers was done for EVM (Electronic Voting Machine). Similarly, for PB (Postal Ballot), randomization was done for 48 Assistant Returning Officer, 48 Count Supervisor, 48 Count Assistant-1, 48 Count Assistant-2 and 48 Micro Observer.

# BSP employee attempts suicide; union demands fair probe

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** After being allegedly victimised in a theft case, an employee of Bhilai Steel Plant attempted suicide on Wednesday. His son spotted him consuming a huge quantity of expired medicines after which he raised alarm, and the employee was admitted to the Sector 9 Hospital.

His condition was stated to be out of danger. LoktantrikIspat Evam Engineering Mazdoor Union has condemned the BSP management for victimising the BSP employee



in a theft case. The union submitted a memorandum at the Police Station demanding a fair probe. The union also handed over the memorandum to the local MLA Devendra Yadav and requested him to save the BSP employees from such false accusations.

According to information, Copper Coils worth Rs 32 lakh were stolen from the Boria Stores of Bhilai Steel Plant. BSP Employee Janak Yadav, positioned at Boria Store, was being repeatedly questioned over this case. CISF was also unable to give explanation

over the theft of such heavy coils, which cannot be removed without cranes. Meanwhile after repeated questioning, Janak Yadav felt that some higher officials were planning to put all the blame on him.

Highly disturbed Janak Yadav consumed a large quantity of expired medicines at his residence located at Street 15-B, Sector 2. His son tried to stop him but by then Janak had consumed a lot of medicines. Janak has been admitted at the Sector 9 Hospital and his condition was stated to be out of danger.

# Counting of votes to begin at 08:00 hrs on Dec 3

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** The Election Commission of India has approved the proposal sent by Durg District to hold counting /strong room under the Assembly Elections 2023 at Shri Shankaracharya Engineering College, Junwani Bhilai.

Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey informed that counting of votes will start at 08:00 hrs on December 3, 2023 at Shri Shankaracharya Engineering College, Junwani Bhilai.

Counting of votes will be done on 14 tables for

each assembly. Each table will have a supervisor and a totalling assistant. Postal ballots will be counted first. Dubey has asked all the returning officers related to the assembly constituency to give wide publicity about the counting date, place and time.

Dubey said that mobile phones are banned in the counting venue and to enter the counting venue, entry pass will be required for officers/employees including candidates of political parties and counting agents. Without an entry pass, no person will be able to enter the counting venue.

# Dr Saroj provides e-tricycle to Lakhan Sahu

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** Lakhan Sahu, father of Chintaram Sahu, resident of Durg/Borsi ward, will now be able to reach his work place on e-tricycle. Earlier, he used to reach Rajendra Park for his work by pedal tricycle.

Now he will be able to reach his work on time by e-tricycle in convenient and comfortable conditions. Rajya Sabha MP and National Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr Saroj Pandey on Thursday called Lakhan Sahu to the Jal Parishad office and provided him with a battery driven tricycle.

It is noteworthy that Borsi resident Lakhan Sahu is personally known and recognized by Rajya Sabha MP Dr Saroj



Pandey. Lakhan Sahu works as a peon in the Municipal Corporation Durg who has since long been working as a gardener in Rajendra Park Garden and other gardens.

About 10-12 years ago, the Rajya Sabha MP had given a pedal tricycle to Lakhan Sahu, since then and till now he was coming to his work regularly

on this tricycle. Recently, during the Amla Navami festival, the Rajya Sabha MP met Lakhan Sahu at Rajendra Park and inquired about his well-being and health.

Lakhan Sahu mentioned that he comes to his work only on the tricycle provided by her. On this, Rajya Sabha MP decided to give him an e-tricycle.

# BMC to conduct drive against illegal vehicle parking on both sides of GE Road

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** Illegal encroachment, vehicles parked at public places and junk vehicles are hindering the beauty of the city and smooth traffic. A campaign will be launched by the corporation to remove such vehicles from the coming week, in which cooperation of traders is expected, said Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi in a meeting of the second hand vehicle dealers organised at the BMC auditorium on Thursday.

The meeting was held on the instructions of Commissioner Rohit Vyas. Sharing information with the traders, he said that the Chhattisgarh High Court has ordered that illegal encroachment should be removed from



footpaths, parking lots, public places and roads, so that there should not be any obstruction to traffic.

In compliance to this action will be taken against the second hand vehicle sellers of the city who keep their vehicles for display almost up to the service roads on both sides of GE Road. Traders should remove their vehicles

from there on their own so that they can avoid action by the corporation.

Traders Harjeet Singh and Harish Patel, who came from the Dakshin Gangotri area suggested that the corporation should collect rent from them for its land or should designate a place for the traders to park their vehicles so that we can put the

vehicles on the road for sale.

Additional Commissioner and Deputy Superintendent of Traffic Police strongly objected to the vehicle service center near Sanjay Nagar Pond close to the turning near service road close to GE road and keep the vehicles parked on the road, which should be stopped immedi-

ately.

While giving information to the traders, Additional Commissioner Dwivedi said that in the next two days, action against illegal encroachment will be ensured by marking on both sides of GE Road. Vehicle traders should keep their vehicles at a safe place so that they can avoid inconvenience caused by corporation proceedings.

Those present in the meeting were Zone Commissioner Khirodra Bhoi, Amitabh Sharma, Pooja Pillay, DSP Traffic Police PD Chandra, Revenue Officer Bal Krishna Naidu, Malkhan Singh Sori, vehicle dealers Jogendra, Syed Ali, Mohammad Alam, Shivkumar Sinha, Shankardas, Bunty Siddhique, Santosh Sahu, Naresh.

# MoU signed for e-payment gateway between BSP & SBI Raipur

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** An MoU for e-payment gateway was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and State Bank of India in presence of Anirban Dasgupta, Director In-charge of Bhilai Steel Plant, on November 23, 2023. The MoU was signed by DN Karan, CGM (Finance & Accounts), BSP and Vimal Kishore, DGM (SBI), Raipur in Bhilai Steel Plant.

The objective of MoU is to provide facility to customers of BSP seamless flow of credit to customer ledger for material lifting. BSP will integrate its system with the payment gateway of SBI which will



help in seamless flow of the transaction. BSP will automate its system using e-payment module which will reduce time taken for lifting of material by customer. The MoU will thus help strengthen relationship of BSP with its customers. Also, it will help to save time & cost, both for

BSP and its customers and at the same time provide transparency and access to an online system.

The other dignitaries present on the occasion include Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty, ED (MM),

Dr AK Panda, ED (Finance & Accounts), Samir Swarup, ED (Rowghat), Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A) Bipin Kumar Giri, ED (Mines) and Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M & U).

Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A) explained the benefits of E-Payment Gateway for the organisation and stat-

ed that it will result in customer satisfaction. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) praised the efforts taken by F&A & C&IT departments for the automation system.

A presentation was given by Tanima Vasani, Deputy Manager, F&A about the existing system & proposed system. The system that will be developed by C&IT Department of BSP along with technical team of SBI will help to reduce manual work of Marketing & Finance Department.

AK Aggarwal, GM (F&A), AK Pandey, DGM (F&A) & Samir Gupta GM I/c (C&IT) played a lead role in efforts for signing of the MOU.

# Selection Trials for BSP's Senior, Junior & Sub-Junior (Girls & Boys) Kabaddi Teams today

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Nov 23:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) is organizing Selection Trials to select players for BSP's Kabaddi Teams in Senior, Junior & Sub-Junior (Girls & Boys) categories, to take part in the State-level Kabaddi Competition.

The Selection Trials for all categories will be organized on November 24, 2023, at Pant Stadium Kabaddi Ground, Sector-01, at 01:00 hrs. Interested players (Boys & Girls) not older than 16 years and having 55 kg weight may register for the Sub-Junior category. Players aged less than or about 20 years and female players having 65 Kg weight

and male players having 70 Kg weight may register for the Junior category, while the players (male) having weight not less than 85 Kg and the players (female) weighing not less than 75 Kg may register their names for the Senior category.

All eligible Kabaddi Players may get their names registered for the Selection Trials with the selectors for BSP's Kabaddi Teams, Vikas Kumar, Nageshwar and Prakash Rao, on November 24, 2023, at Pant Stadium Kabaddi Ground, Sector-01, Bhilai, before 17:00 hrs. All candidates shall be required to bring three passport-size photographs, Original School Exam Mark Sheet, and original Aadhar card, in support of the proof of age.

## OBITUARY

Lata Verma



**Bhilai:** Lata Verma, wife of Chinta Ram Verma, left for heavenly abode on Thursday. Funeral procession was taken out from her residence situated at 154/5, Pragati Nagar Risali and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at RisaliMuktidham. She was the mother of Bhuvan Verma and Sunil Verma.



## BJP organization will decide the face with the legislative party: Chandel



Raipur, Nov 23:

Any BJP worker who gets responsibility will become the Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel said giving a statement regarding the face of the Chief Minister in the state. The organization along with the legislative party will decide who will become the Chief Minister, he added. Talking to the media Chandel claimed victory in the assembly elections and said that the people used their constitutional right.

BJP will get a clear majority to come to power with blessings of the people of the state, he said adding that the party got special support from mothers and sisters. According to him crimes increased due to alcohol, which had a direct impact on mothers and sisters. The inclination of women was seen towards BJP, he said, adding that BJP's lotus will bloom in the counting of votes on December 3.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's statement on Jheeram incident Chandel said that the Chief Minister was saying for five years that the evidence was in his 'Kurta' pocket.

Now perhaps the pockets of the 'kurta' might have been stitched, that is why they were not removed, he said and alleged that Jheeram's accused was in his cabinet.

## IT raids at locations of businessmen

On input about tax evasion

**Raipur, Nov 23:** The Income Tax Department once again carried out raid Raipur on Thursday. Income Tax Department officials have raided the premises of Shri Niwas Roadlines after receiving a major input about tax evasion.

It is being told that a businessman named Ravi Agrawal runs a road lines business. The Income Tax Department had received information about issuing fake bills in the name of transportation and deduction of TDS. The officials were learnt to be examining the documents.

## 30th Annual National Conference NCIASP 2023 from today

On Public Health Approaches in Mental Health

**Raipur, Nov 23:** The 30th annual national conference NCIASP 2023 (National Conference of Indian Association for Social Psychiatry) is being organized from 24th to 26th November in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Auditorium under the joint aegis of the Department of Psychiatry of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and the Indian Association for Social Psychiatry. The conference will be inaugurated on Friday, November 24 at 12.30 pm in the presence of Dr. AK Chandrakar, Vice Chancellor of AYUSH University and Dr. Trupti Nagaria, Dean of the Medical College. Dr. AK Chandrakar and Dr. Trupti Nagaria will be the chief guests of this conference.

Giving information regarding the program, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. (Prof) MK Sahu said that in this conference, experts from different parts of the country will share their valuable insights. This conference is organized on the topic Public Health Approaches in Mental Health. According to Dr. Surbhi Dubey (Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry) variety of interactive sessions, workshops and panel discussions will be organized in this conference, which is being organized with the aim of promoting collaborative efforts towards mental health care. The conference will feature experts highlighting the latest developments and evidence-based knowledge in the field of psychiatry.

## Raman claims to win 60 seats to console BJP workers: Baghel

Raipur, Nov 23:



Taking a jibe at former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh's claim on seats, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that when his popularity was at its peak, he did not get above 52 to 55 seats. They (BJP leaders) are saying this to boost the morale of their workers till 3rd December, Baghel said while talking to the reporters at airport before leaving for the meeting and road show in Rajasthan.

Reacting to BJP's statement about probe into 'Jheeram' incident he said that BJP leaders stooped low. 'Earlier the investigation was stopped. Who sent Dharamlal Kaushik to court? It is they who have created obstacles. It was said from the BJP side that 'after the formation of the government, Jheeram will be investigated'.

The Chief Minister said that it was his government

that passed proposal for a CBI investigation in the Assembly. 'When the order came from the Government of India, why was it suppressed? Don't know what kind of statements Raman Singh writes and issues, because he is responsible for all the incidents. Chhattisgarh police will investigate. Now whether he speaks or not, there will be an investigation'.

On Dr. Raman Singh writing a letter on increasing DA, he asked why didn't he write a letter for

Railways? 'Trains are getting cancelled and not running on time. They should also write letters for jobs in Railways. He is BJP National Vice President', he said.

On Amit Shah's statement "Sonia Gandhi wants to make her son the PM", Bhupesh Baghel said that he was thinking for his son. 'What qualification does his son have? Why talk about others' son? Tell us about your son and what abilities he has', Baghel said.

### SPORTS ROUND-UP

## Jain Cricket Championship from Nov 27

Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel will grace the inauguration ceremony

Raipur, Nov 23:

Cricket enthusiasts in Chhattisgarh are gearing up for an exciting sporting event as the Jain Cricket Championship (JCC) kicks off on November 27th at Raipur's Netaji Subhash Stadium. This inaugural event promises not only thrilling cricket action but also a strong focus on social impact.

Ten teams from major cities across Chhattisgarh will compete in the JCC, bringing together the Jain community in a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship. With matches scheduled from 5 pm to midnight, spectators can look forward to the spectacle of five thrilling matches every day. Adding a touch of glamour to



the event, Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel will grace the inauguration ceremony, making it a star-studded affair.

Saurabh Bafna, representing the organizing committee, expressed the significance of JCC as a platform for young cricket enthusiasts to gain valuable experience and connect with society. He also hinted at plans to expand the championship to include teams from other communities in the future. The tournament, which features 10 over matches, will adhere to all cricketing

regulations, including a prescribed dress code. The championship will conclude on December 3rd, with the winning team set to receive a generous prize of Rs 3 lakh, while the runner-up team will be awarded Rs 2 lakh.

What sets JCC apart is its commitment to social causes. The proceeds left after the event will be directed towards initiatives such as supporting the education of disabled school children and providing assistance to the elderly in old age homes.

Netaji Subhash Stadium is being meticulously prepared to host the tournament, which will also be streamed on various online platforms, ensuring that cricket fans from near and far can join in the excitement.

## Ticket sales for India vs Australia T20 from today



Raipur, Nov 23:

Cricket enthusiasts in Chhattisgarh and beyond have a reason to celebrate as ticket booking for the highly anticipated T20 clash between India and Australia is set to kick off. The showdown, scheduled to take place at Raipur's Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium on December 1st, has generated immense excitement

among fans.

The Chhattisgarh State Cricket sangh has released ticket rates for the India vs Australia match, catering to a wide range of budgets. Ticket prices will start at an affordable Rs 1,000, making it accessible to a diverse audience. The highest-priced tickets are set at Rs 25,000 for those seeking a premium viewing experience.

In a press conference held to provide details

about the T20 match, the Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh announced that ticket booking will commence on November 24th at 11 am through the popular platform, Paytm and Paytm Insider App. Unlike previous editions, where online tickets were delivered via courier, this time, a dedicated ticket collection point will be set up at the Sardar Balbir Singh Juneja

Indore Stadium, Budhapara. There will be no courier service, ensuring a seamless and efficient ticketing process.

The ticket rates for the India vs Australia match have been structured to accommodate various preferences. Corporate box tickets are priced at Rs 25,000, Platinum at Rs 15,000, Gold at Rs 12,500, Silver at Rs 10,000, and stand category tickets will be available for Rs 1,000.

## Jadavpur University reaches men's finals

Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University in Women's finals



**Raipur, Nov 23:** In a remarkable display of tennis prowess and unwavering sportsmanship, the AIU East Zone Inter University Tennis Tournament 2023 approached its zenith during the enthralling semi-finals held on Thursday, November 23rd.

The tournament, staged in an electrifying atmosphere, bore witness to the finest collegiate tennis talents, with teams vying for victory and a chance to clinch the coveted title. The semi-final clash in the

men's division witnessed Jadavpur University securing a commanding 2-0 victory over Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University. In a display of exceptional skill and determination, Abhiraj Sen triumphed over Khirman Tandi with a scoreline of 6-2, 6-2 in MS1. Meanwhile, Sarnaav Ghosh showcased remarkable resilience, clinching victory in a hard-fought contest with a score of 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 against Lukesh Netam in MS2. Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University

exhibited outstanding prowess in the women's division, securing a resounding 2-0 victory against Jadavpur University. Urvashi Banjare dominated her opponent with a score of 6-0, 6-1 in WS1, while Meghna Banjare displayed unwavering determination, winning a thrilling encounter with a scoreline of 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 against Eva Raj Sah in WS2.

