

# C E N T R A L Chronicle

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## Greetings on Rakshabandhan



Raksha Bandhan is a festival to spread happiness in one's family.  
Reduction in gas prices will enhance the ease of living of my sisters.  
I pray to the Almighty for a happy, healthy and prosperous life to all my sisters.  
- Narendra Modi



### LPG cylinder cheaper by **Rs. 200** from today



### 75 lakh new Ujjwala gas connections



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dignity and respect of women has become the pride of the nation.

- 4 crore houses have given boost to the self-esteem of sisters and daughters of the country
- 9.6 crore Ujjwala gas connections have made the lives of sisters and daughters smoke-free
- More than 11 crore toilets safeguarding the dignity of sisters and daughters
- About 30 crore Mudra loans worth Rs. 11 lakh crore given wings to women's entrepreneurial aspirations

- 10 crore women are associated with women Self-Help Groups
- Over 3.6 crore Sukanya Samriddhi accounts opened with total deposits worth Rs. 2 lakh crore
- Tap-water connections providing clean water to 13 crore homes
- Paid maternity leave increased from 12 to 26 weeks
- Dignity of Muslim women enhanced by putting to an end to the practice of Triple Talaq

## TRAFFIC CONGESTION



With laying of cable work on the road near Salem School, the day-to-day traffic is getting badly affected and causing traffic congestion during peak hours.

# Remand of four in Mahadev Satta App extended for 7 days

All four produced in court of Special Judge Ajay Singh Rajput



It is notable here that in context of Mahadev Satta betting App case, four accused viz. ASI Chandrabhushan Verma, Satish Chandrakar, Anil and Sunil Dhammani have been taken on judicial remand. ED claims that they have distributed Rs 65 cr to the owners of Mahadev Satta App and to the senior police officers. It is learnt that the ASI Chandrabhushan Verma and Satish Chandrakar have disclosed names of leaders and many police officer and employees in context of transactions related to Mahadev Satta App and the game of betting.

Raipur, Aug 29: On completion of first six-day remand of the four accused nabbed in the Mahadev Satta betting App, ED produced all four in the Court on Tuesday. This included ASI Chandrabhushan Verma, Satish Chandrakar, Anil Dhammani and Sunil Dhammani.

ED produced the four in the court of Special Judge Ajay Singh Rajput. Meanwhile in the arrest of

the people in context of interrogation and investigation held at the residence of OSD to CM Baghel and

political advisor on Monday, the remand of the arrested people has been extended for 7 days.

# CM Baghel pays homage to Major Dhyan Chand

On his birth anniversary



Raipur, Aug 29: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid homage to Major Dhyan Chand by garlanding his photograph on the occasion of his birth anniversary at his residence office on Tuesday. He extended his best wishes to players and sports enthusiasts on National Sports Day. Recalling the contribution of the great hockey player Major Dhyan Chand, he said that he is also recognized as the 'Wizard of Hockey'. He added that Major Dhyan Chand made us proud with his remarkable sportsmanship, and to honour and commemorate him, we celebrate his birthday as Sports Day every year.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, emphasized the importance of sports in our lives, stating that sports develop essen-

tial qualities such as leadership, dedication, and discipline that contribute to success. He also highlighted the numerous opportunities available for youth in the field of sports. The Chhattisgarh government is committed to promoting and encouraging sports talents in the state. The government has developed state-of-the-art international-level sports infrastructure and established the Sports Development Authority to support players at the national and international levels. The

Chhattisgarhia Olympics were launched to identify and provide a platform for local sports talent in the state, giving them the opportunity to advance in the field of sports. The Minister of Commercial Tax (Excise), Commerce, and Industry, Kawsal Lakhma, MLA Rekhand Jain, Chairman of CREDA Mithilesh Swarnakar, President of Raipur Municipal Corporation Pramod Dubey along with other dignitaries were present on this occasion.

# YC gheraoes ED office, burns effigy of ED director

Raipur, Aug 29: Hundreds of Youth Congress workers on Tuesday staged a sit-in protest in front of the ED office and burnt the effigy of ED director Sanjay Kumar Mishra while gheraoing the ED office in protest against ED action on Congress leaders.

The protesters, led by Youth Congress State President Akash Sharma also raised slogans and registered their protest by burning tires on the road. Sharma alleged that the ED was working as an

agent of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state. ED is conducting raids to harass Congress leaders, he alleged.

Sharma said ED will not get anything from raids. Bharatiya Janata Party has lost its existence in the state, he said. BJP wants to win the election through ED but the people of Chhattisgarh are with the Congress party, he said, adding that Congress is going to get a big victory in the upcoming assembly elections.

# CM extends Raksha Bandhan greetings to people of state

Raipur, Aug 29: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has extended warm greetings and heartfelt wishes to the people of the state on the auspicious occasion of the Raksha Bandhan festival. He wished for happiness, prosperity, and well-being for all citizens of the state. In his congratulatory message, issued on the eve of the Raksha Bandhan festival, Baghel highlighted that 'Raksha Bandhan' holds a pivotal place as a festival of affection and trust among siblings in our culture. It is a day where sisters ceremoniously tie protective threads around the wrists of their brothers, accompanied by heartfelt blessings, while brothers vow to safeguard them. This tradition strengthens the sacred bond between brothers and sisters, nurturing love and support. He emphasized that the Raksha Bandhan festival instills a heightened sense of awareness and commitment among all towards the respect, safety, and dignity of women.

# Congress hatching conspiracy for violence-hit elections in Chh'garh: Soni



Raipur Parliamentarian questions the objection of Congmen over prog on Chandrayan success

Raipur, Aug 29: Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Lok Sabha member from Raipur constituency Sunil Soni on Tuesday alleged that the Congress is hatching conspiracy to create violence-like situation in Chhattisgarh ahead of the next Legislative Assembly

polls. Addressing a press conference at party office situated at Ekatma Parishar here on Tuesday, the BJP leader said that Congress goons created ruckus during his address to the students which is an indication of the future conspiracy to create terror like situation in the upcoming polls on line with the situation created in West Bengal. He further sought what could be the objection of Congress on the programme organised to mark the success of

Chandrayan 3 as they disrupted the event held for school students in his presence. He came down heavily on the behavior of the Congress activist at a non-political event which was organized to mark the success of Chandrayan 3 and the Electoral Awareness event. He further informed that he would write a letter to the President of India, Prime Minister and Election Commission of India about the ruckus created by the Congress activist.

# Works of water supply schemes reviewed

At meeting of Apex Committee of State Water and Sanitation Mission, chaired by Chief Secretary



Raipur, Aug 29: A detailed review of the works of various water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission was done in the meeting of the Apex Committee of the State Water and Sanitation Mission held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here today.

Officers gave detailed information regarding the acceptance of water reservation at the level of the State Water Resources Utilization Committee. Similarly, the physical and

financial progress of the works of the State Water Sanitation Mission was also reviewed.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the maintenance and operation of tap-water schemes were discussed in detail. Officials of Public Health Engineering Department and Panchayat and Rural Development Department were instructed to take necessary action in this regard.

Regarding the physical progress of the Jal-Jeevan Mission, officials of the Public Health Engineering Department said that so far tap connections had been provided to every household in 28 lakh 67 thousand 751 houses in different districts of the state. Officials said that tap connections with running water were being provided in all schools, Anganwadi centers, gram panchayat buildings,

health centers and ashram schools in the state. Officials said that under the Jal-Jeevan Mission, more than Rs 1794 crore had been spent so far in the current financial year.

P Anbalagan, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Ankit Anand, Secretary, Finance Department, S Bharathidasan, Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department, Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, Alok Katiyar and representatives of Women and Child Development Department, School Education, Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India attended the meeting, organized through video conferencing.

# Ambedkar Welfare Society to take initiative for justice to persons belonging to Mahar Society

Raipur, Aug 29: Dr Ambedkar Welfare Society will take necessary steps to provide justice to person and family belonging to Mahar Society coming under category of Scheduled Caste in case of injustice, atrocities, exploitation, harassment against them in Chhattisgarh and other states of the country. A permanent solution will be given for the difficulties faced by the people of Mahar Society in making caste certificates. The resolution in this regard was passed in an important meeting of the special general body of Dr Ambedkar Welfare Society was held recently at Labhandi in capital Raipur in presence of former Magistrate of Mumbai Metropolitan



and former Chairman of Human Rights Commission and SC-ST Commission Mumbai Justice Chandrabhan L Thul.

Various provisions and rights of the Indian Constitution were discussed in depth in this meeting held in the presence of Justice Thul. The Welfare Society will send a reasoned proposal

under the provisions and rules to Chhattisgarh Government and Centre to simplify the process of making caste certificate in Chhattisgarh. Office bearers and members of Dr. Ambedkar Welfare Society discussed about the important and useful provisions of the Indian Constitution. Several decisions were also taken by passing various reso-

lutions in the special general body meeting of the Welfare Society. Priorities were fixed for redressal of the burning problems being faced by the people of Mahar society in the state and the country at present. It was also unanimously decided in the meeting to make efforts to perpetuate memory of Dr BR Ambedkar.

# National Conference on Performing Arts held

Academicians urge to include Performing Arts as Core Subject

Raipur, Aug 29: The stage was set, quite literally, for a harmonious convergence of artistic brilliance as NH Goel World School hosted its much-anticipated National Conference on Performing Arts on Tuesday. This extraordinary event, a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing creativity and holistic education, drew luminaries from the world of performing arts

and education. The conference proved to be an exceptional platform for exchanging ideas and insights on integrating performing arts into education, a topic of growing significance in the modern education landscape.

Gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest was K Srinivasan, Joint Director CBSE and Regional Officer from Bhubaneswar, bringing with him a wealth of experience in education and curriculum development. The event also had the privilege of hosting esteemed Guests of Honour including Dr. Chitranjan Kar, Dr. Girish

Pankaj, Shubhash Mishra, Dr. Sriram Murthy, and Manoj Verma, all notable figures in the field of performing arts and education.

The event's artistic palette began with a series of captivating performances by the students. A melodious rendition of the Chhattisgarhi prayer song and a heartfelt welcome song resonated through the auditorium, setting a harmonious tone for the conference. A mesmerizing Kathak dance performance by Aadya Agrawal further showcased the students' impressive talents. Dr. Awinash Pandey, the

school's Principal highlighted the evolving landscape of education in light of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, emphasizing the need to seamlessly integrate performing arts into the curriculum. The conference, he noted, was a significant step in exploring avenues for such integration and fostering a holistic educational experience.

Keynote speakers K Srinivasan lauded NH Goel World School for spearheading the initiative of the National Conference on Performing Arts. He stressed the importance of collaboration among teachers to effectively

imbue the curriculum with artistic elements, ensuring a joyful and comprehensive learning journey. Dr. Chitranjan Kar termed the conference as revolutionary, drawing parallels between great minds like Albert Einstein, who found harmony in both science and music. "Knowledge is holistic," he remarked, advocating for the integration of arts and music across subjects. He evoked Plato's words, defining music as the science of the heart and mathematics as the music of intellect.

Shubhash Mishra, a distinguished theatre personality, emphasized that the-

atre reflects society and the NEP 2020's call for sensitivity aligns with the role of performing arts in cultivating empathy and humanity. As the conference reached its culmination, Dr. Ashish Chakraborty urged CBSE to consider elevating performing arts from optional to core subjects, solidifying its importance in the curriculum.

Vice Principal Preeti Sharma closed the event with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing the school's commitment to weaving performing arts into the rich tapestry of education, enriching the lives of its students.



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## Ahead of state elections, LPG price cut by Rs 200

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI): The government on Tuesday announced a Rs 200 per cylinder cut in prices of domestic cooking gas as it looked to counter the promise of cheaper LPG made by the Congress party in upcoming assembly elections in states like Madhya Pradesh.