With the stage now set for the finals, the anticipation is palpable as these talented teams prepare for the ultimate showdown in the AIU East Zone Inter University Tennis Tournament 2023. The winners will have the honour of being recognized and celebrated, with Professor Sachchidanand Shukla, Vice Chancellor of Pt. RSU, and Mr. Rakesh Pandey, Chairman of VIP Club, gracing the event as esteemed guests of honour.

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NOVEMBER

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## Governor Harichandan attends birth anniv of Dr. Harkrishna Mahtab

First Chief Minister of Odisha

Raipur, Nov 23:

Chhattisgarh Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan, on the second day of his stay in Odisha, attended the birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Harkrishna Mahatab, the first Chief Minister of independent Odisha, in Bhubaneswar.

The chief guest of the said function, Mr. Harichandan called for working for the development of the state of Odisha as per the dreams of Dr. Mahtab. He said that Dr. Mahtab's role in uniting the states was unique and important. Odisha witnessed multifaceted development during his tenure. During his student days, he joined the free-



dom struggle to see the country free and spread the message of freedom consciousness among the common people.

Harichandan said that inspired by the call of Mahatma Gandhi, many people fought for freedom. Dr. Mahtab published a daily newspaper named Prajapur to create aware-

ness among the people against the British. He further said that apart from his political career, Dr. Mahtab has also done remarkable work in the field of literature, cultural development and conservation, which the people of Odisha will always remember. To enrich Odisha literature and groom new

writers in Odisha, he used to publish 'Jhankar' literary magazine and organize festivals to bring literary people together. Dr. Mahtab was the pioneer of Orissa for the development of industry, trade and culture.

The Governor reminded hundreds of dignitaries dressed in traditional attire from different places at the function, reminding them of the stories of pride, bravery and victory of his predecessors and called upon them to fight injustice like them.

On this occasion, Jatni MLA Suresh Routharai, former MLA Philip Srichandan, committee members and people were present along with the Governor.

## SURPRISE CHECKING



The Traffic police is conducting surprise checking at chowks and random places to ensure that all riders carry valid documents and have necessary driving licence.

## IIT Bhilai hosts workshop supported by IGSTC



Raipur, Nov 23: IIT Bhilai hosted Indo-German Bilateral workshop on "Recent Advances on Harnessing Green Hydrogen and Allied Areas", supported by Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC). The workshop aims to brought together industry experts, researchers,

and professionals from both Indian and Germany to explore the potential, challenges, and advancements in the field of green hydrogen production. The workshop also hosted a session on Indo-German collaboration mechanisms. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Sanjib Banerjee, Department of Chemistry,

IIT Bhilai and Dr. Prashanth W. Menezes, Group Head of Energy Catalysis, TU Berlin. Prof. Rajiv Prakash, Director, IIT Bhilai was the Chief Guest of the workshop. In his address, Prof. Prakash highlighted the importance Green Hydrogen in our mission towards clean energy and better future.

## HNLU, CSBB to hold global online conference

Raipur, Nov 23: Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) announces its collaboration with the Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board (CSBB) for a groundbreaking Global Online Conference on "Climate Action, SDGs, and Trade - A Path towards a Greener Future." The online conference, organized by the Centre for WTO-WIPO Studies, School of Law & Technology; Centre for Comparative Law, School of Law & Governance; and Centre for Environmental Laws, School of Law & Public Policy is scheduled to take place on November 25-26, 2023. The inaugural ceremony on Nov 25, 2023 (Saturday) from 04:00 p.m. to 05:00 p.m. IST hosted by Dr. Debmita Mondal, Head of the Centre of Law and Sciences will feature distinguished speakers. Dr.

Vipin Kumar, Registrar I/C, Director- School of Law and Business, will deliver the Welcome Address, followed by Mr. Abhinav K Shukla, Organising Co-Secretary, providing insights "About the Conference." The Inaugural Address will be delivered by Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor, HNLU Raipur, with a special address by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjeevi Shanthakumar, Director, GNLU Gandhinagar. The Keynote Address by Chief Guest Mr. Shailendra Shukla, Former Chairman, CSPD-CL & HREDA, will be the highlight, along with the release of the book "Trade & Environment: Legal Landscape and Beyond," edited by Dr. Ankit Awasthi and Ms. Stuti Toshi. The ceremony will conclude with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Dean

● On 'Climate Action, SDGs, and Trade- A Path towards a Greener Future; On Nov 25-26

UG Studies and Director, School of Law and Governance. On November 26, 2023 (Sunday) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. IST, Panel Anchor Mr. Amitesh Deshmukh, Head - Centre for Consumer & Competition Laws, will guide the first panel discussion on "Sustainable Trade: Accessing the Environmental Measures in Trading Agreements." The session will include a Keynote Speaker Prof. (Dr.) M K Ramesh and speakers Ms. Anuja Tiwari, Prof. (Dr.) Komal Sandhu, and Dr. Chhaya Bhardwaj. Dr. Kaumudhi Challa, Associate Professor, HNLU Raipur & Head, Centre for Criminal Law and Jurisprudence,

will moderate the Q & A Session, followed by a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Amitesh Deshmukh. In the afternoon, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. IST, Panel Anchor Dr. Priyanka Mohod, Assistant Professor, HNLU Raipur, will lead the second panel discussion on "SDGs in Action: Navigating Sustainability through Environmental Measures." The session will include a Keynote Speaker Dr. Ritu Dhingra and speakers Ms. Harshita Khurana, Mr. Shivam Dwivedi, and Dr. Veena Roshan Jose. Dr. Ankit Singh, Head - Centre for Innovation and IP Laws, HNLU Raipur, will moderate the Q & A Session, with a closing Vote of Thanks by Dr. Priyanka Mohod. The conference will conclude with a grand Valedictory Ceremony on November 26, 2023

(Sunday) from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM, anchored by Mr. Jeevan Sagar, Head - Centre for Linguistic Studies. The ceremony will feature a Welcome Address by Dr. Vipin Kumar, Registrar I/C, HNLU, Director- School of Law and Business, followed by the Presentation of the Conference Report by Dr. Ankit Awasthi, Organizing Secretary. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan will address the gathering, along with Guests of Honour Prof. (Dr.) K. Vidyullatha Reddy and Prof. Alexandra Harrington. Chief Guest Shri Prabhat Mishra, IFS, Member Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Biodiversity Board, will deliver a Special Address. The ceremony will conclude with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Rana Navneet Roy, Head, Centre for Environmental Laws.

## IIM Raipur and Digital Health Academy announces PGCPDH Batch-II

Raipur, Nov 23:

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Raipur and Digital Health Academy are delighted to announce the successful inauguration of the groundbreaking Post Graduate Certificate Programme in Digital Health (PGCPDH) Batch-II. The virtual inauguration event took place on November 19, 2023, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The PGCPDH programme is designed to cultivate future leaders who will be pivotal in steering the digital health revolution in India. It offers a comprehensive curriculum covering the intersection of healthcare and technology, encompassing telemedicine, data analytics, digital health policies, and entrepreneurship. The year-



long programme incorporates online classes, interactive sessions, live discussions, case studies, and a three-day personal immersion programme at IIM Raipur. Distinguished personalities, including Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani, Director of IIM Raipur, Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Founder of Digital Health Academy, and Programme Directors -

Prof. Sanjeev Prashar, Prof. Jigyasu Gaur, Prof. Sandeep S, and Ms. Mevish P Vaishnav, graced the virtual inauguration event. Prof. Sanjeev Prashar, Program Director at IIM Raipur, extended a warm welcome and congratulated the admitted candidates, and introduced the digital health team at IIM Raipur and Digital Health

Academy. Dr. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, founder of Digital Health Academy, provided an insightful overview of the course structure, emphasizing the program's significance in fostering the growth of the digital health sector. Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani extended a cordial welcome to all the candidates, highlighting the

faculty's expertise in the course and assuring the participants of the uncompromised quality of virtual classes. He emphasized the theme center identity and positioned the course at the forefront of the digital world.

In PGCPDH Batch-II, a total of 38 candidates secured admission. Prof. Jigyasu Gaur and Prof. Sandeep S introduced the candidates to the attendees, allowing them to share their hobbies. Ms. Mevish Vaishnav, COO of Digital Health Academy, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all attendees and congratulating the candidates. The event marked a significant milestone in the journey towards advancing digital health education and innovation in India.

## Payment of Rs 1,600 crore to farmers on paddy purchase

■ 6.32 lakh metric tonnes of paddy purchased so far

Raipur, Nov 23: As soon as the election and festival season is over, the arrival of paddy in the collection centers has increased. According to the information, till now the state government has paid Rs 1,604 crore for purchasing paddy in the procurement centers of the state.

There was a record arrival of paddy in cooperative societies on Monday and Tuesday. So far, 6.32 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been purchased from 1.61 lakh farmers in the state, while Rs 1,604 crore has been paid to the farmers in return. Paddy procurement has started from November 1, which will continue till January



31. It is noteworthy that the state government has set a target of purchasing a total of 130 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in the state.

According to departmental information, the maximum amount of paddy was purchased in the state on November 20.

These include the districts of Dhamtari, Gariaband, Mahasamund, Raipur, Kanker, Bilaspur, Mungeli, Sarangarh-Bilaigarh, Kharaggarh-Chhuikhadan- Gandai, Balodabazar, Balod, Bemetara, Durg, Kawardha, Rajnandgaon etc.

## Amity University IIC gets four-star rating

■ By Union Ministry of Education, Innovation Cell

Raipur, Nov 23: Amity University Chhattisgarh's Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) has made a significant mark in the realm of innovation and entrepreneurship, securing a prestigious four-star rating in the 2022-23 ratings by the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell. This recognition places the university among the elite top nine out of 318 technical higher educational institutions in the Central Region of India. The annual performance of IIC 5.0 for the academic year 2022-23 was announced on November 16, in a ceremony attended

by prominent educational leaders including AICTE Chairman Professor T G Sitharam and Chairman of NETF NBA and NAAC Professor Anil Sahasrabudhe. This event celebrated the innovation and creativity burgeoning within various educational institutions across India. For the past four years, Amity University Chhattisgarh has consistently been awarded the highest rating from the Ministry of Education for its outstanding performance in innovation and entrepreneurship. This sustained excellence reflects the university's unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and its role as a leader in the educational sector. Amity

University Chhattisgarh's commendable four-golden-stars rating is a testament to its relentless pursuit of fostering an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Vice-Chancellor of Amity University Chhattisgarh Prof. Piyush Kant Pandey, reflecting on this achievement, stated, "At Amity University Chhattisgarh, we believe that innovation is the key to unlocking a future filled with endless possibilities. Our four-star rating in the IIC ratings is not just an achievement; it's a reflection of our unwavering commitment to fostering a culture where innovative ideas can thrive. Our focus at Amity University Chhattisgarh remains steadfast on driving innovations, organiz-



ing hackathons, and nurturing entrepreneurship. These initiatives are integral to our vision, continuously propelling us towards new horizons of creativity and groundbreaking achievements in the academic and entre-

preneurial landscape." The President of the Institute Innovation Council and Dy. Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Surendra Rahamatkar, also shared this perspective, noting, "Innovation is the catalyst for change in a

progressively digital world. At Amity University Chhattisgarh, we are not just educating students; we are cultivating future innovators and leaders. This recognition is a tribute to the relentless spirit of our students, faculty, and staff who have embraced innovation as a way of life. Together, we are redefining the boundaries of what's possible, paving the way for a future that is bright with possibilities." The success of Amity University Chhattisgarh in the IIC ratings is a clear indicator of its effective strategies in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty. This achievement is a collaborative effort involving various members of

the IIC team, including Vice-President IIC Prof. Roshan Mathew, Convener IIC Dr. Ramgopal Kashyap, Internship Activity Coordinator Mr. Advin Manhar, IPR activity coordinator Dr. Sushant Singh, and NIRF Innovation Coordinator Professor Satyendra Patnaik. Additionally, significant contributions came from Mr. G. Raghavendra, Dr. Rika Sharma, Dr. Goldi Soni, Dr. Sumit Kumar Banchhor, Mr. Ankit Mishra, Dr. Poonam Mishra, Ms. Nisha Rathore, Dr. Rajkumar Sahu, Dr. V. Balasubramanian, Dr. Arunima Sur, Mr. P.D. Patil, Dr. Shikha Tiwari, Mr. Abhishek Kumar Singh, Mr. Indrajeet Pandey, Mr. Jagdish Yadav,

Mr. Gulshan Kumar Dewangan, and all faculty and staff members involved in the innovation-centered initiatives. The university's approach towards innovation is comprehensive, integrating cutting-edge research with practical applications in the form of student-led startups. This approach is not only about fostering academic growth but also about preparing students to meet the challenges of the modern world with creativity and resilience. The recognition by the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell is a significant milestone in the university's ongoing journey towards being a leading center of innovation and entrepreneurship in India."



# 'Onus of stopping coal, cattle smuggling Centre's responsibility'

Kolkata, Nov 23 (PTI):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday indicated that the onus of stopping the smuggling of coal and cattle lies with the central government as its agencies are responsible for producing and safekeeping of the dry fuel and guarding the international border. "Coal India Limited (CIL) is run by the Centre. Coal mines are guarded by CISF, which is a central force.



Kolkata, she also alleged that those "big leaders" who are involved in cattle and coal smuggling are "sitting elsewhere". The TMC boss, however, did not name any individual or political party. The Trinamool Congress supremo's assertion came at a time when several party leaders are being accused of

being involved in the smuggling of coal and cattle. Abhishek Banerjee, her nephew and considered number 2 in the TMC, and his family members were also questioned by the ED in connection with the alleged coal scam. "Coal is often lifted illegally from closed down mines of the CIL and

its subsidiaries while ED has claimed that TMC local leadership was involved in the money trail of the trade," Banerjee said. She claimed that with the help of central agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate besides "unscrupulous" TV channels, it was being made out as if TMC leaders were the kingpins in the smuggling.

The central government has kept everybody at gunpoint, the TMC supremo alleged and asked party leaders to "speak his truth repeatedly" in their areas. Without naming the BJP, she claimed that saffron party leaders were involved in cow smuggling to Bangladesh through West Bengal.

## KHATU SHYAM BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



Devotees take part in a religious procession on the occasion of birth anniversary of Hindu deity 'Khatu Shyam', in Beawar, Thursday, Nov. 23.

## Security forces in last stages of eliminating Naxal menace in Jharkhand: CM Soren



CM Soren

Nagpur, Nov 23 (PTI):

Singhbhum district.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday declared that the state police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) are in the concluding stages of eliminating Naxal menace in the state.

Asked about the IED blast, Soren told reporters in Nagpur, "Security forces have dismantled stronghold of Naxals. They are in the concluding stages of eradicating Naxalism."

The Chief Minister was in the Maharashtra city to participate in a private event. Soren's stellar role in safeguarding the nation and paid tributes to its gallant personnel who have lost their lives in the line of

duty. Earlier in the day, the Jharkhand police, in a statement said, an IED, planted by banned CPI (Maoists), exploded in the forest near Hesabandh village in Muffasil when a team of security personnel from CRPF, its special operation unit Cobra, Jharkhand Jagur and district armed police was carrying out the operation against the red rebels.

A CRPF constable (174 battalion), identified as Hafizur Rahman, suffered injuries in the blast and was airlifted to a hospital in state capital Ranchi for treatment, said the statement.

Earlier last week, a CRPF jawan was killed and two others were injured in an IED blast in a forest in the Goikera area of West Singhbhum district.

### आम सूचना

सर्वप्रथम को एड द्वाारा सूचित किया जाता है कि हिन्दू धर्म के अन्तर्गत विवाह (हिन्दू) प्रायः विधि के अनुसार किया जाता है।

आतः उपरोक्त संव्यवहार से निम्न किस्मों के व्यक्ति, संस्था, बैंक, शासकीय एवं अशासकीय निकाय इत्यादि को कोई उन्मत्त, धमका या अपमान हो तो इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से 7 दिवस (सात दिवस) के भीतर अपने दस्तावेज एवं अधिकारों का प्रमाणित प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करने, समयावधि पर्याप्त बैंक के पत्र में सही ढंग से प्रमाणित करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

अतः उपरोक्त संव्यवहार से निम्न किस्मों के व्यक्ति, संस्था, बैंक, शासकीय एवं अशासकीय निकाय इत्यादि को कोई उन्मत्त, धमका या अपमान हो तो इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से 7 दिवस (सात दिवस) के भीतर अपने दस्तावेज एवं अधिकारों का प्रमाणित प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करने, समयावधि पर्याप्त बैंक के पत्र में सही ढंग से प्रमाणित करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

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### NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, Sushil Burad, S/o Shanti Lal Burad, resident of B-9, Shailendra Nagar, Near Bank of Baroda, Raipur (C.G.) 492001 have changed my old name Sushil Burad, S/o Shanti Lal Burad so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Sushil Kumar Burad in all Government and other documents.

SUSHIL KUMAR BURAD B-9, Shailendra Nagar, Near Bank of Baroda, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

### punjab national bank

Circle SASTRA Raipur, Plot No. 46, Sector-24, Naya Raipur, Pin: 492018, Ph: 0771-2210417/19

### DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower) and (Co-borrower) have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but they have been returned unreturned and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Table with columns: Name & Address of the Borrower and Branch Name, Date of Demand Notice, Amount Outstanding, Details of Properties / Address Secured Assets to be Enforced.

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The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Date: 24.11.2023, Place: Raipur & Durg Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank

### AVANSE FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

Registered Address: 001 & 002, Fulcrum Business Center-A Wing, Near Hyatt Regency Hotel, Ashok Nagar, Sahar Road, Anandhi (E), Mumbai-400 099

1st E-Auction 30 days Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Table with columns: Description of Secured Asset, Type of Possession, Reserve Price (Rs) / Incremental Amount, Earnest Money (Rs), Date of Inspection.

The description of the property that will be put up for sale in the Schedule. The sale will also be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the 'Authorized Officer' or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid.

The E-auction will take place through portal https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net or Auction tiger Mobile App (Android) and also physically in our Raipur Branch office at Street No. 8-A, Kamla Tower, 2nd Floor, New Shanti Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001 on 28/12/2023 between 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm with unlimited extension of 5 minutes each.

### NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, SANDEEP BOTHRA S/o. HIRALAL BOTHRA Resident of House No.- 852/1, Near Madhur Tent, Main Road, Gaya Nagar Durg (C.G.) have Changed my old name SANDEEP BOTHARA (Passport No.- J7129718). So in future I should be recognized by my New Name that is SANDEEP BOTHRA (AADHAR No.-9645 1427 2243) in all government and other documents.

SANDEEP BOTHRA House No.- 852/1, Near Madhur Tent, Main Road, Gaya Nagar, Durg (C.G.)

### NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, POOJA BOTHRA W/o. SANDEEP BOTHRA Resident of House No.- 852/1, Near Madhur Tent, Main Road, Gaya Nagar Durg (C.G.) have Changed my husband's name POOJA BOTHARA (Passport No.- J7129718). So in future I should be recognized by my New Name that is POOJA BOTHRA (AADHAR No.-9981 7909 4896) in all government and other documents.

POOJA BOTHRA House No.- 852/1, Near Madhur Tent, Main Road, Gaya Nagar, Durg (C.G.)

### आम सूचना

सर्वप्रथम को एड द्वाारा सूचित किया जाता है कि हिन्दू धर्म के अन्तर्गत विवाह (हिन्दू) प्रायः विधि के अनुसार किया जाता है।

आतः उपरोक्त संव्यवहार से निम्न किस्मों के व्यक्ति, संस्था, बैंक, शासकीय एवं अशासकीय निकाय इत्यादि को कोई उन्मत्त, धमका या अपमान हो तो इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से 7 दिवस (सात दिवस) के भीतर अपने दस्तावेज एवं अधिकारों का प्रमाणित प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करने, समयावधि पर्याप्त बैंक के पत्र में सही ढंग से प्रमाणित करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

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### HDFC BANK LIMITED

Registered Office: Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400 013

### POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [rule 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 18th November 2019 calling upon the borrower(s) 1) M/s. Dinesh Enterprises (Borrower) Represented by Proprietor Mr. Dinesh Kumar Agrawal 2) Mr. Dinesh Kumar Agrawal proprietor M/s. Dinesh Enterprises (Proprietor & Mortgagor) 3) Mrs. Jaishree Agrawal (Guarantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 3,30,52,123.40 (Rupees Three Crore Thirty Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Three and Forty Paise Only) on 31.10.2019 and interest thereon w.e.f.01.11.2019 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, guarantors and public in general that pursuant to the order of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gondia Maharashtra passed on 09th December 2022, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below through the Tahsildar, Gondia Dist. Gondia, Maharashtra in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 14 of the said Act read with rule 8 on this 21st November, 2023. The borrower(s), in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd., for an amount of 3,30,52,123.40 (Rupees Three Crore Thirty Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Three and Forty Paise Only) and interest thereon as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

Schedule of Immovable Property All the piece and parcel of the industrial immovable property Plot No. E-4, Admeasuring 4230 sq. Mtr. M.L.D.C., Gondia Industrial Area, Village Mundlpar, adjacent limit of Gondia Municipal Council, Gondia Maharashtra, owned by Mr. Dinesh Agrawal proprietor M/s. Dinesh Enterprises. Bounded as under:- North-Plot No. E-3/2, East-Cemetery, West-Estate Road

Appendix-IV-A (See proviso to rule 8(6) & 6(2)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 8(6) & 6(2) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Table with columns: Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors, Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner, Demand Notice Dt., Reserve Price, EMD Amt., Bid Increment Amt.

### आम सूचना

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### NAME CHANGE

It is inform to the general public that I DEBTANU CHAKRABORTY S/o Late R.C. CHAKRABORTY resident of E-11, Sector - 02, Avanti Vihar Colony, Telibandha, Raipur, Tehsil & Distt. Raipur (C.G.) have changed my old name DEBTANU CHAKRABORTY S/o Late R.C. CHAKRABORTY so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is DEVTANU CHAKRABORTY S/o Late R.C. CHAKRABORTY in all government and other document.

DEVTANU CHAKRABORTY E-11, Sector - 02, Avanti Vihar Colony, Telibandha, Raipur, Tehsil & Distt. Raipur (C.G.)

For sale proceeds of Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (https://www.canarabank.com) or may contact Mr. Ranjan Kumar Pani, Chief Manager, SPLSD ARM Branch, (6816) Bhopal OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM Branch, A/c No 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0006816



### Chhath Puja celebrated with pomp



Dongargaon, Nov 23:

Various festivals of Hindu religion and India are celebrated with great enthusiasm on different dates. One of these is Chhath Puja, in which Chhathi Maiya is worshiped and Arghya is offered to the Sun God. This great festival is celebrated as a big festival in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and here in the region women of Dongargaon city also completed their puja by offering Arghya to the Sun God in the big pond of

**Hanuman temple of the city.** During this puja, women keep a waterless fast for 36 hours and offer various food items and fruits along with water to the rising and setting Sun God. The tradition of this puja is years old in which women observe Nirjala fast and pray for the long life of their husbands and good health of their children. While women worshiped as per rituals in the big pond of the city, the youth expressed their joy about the festival by bursting crackers etc.

## Fraud in toilet construction in GP Tekapar Kala

Khairagarh, Nov 23:

In Gram Panchayat Tekapar Kala, which falls under the District Panchayat area, corruption has been rampant in the construction of toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission. Construction of toilets was approved for a total of 35 beneficiaries in Gram Panchayat Tekaparkala, out of which the sanctioned amount has been paid to 33 beneficiaries, but the Panchayat functionaries have made payments to such beneficiaries whose toilets have already been constructed.

Among the 35 beneficiaries, there are some whose toilets were constructed in the year 2013, yet in order to benefit the beneficiaries and get commission from the beneficiaries, construction of toilets was approved by making fake proposals. As per information, in Tekapar Kala, the Sarpanch, Secretary and



Employment Assistant of the Panchayat, in connivance and commission, have falsely tagged the photos of a toilet from different sides to provide ben-

efits to the beneficiary father and son, and the amount of Swachh Bharat Mission has been fully paid into the account of father and son.

#### What officer says

Geo tagging was done by members from Janpad, it is a beneficiary based work; I don't know about it, I will find out.

**Rajesh Singh (Baba)**  
Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Tekaparkala

There is confirmed information that the toilet of the beneficiary assistant Lal's father Arjun Yadav has been constructed, while the construction of toilet was also approved in the name of father Arjun Yadav, whose toilet has not been built but payment has been made. According to the rules, separate toilets were to be constructed for both the beneficiaries, but by constructing only one toilet, the government money has been deposited in the accounts of both the beneficiaries, about which the Panchayat representatives including the Sarpanch are also aware.

### Chhath Puja concludes with breaking of fast



Kharora, Nov 23:

End of Chhath Puja, was marked by the end in which 36 hour long fast was concluded. On Monday morning, fasting women offered Arghya to the rising sun on Chhath, the festival of worship of Lord Surya, with this the four-day festival of Chhath came to an end.

Earlier on Sunday evening, a large number of women and mothers turned to offer prayers and lakes to offer prayers to the setting sun. While wading into the water and offering

Arghya, the women prayed for the long life of their children. On the occasion of the great festival, a gathering of North Indians continued for the third day in Sheetal Pond of the city and devotees worshiped Chhathi Maiya with religious songs and musical instruments.

Various devotional programs were organized regarding this festival for 4 days and a special puja was performed as per traditional customs in the ghats of Shitala temple pond of the city.

## Child dies after falling into septic tank of Anganwadi

Dongargaon, Nov 23:

A two and a half year old child died after falling into a septic tank in village Aasra under Dongargaon police station area. According to the information received from the police, The child Bharat, S/O Satish Kanwar, a two and a half year old child studying in Anganwadi center number 5, had gone to the Anganwadi center, where while playing, he reached near a 10 feet deep septic tank and the child fell into it.



his grandfather was also present around the Anganwadi. As soon as he got information about the child's fall, he immediately reached there and pulled out the drowned child. With the help of villagers and family members, the child was brought to Dongargaon Community Health Center for immediate treatment where doctors declared him dead.

The child's body was handed over to the family members after post-mortem. There has been great negligence in this major incident as how did the lid of the septic tank remain open during the operation of Anganwadi and why the people nearby did or the Anganwadi workers not inform the Sarpanch or the concerned officials in this regard.

Anwari, Nov 23:

While reciting the story of Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana organized in the death memory of Mrs. Khomin Sahu, Kathavachak Bhuneshwari Sharanji Vyas, while describing the character of Sudama, said that if you make friends, then do like Lord Shri Krishna and Sudama. A true friend is one who understands his friend's problem and helps him without telling him, but nowadays there is no friendship of selflessness. As long as selfishness is not proven, friendship lasts and when selfishness is fulfilled, friendship ends.



He said that one Sudama, on the insistence of his wife, goes to Dwarkapuri to meet his friend Krishna and when he reaches the gate of the palace, he tells the guards

that Krishna is his friend and asks them to go inside. Hearing this from Sudama, the guards ridicule and say that how can a poor person be a friend of Lord Krishna.

Hearing the guards' words, Sudama starts returning without meeting his friend and then a sentinel goes inside the palace and tells Lord Krishna that a poor man

named Sudama is standing at the gate of the palace and is calling himself your friend. Hearing the gatekeeper's words, Lord Krishna comes running barefoot and stops his friend Sudama and embraces him. The spell-bound audience stayed tuned to the pravachan till late.

On this occasion, eligible disciples Mahanandeshwar Govardhan Sharan ji, Urmila Devi Sahu, Damon Lal, Leena Sahu, Sevak Ram Sahu, Bhansingh Sahu, Yogeshwari Sahu, Sheshnarayan, Haripriya Sahu, Tikuram Chanchal Sahu and a large number of audience were present.

## Counting of votes should be done as per EC's instructions: Collector

Bilaspur, Nov 23:

District Collector and District Election Officer Avnish Sharan gave necessary instructions to the officials regarding the counting of votes to be held on December 3 in the deadline meeting in the meeting room of the District Office. The Collector said that the counting of votes will be done on December 3 from 8 AM in the Government Engineering College premises located in Koni.



He instructed all the officers and employees to take proper training and be aware of the rules and regulations. The Collector said that it is necessary that the training of the counting team including officers and

election agents should be done smoothly and he also said that the counting of postal ballot papers and ETPBS is also to be done on the same day in the morning.

The Collector instructed to carry out the counting of

votes as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India and necessary instructions were also given regarding issuing identity cards to the officials of political parties and agents of candidates for counting of votes.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kunal Dudawat, CEO District Panchayat Ajay Aggarwal and all the returning officers were present in the meeting.

The Collector said that all the officers and employees have worked well in the voting under the Assembly elections, for this he congratulated everyone and congratulated them. He said that officers and employees will also play an important role in the counting of votes on December 3. The Collector also said that after the completion of the assembly elections, the officers should discharge their departmental responsibilities and bring progress in the schemes.

## Students worship Amla tree and pray for prosperity

Kharora, Nov 23:

On the auspicious occasion of Amla Navami, the Amla tree was worshipped in Bharat Dewangan Government Excellent Hindi and English Medium School, Kharora and the members of Staff went around and prayed to Lord Vishnu to provide happiness and good health to all the people. The coordinator of the program, Shahina Parveen, was the lecturer.

On this occasion, Principal Rajni Minj said that humans and trees are dependent on each other and it is also a medium to understand nature by going among it and developing the understanding of respecting nature. On this occasion, Vice Principal of the school, Harish



Dewangan, while expressing his views, said that Triphala powder is made by mixing Amla with Harra and Baheda, which is the oldest, easiest and reliable medicine of Ayurveda.

In this program Principal Rajni Minj, Vice Principal Harish Dewangan, Lecturer P

Dewangan, Shahina Parveen, Domar Yadav, Mahendra Sahu, Rajni Tripathi, Rita Rani Verma, Sunita Singh, Shweta Sharma, Sangeeta Nayak, Neetu Yadav, C Khare, Jayanti Sahu, Tanya Bhattacharya, Neha Rathod, Mongra Sahu, Geetanjali Paan, Shivangi Nishad, Amar

Burman, Praveen Patil, Dhanendra Adil, Nishita Dixit, Roon Shikha Sahu, Shailja Gautam, Apoorva Ogre, Pavas Patel, Anil Kumar, Yogita Dewangan, Krutika Verma, Lokeshwar Uike, Pavitri Sahu, Vikram Adil, Akash Parihar along with students and all the staff were present.

## Korea turning favourite place for nature lovers

Korea, Nov 23:

District Korea of Chhattisgarh is known for its natural resources and beauty and nestled in the lap of nature and covered with greenery, very close to the district headquarters Baikunthpur, there is a dam which is the first choice of nature lovers and wanderers. Especially on this dam, when the sun rises in the morning and when the sun sets in the evening, it looks more beautiful and attractive and as soon as evening comes, the wanderers go out in search of a quiet and secluded place.



Jhumka Dam is famous just at a distance of three kilometres from Baikunthpur Municipality and Korea Palace. Nature lovers visiting Korea who have less time can visit this dam and be thrilled with the unique heritage of nature.

However, its view becomes even more picturesque during the rainy season. However, dam water is also used for irrigation purposes. There is also the facility of boat, which is very exciting, the tourists coming from outside do not stop enjoying it.

## Bhog Prasad distributed after worshipping the Amla tree

Birkoni, Nov 23:

Kartik Purnima festival was celebrated with reverence and festivity and bathing and puja continued in the pond since early morning. On this occasion, women worshipped the Amla tree with full faith and after the puja, they gathered around and had food sitting in the shade. By tying a Raksha Sutra on the Amla tree, they prayed for the well-being of the family. Near the Amla tree, the family members including the children prepared various types of dishes and enjoyed the food and women in different places of village Kanpa worshipped the Amla tree and offered milk, water, Akshat, vermilion and sandalwood. After tying a Mauli on the Amla tree, chanting the mantra of Lord Vishnu, the women per-



formed various rituals. Donation of lamp under the Amla tree continued for a long time and it continued till the evening. According to religious texts, Lord Vishnu loved Amla very much, this is why people feel very happy eating food under the Amla tree and such festivals develop the qualities of community harmony and brotherhood. The same women and girls Rangoli was made in the courtyard of the house and lamps were lit in the temples.