Price cut due to impact of INDIA alliance

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said the Centre's decision to slash LPG prices by Rs 200 as an impact of the INDIA opposition alliance. "Till now, only TWO meetings have been held in the past TWO months by the INDIA alliance and today, we see that LPG prices have gone down by Rs 200. Yeh hai #INDIA ka dum!" Banerjee said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh also dubbed the Centre's move as a "poll gimmick" ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

At present, a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in the national capital costs Rs 1,103 - more than double the rate it came for in May 2020. It will cost Rs 903 when the decision is implemented from Wednesday. For Ujjwala beneficiaries, the price will be Rs 703 after considering the continuing Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy.

will provide an additional 75 lakh Ujjwala connections, which will take the total PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crores. Cooking gas prices have shot up in the last couple of years and have become a major election issue. The Congress party used the high LPG prices, which had burnt a hole in the budgets of households already reeling under a high inflation, effectively used in the recently concluded assembly elections in Karnataka. It has promised to give LPG at Rs 500 per cylinder if voted to power in Madhya Pradesh, where elections are due in November-December. The Congress is also providing the LPG at the same price in Rajasthan, where elections are due in November-December.

Thakur however refused to link the decision with elections saying it was a gift from the Modi government to women on the occasion of Onam and Raksha Bandhan. While he did not say how the price cut would be financed, it is presumed that state-owned fuel retailers will from Wednesday reduce the prices and will get compensated for the same by the government later.

**REALLY RELAY PROUD OF YOU!**  
**Amul LAP IT UP!**

## Govt to inform SC of J-K's political future on Thu

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI): The Centre told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a "permanent thing" and that it will make an elaborate statement on the vexatious political issue in the court on August 31. The central government's response was conveyed to the court by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, after a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, hearing the pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, asked it to

set a specific time frame for restoration of electoral democracy in the erstwhile state. "The union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a permanent thing. So far as Ladakh is concerned, its UT status is going to remain for some time," Mehta said. The top government law officer said he will make an elaborate statement on the future of the union territory status of J-K and Ladakh before the bench, which also comprises Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, on August 31.

## 'Proof of Congress hand in Nuh violence'

Chandigarh, Aug 29 (PTI):



Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday said on the basis of investigation, it appears that perhaps the Congress had a hand in the last month violence in Nuh. He also told reporters outside the state assembly complex here that the state police will seek help from central agencies on a possible Pakistan angle in the incident. "Many angles" such as the attack on the cyber police station there are being looked into, the minister said. "Many videos and photos were shared from Pakistan," he said. Communal clashes had erupted in Nuh and its ad-

joining areas after a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) procession was attacked by a mob on July 31, leading to the death of six people, including two home guards and a cleric. "Following preliminary investigation, we have arrested 510 people while 130 FIRs have been registered," Vij, a senior leader of the ruling BJP in Haryana, said on the last day of the assembly's Monsoon session.

### BRIEF



Union Youth Affairs & Sports Minister Anurag Thakur pays tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on the National Sports Day, at National Stadium in New Delhi, Tuesday.

### High drama

■ **Mumbai:** A high drama prevailed at the Maharashtra secretariat here on Tuesday when a group of protesters descended on the safety net set up on its first floor demanding a hike in compensation for the people affected by a dam project.

### Amarnath Yatra

■ **Srinagar:** The saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva, popularly known as 'Chhari Mubarak', Tuesday reached Sheshnag where it will halt for the night before heading for the Amarnath holy cave shrine, officials said.

**Weather**  
 High 32 Low 23  
**MARKET**  
 NIFTY 19,342.65  
 SENSEX 65,075.82  
**BULLION**  
 GOLD 59,215  
 SILVER 74,678

## G20 SUMMIT Langur mimics to scare off monkeys

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):



A band of about 30 to 40 men who can mimic the call of a langur and life-size cutouts of the distinctive black faced simian at vantage points will be the stratagem to scare away monkeys during the G20 summit in the national capital. The unchecked population of monkeys has led to their ever-increasing numbers across the city, including in New Delhi areas (Lutyens' Delhi), with the animals loitering around and often attacking and biting people. In view of this, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Forest Department of the city government have taken steps to ensure that mon-

hordes are not visible there during the event," a government official said. NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay said the civic body will deploy 30-40 trained persons who can mimic langur sound to scare away the monkeys. "These trained persons are registered with us and they have been hired as they are effective in scaring away monkeys by making sounds of langur. We will deploy one each at hotels where delegates would stay, as well as in places where monkey sightings are reported," he said. An official said over a dozen cutouts of langur were placed strategically in areas, including Sardar Patel Marg, that are heavily infested with monkeys.

## India lodges strong protest with China

■ **Over its 'map' laying claim over Indian territories**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with China over its release of the so-called "standard map" that laid claim over Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin as region within its borders. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India rejects these claims as they have no basis and that such steps by the Chinese side only "complicate" the resolution of the boundary question.

### 'Absurd claims'

In a rebuttal to China releasing a map on Tuesday staking claim over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin among other regions, Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that making absurd claims over territories wouldn't make them theirs. Speaking at a meet, the Union Minister, calling the release of such maps an old habit of China, said: "China has even in the past put out maps which claim the territories which are not China's, which belong to other countries. This is an old habit of theirs."

"We have today lodged a strong protest through diplomatic channels with the Chinese side on the so-called 2023 'standard map' of China that lays claim to India's territory," he said.

## 1 killed, 1 injured in firing in Manipur

Imphal, Aug 29:

One person was killed and another injured in heavy firing between two groups at Narainsena in Bishnupur district on Tuesday morning, police said. Officials said a village defence volunteer, who was staying at a relief camp, was killed when a bomb suddenly exploded.

Another person was hit on his shoulder by a bullet and has been admitted to a hospital in Imphal, officials said, adding his condition is stable. Meanwhile, four militants belonging to different outfits were arrested in separate operations and arms and ammunition were seized from them, police said on Tuesday.

## HC RULING 'Insulting a woman not outraging her modesty'

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

Insulting a woman or being rude to her and not behaving in a chivalrous manner will not amount to outraging the modesty of a woman, the Delhi High Court has held while setting aside an order putting a man on trial for calling a woman gandi aurat. The high court also said gender-specific laws are not meant to be "anti-opposite gender" but to serve the purpose of addressing unique issues faced by a particular gender. It said the fact that a piece

of legislation is gender-specific should not be misconstrued to mean that the role of a judge also changes from being neutral to tilting towards a particular gender, and irrespective of the gender-specific nature of a law, the judicial duty fundamentally requires unwavering neutrality and impartiality. "Gender-specific legislation exists to address the unique concerns and challenges faced by particular genders within society. However, this does not imply that the judge is to be influenced or swayed by gender-related factors when administering justice un-

less specific presumptions are legislated in favour of a particular gender in law. "In essence, judicial neutrality is an indispensable cornerstone of the legal system, ensuring that all parties, regardless of gender, are treated fairly and equitably," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said. The high court made the observations while setting aside a trial court's order framing a charge under section 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC, saying a prima facie case was made out against the man. The prosecution's

case was that the complainant woman and the accused were working in the same organisation and the man was her senior. It was alleged that he used foul language against the woman when she refused to give him Rs 1,000 and called her gandi aurat (dirty woman). The high court said the word 'gandi aurat', if read in isolation, without context, without any preceding or succeeding words indicating intent to outrage the modesty of a woman, will not bring these words within the ambit of Section 509 IPC.

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## Swami Atmanand School Principal to get National Teachers' Award

● **CM and Education Minister congratulated Dr. Brijesh and extended best wishes**



**Raipur, Aug 29:** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has congratulated and extended his best wishes to Dr. Brijesh Pandey, Principal of Swami Atmanand Government Excellent English Medium School Brahmapara Ambikapur, for being selected for the National Teachers' Award-2023. On

the occasion of Teachers' Day, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu will honour Principal Dr Pandey with the National Award on September 5 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. Chief Minister

Bhupesh Baghel and Education Minister Ravindra Choubey have congratulated Dr Pandey, saying that Swami Atmanand English Medium Schools were established in the state to provide quality education in English medium to children. Dr. Pandey's selection for the national award will inspire other teachers and principals as well. This notable achievement in the field of school education has ignited a sense of enthusiasm throughout the education

sector in the state, including the Surguja district. Selected for the National Teachers' Award, Dr. Brijesh Pandey has made significant contributions to igniting interest in science and promoting young scientists. Under his guidance, models of several young scientists have been showcased at the national level. Dr. Pandey was also honoured with the Governor's Award in 2018. He played a vital role in designing activity books for primary school children.

## Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar awarded the winning players

**Ch'garh shines in Panchkula in the All India Forest Sports Competition**

**Ch'garh becomes the overall champion for the 12th time in the competition**



**Raipur, Aug 29:** Forest and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Akbar honored all the winning players of Chhattisgarh in the 26th All India Forest Sports Competition today. It is worth mentioning that Chhattisgarh has become the overall champion for the 12th time in the 26th All India Forest Sports Competition held at Panchkula in Haryana. Chhattisgarh again retained its first position by winning a total of 129 medals, beating its nearest rival, Karnataka.

Expressing delight over this significant achievement in the All India Forest Sports Competition in Chhattisgarh State, Forest Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar congratulated the Forest Department. Encouraging the players, he said that the entire state of Chhattisgarh, along with the Forest Department team, is proud of their excellent performance. The Forest Department has also per-

formed well in terms of departmental work. As a result, the Forest Department has been awarded nine different awards at the national level for the better operation of its departmental activities. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of the Forest Force V. Srinivasa Rao and Nodal Officer APCCF Sunil Mishra also expressed their happiness over the success of the Chhattisgarh Forest Department team in the competition. The All India Forest Sports Competition organizes indoor games like Tennis, Table Tennis, Badminton, Swimming, Carrom, Chess, Weightlifting, Power Lifting, Kabaddi, as well as sports like Cricket, Football, Basket Ball, Hockey, Golf, Athletics.

This way, in this year's 26th All India Forest Department, from PCCF to the Guard, participate in sports events. Chhattisgarh's Forest Department team defeated Jammu and Kashmir in cricket and won the gold medal for the seventh time. Similarly, in football, Chhattisgarh secured the first position by defeating the Haryana team. The basketball team of Chhattisgarh won the gold medal by defeating the Karnataka team. Chhattisgarh won a total of 19 Gold in Weightlifting, 12 Gold in Powerlifting, 4 Gold in Tennis, 4 Gold in Badminton, 6 Gold in Swimming, 18 Gold, 10 Silver, 8 Bronze in Athletics. Similarly, it won 9 Gold and 2 silver medals in Tennis.

Sports Competition, Chhattisgarh won a total of 129 medals, scored a total of 509 points, and again retained its first position by beating its nearest rival Karnataka in tough competition. It is worth mentioning that under the skilled guidance of the Chief Minister, Forest Minister, Principal Secretary of Forest Department Mr. Manoj Pingua, and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Mr. V. Srinivasa Rao, the tireless efforts of Nodal Officer APCCF Mr. Sunil Mishra, CCF Mr. Raju Agashmani and Mr. Dilraj Prabhakar, DFO Mr. Vishvesh Kumar, Mr. Alok Tiwari, Ms. Sangeeta Rajagopalan, and the practice and dedication of the players, Chhattisgarh secured the first place.

## SRU celebrates National Sports Day

● **To commemorate the wizard of Hockey Major Dhyhan Chand**



**Raipur, Aug 29:** On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Major Dhyhan Chand, one of India's best hockey players, the National Sports Day was celebrated on 29 August at Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University (SRSU).

The day serves as a forum to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of athletes so the administration of the University decided to grab out the hidden talent of the students in aspects of sports and cultural activities including fresher and pursuing students and trying to prepare them for national and international platform.

The celebration began with the lights up National Sports Day torch by Anant Vibhushit Shri Ravishankar Ji Maharaj, the Chancellor of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University after that NCC Cadets bring the torch along with national flag to march the sports ground with all participants of the sports day. After it, Maharaj Jii also played some shots of

which 8 team, 4 team, 6 team and 4 team respectively participated from different faculty of the university. Winners of Volley-Ball was Team Arts, winners of Basket-Ball was Team Pharmacy, while in Kabbadi BPES (Arts) team was the winner. The winners of today's sports competition will be felicitate on the occasion of Teachers Day, 5th of September. To accelerate the enthusiasm of the students, Pro Chancellor Mr. Harsh Gautam, Vice Chancellor Prof. S.K. Singh and Registrar Dr. Saurabh K Sharma of the University were also appreciate all teams that participated in sports competition for benevolent their best performance.

Volley-Ball to motivate participant and students with in the perception of sports, then participants start matches with their team members in sports ground on the occasion of National Sports Day.

To encourage the culture of sports and physical activities in the student of the University sports activities takes place including Volley-Ball, Basket-Ball, Kabaddi and Kho-Kho in

## One Maoist dies in encounter with police

**In the jungles of Gram Ekawari under Borai thana**

**Police recovers one 303 Rifle, BRG weapon and other naxalite materials**

**Gariyaband, Aug 29:** It was on tip of information to Police Captain Amit Tukaram, a combined police force of Police E-30 Gariyaband District Police Force and DRG team along with District Police Force Dhamtari left on search to Gram Ikavari Jungle under Boi thana on Aug 28. They got information about presence of 30-35 armed Naxalites from Mainpur Nuapara joint

division committee command -in-Chief DVCM Satyam Gawade and from Seetanadi Area Committee.

The Maoists were ready with ambush to attack upon the police force in the jungles of Kaveria of Borai thana area on Aug 27 at around 2:00 pm and they opened fire also no sooner the team entered that area. The searching team taking precautions opened return fire and finding the police to be more powerful, the naxalites ran away towards the jungle. When the police conducted search at the site of firing, they found 1 Naxalite in uniform, one 303 Rifle and 1 BGL weapon and recovered other naxal materials.

## Students given tips on make-up & beauty



● **In a workshop on Beauty and Make-up at MATS University**

**Raipur, Aug 29:** Skill Development Workshop was held under the Fashion Week at MATS School of Fashion Designing and Technology department here on Monday. Through this workshop students were given information about

career development in the field of make-up and were taught intricacies of make-up, beauty and fashion. The HoD MATS School of Fashion Designing & Technology Deptt Parvinder Kaur informed that in the workshop organised at the Impact Centre, the Chief Guest was Director and well-known beauty expert from Meenakshi Saloon and Academy Meenakshi

Tuteja. She held the need to seriously take into consideration about beauty products as a field of business and independent profession. She also apprised the students about perfect contouring, highlighting, eye make-up and about hair styles. The students were also taught about how to analyse different types of skin complexions, how to do make-up according to skin type; how to use

Blush; eye-liner, basic and winged; how to apply Lipstick and other such techniques. This workshop was for all the graduate and PG courses students. During this workshop, Meenakshi Tuteja also answered to the queries of the students.

On this occasion the Chancellor of MATS University Gajraj Pagaria, Pro-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) KP Yadav, Director General Priyesh Pagaria, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Deepaka Dhand, Registrar Gokulnanda Panda, CEO Priyanka Pagaria, all the lecturers of MATS School of Fashion Designing and Technology Deptt and HoDs of other departments and students were present. At the conclusion of the workshop, Registrar Gokulnanda Panda proposed vote of thanks.

## Dr Ajay Sahay receives Int'l Buddha Peace Award



**Raipur, Aug 29:** At a programme organised in Raj Bhavan of Kolkata, selected persons from the different fields were awarded for their excellent services in the respective fields. This programme titled International Buddha Peace Award witnessed felicitation of Padma Vibhushan Udit Narayan, UP Minister Dr Lal Ji Nirmal, MP Mukesh Rajput, Buddhanjali Mart Director Kailash Masum

and renowned doctor and social worker from Chhattisgarh Raipur Dr Ajay Sahai. This award was presented at the hands of West Bengal Governor Dr C V Anand Bose. Dr Sahay to his credit is better known as 'Doctor of Poor' and 'Garibo Ke Masha'. For the last four decades Dr Sahay is engaged in conducting medical camps, awareness campaigns, motivational lectures and serving the poor and downtrodden sections of the society. Dr Sahai recently received Dr Ambedkar Award at the hands of former President of India Ramnath Kovind for his contribution towards social service.

## Students given 'Career Mantras' based on achievements, success stories



● **In motivational seminar by CEO PJPA Prabir Jha**

**Raipur, Aug 29:** ITM UNIVERSITY Raipur organized a motivational seminar on Career Mantras for undergraduate and postgraduate students at its Naya Raipur-based campus. Mr. Prabir Jha graced the program as a resource person, who is the only Indian who had been HR Head (President & CHRO) of two Fortune 500 companies namely Reliance Industries Ltd. and Tata Motors, and presently Founder and CEO of Prabir Jha People Advisory (PJPA). The program was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Professor (Dr.) Sumer Singh with a warm welcome of the guest speaker Mr. Jha. In a welcome address, Prof. Sumer Singh

briefed about the achievements and success stories of guest Speaker Mr. Praveen Jha.

In the keynote address, Guest Speaker Mr. Praveen Jha emphasized the importance of clear goals, adaptability, and lifelong learning. Through engaging anecdotes and interactive sessions, he inspired young minds to navigate their career paths with determination and resilience. Many of the queries linked with a career as such and the practicalities of corporate life to be faced by future professionals were asked and addressed in a very lucid manner. A total of 300 students from different schools of ITMUR participated in the two sessions of this seminar. The students were engaged throughout the session, actively participating by posing insightful ques-

tions and seeking guidance on career growth. Mr. Jha's wealth of experience and expertise impacted the attendees, equipping them with practical tools and knowledge to navigate their career paths successfully. Earlier the student interactions, a session on Team Building: "Creating Synergy in Teams" was conducted for all the Heads of university teaching departments. The seminar proved to be a resounding success, leaving participants inspired and motivated to pursue their professional journeys to get successful careers.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor & Head Dr. Yasin Sheikh from the School of Commerce, Management and Research. The event was organized by the University Student Welfare & Culture Committee with a motto to provide the students with some invaluable insights into various facets of building a successful career. The vote of thanks for the students' session was given by Dr. Khushboo Sahu, Convener of the Student Welfare and Cultural Committee.

## Child dies getting stuck in leg-guard for about a km



**Mainpur, Aug 29:** In a most heart rendering incident, a two & half year old got stuck in the leg-guard of a motorcycle and the person driving probably not in his senses drove him to about a kilometer before stopping, killing him on the spot. The video of the child stuck in the leg-guard became viral and left everyone cursing the bike rider for being so insensitive. As per information in this regard, the case is that of Thana Amlipadar of Mainpur area and entire incident has got captured in CCTV footage. A two & half year old boy Riyansh Sahu of Gram Amlipadar Kurlapara was playing on the street along with the family members and all of a sudden he got stuck in the leg guard area of a recklessly driver bike rider passing from nearby and took him to a long distance even after villagers shouting loud to stop the vehicle. When he

stopped the injured child just fell from the leg guard area and the crowd immediately took the child to a nearby hospital. But with doctors on strike these days, they could not get any treatment nearby and so the family took the child to Dharamgarh in Odisha and where the child finally succumbed to the injuries.

The villagers were agitated after this incident and a complaint in this regard was filed by family members in the thana and on getting information the TI showing promptness arrested the accused Amarjeet and seized his motorcycle and filed a case under section 279, 337 and after the repor in the thana a case under section 304 A of IPC and took action against him.

What says TI: TI Amlipadar Pavan Verma informed that the youth driving the bike recklessly and carelessly kept moving with the kid for about a kilometer or so and even after many people shouting, he did not stopped. TI informed that the victim Riyansh is two & half year old kid of Gram Amlipadar of Kurlapara and the incident is of Aug 28 morning and police is taking action against him.

## Kalinga University signs MoU's for Centre's of Excellence

**Raipur, Aug 29:** Kalinga University entered into two MoUs with Electronic Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) and BDS Education to work more extensively for the growth of the students.

Kalinga University and Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Aug 25.

Electronics Sector Skills Council of India (ESSCI) is a not-for-profit organization, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956. ESSCI's vision is to develop a future-ready skilled workforce for the Electronics Systems, Design and Manufacturing Industry Sector, Development of foundation courses for School & Colleges, Building Centre of Excellence & Model Training Centers etc. The MoU was signed by Dr. Abhilasha Gaur, COO, ESSCI and Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar, Kalinga University. The basic concept and objective of this collaboration are to facili-



tate Kalinga University students in skilling, reskilling and upskilling, training in Blended Mode for faculties/trainers nominated by Kalinga University, providing faculty development programs etc. by ESSCI. Kalinga University also entered into another Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BDS Education.

BDS Education is the Education division of Bharat Drone System Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Drone World Australia. Run by a team of army veterans, it aims at making quality Education in Coding, Robotics and similar technologies accessible to all rich and poor, urban or rural. The MoU was signed by Col. (Retd) N C Gupta, Director, BDS Education and Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar, Kalinga University. The basic concept and objective of this collaboration are to facilitate Kalinga University students by setting up Centre of Excellence (COE) in the campus of the university, providing training to the trainers nominated by Kalinga University, running training programs for Schools, Colleges & University students with different durations in the field of Coding, Robotics and Drones.



# CM performs Jalabhishek at ancient Shiva temple of Kauhi



## Inaugurates Lift Irrigation Scheme built on Kharun River

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** On the 8th and last Monday of the month of Shravan, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached the ancient Shiva temple located on the banks of River Kharun in village Kauhi of Patan assembly constituency. He performed jalabhishek of

the Swayambhu Shivaling, offered prayers and wished for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the state.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Kauhi Lift Irrigation Scheme constructed at a cost of Rs 7 crore on Kharun river. The Kauhi Lift Irrigation Scheme will provide irrigation facilities in the 2500 hectare area of villages Kauhi, Borenda, Jarwai, Kesra,

Khamharia, Dangania, Tarrighat, Sonpur and Sipkona.

It needs to be mentioned here that during his first visit as a Chief Minister to Kauhi, Baghel had announced plans to update the old lift irrigation scheme. Under the scheme, the radius of the intake well which was earlier 6 meters has been increased to 12 meters and five nos 150 HP VT pumps have been installed.

The capacity of lift irri-

gation has increased manifold. The lining work of the entire canal system has also been done. Due to the increase in the capacity of the Kauhi Lift Irrigation Scheme, hundreds of farmers of this area have received great relief.

In the programme, Chief Minister distributed Khasra B-1, B-2 to 12 farmers of the area. Addressing the program, Chief Minister said that the blessings of Lord

Bholenath should remain with the people of the state. He congratulated everyone on Shravan Somwar.

Irrigation facility is going to be expanded as per the demand of the residents. The Chief Minister said that the government is running schemes for the development of all sections and is also working to revive cultural activities. The state has got recognition from the schemes of the government.

Chief Minister assured the beautification of the temple complex on the demand of the people. He called upon the people to provide opportunities of service for the development of the area. District Panchayat Vice President Ashok Sahu also addressed the program. Local public representatives and a large number of people were present on the occasion.

# Bootleggers nabbed with illicit liquor



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** In view of the upcoming assembly elections - 2023, sustained efforts are being made by the Excise Department to control illegal possession, transportation and sale of liquor. Recently, the Excise Department registered two different cases and seized illicit liquor from bootleggers. According to the information received from Assistant Commissioner (Excise) Durg, a joint team conducted a raid at village Ghorari on August 26, 2023 and took action against ten people under the Chhattisgarh Excise Act 1915. A total of 676 liters of raw Mahua liquor and 24400 kg of Mahua Lahan were seized.