## Children's Day celebrated with children's fair

Khairagarh, Nov 23:

A children's fair was organized at the city's Alpha National Model School on the occasion of Children's Day, the birth anniversary of the country's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

On this occasion, the school management ceremoniously remembered Chacha Nehru in the presence of guests, parents and school children and paid tribute to him. Guests and parents garlanded the oil painting of Chacha Nehru. The program started with a game among the students and the program concluded with games organized for the parents of the students, where musical chair, spoon race, marble



race and bottle fill competition were organized. On this occasion, Dr. Ghanshyam Dhekware, Congress leader and social worker Kapinath Mahobia, martyr Nikesh

Yadav's father Purushottam Yadav, Raviraj Srivastava along with foster parents and school management teachers and students were present.



## Temporary cease-fire in Gaza and hostage release now expected to start today

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Nov 23 (AP): An agreement for a four-day cease-fire in Gaza and the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel appeared to have hit a last-minute snag.

A senior Israeli official said it would not take effect until Friday, a day later than originally announced.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' October 7 attack that triggered the war. Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced the delay late Wednesday,



Palestinians flee to the southern Gaza Strip, on the outskirts of Gaza City, during the ongoing Israeli bombardment.

without providing a reason. Negotiators were still "working to create the appropriate conditions" for the cease-fire and swap, according to Majed al-Ansari, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Qatar, which played a key role in mediating with Hamas. The Persian Gulf nation said early

Thursday that a new time for the agreement to go into force would be announced "in the coming hours." It was originally set to begin Thursday morning. The US and Egypt also helped negotiate the deal.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, meanwhile, resumed its detailed

count of Palestinian casualties from the war, saying over 13,300 have been killed.

The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals in the north, where services and communication largely broke down earlier this month, and the ministry says some 6,000 people have been reported missing and are feared to be buried under rubble.

The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its death tolls. Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, though it has presented no evidence for its count.

The ministry stopped publishing casualty counts as of November 11, saying it had lost the ability to do so because of the collapse of the health sector in the north.

## FORMAL FAREWELL



Britain's King Charles III reacts as he Britain's Queen Camilla give a formal farewell to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and South Korea's First lady Kim Keon Hee at Buckingham Palace, in London on Thursday, Nov. 23, on their last day of a three-day state visit to the UK.

## Severe lack of accountability within US government: Ex-Trump admin official Kash Patel

Washington, Nov 23 (PTI): There is a severe lack of accountability within the US government by the people who are in position and have broken the law, according to an Indian-American attorney and a former Trump Administration official whose new book talks about the "deep state" and is highly critical of the American bureaucracy.

Kash Patel's latest book "Government Gangster" alleges that the US bureaucracy is highly infiltrated or dominated by a section of the people who break the law.

"The drive behind it (writing the book) was (that) after 16 years in government (during) both Democrat and Republican administrations, it became apparent to me that, through my roles, there was a lack of accountability severely within gov-

ernment, by people in government positions who had broken the law," Patel, who served as a chief of staff to the acting US Defence Secretary under President Donald Trump, told PTI in a recent interview.

"I thought writing out all of those instances that I encountered and was a part of trying to expose and provide solutions to how we actually defeat what I call the deep state, is one of the most important missions we have," he said. Patel was the chief investigator for the Russia Gate for Chairman Devin Nunes on the House Intel committee.

Nunes memo alleges that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) "may have relied on politically motivated or questionable sources" to obtain a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant in October 2016

and in three subsequent renewals on Trump adviser Carter Page in the early phases of the FBI's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections.

Being a former national security prosecutor himself, he said, "We're trying to return the halls of justice to a single-tier system of justice. And Russiagate was done with one intent in mind to rig elections to keep President Trump from the White House."

Responding to a question, Patel alleged that the Biden administration and the deep state are intertwined.

"The Biden administration is filled by these corrupt government gangsters who I list in the back of my book by name and title. It's not a Democrat or Republican thing," the 43-year-old attorney whose book hit the stands this winter, said.

## US lawmakers hail Indian-Americans' contribution to development at Capitol Diwali events

Washington, Nov 23 (PTI): Three Diwali events were held at the US Capitol during the past week with a large number of lawmakers recognising the role being played by Indian-Americans in the country's socioeconomic development. "The principles of Diwali -- the triumph of good over evil, the triumph of righteousness, the importance of doing your duty -- are good reminders to people of all faiths," Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna said in his remarks at the largest Diwali event at the US Capitol. The event was organised by BAPS, in association with the Hindu American Foundation, Asian American Hotel Owners' Association, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur, Federation of Jain Associations in North America, American Jewish Committee, US Indian Community Council and the Indian American Relations Council. Joined by over 300 members of the Indian-American communi-

ty from across the US, the annual event was attended by a large number of US lawmakers, including Senator Cynthia Lummis, Congressman Scott Perry, Congressman Shri Thanedar, Congresswoman Deborah Ross, Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna, Congressman Matt Cartwright and Ohio State Senator Niraj Antani. The elected representatives passionately emphasised the vital role of diversity in their constituencies. They underscored the profound impact of sharing cultural traditions and celebrations such as Diwali in promoting deeper understanding, fortifying community strength and building connections among diverse populations, BAPS said in a release. "May the festival of lights inspire us to lift our communities with hope instead of despair and stand up for what's right. That's what Diwali is all about," Congressman Jim Costa said, describing the spirit of the celebration at the US Capitol on November 15.

## Pakistan's Punjab gov't orders closure of education institutions for 3 days

Lahore, Nov 23 (PTI):

Pakistan's Punjab government on Thursday announced the closure of all educational institutions and imposed a smart lockdown in the provincial capital Lahore and five other districts for three days from November 24 to mitigate the impact of smog.

The government's decision came after Lahore recorded a maximum Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 500 on Thursday. An AQI above 100 is considered unhealthy, above 150 is very unhealthy, and an AQI beyond that is termed hazardous.

Addressing a press conference, Punjab caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi said, "The government has imposed a smart lockdown in Lahore and other five districts -- Multan, Faisalabad,

### To mitigate impact of smog

Sahiwal, Gujranwala and Sargodha -- of Punjab for Friday, Saturday and Sunday (November 24 to 26) where all educational institutions will also remain closed on these days as part of the measures to control smog."

No markets and business centres would be allowed to open before 3 pm on Friday and Saturday, while all markets and business centres will be closed on Sunday, he said.

The chief minister also said that the government is working on conducting artificial rain on November 29 if there are clouds over Lahore.

The caretaker government also announced the provision of electric bikes to 10,000 students and government employees on

subsidy to promote cycling at a time when smog is affecting the lives of 130 million people in the province.

The government also announced a mask-wearing mandate in 10 affected districts of the province because of the worsening air quality.

The hazardous smog is causing health issues like coughing, breathing difficulties, eye irritation, and skin infections among the province's residents, especially in Lahore.

"High levels of air quality due to smog pose a serious and imminent threat to public health in all age groups. Hence, it is mandatory to take all possible safety measures, including wearing masks, for prevention and control of airborne diseases in the province of Punjab," a government notification says.

## Dozens evacuate and 10 homes are destroyed by a wildfire

Perth, Nov 23 (AP):

Dozens of residents have been evacuated and at least 10 homes destroyed by a wildfire burning out of control on the northern fringe of the west coast city of Perth during heat wave spring conditions, authorities said Thursday.

There were no deaths reported, but several firefighters had sustained minor injuries including smoke inhalation, Western Australia state Department of Fires and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said. The fire began Wednesday afternoon in a pine tree plantation on Perth's northeast edge and was fanned overnight by 60-kilometre-an-hour winds, incident



West Australian firefighters watch as grassland burns near the West Australian city of Wannaroo, north of Perth in the early hours of Thursday, Nov. 23.

controller Clinton Kuchel said. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The temperature in Perth was forecast to peak at 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) on Thursday which is extraordinarily hot for the

Southern Hemisphere spring and winds remained strong. "Perth is experiencing heat wave conditions. So overlay that on top of the fire and you can imagine the conditions that our firefighters and our support staff are

working on. It's really challenging," Kuchel told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Whilst we're building containment lines on this fire, the conditions and the environment are such that even if we contain it, it may not be contained all the time. There may be breakouts. So it's a really challenging and dynamic environment," Kuchel added. Power poles had been damaged and 544 homes were without power Thursday. Around 130 people spent Wednesday night in an evacuation centre, Western Australia Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti said.

"The forecast for today is unforgiving. The temperature is expected to hit a maximum of 40 degrees, and the winds continue to be strong.

## Border crossings closed after vehicle explosion on bridge connecting New York and Canada

Niagara Falls (US), Nov 23 (AP): A vehicle exploded at a checkpoint on the American side of a U.S.-Canada bridge in Niagara Falls Wednesday, prompting the closing of four border crossings in the area, authorities said.

The blast happened on the U.S. side of the Rainbow Bridge, which connects the two countries across the Niagara River. Three other bridges between western New York and Ontario were quickly closed as a precaution, and the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport began security checks on all cars and told passengers to expect additional screenings.

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority posted on X, formerly Twitter, that all cars arriving at the Buffalo Airport



Trucks are positioned to block the entrance to the Rainbow Bridge border crossing between the U.S. and Canada, in Niagara Falls, Ontario, after a vehicle exploded at a checkpoint on the American side of the bridge.

would undergo security checks. The authority said travelers should also expect additional screenings.

No further information was immediately available on the cause of the explosion. The FBI's field office in Buffalo said in a state-

ment that it was investigating the blast, and investigators with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were also responding to the scene.

Photos and video taken by bystanders and posted

on social media showed thick smoke, flames on the pavement and a security booth that had been singed by flames. Videos showed that the fire was in a U.S. Customs and Border Protection area just east of the main vehicle checkpoint. Speaking to WGRZ-TV, Mike Guenther said he saw a vehicle speeding toward the crossing from the U.S. side of the border when it swerved to avoid another car, crashed into a fence and exploded.

"All of a sudden he went up in the air and then it was a ball of fire like 30 or 40 feet high," Guenther told the station. "I never saw anything like it."

Ivan Vitalii, a Ukrainian visiting Niagara Falls, told The Niagara Gazette that he and a friend were near the bridge when they "heard something smash."

## Biden calls Middle East leaders after Israel-Hamas hostage deal

Washington, Nov 23 (PTI): US President Joe Biden called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani of Qatar and President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt to discuss the latest situation in the Middle East following an agreement between Israel and Hamas on the release of hostages. Israel and Hamas agreed on Wednesday to a temporary four-day ceasefire to allow the release of 50 hostages held by the militant group in Gaza in exchange for 150 Palestinian detainees and the entry of humanitarian aid into the besieged territory. The deal, once implemented, will be the first major diplomatic breakthrough and pause in fighting since the war began

after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7. Biden on Wednesday spoke with Netanyahu to welcome the deal, the White House said in a readout of the call.

The two leaders discussed the pause in fighting, which will allow needed humanitarian assistance to enter into Gaza, it added. Netanyahu thanked Biden for his "tireless efforts" and those of his team to help broker the deal, the White House said. "The two leaders agreed that the work is not yet done and the president assured the prime minister that he will continue working to secure the release of all remaining hostages. The president further emphasised the importance of maintaining calm along the Lebanese bor-

der as well as in the West Bank," it said.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tender Notice No. : WRS-R-09-23-24-OT-CRANE-3 Date: 20.11.2023

Name of the work: Uncoupling/ cutting, off tracking and placement of wagons on the ground at exchange yard GSD/Raipur using pair of 12-15 MT. capacity Road mobile crane. Shifting and/or loading/unloading of excluded fittings/ other materials at exchange yard GSD/WRS/ Raipur premises and loading/unloading/ shifting of wheel discs, axles etc at wheel shop WRS/Raipur.

Approximate Tender Value: Rs.49,52,518.30/- (Rupees forty nine lakh fifty two thousand five hundred eighteen and thirty paise only) Including GST@18%. Quantity and Contractual Period: As per annexure enclosed for a period of 24 (twenty four) months. Earnest Money (Rs.): Rs. 99,100.00/- (Rupees ninety nine thousand one hundred only). Tender Closing Date and Time: 18/12/2023 at 15:30 hrs. Bidding Start Date: 04/12/2023 Eligibility criteria: Can be seen on website.

Manual tender shall not be accepted. The details of the tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. CMM/II/WRS/Raipur S.E.C.R., Raipur

PRR/WRSIAP/186

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PRR/WRSIAP/186

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda**  
Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006  
PH: 0788 - 2261892, 2264992, E-mail: recovery.durg@bankofbaroda.com

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 .

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Smriti Nagar Branch Bhilai 6232020431	Mr. Jagdeep Singh Soni & Mrs. Rajvinder Kaur Soni Om Sai Nagar, Plot No. 53, Khasra No. 314/26, PH No. 08/11, Mouja-Chikhali, Nagpura Road, Durg - 491001 (C.G.)	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of residential house situated at Plot No. - 53, KH No.- 314/1 (Part), PH No. 08/11, Sai Nagar, Chikhli, Tahsil & District - Durg (C.G.) - 491001 admeasuring 1125 sq.ft. in the name of Mr. Jagdeep Singh. Bounded : On the North by : Plot No. 51 (seller's rest land), On the South by : Plot No 53A (Seller's rest land), On the East by : 25 feet Road, On the West by : Land of Panchbati Sahu.	20.01.2023 Rs. 8,95,454.37 + interest + other charges 23.11.2023 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 24.11.2023, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh  
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

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Date: 24.11.2023, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh  
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda





## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 53

### Concerns and Questions

#### Mysterious Pneumonia Outbreak in China

The emergence of a mysterious pneumonia outbreak among children in China has raised significant concerns within the global health community. At a time when the world is still grappling with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the sudden surge in pediatric cases has ignited worries about a potential new health emergency. This editorial delves into the situation, highlighting the key aspects and implications of this concerning development. The outbreak's epicenters, Beijing and Liaoning province, have witnessed a distressing surge in cases among children, leading to overcrowded pediatric hospitals and the suspension of classes in some schools. Both students and teachers have fallen ill, drawing eerie parallels with the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic. The symptoms, primarily high fever and lung inflammation but notably lacking the typical cough associated with respiratory infections, have left medical professionals puzzled. Speculation among experts points toward mycoplasma pneumoniae, commonly known as "walking pneumonia," as a potential culprit. This bacterial infection, which primarily affects younger children, usually leads to mild illnesses but can escalate to severe conditions requiring hospitalization. Despite the outbreak's intensity, there have been no reported deaths thus far. The World Health Organization (WHO) has taken a proactive stance by requesting detailed information from Chinese authorities regarding this increase in pediatric respiratory illnesses. The WHO's inquiry aims to determine whether these cases are linked to the overall rise in respiratory infections reported in China following the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions. Chinese authorities have attributed this surge to the circulation of various pathogens, including influenza, mycoplasma pneumoniae, respiratory syncytial virus, and the virus responsible for Covid-19. In response, the WHO has advised the people of China to follow measures that reduce the risk of respiratory illness, including vaccination, maintaining distance from sick individuals, staying home when feeling unwell, testing and seeking medical care when necessary, wearing masks when appropriate, ensuring proper ventilation, and practicing regular handwashing. Furthermore, the global health agency has requested additional epidemiological and clinical data, as well as laboratory results, related to these pediatric clusters through the International Health Regulations mechanism. This collaborative effort aims to shed light on the outbreak's origins, potential causes, and current healthcare system burdens. In these trying times, it is crucial for China to prioritize enhanced disease surveillance within healthcare facilities and communities. Strengthening the capacity of the healthcare system to manage patients effectively is paramount. The global health community's collective vigilance, timely information sharing, and scientific cooperation will be instrumental in understanding and mitigating this mysterious outbreak. Let us hope that the mysteries surrounding this outbreak are unraveled swiftly, and effective measures are put in place to safeguard the health and well-being of children in China and beyond.

### India-Australia 2+2 Dialogue

#### Strengthening Strategic Bonds

The ever-evolving landscape of global geopolitics, the India-Australia 2+2 dialogue has emerged as a critical platform, fostering a deeper strategic partnership between these two nations. This recent meeting, featuring India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar alongside their Australian counterparts Richard Marles and Penny Wong, is emblematic of the commitment to addressing crucial issues in the domains of defense, security, and maritime affairs. In this dynamic geopolitical environment, the discussions have encompassed a broad spectrum of mutual interests, and it is impossible to overlook the backdrop of China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. The rising belligerence of Beijing looms large, and both India and Australia recognize the imperative of addressing this shared concern. Yet, the ambit of these deliberations extends beyond the Indo-Pacific, as the leaders of both nations have conscientiously considered pressing global issues. They have devoted attention to the turbulent landscapes of West Asia and Eastern Europe, contemplating the ramifications of ongoing geopolitical crises in these regions. This multifaceted dialogue underscores the commitment of both nations to not only their regional interests but also their global responsibilities. The genesis of this collaborative dialogue can be traced back to September 2021 when India and Australia conducted their inaugural 2+2 ministerial dialogue. Since then, the bilateral and strategic ties between these two nations have witnessed a steady upswing. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia and his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, have convened on six occasions within the past year and a half, participating in forums such as the Quad—a testament to the growing synergy between these countries. A noteworthy development in their partnership came in March when India and Australia mutually agreed to recognize each other's educational qualifications, a decision that directly benefits the multitude of Indian students who pursue higher education in Australian institutions. Given the significant number of Indian students choosing Australia as their academic destination, this initiative holds substantial importance. The cooperative spirit between India and Australia didn't stop there. The two nations swiftly followed this educational accord with a commitment to finalize a comprehensive trade agreement by year's end. These comprehensive engagements encompass diplomacy, economics, education, and military cooperation, underpinning the robustness of their relationship. In a world marred by conflict and uncertainty, these steady ties serve as a beacon of stability. However, amid these positive developments, a thorny issue has come to the fore—an issue that cannot be ignored. It pertains to radical elements who exploit Australian soil to foment separatism in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised this concern during discussions and sought Australia's cooperation in addressing this matter. It is incumbent upon Canberra to employ all necessary measures to untangle this web of complexity and ensure that its soil is not misused to threaten the sovereignty and unity of another nation. As India and Australia navigate the complex currents of global geopolitics, it is essential that their partnership continues to be grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and the pursuit of common goals. The 2+2 dialogue provides a forum for these nations to deepen their understanding of each other's strategic concerns and to collaborate on solutions that promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

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

### TULSI VIVAH



Devotees perform rituals during 'Tulsi Vivah' celebrations on the occasion of 'Devuthani Ekadashi', in Varanasi, Thursday, Nov. 23.

## The War: A Breach In Fraternity



PROF. ANIL JAIN



Can someone believe that a small incident like a terrorist attack on a country ignites world war. No doubt certain detractors on the electronic media were foreseeing the Third World War when Russia invaded Ukraine because it was a war between two countries. On the one side were all countries which are members of NATO, the traditional opponents of Russia. But what the war between Russia and Ukraine could not do is being done by a mere terrorist attack. However all know that it is not a simple terrorist attack but it is a ruse to eliminate one social group. It is an ethnic conflict. It is to eliminate Jews from the world map as was in the mind of Hitler decades ago.

Again it is just like what happened around 83 years ago when Nazi Germany invaded Poland and that small incident became the immediate cause of World War II. Although, the incident was only an excuse as the cauldron was boiling for a long time; something that was

being anticipated for a long time. Finally the world had reached such an impasse and culmination that the II World War was imminent. Unfortunately, today we all are witnessing this and at the same time moving towards it. For a long time certain terrorist groups have been creating a situation which was making every rational person think seriously. The irrational behavior of such fundamental organizations on innocent people has been really a matter of concern for one and all. They were targeting people on the basis of caste and faith. The terrorist activities were a matter of concern for all the nations of the world.

Having all types of disputes between nations is universal and almost all the countries of the world have border issues and other kinds of disputes. Many of them are fighting for independence and liberty but no one has gone to that brutality and savagery. No outfits go for such an extent as to killing and raping of the civilians. The cruelty proves without

doubt that there is more to it than the dispute which is visible on the surface.

The Palestine issue is only a border issue. There may be disagreement on certain issues but such disagreement should not give way to violence and if someone is resorting to violence then it clearly indicates that their ends have some hidden agenda. Their attitude towards the followers of others faiths cannot be justified at all. At one level this has to be checked. The barbarism in Afghanistan by the Taliban on their own brethren, when the people of their own country had to flee riding on the roof of the airplane and many other incidents indicate that they have no faith in humanism and equality.

One more point that is obvious is that Islamic countries are in a dilemma whether to support or refute the cause of Palestine. The policy makers and diplomats are unable to decide where to take a stand. On the one hand the religious leaders are provoking the naive citizens swearing of religion but on the other, those who are in the political arena and diplomats understand evil designs of these fanatic groups. They know that the terrorist organizations are not the well-wishers of anyone or any country. Once they get their entry into a country they would start misguiding people against their governments. Most of the Islamic countries are victims of such

radical outfits. Be it Pakistan or Afghanistan. That is why most of the journalists on Pakistan and world media are openly raising their voices against such fundamentalism.

To have sympathy with the people of their own faith is a common phenomenon. But when they use religion as propaganda then the situation worsens and creates problems. The religious leaders misguide people showing only one side of the coin.

The Israel issue has brought forward two types of conclusions. First, the world has come to realize where the roots of the enmity lie and the other that all the nations of the world who have faith in humanism and democracy have come to stand united. It is interesting to note how the inclination of the world is changing. The heads of the nations visiting Israel one by one proves their concern over the issue. The way terrorist organizations have done massacre and shown cruelty over Israelis and ignited war is an eye opener.

The world would not be the same as it was before the war. There is more to it than is visible on the surface. Everyone must realize how long the rest of the world would keep on singing the songs of fraternity and equality unless all harmonize with them.

Prof. Anil Jain, Deptt. of English, Govt. PG College, Damoh, MP. Email: anil-jaindamoh@gmail.com

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### India's Dilemma: Myanmar Crisis

The Myanmar crisis presents a formidable challenge to India, given its volatile border and China's regional dominance. India faces concerns over potential anti-India activities in the North-East, capitalizing on Myanmar's instability. While India advocates for dialogue to restore democracy, it must grapple with the consequences of a border situation that has led to an influx of civilians, particularly in Mizoram. This complex scenario demands a cautious approach from New Delhi, especially with civilian armed forces gaining control in the Chin state. Striking a balance in this delicate situation is paramount for India's regional stability.

MK Nair, Raipur

#### Hope Persists

The Men in Blue have experienced the stark contrast between scoring a perfect 10/10 and achieving the ultimate 11/11 on the cricket field. Nevertheless, our nation takes pride in their ability to turn individual brilliance into collective success. It's crucial to remember that the International Cricket Council rewards champions with \$4 million and runners-up with \$2 million, plus \$40,000 for each league match win. In sports, just as in politics, nothing is decided until it's over. There's no place for complacency or despair; the spirit of sportsmanship must endure.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

#### To become science superpower

India needs to build more laboratory space, improve communication along with GDP allocation and tax breaks to achieve the Government's aim of becoming a science super power. Every year demand for laboratories is growing. Project implementations are getting delayed due to lack of showing green lights from the higher authority. If the science hubs in India are to keep up with their counterparts in the US and Germany, by the next decades thousands of high skilled and high wage jobs are to be offered to our evolving scientists community. Development corporations can be included into the process along with various local bodies to speed up planning and delivery of results. Finally the budget for higher education and skill management should be increased.

Arka Goswami, Bidhannagar

## Class Consciousness At Its Worst

Kajal Chatterjee

India neither starts with Virat Kohli /Rohit Sharma nor ends with Mohammad Shami-Ravindra Jadeja. Also winning or losing a World Cup final is not the be-all and end-all of India. Rather the real India lies within the people of the country irrespective of race-language-religion-caste-region-class and other demographic factors. And of that very much-larger India, as many as 41 workers are presently trapped within a tunnel in Uttarakhand (where they were literally building up the infrastructure of the nation) and struggling for dear life for more than 200 hours.

Had the "nationalists" in the form of cricket fanatics, who were immersed in irresistible enthusiasm revolving around the World Cup, ever cared to award minimum concern towards the unfathomable physical and mental turmoil of those vulnerable hardworkers. Do those endangered human beings and their close relatives not deserve to come within the ambit of Indians. Prayers and yajnas were held nation-wide for the sake of the Rohit-

brigade to win the World Cup final match. Did the plight of the hapless trapped workers manage to make an entry even to the remotest corner of the mind of the praying mass. Hats off to our "proud nationalists" for their "impeccable love" towards the nation ie the real nation comprising all its inhabitants.

We have heard enough of the zealous rhetoric --- "Let the cup make its return to India after 12 years". The elusive Cup has not come back. And even if had it returned to the Indian soil through the Kohlis, still it would have failed to change the fortune of billions of hapless Indians entangled in the deadly cycle of poverty hunger and relentless struggle for survival. So now at least after the completion of tournament glitter and extravaganza, would the mass/mob of "nationalists" care to pray for the return of our fellow Indians from the deadly darkness of the tunnel after horrific fight. Of course only if Indian "mainstream" nurture even a trace of a thing named love towards the fellow citizens irrespective of their class and job profile. But it is too much to expect the concept

of equality from surely the brute majority of the privileged class.

No wonder why we were witness to the fact how a matinee star's "suffering" had generated more sympathy among a large section of people and media than the plight of the families of 257 persons who got killed in the 1993 Mumbai blasts, just because he happened to be a member of the "upper crust" of society. According to this class-conscious school of thought, the actor should have been provided a clean-chit and allowed the luxury of escaping from the clutches of law and punishment just because he hailed from a "good family", not a "born criminal" and committed a "mistake" that too for "self-defence"! But the very same brigade does not extend this gem of "liberalism" for the convicts who have not been born with silver spoons in their mouths.

Firstly, "goodness" of a family is not a bit dependent upon academic degrees, wealth or social status. Rather ideals, values and deeds form the yardstick of goodness. Else it gets concluded that families plagued by poverty, unemploy-

ment or illiteracy are not "good" and if any of its members are found on the wrong side of law, no problem if they are awarded adequate punishment! Only phillistines can define the "goodness" of families through such vulgar yardsticks. Secondly, there lies no reason to believe that a person is definitely "good" just because his parents are "good". Else it implies that children of criminals are definitely "criminals"! There exist innumerable persons of questionable credentials hailing from "good" families; also countless civilized individuals from "bad" ones have established themselves in the society through sheer hard work and honesty.

Thirdly, the actor might not have been a "born criminal", but the same fact is applicable to criminals of all hues round the world. Why didn't the "loyalists" of him shed crocodile tears for them also! As far as theories of "mised innocent", "mistake" and "self-defence" are concerned, again infinite people have fallen prey to it. But their plight does not draw sympathy from any quarter. In this "great" society, innumerable poor people (maximum of

them being absolute innocents), accused of petty crimes, not only continue to languish in dungeon-like jails for decades as undertrials, but also for more years than the maximum possible years of punishment for the alleged crime. But nobody cares to show a bit of compassion to these unfortunate lot as they are poor, "uneducated" and do not hail from "good" families.

Again in this society of "values", it gets regularly reported how a poor hungry child or orphan has been tied to a tree/post and beaten to death by the mob merely for his/her "unpardonable sin" of stealing a banana or a loaf of bread just to put a balm on the starved stomach! The common people who zealously cry on viewing the "plight" of matinee stars neither protest against such barbarities on the poor hungry children nor demand adequate punishment for the monsters in the guise of human beings. When will the Indians learn to demand justice for individuals on the basis of neutrality and humanity instead of taking into account their glamour, profession, educational degree, social or economic status?



**BRIEF**

**Cipla**

**New Delhi:** Shares of Cipla plunged over 8 per cent on Thursday after the US health regulator pulled up the drug major for various manufacturing lapses at its Pithampur (Madhya Pradesh) based manufacturing facility. The stock tanked 8.10 per cent to Rs 1,168.60 on the BSE. During the day, it dropped 8.37 per cent to Rs 1,165.10. At the NSE, it fell 7.63 per cent to Rs 1,174.40. The company's market valuation eroded by Rs 8,319.48 crore to Rs 94,344.05 crore.

**KIOCL**

**New Delhi:** State-owned KIOCL on Thursday requested stock exchanges BSE, NSE and MSE to waive about Rs 17 lakh fine imposed on the company for non-compliance with norms related to appointment of independent directors. The fine levied by exchanges has no impact on the financial, operation or other activities of the company, KIOCL said in a BSE filing.

**LTIMindtree**

**Mumbai:** LTIMindtree, a global technology consulting and digital solutions company, has launched a state-of-the-art Quantum-Safe Virtual Private Network (VPN) link at its London premises. This is an exciting move towards the era of quantum-secure communications, where data transmission is protected today from the looming "harvest now, decrypt later" threat. LTIMindtree's Quantum-Safe VPN demonstrates the practical application of Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) within a live network, using quantum-based key generation and out-of-band key delivery, which is secured by Post-Quantum Cryptography algorithms that are on track for standardization by NIST, thereby bolstering the security and integrity of encrypted data.

**Gopal Snacks**

**New Delhi:** Rajkot-based Gopal Snacks has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 650 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The proposed issue is entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of equity shares by promoters and other selling shareholder, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on Tuesday. The OFS comprises the sale of shares worth up to Rs 100 crore by Bipinbhai Vithalbhaji Hadvani, up to Rs 540 crore by Gopal Agriproducts Pvt Ltd, and up to Rs 10 crore by Harsh Sureshkumar Shah.

**4i Apps Solutions**

**Chennai:** 4i Apps Solutions has been Great Place To Work Certified in India (from November 2023 to November 2024). 4i Apps Solutions' commitment to creating a positive and supportive workplace culture has been acknowledged by this prestigious certification, and it is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the entire team.

# Customer data completely safe in India: Sitharaman

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday assured that customer data shared with account aggregators (AA) is completely safe in India.

Concerned over the slow movement of the AA scheme, she said, "It is not as much as I would want to see. It can be better, which means either the building of awareness exercises are not sufficient, adequate" or there is a need for simplification of technology.

"Banks, both public and private, have reviewed it with me once. Banks have become a member or a part of this account aggregators working, and it has actually helped," she said at the 'DATE with Tech' event here.

She stressed that the enthusiasm of the banks has to be accentuated, only then that it will reach every customer.

Allaying concerns about data security, she said, "Initially, there were some apprehensions that possi-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks during an interaction at the inauguration of the Digital Acceleration and Transformation Expo (DATE), in New Delhi, Thursday, Nov. 23.

bly, account aggregators are going to sit over data bank. They cannot hold data. They are just a pass-through. Neither the beneficiary customer nor the bank can sit on it through the AA. They will deal with it only for the purpose of giving credit". Asked about

what kind of assurance she can provide to customers, Sitharaman said the government's approach in creating public platforms for banking facilities ensures customer data protection. "The moment you agree to be willing to give it, it will be shared without

much hindrance. On data protection, I can assure Indian citizens your data remains completely safe," she said.

Account aggregators (AA) are entities that enable financial data sharing from Financial Information Providers

(FIPs) to Financial Information Users (FIUs), based on the consent from the customers.

On low insurance penetration in India, Sitharaman said there have been experiments by Scheduled Commercial Banks to increase the penetration.

Insurance companies will have to be a lot smarter by adopting technology tools and addressing last-mile distribution of their products, she added.

"There is a need for insurance companies to become a lot more tech-ready and through technology, but because insurance is such a sentimental matter. You still need a human interface. Insurance companies will have to adapt technology, bring in more personnel, who can go to the field and only then can we achieve greater and wider insurance coverage," she said.

Insurance penetration in India during 2021-22 at 4.2 per cent remained the same as in 2020-21.

# Coal India to phase out mining equipment imports in 6 years: Govt

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

State-owned CIL, which has imported high-capacity mining equipment worth Rs 3,500 crore in the past five years, has drawn up a plan to phase out such inbound shipments over the next six years, the government said on Thursday.

The move aims to encourage and develop domestically manufactured equipment, it said.

"Currently, Coal India Ltd (CIL) imports high-capacity equipment, such as electric rope shovels, hydraulic shovels, dumpers, crawler dozers, drills, motor graders, and front-end loaders wheel dozer, valued at Rs 3,500 crore, incurring additional expenses of Rs 1,000 crore in customs duty," the coal ministry said in a statement.