Equipment for making hand-brewed liquor has

been seized, whose total market value is Rs 799600. Out of the above 10 cases, action was taken against two accused under Section 34(1) (a) and (f) of the Excise Act and cases have been registered against eight unknown accused under Section 34(2) and 34(1) of the Excise Act. Similarly in the second case, action was taken by the joint team of the Excise Department on August 29 under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Excise Act, 1915. In the case maintained under the sections of Chhattisgarh Excise Act 1915, 36 quarters of country liquor masala 6.48 lakh liters has been seized, in the case against 01 accused of Excise Act. Case has been registered under Section 34(2) and taken into consideration. Assistant

District Excise Officers SN Sahu, Ashok Agrawal and Dhiraj Kannaujia and Excise Sub-Inspectors Bhuneshwar Singh Sengar, Harish Kumar Patel and Excise Head Constables and Constables of the district were present in this joint action. Regarding the upcoming Vidhansabha elections 2023, the Excise Department is continuously investigating the suspicious places, routes and railway stations in the district. Telephone number 0788-2325836 has been issued regarding registration of complaints for prevention of illegal sale, transportation and possession of liquor and drugs in the district. Apart from this, complaints can also be lodged on the toll free complaint number 14405 of the Excise Department.

# National Sports Day observed at DAV IPS, Sect-2

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2, celebrated the National Sports Day on August 29 amidst great zeal and fervour. The students of the middle and senior wing played a lead role in organising the various events for the celebration. A special assembly marked the occasion initiating with the chanting of the Gayatri Mantra followed by the DAV Anthem as is the practice.

The Head Boy and Head Girl of the school took the charge of further proceedings where the Students Council members came ahead and presented some amazing facts, threw light on the significance of the day, enlightened others as to why this day is celebrated and in commemoration of whose memory



through speeches, piece of conversation and a quiz.

The little ones of the Primary Wing of the school had come in their favourite sports attire like cricketers, football players, badminton players, sprinters etc which added on to the Sports ambience in the school.

The main attraction were the School's rising Sports Stars who also had come on the uniform of their own genre of play-

ing sports and the DAV National participants who had participated and won medals were honoured by the Principal of the school Priyanka Shukla.

Madam in her address wished all the students a very happy Sports Day and urged everyone to keep themselves involved in playing sports of indoor and outdoor games as a healthy mind resides in a healthy body only.

She took this special day as an opportunity to announce the commencement of the preliminaries of all the events of the Pre Primary Wing of the School's Annual Sports Day which has been scheduled for the month of January 2024.

The celebration concluded with the thanks giving by the members of the Students Council of the School followed by the National Anthem.

# Dengue Prevention Campaign update: 1,585 township houses surveyed

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** The rising cases of dengue in Durg and Bhilai has become an alarming cause of concern. Under the Dengue Prevention Campaign, on August 28, 2023, a total of 1,585 houses in the township were surveyed and intensive spraying and fogging were carried out at as many as 145 houses.

In view of the possibility of Mosquito Larvae breeding, stagnant water sources were immediately cleaned at 1,511 spots. 129 houses were found with spots having possibility for mosquito breeding, which were cleaned and sprayed with medicines along with Temephos distribution at 882 houses. In view of this alarming situation, Dr



Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), took a meeting with the plant's Public Health Department Officers in the presence of other Senior Doctors of BSP. Dr Ravindranath took insights on the campaign and gave necessary instructions for the future. JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD & CSR) also inspected the status and updates of the ongoing Dengue Prevention Campaign in

Sector-2, Sector-4 and other dengue-affected sectors of the township. Rigorous Oiling, spraying of medicines in the backline, water fogging, spraying with mist blower machine etc., along with pamphlet distribution and loudspeaker announcements are also being done in Sectors- 2, 4 and 6 and other areas of the township.

Here it needs a mention that the Public Health

Department, under the TSD of SAIL-BSP and Durg Malaria Eradication Department, of Government of Chhattisgarh is jointly running an intense Dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases prevention campaign since June 2023. In spite of repeated warning to clean the surroundings, repetitive presence of mosquito larvae are being found at various places. Strict warnings and penalties are also being imposed to the individuals at whose premises mosquito larvae are being found even after repeated warnings. BSP's Public Health Department has made an appeal to the common public to take precautionary measures at individual as well as collective levels to ensure everyone's safety.

# St Thomas College celebrates National Sports Day

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** St. Thomas College, Ruabandha, celebrated National Sports Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Famous Indian Hockey Player Major Dhyan Chand.

First of all Sports Officer Kailash Narayan Verma presented a brief introduction of Major Dhyan Chand and motivated all the students for regular exercise to become fit and healthy.

Principal Incharge Dr Debjani Mukherjee also motivated the students to take active participation in the events of sports day.

Principal of the college Dr MG Roymon and Administrator Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese congratulated the organizers for successfully organizing this event. During the program Half Marathon was organized for both boys and girls and all the winners were awarded by the prizes from Principal Incharge and other faculty members.

On this occasion Rhythmic Zumba was conducted by Dr Anupama Gangrade, Asst Prof, Department of Education in which all the students



and staff members participated very actively. Dr J Maju, Asst Prof, Department of Education and Dr Santosh Miri, Asst Prof, Dept of Computer Science were the referees of the activity. Mahendra Ikhar, Asst Prof, Dept of Management Studies conducted the program and proposed the vote of thanks. All the faculties, other staff members and students were present on this occasion.

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# Narendra Kumar Banchore elected OA President unopposed

## Ankur Mishra elected as Treasurer

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** The election of BSP Officers Association created history on Monday. For the first time in the history of OA, Narendra Kumar Banchore was elected unopposed to the post of President. Ankur Mishra, contesting for the post of treasurer from the same panel, also gave further edge to this panel by winning unopposed.

August 28 was the last day for withdrawal of nominations for the OA elections. NK Banjare, who was contesting for the post of President, voluntarily withdrew his name. With his nomination withdrawn, Narendra Kumar Banchore was declared elected unopposed.

In this series, Satyanarayan Sharma, who was contesting the post of treasurer, also withdrew his nomination after which Ankur Mishra was declared elected un-

opposed. In this way, Banchore Panel has got a clear lead in the election. Parvinder Singh, the candidate for the post of General Secretary of Banchore Panel, got a moral encouragement.

It needs to be mentioned here that being the President of BSP Officers Association, Narendra Kumar Banchore succeeded in solving many unresolved and challenging issues in the last 3 terms. He inherited many such issues which were pending for a long time. In each of his tenures as OA President, Banchore has taken it upon himself to do better and achieved a long list of successes.

When Banchore was first entrusted with the responsibility, the circumstances were dire, problems awaited him, the lack of faith and pride in the organization among the members was clearly visible. The confidence of the members was shaken due to long pending issues. Frustration and despair filled the members with a sense that nothing would happen. Apart from this, solving these



pending problems was a very challenging task due to the poor financial condition of SAIL. Banchore's team was determined to fight against these challenges. With dedicated efforts, his team was able to achieve new heights of success.

It is worth mentioning that in the last tenure, Banchore and his team managed to resolve more than 70 issues. Despite the challenging economic condition of SAIL, they got the pay revision, E1 and E2 entry scale, pay anomaly solution, implementation of SAIL pension scheme, reintroduction of EL encashment, better designation, better promotion to officers,

abolition of C Grade compulsion, new formula of PRP and implementation of EPS 95 higher pension. Along with this, he also increased the exemption of income tax on the amount of up to Rs 25 lakh on EL encashment received on retirement and increased the limit of gratuity of officers from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. From reducing the rates of Mediclaim to increasing its limit to 8 lakhs, he has contributed significantly in many other issues.

Apart from this, they solved issues of public interest like lease deed registration and half electric bill in BSP township. OA played an excellent role in liberating Bhilai

Township from illegal encroachments by forming a united front.

The current team of OA has taken several initiatives which were done for the first time in the history of OA. Prominent among these are:- Steel Women's Run, grand celebration of Women's Day, felicitation ceremony of new JO batch and new MTT batch and JO batch in Rajhara Mines, organization of cyclothon, operation of help desk for lease deed, help center for EPS-95 pension, Establishment of Swami Vivekananda Jan Seva Kendra, Inauguration of Jan Seva Kendra in OA, Excellent initiative in Covid management assistance etc.

Banchore's team initiated an all-out effort to restore OA's credibility. A concerted effort was made to connect every member. By connecting people, he succeeded in writing a new saga of struggle. Her strong participation in 'Walk for Support' 'Human Chain' 'Gate Meetings' 'Candle March' 'Protest at Jantar Mantar' and movement to make Bhilai fear free.

# BSP's Education Department celebrates National Sports Day at Bhilai Vidyalaya, Sec-2

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Aug 29:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Education Department celebrated National Sports Day on August 28, 2023 at BSP Senior Secondary School, Sector-2 in the profound memory of Wizard of Hockey, Major Dhyan Chand. JY Sapkal, CGM (TSD & CSR) was the Chief Guest on this Occasion. Principals and Headmasters of all BSP Schools were also present on this occasion, along with Plant's Senior Officers and School Students.

In the Welcome Address, Shikha Dubey, GM

(Education) said that Sports and Games inculcate the tenets of team spirit in the students. Studies do lead to intellectual development but sports and games are equally essential for balanced physical development.

Arjuna Awarded Rajendra Prasad, DGM (Sports & Education) and Olympian shared his life's inspirational sports journey with the students present. Dennis



Christie, Assistant Manager (Personnel) said that Sports and Games

can help us reach the highest peak of success despite limited resources.



Archana Juliet Shah of Personnel Department said that her father who

was an International Hockey Player has inspired her to accomplish

her position. She said that lack of resources need not become an obstacle in the way of success.

Divya, a student of SSS Sector-10, spoke on the life and events of Major Dhyan Chand. Simran Sahu, a student of Bhilai Vidyalaya Sector-2, presented a brief description of the history of the origin and development of Hockey. Manish Tiwari, Jr Mgr (Education), organised a

Hockey Quiz Competition. Vijay Singh Pawar, Principal Bhilai Vidyalaya Sector-2 proposed the Vote of Thanks and mentioned the school's major activities and upcoming programs in the current year.

The program was completed by SK Khobragade, Addl Sr Lecturer, Sarita Shakya, DK Sahu, GP Sharma, Gupta, DL Joshi, Sangeeta Mishra, Savita Dhapwal, Vandana Sonwane, MK Chaudhary, and SK Sahu, along with the School management also contributed for organising the programme successfully.

# Islamabad High Court suspends Imran Khan's conviction



In Toshakhana case

Islamabad, Aug 29 (PTI):

The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday suspended Imran Khan's conviction and three-year sentence in the Toshakhana corruption case and ordered his release, in a major relief to the former jailed Pakistan prime minister.

A division bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the much-anticipated verdict which was reserved on Monday.

"Decision of District Court (has been) suspended by IHC," Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said in a short WhatsApp message.

"The copy of the judgment will be available shortly all we are saying now is that [Imran's] request has been approved," Justice Farooq said.

Khan's aide on legal affairs Naem Haider Panjotra posted on X, formerly Twitter: "The CJ has accepted our request, suspended the sentence and said a detailed decision would be provided later."

The judges reserved the



Lawyers and supporters of Pakistani imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan react after court decision, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Aug. 29. A Pakistani appeals court on Tuesday suspended the corruption conviction and three-year prison term of Khan in a legal victory for the embattled former prime minister, his lawyer said.

verdict on Monday after the rival lawyers concluded their arguments on the suspension of the three-year sentence awarded by Judge Humayun Dilawar on August 5.

A trial court in Islamabad convicted and sentenced the 70-year-old PTI chairman to three years in prison on August 5.

The cricketer-turned-politician was sentenced on charges of unlawfully selling state gifts acquired by him and his family during his 2018-2022 tenure. He has also been barred from politics for five years, preventing him from contesting an upcoming election.

Khan challenged his conviction within days and the IHC began a formal hearing on August 22. It adjourned the case on Friday after the lawyer representing the ses-

Commission of Pakistan (ECP) did not appear due to illness.

Khan's lawyer Latif Khosa completed his argument on Thursday, asserting that the verdict was given in haste and was full of shortcomings.

He also urged the court to set aside the sentence but the defence team demanded more time to complete its arguments.