These equipment were imported over the past five years. To curb these imports and boost domestic manufacturing, CIL has devised a strategy to phase out imports gradually over the next six years, it said. Notably, high-capacity machines are already being

procured from domestic manufacturers.

With a strong commitment to reduce the country's dependence on imports and promoting domestic production, the Centre is taking steps to foster indigenous manufacturing capabilities within the coal mining sector.

"In pursuit of this goal, an interdisciplinary high-level committee under the chairmanship of Director (Technical), CIL, was constituted to provide recommendations for bolstering domestic manufacturing of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) and underground mining equipment, including High Wall Miners, standard and low-capacity miners, and associated ancillary equipment," the statement said. It is projected that coal will remain the predominant source of energy even beyond 2030, thus, the panel expected a huge requirement of equipment in the next 10 years in the country, for opencast and underground mines and submitted its final report.

# BOB reports strong financial performance in Q2FY24

**Net profit soars, NPA ratio improves, and business expands significantly**

New Delhi, Nov 23:

Bank of Baroda (BOB) has released its financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, showcasing impressive growth and improved asset quality. The bank's stellar performance in Q2FY24 reflects a promising outlook for both shareholders and customers.

BOB reported a stand-alone net profit of Rs 4,253 crore in Q2FY24, a remarkable increase from Rs 3,313 crore in Q2FY23. The net

profit for H1FY24 stands at Rs 8,323 crore, reflecting a YoY growth of 51.8%.

The bank's net interest income (NII) saw a substantial growth of 6.5% YoY, reaching Rs 10,831 crore in Q2FY24. For H1FY24, NII registered an impressive growth rate of 14.8%, standing at Rs 21,827 crore.

Non-interest income nearly doubled to Rs 4,171 crore in Q2FY24 compared to Rs 1,826 crore in Q2FY23. The non-interest income for H1FY24 reached Rs 7,493 crore.

BOB demonstrated a significant improvement in its asset quality, with the gross NPA ratio decreasing to 3.32% in Q2FY24 from 5.31% in Q2FY23. The net NPA ratio also improved to

0.76% in Q2FY24, down from 1.16% in Q2FY23.

The bank's global advances increased by 17.3% YoY to Rs 10,24,501 crore, while domestic advances grew by 16.5% YoY to Rs 8,34,723 crore. Global deposits also rose by 14.6% YoY to Rs 12,49,647 crore.

BOB maintains a strong capital position with a CRAR of 15.30% in Sep'23. The consolidated entity's CRAR and CET-1 ratios stand at 15.74% and 12.11%, respectively.

The bank witnessed substantial growth in its retail advances, particularly in auto loans, home loans, personal loans, mortgage loans, and education loans. The organic MSME portfolio also grew by 12.1% YoY to Rs 1,13,512 crore.

# Rupee edges 2 paise lower to close at 83.34 on FIJ outflows

Mumbai, Nov 23 (PTI):

The rupee slipped by 2 paise to settle at 83.34 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday due to FIJ outflows and weak local equities.

Oil prices sliding more than 1 per cent and the US currency trading lower against its major global rivals restricted the rupee's fall, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened higher at 83.30 against the US dollar. It later moved in a tight range of 83.29 to 83.36 in the day trade. The rupee finally closed lower by 2 paise at 83.34. The unit had closed at 83.32 on Wednesday. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.31 per cent down at 103.60.

# LIC to launch 3-4 products for double-digit growth in new biz premium in FY24: Chairman

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has lined up 3-4 product launches in the coming months with a view to achieve double-digit growth in new business premium in the current financial year.

"We are projecting double-digit growth over the last year. We are going to achieve that because a recent trend is showing uptick in individual retail business. In order to further reinforce our commitment, we are going to launch some new attractive products," LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty told PTI in an interview. LIC is going to launch one product in the



first week of December, he said, hoping that it will attract a lot of traction in the market.

Sharing some features of the new product, Mohanty said it will provide assured returns and after maturity, the policyholder will get 10 per cent of the sum assured life

long. He exuded confidence that the new product will create disruption in the market as everybody wants to know how much he or she is paying and the returns one would get after 20-25 years.

In addition, he said, loan facility and premature withdrawal would also be a feature of the new product. Guaranteed return products are in the interest of policyholders and shareholders, he said, adding that many shareholders are also policyholders. "So, it is dual benefit for policyholders," he added. Mohanty said 2-3 more policies will be launched during the course of the year to achieve double-digit growth in new business premium.

# Equity markets settle flat in volatile trade

Mumbai, Nov 23 (PTI):

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in highly volatile trade on Thursday as losses in healthcare and IT stocks were largely offset by gains in energy and metal shares amid positive global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 5.43 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 66,017.81. During the day, it hit a high of 66,235.24 and a low of 65,980.50.

The Nifty slipped 9.85 points or 0.05 per cent to 19,802.

"It turned out to be a dull session as the benchmark ended unchanged after trading in a narrow band. After the initial uptick, Nifty slipped lower in no time and remained

in a tight range till the end," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, Infosys, Titan and Asian Paints were the major laggards.

IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Bharti Airtel, Wipro, HDFC Bank and Tata Steel were the major gainers. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.44 per cent, and midcap index gained 0.15 per cent.

Among the indices, healthcare declined 1.13 per cent, IT fell 0.46 per cent, consumer durables declined 0.44 per cent, teck (0.26 per cent), capital goods (0.26 per cent) and

power (0.11 per cent). Realty climbed 1.22 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.21 per cent, energy (0.84 per cent), telecommunication (0.82 per cent) and metal (0.53 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green.

European markets were trading with marginal gains. The US markets ended in positive territory on Wednesday.

"Range-bound momentum continued on main indexes as the market looked for new triggers for a decisive move beyond the 19,800 level. However, the broad markets' undercurrent is strong and rapid buying has emerged in the mid and small-cap counters as a bargaining strategy arose on recent underperforming stocks.

# India launches five-day Millets Festival in Indonesia

**To raise awareness and create markets for millets-based products in ASEAN**

Jakarta, Nov 23 (PTI):

India has launched a five-day Millets Festival here in the Indonesian capital to raise awareness for millets as a farmer-friendly and sustainable food choice and create a market for millets-based products among the 10-member ASEAN bloc.

The Indian Mission to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have jointly organised the ASEAN-India



Officials during the launch of a five-day Millets Festival 2023 by India and ASEAN, a move aimed at raising awareness and creating a market for millets and millets-based products among the 10-member bloc, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Millets Festival' starting November 22 during which a Millet-centric exhibition is being held featuring participation from Millet-based FPOs, startups and Indian chefs.

"The Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) partici-

pated in the ASEAN-India Summit and East Asia Summit on September 7. During the ASEAN-India summit, one of the joint statements adopted was about food security," India's Ambassador to ASEAN Jayant

Khobragade said. "In two months, we are having the Millet Festival which also covers food security. That is how effectively our comprehensive strategic partnership is working," he said.

Describing millets as one of the important elements for ensuring food security, he said this was very well in the overall framework of the ASEAN-India relationship.

"There is a lot of interest. For this millet festival, we have representation not only from Indian farmers and industrialists but also from ASEAN member states," he added.

Khobragade also highlighted the crucial role of millet in addressing global hunger and nutrient deficiencies.

# Patanjali's holistic approach transforms lives

**Offers hope in battling diseases**

Haridwar, Nov 23:

Patanjali has successfully liberated thousands from the shackles of various chronic illnesses. The renowned organization proudly boasts an extensive database comprising over one crore individuals, supported by substantial real-world evidence, preclinical and clinical studies.

Patanjali would like emphasize that we are not spreading any false propaganda. Hundreds of therapies of Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy,

P a n c h a k a r m a , Shatkarma, fasting and with the integrated treatment of system, we have made thousands of people free from several diseases like BP, sugar, thyroid, asthma, arthritis, obesity, liver and kidney failure, and cancer. We have database with more than one crore people, with real world evidence, preclinical and clinical evidence.

Despite unwarranted opposition from a select few within the medical community, Patanjali remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting holistic health and healing. They have taken a principled stand against

fraudulent practices within the medical field, including the installation of fake pacemakers, illegal organ harvesting, unnecessary medication, and excessive testing—a commendable effort to combat medical and drug mafias.

In an act of utmost humility and respect, Patanjali expresses its willingness to present all pertinent facts and evidence before the honorable courts and media, should the need arise. Their unyielding commitment to the well-being of countless individuals remains the cornerstone of their mission to bring about positive change in

the realm of healthcare.

Patanjali, a leader in the field of Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, P a n c h a k a r m a , Shatkarma, and fasting, has pioneered an integrated treatment system that has yielded astonishing results in combatting ailments such as hypertension (BP), diabetes, thyroid disorders, asthma, arthritis, obesity, liver and kidney maladies, and even cancer.

Patanjali's approach stands as a beacon of hope for those who have sought alternative therapies, often encountering resistance from the conventional medical establishment. While synthet-

ic medicines may control ailments, they often fall short in providing lasting cures—an issue that Yoga and Ayurveda have successfully addressed, informs a press release.

Acknowledging the importance of modern medicine, Patanjali reiterates its respect for healthcare professionals who offer life-saving drugs, emergency care, and essential surgeries. Their mission extends beyond business interests, as they strive to scientifically and authentically advance the teachings of Maharishi Charak, Maharishi Sushruta, and Maharishi Dhanvantari of Vedas and Ayurveda.

# Startek Named 2023 Winner in the BIG Award for Business

Mumbai, Nov 23:

Startek (NYSE: SRT), a global customer experience (CX) solutions provider announced today that Startek Agent AI has been named New Product of the Year in the Business Intelligence Group BIG Award for Business. Startek Agent AI integrates three advanced AI solutions to boost both employee (EX) and customer experience (CX). The platform uses AI for global contact center agent training, emphasizing real-life scenario-based learning to improve speed to proficiency. Startek proactively combines people, technology and data to deliver customer experience excellence for leading brands. By blending people and technology Startek

is creating the contact center of the future in which technology relieves agents of repetitive tasks and supports team members to deliver highly personalized interactions.

"We are honored to receive the prestigious BIG Award for Business, affirming our commitment to delivering exceptional customer service for our clients' customers. We are proud to continue to push the boundaries of innovation and the recognition of Startek Agent AI as New Product of the Year underscores our belief that blending people, technology and data delivers the best outcomes for our clients and our people," said Abhinandan Jain, Chief Growth Officer, Startek.



# Collector conducts inspection of counting venue

# Two-day camp and Anand Mela held

**Takes stock of preparations made, issues instructions**

**Bilaspur, Nov 23:** The counting for Assembly polls 2023 will be held on Dec 03 at Government Engineering College, Koni, Bilaspur and it will start at 8:00 am. As per instructions by EC, the preparations by the District Administration are going on for counting in full swing.

In this series, Collector and DRO Avneesh Sharan conducted inspection of the counting venue closely for about an hour and gave necessary instructions to the officials to make arrangements for counting tables system, security system, media centre, sitting arrangements and all other necessary arrangements required at the counting venue. Collector directed to ensure counting with complete trans-



parency and free & fair manner.

Collector said that in each Vidhan Sabha, a total of 14 tables will be provided. The counting of postal ballots and ETPBS will be held at the same venue first from 8:00 am. He di-

rected the officers present to ensure all the arrangements as per EC's guidelines for the counting.

On this occasion he also took information about the security arrangements for counting by the police officers and in turn the

Police officer gave full information about the three-tier security system at the venue and the police officers apprised Collector about the strict security arrangements to be made on the day of counting since morning.

Collector gave instructions to the officers to erect barricades at the counting venue, make sections, entry of political persons and media personnel; reserve employees, CCTV camera placements and others.

In view of security, he asked to make colour coding in the IDs of the candidates and the officers, so that the identity of a candidate, agent, government officer and employees can be ensured clearly.

Collector giving information to the office bearers of the political parties and agents about the preparations for the counting and took their view. During this District Panchayat CEO Ajay Agrawal, Dy. DRO Shivkumar Banerjee and all returning officers were present.

**On occasion of Children Right's Day in Govt Middle School**

Central Chronicle News

**Kharora, Nov 23:** It was under the aegis of Karita India NGO, two-day camp and Anand Mela was organised on occasion of Children Rights Day in Government Middle School Chadia on Wednesday.

In this district prog coordinator Raipur Devendar Kumar Karsh delivered address on child labour and on community children for taking care of health of mother and child.

Programme resource person Sukhmandan Banjare shared his experience on formation of 'Bal Panchayat' and on health nutrition. As programme assistant, Community teacher Sarita Madhukar,



Academic Consultant Ritu Sahu, Geetanjali Yadu, Subhashani Yadav, Kiran Jendra, Pramod Kumar were present. The chief guest of the function was Sarpanch Ashish Verma.

Teacher of the School Dharendra Verma informed that in this programme, apart from students of Govt Middle School Chadia, the students from other schools, viz. Govt Middle School Pachari, Aalesur, Sirri, and others also took part in various activities. In this way there was lot of enthusiasm among the students and they presented songs on patriotism and a cultural programme as well and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the villagers.

## Young man searching for a cow dies due to electrocution

Central Chronicle News

**Baloda Bazar, Nov 23:** A young man died after coming in contact with a wire laid for hunting wild animals in the district. This incident took place in Narayanpur village of Kasdol police station area. On receiving information about the incident, Kasdol police started investigation.

Kasdol police station in-charge Lakhesh Kenwat said that information was received around 7 pm on Wednesday evening, that two youths had gone out to search for their cow.

Meanwhile, a young man, Khagesh Chauhan, came in contact of the wire laid for hunting wild



animals and fell unconscious. On receiving information from a friend, the family members arrived and took the young man to the hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Police also immediately reached the spot but due to it being night, the wire could not be traced. The matter is under investigation.

## Discussions hot on victory and defeat among people

**Hot topic in chowks, pan-tea vendor shops etc**

Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Nov 23:** With hardly few days to go for counting, the people including the party workers are making their own claim and counter-claims about their victory and defeat of other's party standing at the chowk, tea shops and other public places.

The polling for Chhattisgarh polls was held in two phases on Nov 7 and 17 and after which people are making all sorts of speculations about victory and defeat of other party. Now even the 'satta' operators have become active and staking claim in the results to be

declared on Dec 3. After the Vidhan Sabha polls, the party works and candidates have started making claims of their victory and in this both the candidate and political party have started gathering data from their respective booths, polling centre and at many a places there is news about rebels and dissidents likely to play a spoilsport in some candidate's cases.

Those having interest in politics are making it centre of discussion, be it at the tea vendor shop or pan shop or hotels, chowks and restaurants and everywhere all sorts of statistics and figures are being projected for party's victory in the polls.

Amidst the claims for victory and defeat, there are many who wants to challenge the same and



ready to gamble it as well. At one place where the Congress candidates are claiming of their victory on the other the BJP candidates and office bearers are claiming of victory based upon the central government's schemes.

There are all sorts of speculations in Lormi,

Mungeli and Bilha Vidhan Sabha seats in the District. Even though the main contest is between Congress and BJP, but still both are making claim of their victory first.

On the fifth day of the polling, the people are have discussions either in person or through different

medium like social media platforms and claiming of each other's victory and as to who will be No. 1 and No. 2 and which party will form the government?

Set aside this the 'satoriya' (betting) operators too have become active over the results of the candidates and staking claims worth lakhs not just on the candidates, but also on the issue as to which party is going to form the government in the state and how much will be the margin.

With peaceful polls held in the state, now the major discussions is on the victory and defeat. The political pundits are also making all sorts of calculations and started analysis the voting trends and response from the voters.

Meanwhile the trend as to who will emerge victorious

is changing at short intervals and it is like 'Kaabhi Khushi-Kabhi Gam' like story, as the news about victory brings smiles on the faces of the candidates and their supporters and that of defeat puts them in state of sorrow.

With massive polling in the Assembly polls, the discussions are hot in the political circles about the victory and as to on which side the camel will sit and the true figures would be known only on Dec 3. But it is for sure that with 70% of the polling in the region, it has disturbed the political equations in the region and therefor the claims are also equally proving to be unrealistic and sometime real. The candidates are keeping their figures cross and waiting for the results to be declared on Dec 3.

## Muhurat ceremony of Ch'garhi film 'Jawani Zindabad' held

**'Jawani Zindabad' is directed by Vaidehi's successful Director Sagar Panda**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 23:** The muhurat ceremony of Chhattisgarhi film 'Jawaani Zindabad', a film giving message to the soldiers with the mix of humor and comedy was held on Thursday here. The film is produced by R a d h e s h y a m Choudhary.

Based on the young generation, this film in-



cludes actors from Bollywood and Orissa. Chollywood to Successful director of

Vaidehi film, Sagar Panda is the writer and

director of this film.

The cast of the film includes many experienced actors like Akash Soni, Lakshit Jhanjhi, actress Jyotsna Tamrakar, Suman Patnaik, Pushendra Singh, Anjali Singh Chauhan, Sumedha, Harshvardhan, Lavneet and Sagar Panda.

The project head of the film is Puran Kiri, production head Sanjay Mahanand, Creative Director Aditya Kashyap, Associate Sanware, Assistant Director Anunay Sharm. The, shooting of the film will start from December 1 in Raigarh.

## SSSS Paediatric Cardiac Centre celebrates 98 yrs of Sri Sathya Sai

**With all children operated along with the staff**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 23:** Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is known world over as redeemer, philosopher, savior and God incarnate by millions of His followers in India and the world over. Several hospitals and educational institutions are giving free health care and education to all those who enter their portals. Today the 23rd of



November 2023 marks 98 years of His being. He left His physical body in 2011. Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Paediatric Cardiac Centre in Nava Raipur celebrates 98 years of Sri Sathya Sai with all the children who have been operated along with

the staff and well-wishers who have been supporting the hospital in various ways. As a special offering to Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba; the medical faculty conducted 9 procedures today. In other words 9 tiny lives have been blessed with a new lease of life.

## Leopard seen again in the residential area, people panic

Central Chronicle News

**Gariyaband, Nov 23** People are in panic due to the sighting of leopard once again in the residential area adjacent to the city. A leopard was seen in Ward No. 7 Ravanbhata area of Gariyaband police station on Tuesday night. Its CCTV footage has also surfaced.

According to the information received, a trader in Ward No. 7 woke up to the loud barking of stray dogs at around 11.30 pm on

Tuesday night. When he saw the leopard roaming in the boundary wall of the house in the CCTV camera, he was stunned.

The CCTV footage was handed over to the police and forest department. The forest department and police team started searching for the leopard. Apart from this, the people living in the area have been alerted not to go into the forest behind the colony.

Vikas Sahu, a businessman living in Ravanabhata, said that

the leopard was seen behind his house earlier also. A week ago, the leopard had killed a calf from the house. He told that movement of leopard in Ravanbhata Colony caused panic among the people in the area.

The situation is such that people are now afraid to even step out of their homes. The local people have demanded from the Forest Department that the leopard should be caught as soon as possible to dispel fear from minds of people.

## Ch'garh's Culture mesmerizes audience at IITF on State Day

**People throng to IITF amphitheatre in large numbers to see Chhattisgarh Day celebration**

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Nov 23:** It was an evening filled with Chhattisgarh's rich art and culture at Pragati Maidan in India International Trade Fair-2023. Artists from various districts of the state mesmerized hundreds of audience with their performances at Amphitheatre here on the occasion of Chhattisgarh Day celebration. Chhattisgarh Resident Commissioner Shruti Singh was the chief guest and other dignitaries were present at the function.

Chhattisgarh pavilion is showcasing its spectrum of products including handlooms and handicrafts at the 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. A



total of 10 stalls have been put up for display in the area measuring 300 sq feet, depicting this year's theme 'V a s u d h a i v a Kutumbakam'.

The pavilion showcases the state's progress and displays their industrial, agricultural, herbal and handicraft products as per the speciality of each region. Chhattisgarh Pavilion has been organized this year at

Hall No. 2, First Floor. The cultural event at the amphitheatre 1 started with lamp lighting followed by dance performances by cultural troupes. Spectators appreciated the performance of Amcho Bastar, dance to worship ancestral goddess of bastar, with a big round of applause. Dadariya song was also performed. A passionate performance of Bhojli

dance was the next to cast a spell on the entire audience. The group showed 'Gaur dance' and 'Gedi dance' especially performed on the occasion of Hareli festival.

The group of women artists showed folk dance 'Sua Naacha' or parrot dance especially performed during the Diwali festival. It is a symbolic form of dancing related to

worship. Dancers keep a parrot in a bamboo-pot and form a circle around it. Then performers sing and dance, moving around it with clapping. This is one of the main dance forms of tribal women of Chhattisgarh.

The melodious song and the sound of clapping combined to create an enchanting atmosphere. The rhythm and melody of the song accompanied with the dance created a soothing affect. The group of men artists showed folk dance 'Panthi' dance, one of the most popular ritual of Satnami community. The dance commenced with slow movements to the accompaniment of a song led by the leader of the group. The tempo increased gradually and created an enchanting atmosphere.



## ISSF World Cup Final: Ganemat finishes fifth

Doha, Nov 23 (PTI):

India's Ganemat Sekhon reached her first title round of an ISSF World Cup Final and finished fifth in the women's skeet event at the Lusail Shooting range on Thursday.

In the process, she equalled her own national record score of 120 yet again (third time in ISSF competitions this year) when she finished second in qualification behind American Dania Jo Vizzi, going down 5-6 in a shoot-off to determine qualifying positions.

Ganemat after shooting rounds of 24, 24 and 24 on Wednesday, came back with a 23 and 25 this day to make the top six with ease. Kazakh Assem Orynbay won gold and Italian Chiara Di Marziantonio won silver as Dania took home bronze.

At the start of the final, three shooters including Ganemat, Dania and skeet legend Kimberly Rhode missed one target each on the first station which had



two doubles. The Indian went on to miss the lone double on station two as well. Chiara and Assem were the only two shooters to hit their first six targets and the latter would not miss till the 22nd, before ending with 51 out of 60 targets to Chiara's 50.

China's Jiang Yiting was first to bow out in sixth round after 20 shots. Dania and Ganemat also had 15

hits at that stage but survived on higher bib numbers. The Indian did not overcome the second elimination hurdle though and bowed out with 23-hits to her name.

Prithviraj Tondaiman in the men's trap event shot five identical rounds of 23 each over two days to finish with a score of 115 and on 13th position overall. Anish in the men's 25m

rapid-fire pistol had a fruitful first day of qualifying, lying fourth after the precision round with a score of 292.

He will come back on Friday for a shot at the final along with teammates Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sift Kaur Samra, who will be in action in the men's and women's 50m rifle 3 positions respectively.

## Harika loses in final of Speed Chess tournament



Chennai, Nov 23 (PTI):

Indian Grandmaster D Harika went down 11-15 to GM Hou Yifan of China in the final of the Julius Baer Women's online Speed Chess Championship 2023.

Harika took home USD 4,230.77 for the games she won in the tournament.

"I'm just not happy with my strength today. I think it has to do with immediately back-to-back matches... it was really exhausting," Harika said after the match. "This is one of my favourite tournaments, being at home, you can play such matches with the best players with an amazing prize fund... I wish to come back again next year!" she added. Harika had defeated GM Kateryna Lagno in the semifinals 12-10.

Hou earned USD 10,000 for winning the title and another USD 5,769.23 for win percentage.

## Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag enter quarterfinals of China Masters

Shenzhen, Nov 23 (PTI):

Ace Indian shuttler HS Prannoy and Asian Games gold winning pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the quarterfinals in their respective events at the China Masters badminton tournament here on Thursday.

World championship bronze medallist Prannoy, the only surviving Indian in the men's singles event, registered a comfortable 21-12 21-18 win over Magnus Johannesen of Denmark in the pre-quarterfinal match that lasted exactly 40 minutes.

Prannoy, seeded eighth here, will now take on third seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka in the last eight round.

Besides Prannoy, world no.5 and top seeds Satwik and Chirag also kept the Indian flag flying by progressing to the quarterfinals of men's doubles event with 21-15 21-16 win over Japanese duo of Akira Koga and Taichi Saito.

They will next play Indonesian combination of Leo Rolly Carnando



and Daniel Marthin. Against Johannesen, Prannoy started on a bright note and used his smart play to race to a 6-1 lead in the first game before the Dane reduced it to 8-6 and then to 14-11.

But the Indian used all his experience and engaged his opponent in

long rallies to tire him out and pocket the first game.

The second game was an intense affair as both the shuttlers fought tooth and nail till 15 points and then were tied at 18 apiece before Prannoy got the better of his opponent to close out the contest and seal his quarterfinal spot.

## Life continues: Kuldeep, Siraj and Rahul react after World Cup heartbreak

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

Some of India's World Cup heroes, including Kuldeep Yadav and Mohammed Siraj, opened up after the heartbreak at the last hurdle following a glorious run in the showpiece.

Spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Thursday admitted that the pain of World Cup final defeat to Australia will linger and push him to work harder for the "next opportunity". Reactions from Mohammed Siraj and KL Rahul followed, as the players tried to cope up with the six-wicket loss to Australia in the summit clash in Ahmedabad on November 19.

"Our journey from Chennai to Ahmedabad ended in a disappointing result, but we take pride in our achievements over the six weeks. Despite the pain, we're determined to work harder for the next opportunity," Kuldeep said in a post on 'X'. "While the pain of de-



feat lingers, we must move forward; life continues, and healing takes time," said the wrist spinner.

He said dealing with the setback was tough.

"The Cup was beautiful, but it seems God had other plans. Navigating this moment, it's time to switch off and recharge. Dealing with this setback is tough, but we hold onto faith, believing in the journey ahead," he said.

Kuldeep played all of India's 11 matches in the World Cup and took 15 wickets at an average of

28.26. India won 10 matches on the trot before losing the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in front of over one lakh supporters.

"Thanks to our dedicated support staff, we were fully prepared for every opponent, and their commitment reassured us as players," said Kuldeep.

"The love from fans at each of the 9 venues touched our hearts and motivated us to exceed our limits. We're grateful to passionate fans worldwide and in every Indian Household for their support."

## Vijay Hazare Trophy

Ahmedabad, Nov 23 (PTI):

Yuzvendra Chahal might be despondent after the selectors snubbed him for the T20I series against Australia, but the leg-spinner channelised his angst positively with a six-wicket burst against Uttarakhand as Haryana started their Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign with a six-wicket win here on Thursday. The 33-year-old's six-wicket haul (10-2-26-6) saw Haryana bundling out Uttarakhand for 207 in their Group C match, and along the way Chahal also completed 200 List A wickets. It might just help him to stay visible on the selectorial radar. For Uttarakhand, wicketkeeper batter Aditya Tare made 67 while opener Kunal Chandela chipped in with 47 as Chahal ran through the rest of the order. The chase was pretty non-

## Chahal grabs six wickets in Haryana's big win over Uttarakhand



frilled as openers Yuvraj Singh (68) and Ankit Kumar (49) gave them a sound platform, while captain Ashok Maneria contributed an unbeaten 44.

**Kerala prevail over Saurashtra**

In Group A, Kerala went through some struggles before eking out a three-

wicket win over Saurashtra at Alur-KSCA Oval in Bengaluru. Courtesy a gritty 98 off 121 balls by Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Saurashtra recovered from a precarious 65 for 7 to post a competitive 185 under cloudy skies on a freshly-laid pitch.

Debutant Akhin took 4 for 39 for Kerala to rock their opponents top order, generating good pace and bounce. Kerala nearly messed up the chase and were at 61 for 4 in the 17th over, but a composed fifty by Abdul Bazith (60 off 76 balls) and an unbeaten 21 by Shreyas Gopal carried them past target with 14 balls to spare.

**Mumbai outclass Sikkim**

In a Group A match at Alur 2 in Bengaluru, pacer Tushar Deshpande's three-wicket haul helped Mumbai steamroll Sikkim by 7 wickets. Deshpande's 3 for 19 proved vital as Mumbai shot out Sikkim

for 89 in 38.1 overs, and then they chased it down in 12 overs with opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi making a 28-ball 30.

**Harshit, Ishant shine for Delhi**

In a Group C match at Motera 'A' in Ahmedabad, veteran pacer Ishant Sharma (3/30), his younger colleague Harshit Rana (4/17) and leg-spinner Suyash Sharma (3/19) combined to bowl out Bihar for 149. Skipper Yash Dhull and openers Anuj Rawat and Priyansh Arya made well-timed knocks as Delhi cantered to the target in just over 22 overs.

**Mayank, Samarth spur Karnataka**

Openers Mayank Agarwal and Ravikumar Samarth fired in tandem to make big hundreds as Karnataka started their campaign with a big 222-run win over Jammu and Kashmir at Motera 'B' ground in Ahmedabad in a

Group C match. Samarth (123 off 120 balls, 11x4, 2x6), Agarwal (157 off 133 balls, 11x4, 8x6) and Devdutt Padikkal (71, 35 balls, 4x4, 5x6) spurred Karnataka to a mammoth 402 for 2. It was also their highest-ever List A total.

Pacer Vysakh Vijayakumar then grabbed four wickets as Karnataka bundled out J&K for 180.

**All-round Bengal hammer Nagaland**

In a Group E match at BKC, Mumbai, captain Sudip Kumar Gharami, who made a 44-ball 62, and opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, who struck 57 off 63 balls, assisted Bengal to overcome a mediocre target posted by Nagaland for a nine-wicket victory. Earlier, pacers Saksham Chaudhary (3/23) and Akash Deep (2/24) shared five wickets among them to bowl out Nagaland to a lowly 139 in 47 overs.

## Rohit Sharma doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds, Ashwin backs skipper



Mumbai, Nov 23 (PTI):

India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said Thursday Rohit Sharma "doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds", backing his captain to the hilt after his failure to convert a blazing start into a big score in the World Cup final against Australia attracted criticism.

Rohit was in full flow throughout the tournament and the brisk starts that India enjoyed were largely due to his pyrotechnics at the top of the order. Scoring at an incredible strike rate of 125, he amassed 597 runs in 11 matches.

However, Rohit received criticism from some quarters after an adventurous attempt to hit Glenn Maxwell out of the ground in the final led to his dismissal for a 31-ball 47,

which set a solid foundation but from where his team could not consolidate.

"Everybody says in hindsight that he would score 100 if he carried on, but it was his intent that made the team play in such a way. Rohit Sharma doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds - he has had quite a lot - but it is the intent which counts," Ashwin said.

The seasoned off-spinner revealed he was shell-shocked by Australia's decision to bowl first in the final last Sunday, but also praised Pat Cummins and selector George Bailey for reading the pitch at Ahmedabad perfectly.

Australia outsmarted India on many fronts of the summit clash as they clinched their sixth World Cup fin, beating the title favourites, who were on a 10-match winning spree, in the final played at the world's largest cricket stadium. "Australia were practically outstanding in the final. I was shell-shocked to see their tactics. Australia has deceived me personally, as their history goes by, they say 'we are going to have a bat, mate!' after winning the toss in the big finals," Ashwin said in his latest YouTube video on Thursday.

## Australia rallies to beat Czech Republic and reach Davis Cup semifinals

Malaga (Spain), Nov 23 (AP):

A game away from elimination, Australia found a way to rally and make its way back to the Davis Cup semifinals.

Australia came from behind to defeat the Czech Republic 2-1 and reach the last-four for the second straight year on Wednesday.

Alex de Minaur recovered from a set and a break down to keep the Aussies alive, then Max Purcell and Matthew Ebden won the decisive doubles match to set up a last-four encounter with Finland on Friday.

Tomas Machac defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4, 7-5 in the first singles to put the Czechs ahead, but De Minaur beat Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6 (2) 7-5, and then Purcell and Ebden the 2022 Wimbledon champions sealed the comeback by defeating Adam Pavlasek and Lehecka 6-4, 7-5 in the doubles.

"I prided myself on a never-say-die attitude and he's certainly in the same category", Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt said of De Minaur.

"For him to go out there



Australia's Alex De Minaur (R) shakes hands with Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka water winning the second men's single quarter-final tennis match between Czech Republic and Australia of the Davis Cup tennis tournament at the Martin Carpena sportshall, in Malaga.

and put the boys on his back again, we're so proud of him. He had to dig really deep and yet again he saved us."