Separately, a three-member apex court panel led by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail is also set to resume hearing petitions against the Toshakhana case.

Earlier, the Supreme Court on Wednesday after hearing various petitions against the Toshakhana case observed that there were "shortcomings" in the judgment of the ses-

sions court.

The panel observed that the verdict was given in haste and without giving the right of defence to the accused. "Prima facie, there are shortcomings in the trial court verdict," the chief justice said.

The apex court had also stated it would wait for the IHC hearing before giving its judgment. It resumed the hearing Thursday but adjourned it without fixing any date after it was told that the IHC was holding a hearing.

The Toshakhana case was filed by ruling party lawmakers in 2022 in the ECP, alleging that Khan concealed the proceeds from the sale of state gifts.

The ECP first disqualified Khan and then filed a case of criminal proceedings in a sessions court which convicted him and subsequently, Khan was sent to jail.

# Kim urges constant military readiness amid US concerns



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center, visits the navy headquarter in North Korea. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency.

Seoul, Aug 29 (AP):

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for his military to be constantly ready for combat to thwart plots to invade his country, as he accused the US of conducting "more frantic" naval drills with its allies near North Korea, state media reported Tuesday.

The US and South Korean militaries are holding joint summer exercises that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal. The allies have insisted the drills are defensive in nature.

Kim said in a speech marking the country's Navy Day that falls on Monday that the waters off the Korean Peninsula have been made unstable "with the danger of a nuclear war" because of US-led hostilities, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

He cited a recent US-South Korean-Japanese summit, the deployment

of US nuclear strategic assets and the US drills with its allies.

"The prevailing situation requires our navy to put all its efforts into rounding off the war readiness to maintain the constant combat alertness and get prepared to break the enemy's will for war in contingency," Kim said.

The US and South Korean militaries began the 11-day joint drills on August 21. The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield training is a computer-simulated command post exercise. But they included field exercises this year as well.

North Korea typically responds to US-South Korean military drills with its own missile tests. Its most recent known weapons test was its failed second launch of a spy satellite last Thursday.

# Britain's foreign secretary will visit China in an attempt to shore up ties

Taipei, Aug 29 (AP): Britain's top diplomat, James Cleverly, is set to visit China on Wednesday, in the first trip by a U.K. foreign secretary to the country in more than five years. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson confirmed the long-awaited trip on Tuesday.

"The two sides will have in-depth communication on Sino-British relations and international and regional issues of common concern," spokesman Wang Wenbin said. "We hope the British side will work with us to uphold the spirit of mutual respect, deepen exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and promote the stable development of Sino-British relations."

Cleverly's visit is an attempt to stabilize China-Britain ties, which have sunk to their lowest level in decades. The countries disagree over issues such as Beijing's curbing of civil freedoms in Hong Kong, a former British colony, alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang



People attend a protest against the meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and his Libyan counterpart Najla Mangoush in Tripoli, Libya. Cohen and Mangoush met in the Italian capital, Rome, last week, according to the Israeli foreign ministry.

# Sri Lanka to import 92.1 mn eggs from India to stabilise local market prices

Colombo, Aug 29 (PTI):

Sri Lanka will import 92.1 million eggs from India to counter the fluctuations in its prices and make them affordable to the consumers, the Cabinet spokesman said on Tuesday.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held here on Monday, Cabinet spokesman and mass media minister Bandula Gunawardena said.

The State Trading Corporation had requested the government to allow the import of

eggs from India amid concerns over shortages and market fluctuations. Gunawardena said the move is a strategic measure to stabilise domestic egg prices and maintain affordability for Sri

Lankan consumers. "Quotations have been called from three Indian companies recommended by the Department of

Animal Products and Health," he said, adding that the orders are set to cover a three-month period.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई प.क्र./सात/दो/भ.अ./725/286 भिलाई, दिनांक 29/08/23 आम-सूचना

कोलोनार्डर श्री के. श्रीनाथ आ. श्री पी. एस. कण्ठारस्वामी, पता क्र. नं. 67 सेक्टर 02 भिलाई, जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) को ग्राम जुनवानी प.ह.नं. 53 राशिमें जुनवानी तह. व जिला दुर्ग के खसरा क्रमांक 15001 शामिल नम्बर (41/1 रकबा 0.40 हे. व 41/2 रकबा 0.75 हे.) कुल रकबा 1.15 हे. पर आवासीय सह व्यवसायिक (भूखण्डों) कोलोनो विकास निर्माण की अनुमति क्र. 112 पत्र क्र. 2724 दि. 09.03.2022 के माध्यम से प्रदाय किया गया है। वर्तमान में संबंधित कोलोनार्डर द्वारा कोलोनो का विकास पूर्ण कर आंतरिक विकास कार्य पूर्ण करने के एवज में रखे गये कंक भूखण्डों को अधिक मुक्त करने हेतु इस कार्यालय में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त कोलोनो के रहवासियों/भूस्वामियों को अगर कोई केविक आपत्ति है तो प्रेस विज्ञापित जारी दिनांक से 07 दिवस के अन्दर आपत्ति दर्ज करा सकते हैं। समावधि के बाद आपत्ति ग्राह्य नहीं होगी। (आयुक्त महो. के आदेशानुसार) मवन निर्माण अधिकारी न.पा.नि. भिलाई

of US nuclear strategic assets and the US drills with its allies.

The prevailing situation requires our navy to put all its efforts into rounding off the war readiness to maintain the constant combat alertness and get prepared to break the enemy's will for war in contingency," Kim said.

The US and South Korean militaries began the 11-day joint drills on August 21. The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield training is a computer-simulated command post exercise. But they included field exercises this year as well.

North Korea typically responds to US-South Korean military drills with its own missile tests. Its most recent known weapons test was its failed second launch of a spy satellite last Thursday.

Cleverly's visit is an attempt to stabilize China-Britain ties, which have sunk to their lowest level in decades. The countries disagree over issues such as Beijing's curbing of civil freedoms in Hong Kong, a former British colony, alleged human rights abuses in the Xinjiang

region, China's support for Russia and Britain's close security ties with the United States. Cleverly said in June he would raise issues such as Xinjiang and Hong Kong with the Chinese government and request that Beijing lift sanctions on British parliamentarians.

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम भिलाई प.क्र./सात/दो/भ.अ./725/286 भिलाई, दिनांक 29/08/23 आम-सूचना

कोलोनार्डर श्री के. श्रीनाथ आ. श्री पी. एस. कण्ठारस्वामी, पता क्र. नं. 67 सेक्टर 02 भिलाई, जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) को ग्राम जुनवानी प.ह.नं. 53 राशिमें जुनवानी तह. व जिला दुर्ग के खसरा क्रमांक 15001 शामिल नम्बर (41/1 रकबा 0.40 हे. व 41/2 रकबा 0.75 हे.) कुल रकबा 1.15 हे. पर आवासीय सह व्यवसायिक (भूखण्डों) कोलोनो विकास निर्माण की अनुमति क्र. 112 पत्र क्र. 2724 दि. 09.03.2022 के माध्यम से प्रदाय किया गया है। वर्तमान में संबंधित कोलोनार्डर द्वारा कोलोनो का विकास पूर्ण कर आंतरिक विकास कार्य पूर्ण करने के एवज में रखे गये कंक भूखण्डों को अधिक मुक्त करने हेतु इस कार्यालय में आवेदन प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उक्त कोलोनो के रहवासियों/भूस्वामियों को अगर कोई केविक आपत्ति है तो प्रेस विज्ञापित जारी दिनांक से 07 दिवस के अन्दर आपत्ति दर्ज करा सकते हैं। समावधि के बाद आपत्ति ग्राह्य नहीं होगी। (आयुक्त महो. के आदेशानुसार) मवन निर्माण अधिकारी न.पा.नि. भिलाई

# CAVEAT NOTICE

Be it known to the public at large/ public in general / interested persons having locus that no interim order / stay order be passed or no ad-interim writ be issued in any case / petition that may be filed by non caveator / proposed petitioners / applicants / appellants, in which the State of Chhattisgarh and its instrumentalities may be the respondent or one of the respondents, challenging the decision taken by the Government through the Coordination on 09/08/2023 to cancel all the orders of amendment in the posting orders of promoted Teachers and Head Masters, Middle School in the School Education Department, pursuant to their promotion to the said posts. It is apprehended that the aggrieved persons / proposed petitioners may approach this Hon'ble Court challenging the orders based on the decision taken by the State Government, by way of preferring petitions and may pray for an interim order against the same as well. Therefore, it is submitted that in the event of filing of such a petition against the said order, it would be imminent in the interest of justice to afford an opportunity of being heard to the Caveator/State of Chhattisgarh before passing any interim / stay / protective order whatsoever, in the ends of justice.

The address for notice to the caveator is being given hereinbelow. "The Advocate General, Office of the Advocate General, Chhattisgarh High Court Campus, Bodri, Bilaspur (CG.)" DATED 29.08.2023 (AMRITO DAS) ADDL. ADVOCATE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE CAVEATOR / STATE G-04771/1

Mukta Swadhyaya Peetham (Institute of Open and Distance Education) Central Sanskrit University 56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 Adv. No.-01/2023-2024 Dated - 30/08/2023 Notification Applications are invited for the post of Assistant Professor (Contract), Non-Formal Sanskrit Education and Technical Experts / Assistants (Contract) at Mukta Swadhyaya Peetham (Institute of Open and Distance Education). You can visit our website http://www.sanskrit.nic.in/msp/ from 01 September, 2023 for prescribed application form and details. CBC 21212/12/0004/2324 - Director

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (छत्तीसगढ़) ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना दिनांक 24.08.2023 निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "डी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के उम्मीदवारों हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। ऑनलाईन निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 13.09.2023 है।

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खाण्ड मुंगेली जिला-मुंगेली (छ.ग.) ईमेल - eemun-phe-cg@nic. "द्विजित हॉस्टल, जेल रोड मुंगेली" फोन :- 07755-264172, 205475 ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा निरस्त सूचना जल जीवन मिशन अंतर्गत ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA BE AWARE OF FRAUD RECRUITMENT It has been reported to Airports Authority of India (AAI) that unscrupulous elements / fraudsters / touts / agents have created false identity for themselves and have tried to deceive by pretending themselves as recruiters of Airports Authority of India.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS, CHHATTISGARH, ATAL NAGAR, NAVA RAIPUR (1st Call) Notice Inviting Tender No. PHQ/P&P/Sec-10/P-13595/2023 Raipur, Dated : 24/08/2023 Sealed tenders are being invited by the Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from manufacturer (OEM) or authorized (only one firm) by manufacturer's for the following item.

SCHEDULE FOR TENDER a) Address for submission of Tender Document :- DIG of Police(P&P), Block no - 3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Nava Raipur. b) Last Date and Time of Submission on Bids :- 25/09/2023 till 03.00 pm c) Place, Time and Date of opening Technical Bid:- Block no - 3, Room No. 309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Nava Raipur 25/09/2023 till 04.00 pm d) Place, Time and Date of opening Financial Bid :- Shall be intimated later. e) Date till which the Bid to remain valid :- 180 days from the scheduled date of submission of the Bid. The Purchaser may request the Bidder to extend the period of validity for a specified additional period.



## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### Cartographic Conquest

#### China's new game

China, unfazed by diplomatic norms, has boldly unveiled its 2023 "standard map," an audacious display of territorial claims that demands global attention. The world mustn't misconstrue this as mere ink on paper; this is an assertion of power; a resolute message from China that transcends borders and sends ripples through international waters. China's map—released on August 28—boldly proclaims Arunachal Pradesh, a region India staunchly protects, and Aksai Chin, obtained through the 1962 conflict, as part of its sovereign domain. The audacity doesn't halt at territorial borders; Taiwan and the disputed South China Sea are ingeniously woven into this cartographic canvas. This isn't an isolated action; it's a calculated play to reshape geopolitical dynamics. By enclosing the South China Sea within its notorious nine-dash line, China thwarts its neighbors' legitimate claims, flexing maritime muscles that threaten regional stability. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei—the sea's rightful contenders—are relegated by China's audacious map-making. This strategic move follows the recent interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS Summit. It was a meeting charged with implications, where Prime Minister Modi emphasized India's concerns along the Line of Actual Control, where borders remain fluid and contested. The timing of this map's release is not coincidental—it's a calculated message that demands a coherent global response. Even as China's Ministry of Natural Resources unveils this audacious map, we're reminded of China Daily's statement. Wu Wenzhong, the chief planner of the ministry, articulates that geographic information and mapping play a pivotal role in the nation's development and resource management. Wu envisions leveraging digital maps and navigation data for the digital economy, from location-based services to precision agriculture—an endeavor that aligns with China's technological ambitions. The ongoing India-China engagement aims to de-escalate tensions in eastern Ladakh. While there's some progress, the challenging terrain of the Depsang Bulge—the battleground of China's aggressive blockades—remains unresolved. This area, stretching across 970 sq km, looms large in China's designs to erase India's strategic advantage. This is no mere territorial tussle; it's a battle for influence, for dominance. China's calculated moves echo beyond the immediate borders. Its expansionist maneuvers, cloaked in cartographic precision, hold regional and global implications. The world cannot remain indifferent to China's ambitions, carved in ink on a map that speaks louder than words. This is not about remote regions; it's about recalibrating the world order. In a world that thrives on diplomacy, where borders are negotiated through dialogue, China's new map is a hard-hitting reminder that lines on paper can redraw power dynamics.

### Legal Twist

#### Imran Khan's Conviction Suspended

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has created a storm in the political landscape with a decision that can only be described as seismic. The court's unprecedented move to suspend the conviction and three-year sentence of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana corruption case is a moment that promises to reverberate far beyond the courtroom. Orchestrated under the stewardship of IHC's Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, this turn of events may be poised to ignite a fiery political battle in Pakistan. In a legal discourse brimming with anticipation, the IHC's decision to suspend Khan's conviction has ignited debates, discussions, and soul-searching. This development, a game-changer in the narrative surrounding the case, has catapulted Khan's name back into the headlines, prompting questions about justice, accountability, and the intersection of law and politics. The suspension of Khan's conviction comes as a sign of relief for his political camp and supporters. The Islamabad High Court's resolute stance has nullified the district court's decision, signaling a legal victory for Khan. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khan's political faction, succinctly encapsulated the development, asserting that the district court's decision had been suspended by the IHC. It's a moment that reverberates with political implications, rekindling debates about Khan's political future and the influence this verdict will wield. The Toshakhana corruption case, which has occupied headlines and courtroom debates, hinges on Khan's alleged involvement in unlawfully trading state gifts. This suspension of conviction dismantles a significant pillar of the case against him, causing ripples within legal and political circles. The suspension paves the way for Khan's release, signaling a remarkable legal victory that will undoubtedly dominate conversations within Pakistan's socio-political tapestry. As the news resonates through the corridors of power, it raises broader questions about the accountability of public figures, the intricacies of the legal system, and the relationship between law and politics. This suspension does more than merely alter Khan's legal fate; it reignites the discourse surrounding transparency, justice, and the role of the judiciary in shaping the nation's destiny. In the aftermath of this decision, the legal and political community alike are grappling with its implications. Khan's legal team and opponents now pivot to assess the decision's wider impact, both within the context of this case and in the broader scheme of political accountability. The suspension has introduced an element of unpredictability to the unfolding narrative, reshaping the contours of political discourse. This legal upheaval invites us to reflect on the nuances of the judicial process, the intricacies of legal argumentation, and the balance between individual rights and collective welfare. It's a moment that holds a mirror to our society's values, highlighting the complexities of navigating the terrain where law meets politics. In the end, the suspension of Imran Khan's conviction stands as a watershed moment that will echo through the annals of Pakistan's legal and political history. As this development becomes the focal point of national conversations, it's imperative that we engage with it critically, evaluating the legal underpinnings, the political implications, and the ramifications for our nation's democratic fabric. As the dust settles and the debates continue, one thing is clear: the legal landscape of Pakistan has been irrevocably altered, and the nation watches keenly as the story unfolds.

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

### SCULPTURE OF ELLORA TEMPLE



The replica of the sculpture of Ellora temple being made for IATO's 38th Convention scheduled in Aurangabad from September 29 to Oct 1.

### Raksha Bandhan : Festival Of Affection & Protection



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



*Mere Rakhi Ki Dor, Kabhi Ho Na Kamjor; Bhaiya De Do Kalai, Bahan Aayi Hai. Kitna Rishta Hai Pavan, Mahina Bhi Savan; Bhaiya Kha Lo Mithai, Bahan Layi Hai. Nata Bhai-Bahan, Jaise Dharti-Gagan; Dono Aise Khile, Sach Mein Ek Hi Chaman. Mera Pyara Tu Bhaiya, Leti Hun Balaiya; Dekh Neh Ki Jalayi, Bahan Aayi Hai.*

India is the most culturally enriched country in the world. It is the land of religions, faiths, fairs and festivals. Some festivals are common to the masses, whereas some reinforce the bond between two particular relations, such as Karva Chauth (Wife & Husband), Haritalika or Teej (Wife & Husband), Jivitputrika or Jivtia (Mother & Child), Bhaiya Dooj (Brother & Sister), Guru Purnima (Teacher & Pupil) etc. One of such bond reinforcing festival between Brother and Sister is Raksha Bandhan, in which the sister tie the sacred thread called "Rakhi" on her brother's right wrist to pray for his prosperity & well-being and in return the brother offers to take responsibility for proper care of the sisters. The festival is celebrated every year on Purnima (Full Moon), the last day of Shrawan month of Vikram Samvat Panchang, traditionally used in the Indian sub-continent.

In broad sense, Raksha Bandhan festival is the symbol of seeking protection from powerful ones by weaker ones. The two Sanskrit words "Raksha" and "Bandhan" i.e. "Bond of protection", symbolizes sincere and lofty human emotions. The occasion also has a pledge for spiritual, cultural and moral val-

ues. There are several mythological and religious stories regarding Raksha Bandhan. There was a battle between Devtas and Demons, in which Devraj Indra was in fear to lose. Then Indrani, the wife of Devraj, prepared a sacred thread with her religious power and tied it around Indra's right hand with a wish that it will protect him from demons. Her wish came true when later day Devtas defeated demons and Indra along with other Devtas returned safely.

Mahabharat narrates that once Bhagwan Krishna was flying a kite, during which his finger got cut with the thread. Seeing the blood, Draupadi immediately tore a piece of cloths from her Saree and tied it on Krishna's wounded finger. Krishna promised to protect her against all odds throughout his life-time which were fulfilled during Chirharan and various others occasions. As per another mythology, Yamraj, the god of death, has visited her twin sister Yami or Yamuna after a long time of 12 years on Shrawan Purnima. Yamuna tied the sacred thread on Yamraj's wrist and Yamraj announced that whoever promises to protect his sister on this occasion will stay immortal; thus following the tra-

dition of Raksha Bandhan.

Raksha Bandhan is also based on several happenings in history as well as faiths. The Sikh Maharani Jindan, wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, used to tie Rakhi to Nepal Naresh Jung Bahadur. In 1849, when English conquered Sikh territories, Jindan was given shelter by Jung Bahadur. In 326 BCE, when the battle between Alexander and Raja Porus was at its pick, Roxana, the wife of Alexander, sent Rakhi to Porus with a request to not harm her husband. Porus stopped attacking Alexander personally.

Around 1535 CE, Rani Karnavati, widowed queen of Rana Sanga, realized that she could not protect her territories Chittorgarh from invasion of Sultan of Gujrat, Bahadur Shah, and she sent a Rakhi to Humayun asking for his help. Humayun immediately set off, but by then the Sultan had already conquered the fortress and Rani had immolated herself as Jauhar. Humayun restored Karnavati's son, Vikramjit, to the throne. In 18th century, Sikh Khalsa armies initiated Rakhi system as a promise to protect peasant farmers from Afgan invaders.

Raksha Bandhan is celebrated in India, Nepal, Mauritius, Fiji, Pakistan, Bangala Desh and South Asian countries. Although it is said to be festival of Hindus along with its other originating sects Sikh, Buddhist, Jain; but in various parts of the country it can be seen to be celebrated among Muslims, Christians and Parsis too. The brother-sister bond in celebrating Raksha Bandhan do not mean just blood relation, but cousins, sisters, sister-in-laws, fraternal aunt, nephew, and other equivalent relations. A sister is the gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit and a golden thread to the meaning of life. The brother and sister try to visit each other in order to bring back the solidarity of the family and binding the family in emotional bond of love.

In addition to real life, the fes-

tival has been portrayed in reel-life of movies too. The big as well as small screens acted as a catalyst to spread the festival vibes among the people. The scenes and songs have connect the people to understand the brother-sister relation more prominently.

#### Numerous melodious famous songs like

"Bhaiya Mere Rakhi Ke Bandhan Ko Nibhana", "Bahna Ne Bhai Ki Kalai Pe Pyar Bandha Hai", "Ek Hajaron Men Meri Bahna Hai", "Meri Bahna Jaisi Na Hogi Kisi Ki Bahna Re", "Ye Rakhi Bandhan Hai Aisa", "Rakhi Dhagon Ka Tyohar", "Mere Bhaiya Mere Chanda", "Rang Birangi Rakhi Le Ke Aayi Bahna", "Mere Rakhi Ki Dor Kabhi Ho Na Kamjor, Bhaiya De Do Kalai Bahan Aayi Hai", etc. are powerful enough to make the people emotional.

As trees are the life supporting natural system for human beings by absorbing harmful gases like Carbon Di-oxide and releasing oxygen; so on this day, the environmentalists tied Rakhi around the trees with a messages to protect it and conserve the nature. In rural areas, the priests tie sacred Bandhan on their Yajman's wrist, give blessings and in return obtain Dakshina for their livelihood.

In present era of globalisation, Raksha Bandhan could not be restricted to just bond between brother and sister; the relationship could be generalized in every sector of life, i.e. from bond of protection between privileged and under-privileged sections of society to developed and underdeveloped nations.

The thread of Rakhi is considered as non-breakable chains and it binds the pious relationship in an inseparable bond of love, trust and care. It has social significance as it underlines the notion that everybody should live in harmonious co-existence with each other.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist. Views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Shameful Act

A disgraceful incident unfolded in a Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh private school. In a disturbing video, a teacher encourages students to assault a fellow student based on his faith. The global spotlight now focuses on India's education system post its lunar feat. Such behavior, though perpetrated by an educator, is her individual stain, not reflective of religion, politics, or sects. Collective Indian efforts are vital to eradicate such conduct and prevent its recurrence.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

#### Bigotry at School

Disturbing events unfolded at a Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh private school where a hate-fueled video showcased students brutally attacking a fellow Muslim classmate under their teacher's instruction, solely due to his faith. Reflecting on a past incident involving A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who faced discrimination, shows the deep-rooted nature of the issue. The teacher's divisive actions were countered by Kalam's school principal, emphasizing the need to eradicate communal intolerance. The state government must act decisively, demanding an apology or resignation from the teacher, to uproot this social bias and ensure a harmonious future.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai.

#### Unemployment Outlook

India's ascent to the world's most populous nation, surpassing China, is marred by escalating joblessness and inflation, burdening 80 percent of the populace. Amid this, envisioning the path to becoming the third-largest economy is tough for ordinary Indians. While GDP growth is promising, elevating personal earnings is crucial. A silver lining appears in the short term—potential unemployment reduction. Presently 125th world-wide in this regard, India must address this issue to transform challenges into opportunities.

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai.