De Minaur, the top-ranked Australian and No. 12 in the world, broke back at 3-5 down in the second set and went on to force a tiebreaker. He then broke serve at 5-5 in the final set before closing out the match with four straight points.

"It would have been quite easy for me to roll over under the circumstances, but that's just not the type of player I am," the 24-year-old De Minaur said.

"I have had plenty of these types of matches in my career. It's part of my identity. I'm not going to give up. I'm going to fight until the end."

Lehecka, No. 31 in the world, finished his season early to be fully fit for the last-eight in Malaga.

Machac broke Thompson's serve once in the first set and twice in the second, including at 5-5 before closing out the match in the first singles.

## Ben Stokes to miss IPL 2024, confirms Chennai Super Kings

Chennai, Nov 23 (PTI):

Premier England all-rounder Ben Stokes will miss the 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to workload management, his franchise Chennai Super Kings announced on Thursday.

Stokes had joined CSK ahead of IPL 2023 but played in only two matches as he was managing a troublesome knee injury throughout the course of the two-month long tournament.

"England Test captain, all-rounder Ben Stokes has made himself unavailable for IPL 2024 to manage his workload and fitness," CSK said in a statement on their website on Thursday.

"The Chennai Super Kings management is supportive of Ben in his decision to manage his workload with England playing a 5-Test series in India before the IPL and then the T20 World Cup in June 2024," the statement added.

CSK had acquired his services with a bid price of Rs 16.25 crore, making him the costliest buy of the franchise. Stokes had managed only 15 runs and bowled one over in two matches in 2023, given that



his energies were focused on getting ready for the Ashes series which followed soon after.

Stokes came out of retirement from ODI cricket but defending champions England endured a dismal World Cup campaign, finishing seventh in a 10-team points table.

The 32-year-old Stokes missed the first three matches of the league stage but finished well with one century and two fifties towards the end. However, Stokes did not bowl in any of the six World Cup games.



# Campaigning in Rajasthan ends, polling on Saturday

Jaipur, Nov 23 (PTI):

The high-pitch electoral campaign in Rajasthan for the November 25 assembly elections came to an end Wednesday evening.

While the ruling Congress focused its election campaign mainly on the works and performance of the Ashok Gehlot government, its schemes and programmes and also banked on the promise of seven guarantees if the party retains power, the BJP attacked the Congress on issues such as crime against women, appeasement, corruption and paper leak.

Rajasthan has a total of 200 assembly seats but polling will be held in 199 seats the Congress candidate from Sriganganagar's Karanpur seat Gurmeet Singh Kanoor passed away.

There are 5,25,38,105 voters in the 199 assembly constituencies.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi,



Union Home Minister Amit Shah acknowledges the crowd during a public rally at Nimbahera ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Chittorgarh district, Thursday.

Priyanka Gandhi, Gehlot and other conducted a series of election meetings while Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the election campaign for the BJP and held multiple meetings. He also held road shows in Bikaner and

Jaipur. BJP president JP Nadda, Union ministers Amit Shah, Smriti Irani and Rajnath Singh, and chief ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya

Pradesh) and Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam) among others also addressed public meetings in various constituencies across the state.

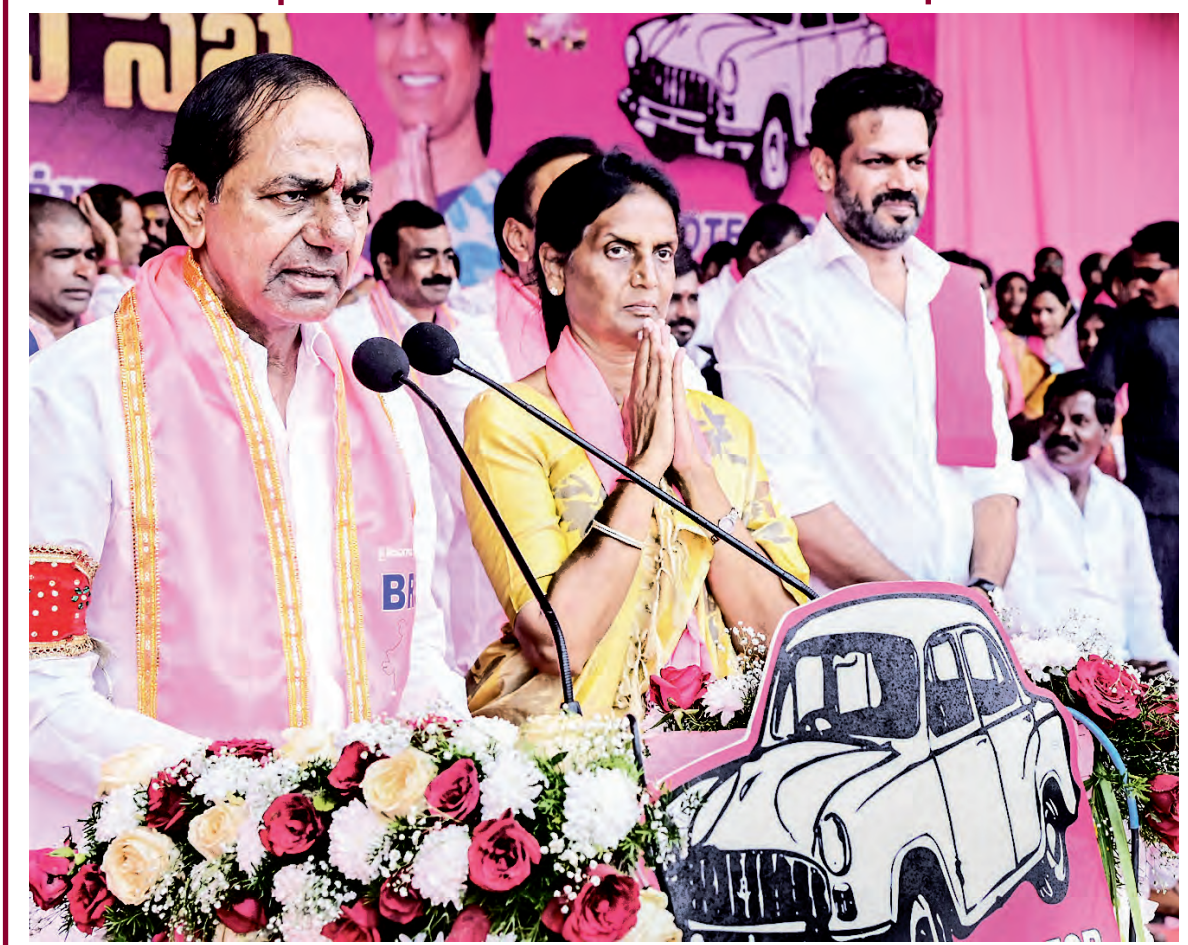
An official of the election department said the campaigning ended at 6 pm. Polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm on Saturday and results will be declared on December 3.

According to the regulations, there will be no election-related public meeting or procession or campaigning on television.

Chief electoral officer Praveen Gupta said if any person violates the provisions, he or she will be punished with imprisonment of up to two years or fine or both.

The Election Commission has directed that any political person who is not a voter or candidate of that constituency or is not an MP or MLA cannot stay in that constituency after the election campaign is over.

## PRAJA ASHIRVADA SABHA



Telangana Chief Minister and BRS President K. Chandrashekar Rao speaks at a public meeting during the 'Praja Ashirvada Sabha' election campaign ahead of Telangana Assembly elections, in Vikarabad, Thursday.

# Bhaichung Bhutia joins ex-CM Pawan Chamling's party ahead of 2024 polls

Gangtok, Nov 23 (PTI):

Legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia on Thursday joined the opposition Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) headed by former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling.

Bhutia also merged the Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP), the outfit he had formed ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, with the SDF at a rally in Ravangla in South Sikkim, about 70 km from the state capital

Gangtok. The assembly polls in the small Himalayan state, besides the parliamentary elections, are due next year.

Chamling welcomed Bhutia into his party by presenting him a Khada, a traditional scarf used in Tibetan Buddhism, and an SDF flag while hundreds of the party workers cheered the former Indian football skipper.

Bhutia also heaped praise on Chamling, saying Sikkim needs an experienced leader like him to navigate the state

to the path of development and prosperity.

"We will ensure that the five-term chief minister returns to power after the 2024 assembly elections," he said.

Chamling, the longest-serving chief minister in India, was at the helm in Sikkim between 1994 and 2019. He lost to Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) of present Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang in 2019.

While the SKM won 17 of the 32 seats, the remaining 15 went to the SDF. However, all MLAs

of the SDF, except Chamling, joined either SKM or BJP later.

In his address, Bhutia charged Tamang with mismanagement, misuse and corruption.

"The Tamang government has taken loans of Rs 20,000 crore in the past four and half years, but nobody knows as to where all this money has gone," he alleged.

Bhutia said that it was time to rebuild Sikkim under Chamling's leadership.

Before forming the Hamro Sikkim Party,

Bhutia contested the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from Darjeeling and the 2016 Assembly polls from West Bengal's Siliguri in Trinamool Congress tickets but lost on both occasions.

The Hamro Sikkim Party also did not find favour with the electorate, polling less than two per cent of votes with all its candidates losing their deposits in the 2019 assembly elections. Bhutia had expressed interest in joining the SDF in September.

Jaipur, Nov 23 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Thursday targeted Rahul Gandhi for his "panauti" jibe against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming when the Indian cricket team lost the World Cup final match, the former Congress chief and his sister were happy.

He claimed that Rahul Gandhi has become a "national problem".

Addressing an election meeting at Bagidora in poll-bound Rajasthan's Banswara, Chouhan attacked the Congress government in Rajasthan over a range of issues, including corruption,

paper leaks and crime against women. The Madhya Pradesh chief minister claimed the Congress cannot do good for the people and asserted that the people of Rajasthan need a double-engine government to accelerate growth and development.

The Congress has been finished and was nowhere to be seen, Chouhan said.

"Rahul Gandhi is no longer just the Congress's problem, he has become a national problem Rahul and Priyanka lie every day," he alleged, adding that they do not know how to give a speech.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's "panauti" jibe against Modi, the Madhya Pradesh chief min-

ister said, "The prime minister went to watch the match. The entire county was praying for the win of the Indian team but when the team lost, there were tears in the eyes of the people. But Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi were happy."

Modi is "panauti" for terrorists and the Congress should understand this, Chouhan said.

Rahul Gandhi had used the "panauti" barb against Modi in a poll speech in Rajasthan as the prime minister had attended the World Cup cricket final that India lost to Australia after 10 consecutive wins in the tournament.

A Hindi slang, "panauti" loosely refers to someone who brings bad luck.

# Plea for review of same-sex marriages verdict mentioned in SC for open court hearing

New Delhi, Nov 23 (PTI):

A petition seeking review of the October 17 verdict refusing to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriages by queer couples was on Thursday mentioned before the Supreme Court for an open court hearing.

A bench led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud took note of the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for one of the petitioners, that the review plea needed to be heard in open court to redress the grievances of those seeking validation of same-sex marriages. The bench also comprised justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

"I have not examined the (review) petition. Let me circulate it (among judges of that constitution bench)," the CJ said.

"All judges (of that constitution bench) agreed that there is discrimination and if there is some kind of discrimination then there has to be a remedy. The lives of a large number of people depend on it. We have urged for an open court hearing," Rohatgi said, adding that the review plea was listed for consideration on November 28.

According to apex court procedures, the pleas seeking review of a judgement is considered by judges concerned in chambers with no oral submissions by lawyers.

However, review pleas in exceptional cases, including the one pertaining to handing down the death penalty, are heard in an open court.

The review plea, which was mentioned on Thursday, was filed by Udit Sood, one of the 21 petitioners, in the first week of November assailing the judgement.

It said the judgement acknowledged the discrimination against queer couples but "turned them away with best wishes for the future".

The constitution bench headed by the CJ had delivered four separate verdicts on the batch of 21 petitions seeking legal sanction for gay marriages.

All the five judges were unanimous in refusing to

give legal backing to same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act and observed it is within Parliament's ambit to change the law for validating such union.

However, by a majority of 3:2, the top court held that the queer couples do not have the right of adoption.

In his verdict, the CJ passed a slew of directions to the Centre, states and Union territories to ensure that the queer community is not discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation and also to take steps to sensitise the public about queer identity, including that it is natural and not a mental disorder.

# Responding to BRS allegations, K'taka minister says his state faces no power problems

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (PTI):

Karnataka Energy Minister K J George on Thursday, responding to BRS allegations about governance in his state, said there is no problem with regards to power supply there, barring five to ten days.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister blamed the previous BJP government for "not augmenting" the installed power capacity in the state during its term, and emphasised that the Congress had done everything to tide over a short-term crisis the state faced.

The minister's comments came in the wake of the ruling BRS party targeting the Congress al-

leging that the neighbouring state which is ruled by the party is reeling under power cuts, while the grand old party is making promises to the people of Telangana.

George said some power plants in Karnataka were shut down for maintenance during the monsoons, which had caused temporary power cuts.

"Because of shortage we have immediately revived them and whenever farmers have requested, we have immediately given enough power to them to save their crops. There were no complaints. It was just a period of 5 or 10 days. Immediately we have sorted out those things," he said.

He said that unfortunately the issue is being politicised.

The Karnataka government on August 5 formally launched the Gruha Jyothi' scheme, one of the five poll guarantees of the Congress party, which promised to provide up to 200 units of free power to households in the state.

Congress Working Committee member Ajoy Kumar said after the Karnataka Government opened the registration for subsidised power, as many as 1.6 crore people have registered for it.

The six guarantees promised by the Congress in Telangana are:

Mahalakshmi — Rs 2,500 monthly financial

assistance for women, LPG cylinders at a cost of Rs 500 each, and free travel for women on TSRTC buses throughout the state. Rhythu Bharosa — Rs 15,000 annual aid for farmers and tenant farmers, and Rs 12,000 for agricultural workers. Additional bonus of Rs 500 for paddy crop.

# PM acknowledges nonagenarian BJP member sitting in crowd

Jaipur, Nov 23 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday drew cheers from the audience at his poll rally in Deogarh in Rajasthan when he recognised a nonagenarian BJP member, Dharam Chand Derasariya, sitting in the crowd and lauded his contribution to the party.

"Derasariya ji has probably given his six decades of his life to propagate this (BJP's) ideology. Today, he is sitting there as a party worker and giving blessings," Modi said.

He said it was his last public meeting in the state ahead of the November 25 assembly polls and the

presence of the veteran (95) had made it highly valued, drawing praise from the audience.

As someone who rose through the BJP by working in different capacities and various states through decades, Modi has often surprised people by recognising some party worker with whom he might have worked many years back.

In his speech, the prime minister also targeted the Congress, which is in power in the state, for its treatment of Sachin Pilot.

A Gurjar's son who gave his life to the Congress was removed like a fly in milk after the party came to power in Rajasthan, he said.

Modi had accused the Congress on Wednesday of punishing Sachin Pilot by meting out the same treatment to him as was done to his father, saying anyone who speaks the truth in the grand old party is shunted out of politics and suggesting that Rajesh Pilot lost favour with the Congress leadership after he contested against Sitaram Kesri for the party president's post in 1997.

Sachin Pilot has been involved in a power tussle with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and the prime minister has been referring to it frequently during his campaigns in the poll-bound state.

# BRS govt not sensitive to issues of tribals, alleges Union Minister Arjun Munda

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (PTI):

Union Tribal Welfare Minister Arjun Munda on Thursday alleged that the BRS government in Telangana has not shown sensitivity towards the issues of tribal people.

He accused the government in Telangana of making false promises to the people of the state and alleged that injustice has been meted out to the tribal people here.

"By just showcasing Hyderabad in a dazzling manner, you cannot do good for Adivasis. It is only after meeting them and after thinking about them, something can be done. However, the government here has not

done any such thing," he told PTI in Warangal.

The BRS is not sensitive with regard to issues of tribals, Arjun Munda alleged.

He said the benefits of the schemes would reach people if the BJP comes to power in the state.

The central government has made schemes for development of Adivasis all over the country, he said. The Centre has made such a plan for tribal development that is aimed at providing basic facilities to them and addressing the issues they have been facing for many years, Arjun Munda said.

There is a 'Chenchu' tribe here (in Telangana)

and they are in dire straits, he said, adding that several such tribes have been struggling with difficulties.

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