#### Lives Unprotected

The tragic demise of three migrant labourers from Murshidabad, West Bengal in Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, electrocuted while working on a 27-story building, underscores the perilous conditions construction workers face daily. Lack of safety measures jeopardizes lives. A standardized operating procedure (SOP) is imperative. Mandatory safety gear like harnesses, nets, and insurance coverage must shield workers. Disturbingly, laborers continue to risk their lives on scaffolding without disaster readiness. Despite recurring incidents, this disregard for life persists. It's high time to halt this inhumane treatment.

Sujit De, Kolkata.

### Beyond the Thread: Raksha Bandhan's Deeper Message



Priyanka Saurabh

*Is celebrating Raksha Bandhan only about protecting your sister from external threats? The festival goes beyond its surface rituals, urging us to delve into a profound meaning. While traditionally a brother's promise to shield his sister, Raksha Bandhan's essence now questions if protection encompasses safeguarding her dreams and rights. In today's rapidly changing world, upholding Raksha Bandhan's true spirit has gained immense importance. Can this festival serve as a reminder to protect not just sisters, but all girls across the globe?*

The foundation of the brother-sister relationship stands as one of the most cherished bonds. Beyond mere blood ties, siblings become guides and confidants to one another. The weight of this relationship becomes evi-

dent when life takes sisters to new families through marriage and brothers to distant cities for work. The yearning between a soldier brother stationed at the border and his sister portrays the sanctity of this connection.

Rakhi, the sacred thread that symbolizes the bond between siblings, has been intricately woven into our cultural fabric for centuries. While traditionally signifying a brother's vow to protect his sister, Raksha Bandhan has evolved. It now symbolizes a pledge to protect not just sisters, but every girl in the world. This festival, interwoven with mutual affection, devotion, and duty, reinvigorates the sibling bond. Sisters eagerly tie rakhi on their brother's wrist with enthusiasm, not only showcasing their love but also awakening their brothers to their responsibilities.

Raksha Bandhan derives its essence from its name: Raksha meaning protection, and Bandhan representing a bond. On this day, sisters pray for their brothers' well-being and prosperity. While sisters traditionally tie rakhis to their brothers, younger girls in the family extend this tradi-

tion to Brahmins, Gurus, and respected elders.

However, societal shifts have influenced Raksha Bandhan's essence, replacing core values with superficial trends. Modernity has started overshadowing the festival's intrinsic meaning, as materialistic displays replace genuine connections. To preserve our culture and values, it's crucial to rekindle the true spirit of Rakhi, rooted in commitments. Love should never be reduced to mere transactions; enduring relationships cannot thrive on such exchanges.

Historical narratives, like that of Krishna and Draupadi, exemplify the festival's ethos. Today, sisters face challenges at every life stage, their safety and honor often threatened. Thus, sisters are stretching the boundaries of fraternity, underscoring the urgency to protect and respect all women. As Raksha Bandhan is celebrated, it becomes imperative

for brothers to pledge not only to safeguard their sisters but also to champion women's rights globally. Nurturing this commitment will reinstate the festival's true essence. Amid changing times, upholding the festival's values showcases its timeless significance.

As technology inundates social media with images and videos, let's channel our efforts into nurturing relationships. Raksha Bandhan transcends a fleeting online trend; it's an opportunity to honour our bonds with sincerity and depth. Beyond symbolic gestures, let's pledge to protect the honor, rights, and dreams of all women. This way, the spirit of Raksha Bandhan will endure, enriching our lives with its enduring message.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent Journalist, and Columnist. Views re personal).



## BRIEF

### Appoint



**New Delhi:** Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday announced appointment of Arnab Roy as CFO Designate with effect from October 16, 2023. He will succeed present CFO Ajay Seth who will retire at the end of this year. Seth shall be superannuating from the post of wholetime CFO of the company with effect from close of business hours of December 31, 2023. Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.

### Invest

**Guwahati:** The Greenwood Hotels and Resorts Group on Tuesday announced that it will invest Rs 500 crore to roll out hospitality projects across Northeast over the next 10 years. The company has launched its latest property 'The Greenwood Guwahati' in the business segment here at an investment of Rs 100 crore.

### Freshworks



**Chennai:** Software-as-a-service major Freshworks on Tuesday announced the appointment of Johanna Jackman as its chief people officer. Jackman joins the executive team and will report to Chief Executive Officer Girish Mathrubootham and President Dennis Woodside, said a press release. Jackman, in her new role, would be responsible for the company's global human resources strategy and operations, and oversee HR business partnerships, talent acquisition, and employee development among others.

### Suspend

**Mumbai:** Aviation safety regulator DGCA has temporarily suspended the Boeing simulator training facility of Air India for certain alleged lapses, a source has said. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is "verifying" some of the documents pertaining to the matter and will take a call on the restoration of the training facility once it completes the process, the source said. When contacted, a senior Air India official said DGCA carries out routine checks (on airlines) but did not divulge details.

### Authorise

**New Delhi:** Private sector lender Bandhan Bank on Tuesday said it has been appointed by Reserve Bank of India as an authorised pension disbursement bank on behalf of the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) for the civil pensioners. The bank will soon be integrating with the office of CPAO, Ministry of Finance, to operationalise the disbursement process, it said in a release.

# Govt announces up to Rs 50 lakh grant for startups

**To promote technical textiles**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

The government on Tuesday said it will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment.

The Startup Guidelines for Technical Textiles - Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) providing grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months has been approved, Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, said.

With a strong emphasis on developing the Startup Ecosystem in Technical

Textiles, the guidelines focus on supporting individuals and companies to translate prototypes to technologies & products, including commercialisation, he told reporters here on the important developments in the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM).

"We are going to support up to Rs 50 lakh in the form of grant-in-aid without any royalties or equity. Only a minimum of 10 per cent contribution has to be made by the incubatee. All of this is being done by incubators like IITs, NITs, Textiles Research Associations, and Centres of Excellence, among others," Saxena said.

Under the GREAT scheme, he said, the ministry envisages the research, which has already been conducted and some prototypes have been devel-

oped, to be made commercial. The official said that an online portal will be developed to invite applications within 10-15 days. The scheme will be commensurate with the National Technical Textiles Mission. We are going to support 100-150 startups.

The textile ministry will additionally provide 10 per cent of total grant-in-aid to incubators, according to an official release.

To strengthen authenticity and commitment towards the project, Saxena said a minimum investment of 10 per cent of the funding from the incubatee in two equal instalments is mandated.

The startup guidelines (GREAT) are aimed at providing the much-needed impetus for the development of the technical textiles start-up ecosystem in India, espe-

cially in niche sub-segments such as bio-degradable and sustainable textiles, high-performance and specialty fibres, and smart textiles, among others.

As per the guidelines, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will have to be signed between the selected startups and the incubator. The textiles ministry has also given a nod to 26 institutes for upgrading their laboratory infrastructure and training of trainers in the application areas of technical textiles.

Applications from 26 institutions for the development and introduction of technical textile courses/papers in the key departments/specialisations as well as introducing new degree programme in technical textiles have also been approved.

## 'Maruti expects to invest Rs 45k cr to double annual capacity'

**To 40 lakh units in 8 yrs**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

Maruti Suzuki India expects to invest around Rs 45,000 crore to double its production capacity to 40 lakh units annually in the next eight years, company Chairman RC Bhargava said on Tuesday.

The company will also take up suggestions by shareholders for a stock split to its board for consideration, he said while speaking at the annual general meeting of the carmaker.

As the global auto industry strives for carbon neutrality, he said Maruti Suzuki will also deal with a lot of technologies, in-



RC Bhargava

cluding electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids, CNG, ethanol-blended and use of compressed biogas going forward as it is difficult to predict what will happen in the next eight to ten years in terms of new technologies. In his address to the shareholders, Bhargava said the compa-

ny has reached "two million production and sales in 40 years and is now preparing to add two million in the next eight years" while also more than doubling the turnover of the company in its third phase of the journey. "The era before us is going to be a very uncertain era, a very challenging era. Putting up these 2 million cars itself will cost us something close to Rs 45,000 crore. It depends how inflation goes but at the moment we estimate the cost about Rs 45,000 crore for 2 million cars," Bhargava said. Under 'Maruti 3.0' the company is targeting to add another 20 lakh units production capacity with about 28 different models in the market by FY 2030-31.

## Akzo Nobel India launches Dulux Assurance

Mumbai, Aug 29:

Today, nearly one in every two Indian consumers is prioritizing quality as the primary factor during purchase. The latest research by Dulux shows that Indian consumers trust the brand and its superior quality products to keep their homes looking good year after year. In 2021, Akzo Nobel India Limited, a leading Paints and Coatings company and maker of Dulux Paints, launched Dulux Assurance - a program assuring perfect colour, finish and coverage on select Dulux products for three months. With the aim to deliver on the core expectation of Indian paint consumers, Dulux AssuranceTM now gets bigger, bolder and more comprehensive. The new Dulux AssuranceTM launched is AkzoNobel's first-ever warranty program for its paint consumers in India.

## Vedanta Aluminium employs differently-abled professionals at its operations

Bhubaneswar, Aug 29:

Vedanta Aluminium, the largest aluminium producer in India, has now hired several differently-abled individuals across its operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, ramping up its efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusivity (DE&I) within the metals and mining sector. These individuals, experiencing impairments ranging from loss of vision to limited mobility, have been mapped to jobs that closely match their skill set and unique abilities, and are provided specialised training for their job responsibilities by domain experts. This is a noteworthy move as it is far more complex to hire differently-abled people in the heavy engineering, metals and core manufacturing sector, than in other sectors

such as the back-office or service industry.

Hired from within the communities residing around its operations, the nearly 20 employees are now contributing to Vedanta Aluminium's operations in a diverse array of roles, ranging from commercial, human resources, and asset security to housekeeping, storekeeping and carpentry. Hiring differently-abled personnel offers an opportunity for businesses to go beyond standardised approaches and focus on building a workplace that is truly inclusive. This outlook encompasses ensuring safety, such as specialised alerts for hearing-impaired individuals, to process augmentations, such as sourcing customized tools that allow for greater freedom of movement to mobility-impaired individuals.

## IESA begins recognising women leaders driving energy transition

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

Industry body India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) on Tuesday said it has started recognising women leaders who are driving India's energy transition that includes renewables, electric vehicles and green hydrogen as it would help bridge the gender gap in the coming years.

The move assumes significance in view of the effort of different organisations to bridge the gender gap in leadership roles in different sectors, especially clean energy or energy transition.

According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022, only one in five leadership roles in the energy sector are held by women, IESA

said in a statement.

The recently launched Green Hydrogen Mission and the Prime Minister's commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 are setting a clear road map for decarbonisation of the industrial and agricultural sectors.

India is also utilising the G20 Presidency to bring together global cooperation for sustainable growth and has brought focus on a women-led inclusive development agenda.

The list features women leaders who have been driving impactful changes within the realms of clean energy, electric vehicles (EV), and green hydrogen. It's worth acknowledging that these accomplished women are not alone in the sector, as numerous others play a substantial

## 'Coal transition in India won't lead to job losses'

**If systems designed correctly**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

India won't experience any job losses in coal-dependent regions as it transitions towards renewable energy, provided the country designs its systems correctly, says Ajay Mathur, Director-General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

In an interview with PTI, Mathur also said energy security remains a driving force, especially in view of the Russia-Ukraine war impacting traditional energy sources. While India doesn't intend to fully eliminate coal, the sole dependable energy source in the nation, there is a target to diminish



Ajay Mathur

coal's contribution from the existing 50 per cent in the energy mix to around 30 per cent and have 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Addressing concerns about loss of jobs as India moves away from coal, Mathur, who has also been a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, said the re-

newable sector holds promise for employment generation, particularly at the user level. "We need far more trained electricians who can maintain the solar systems you and I set up in our own houses," the energy sector expert said, stressing the need for skilled professionals in the industry.

"It is quite possible that if we design systems right, the last coal plants close on the day the last coal miner retires, so there'll be no job issues on that side," he said.

According to a study released in November 2021, more than 13 million people employed in coal mining, transport, power, sponge iron, steel, and bricks sectors will be impacted due to the impending coal transition.

## India, New Zealand discussing introduction of UPI

**To promote ease of doing business**

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

India and New Zealand are discussing the possibility of introducing the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the island country with a view to promoting ease of doing business, trade and tourism between the countries, the commerce ministry said on Tuesday.

The two countries are also looking at ways to allow the import of wooden logs from New Zealand.

These issues were discussed during a bilateral meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor on Monday here.

"Ministers welcomed early discussions between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Payments NZ regarding the UPI system and agreed that both sides should continue deliberations on this issue. They agreed that introduction of UPI in New Zealand would promote ease of doing business between both the countries and promote trade and tourism as well," the ministry said.

In 2022, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation offering UPI services, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with France's fast and secure online payment system, called Lyra. In 2023, UPI and Singapore's PayNow signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.

## ELECTRIFIED FLEX FUEL VEHICLE



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri during the unveiling of the world's first prototype of the BS 6 Stage II 'Electrified Flex Fuel Vehicle' developed by Toyota Kirloskar Motor, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Stock markets close higher for 2nd day; power, metal shares lead gains

Mumbai, Aug 29 (PTI):

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains as metal and power and select financial shares advanced.

Losses in index majors Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and Airtel, and foreign fund outflows restricted gains, analysts said.

Rising for a second straight day, the BSE Sensex rose by 79.22 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 65,075.82, tracking firm global markets. During the day, it jumped 232.43 points or 0.35 per cent to 65,229.03.

The NSE Nifty gained 36.60 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 19,342.65.

## Century Mattress onboards Sindhu as its brand ambassador

Hyderabad, Aug 29 (PTI):

Hyderabad-based Century Mattress on Tuesday announced that ace badminton player P V Sindhu has been signed as the company's brand ambassador.

Speaking of Sindhu's new role off the court, Century Mattress Executive Director Uttam Malani said she will be championing the importance of the right mattress for fitness and well-being by using the innovative products brought out by the company.

"We are elated to welcome P V Sindhu to the Century family as our new brand ambassador. Sindhu is a perfect fit for Century through shared



Badminton player and new brand ambassador for Century Mattress PV Sindhu at an event, in Hyderabad, Tuesday.

values of excellence and dedication. We look forward to reaching out to all individuals with our innovative products and in-

formative campaigns through this collaboration," Malani said.

Termining her collaboration with the firm as an exciting step, Sindhu said: "Their dedication to innovative sleep solutions aligns perfectly with my belief in the importance of rest. Just as rigorous training is vital for success, so is the restorative power of a good night's sleep on the right mattress. I'm thrilled to be a part of Century's journey, advocating for healthier sleep solutions for holistic well-being."

A double Olympic medalist, Sindhu won the silver medal at the 2016 edition in Rio de Janeiro and secured bronze in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

## Food safety inspections intensify ahead of Raksha Bandhan

### Food Security Officer Ajit Baghel conducts thorough checks to ensure safe festive treats

Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Aug 29:** With the Raksha Bandhan festival on Tuesday, the Department of Food and Drug Administration, led by Food Security Officer Ajit Baghel, has ramped up its efforts to ensure the safety of food products. A wave of inspections and sampling has been initiated across various food establishments, including hotels, sweet shops, bakeries, and grocery stores.

As part of this proactive initiative, officials from the Department of Food and Drug Administration conducted rigorous inspections of sweets and other food items in preparation across hotels within the city and district. The establishments under scrutiny included

New Yadav Hotel, Kedar Hotel, Bhagwati Jodhpur Sweets, Gupta Hotel Lormi, Kesharwani Hotel Bypass Mungeli, and Guru Krupa Mithai Bhandar.

Sampling was carried out diligently, encompassing delicacies like barfi from Kesharwani Hotel, motichoor laddu from Guru Krupa Mithai Bhandar, and pedafrom New Yadav Hotel. These samples were subsequently sent to the Kalibadi Raipur Testing Laboratory for meticulous analysis.

According to the stipulations outlined in the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and Rules 2011, penalties of up to Rs 300,000 and a possible six months of imprisonment await those found guilty of distributing hazardous food items. Similarly, penalties of up to

Rs 300,000 apply for those dealing with adulterated and substandard food products.

Food operators have been urged to prioritize hygiene and cleanliness within their establishments, especially as Raksha Bandhan approaches. Adhering to strict guidelines, they are encouraged to provide customers with high-quality food products that meet safety standards. Operators are sternly advised against any form of adulteration, and they should ensure that production and usage dates are clearly marked on products.

In addition, the use of food colors specifically meant for edible products, such as brown or 999, is recommended, while colors intended for non-edible

purposes should be avoided. The use of metallic colors or hues resembling inks utilized in print materials is discouraged, as it could lead to food contamination. Wrapping items like samosas, pakoras, and sweets in colored paper is cautioned against, as this could pose severe health risks. Instead, plain paper or leaf wrapping is suggested.

The Department of Food and Drug Administration emphasizes that non-compliance with these stringent guidelines may lead to severe consequences under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006. Inspections are ongoing, and any discrepancies discovered during this process will be dealt with accordingly.

## 'Roka Chheka' campaign enforces cattle check initiative

### District Collector Vinay Kumar Langhe takes charge to safeguard roads and agriculture

Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Aug 29:** Chhattisgarh's administration has launched a comprehensive "Roka Chheka" campaign spanning all villages across the state. The endeavour, aiming to rekindle traditional farming practices, safeguard kharif crops from wandering cattle, and curtail road accidents caused by livestock, is gaining momentum. Spearheaded by District Collector Vinay Kumar Langhe, the campaign's efficacy is palpable, fostering a safer coexistence.

The "Roka Chheka" ini-



tiative prioritizes secure cattle containment in Gauthans, advocating for the collection of organic manure and fostering the adoption of organic fertilizers. The decisive directives of Vinay Kumar Langhe have notably expedited the campaign's rollout. Collaborative efforts between Block Panchayats, officials from the Animal Health Department, village Panchayat secretaries, and Gauthan committee

members aim to clear roadsides of stray cattle. Diligent work persists deep into the night as officials survey various roadways and intersections, taking stock of the situation, extracting stray cattle, and imposing fines on cattle owners who permit their animals to roam freely. Provisions are additionally made for housing wandering cattle within Gauthans. Financial penalties are levied upon cattle

owners flouting regulations, notwithstanding repeated cautions against releasing cattle onto roads. Evidently, within the Shivpur-Charcha Municipal Corporation, 6 penalties have been imposed, while 2 penalties have been recorded in the Sonhat Panchayat. Furthermore, Baikunthpur Panchayat has witnessed 21 penalties, totaling over 3700 rupees, imposed on cattle owners.

## BJP gears up for 2023 elections, Nisha Singh takes lead

### Grassroots engagement and strong vision shape party's strategy

Central Chronicle News

**Berla, Aug 29:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is intensifying its efforts in preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections, considered a pivotal precursor to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The 2023 Assembly elections hold strategic significance, prompting the BJP to strategically engage in campaign efforts.

Nisha Singh, a determined legislator from Bihar's Pranpur constituency and the National Convener of BJP's Women's Wing, has taken charge of the Berla Assembly constituency's responsibilities. After



touring all four zones in her constituency, she is now connecting directly with party workers at the grassroots level.

A significant meeting recently took place on August 27 at Devangan Bhavan, Devarajia, led by Avdhesh Singh Chandel, a former legislator and the current Pradesh Minister of BJP. This meeting saw an enthusiastic response,

with nearly five hundred individuals joining the BJP, inspired by the party's accomplishments and its vision.

Prominent attendees included women activists who have made their mark through commendable social work in various villages. Among the key figures present were Nisha Singh, legislator from Pranpur, Avdhesh Singh

Chandel, former state minister, and Lalita Sahu, district president of the Women's Wing, along with esteemed leaders. During the event, Nisha Singh warmly welcomed new BJP members by draping them in the party's scarves.

Nisha Singh emphasized the party's proactive efforts, stating, "We are tirelessly reaching every

mandal and numerous villages within the assembly constituencies. Our workers are highly motivated. Simultaneously, the disillusionment with Congress is evident, as they have failed to fulfill grassroots promises."

Nisha Singh, along with key leaders, hosted a luncheon for the attendees, providing an opportunity for engagement and discussion. The event highlighted BJP's focused approach towards grassroots engagement and strategic preparation for the upcoming elections, aiming to convey the party's accomplishments and vision to every household.

## Farmers felicitated under 'Kissan Saptah'



### In prog by DCCBL Ahirwara branch

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 29:** Kissan Saptah programme was organised by District Co-op Central Bank Limited (DCCBL) and in this farmers were felicitat-

ed by presenting them with stole and srfial. The Samiti President Mohrenga Oni Kumar Mahilang gave information in detailed about the government's schemes. President of Sewa Sahakari Samiti (SSS) Ahirwara Umesh Banjare, President SSS Umesh Kumar Sahu, Bhagwat Sahu President

Matara branch Manager Ghanau Ram Sahu, Samiti Manager Devendra Kumar Sahu, Samiti Ahirwara Samiti manager BK Nishad, Bhuneshwar Prasad Mishra, Gulshan Sahu, Neelkant Sahu, Gautam Sahu, Hitesh Daharia, and farmer Lalla Yadav and others were present.

## Villagers stage chakka-jam for hours



Central Chronicle News

**Dongargaon, Aug 29:** The villagers of Ghorda with demand to re-start the close stone mines, staged chakka-jam once again on state highway. Though due to this chakka-jam few passer-bys did face some problems, but due to alertness on part of the police, the route of the vehicles was diverted on both the sides by the police and due to which despite hours of chakka-jam, nobody was caught in the chakka-jam. This chakka-jam continued till

3:00 pm and in this both women and children in large number were present. During this Chakka-jam, no villager was interested in talking to anyone below the rank of Collector and they raised slogans against local administration, government, police and MLA Daleshwar Sahu as well. During this an ambulance with patients had to face lots of problems in passing out from this chakka-jam and people in other vehicles too had to divert in order to reach out to their destination.

## Satnami community submits memorandum to collector

### Over K.P. Khande's controversial statements

Central Chronicle News

**Nandini-Ahirwara, Aug 29:** The Satnami community, along with key figures including Sate Mahant, District Mahant, Bhandari, Satidar, and local villagers, has submitted a memorandum to the Collector. The memorandum, presented on behalf of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, addresses the recent controversial statements made by K.P. Khande, Chairman of the Scheduled Caste Commission. The incident transpired during an event commemorating Mini Mata Ji at Raipur's Shaheed Smarak Bhavan.

The remarks made by K.P. Khande have sparked contention, as they were perceived as disrespectful to the lineage of Guru



Gaddi Nasheen of Giraudpuri Dham and the broader Satnami community. These statements have not only triggered dissatisfaction within the community but have also raised concerns about the need for harmony and respect among all segments of society. Consequently, the memorandum calls for stringent action, including the registration of an FIR against K.P. Khande. His position as the Chairman of the Scheduled Caste Commission, a responsible and authoritative role, further un-

derlines the significance of addressing this matter promptly. The memorandum also emphasizes the demand for the immediate removal of K.P. Khande from his position due to his involvement in disseminating statements that have caused offense and unrest within the Satnami community. The Satnami community, acting as the steward of Guru Jagatguru's legacy, asserts that the perceived insult cannot be ignored. As a result, there is a direct call for K.P. Khande to resign from

his position swiftly and issue a public apology. In the event that these demands are not met, the Satnami community has indicated its readiness to launch a resolute movement. The administration holds the responsibility of addressing the concerns and sentiments expressed by the community.

Prominent figures, including Jila Mahant Manish Banjare, Triloknath Banjare, Umesh Banjare, Anjor Das Baghel, JagritMarkande, Kailash Kosre, Dr. Santosh Toran Banjare, Rajendra Banjare, Vishnu Dahare, Jaeshwar Ishwar, and numerous social workers from the Satnami society, were present during this momentous submission, highlighting the united stance of the community on this matter.

## School students stage 'street-shows'



Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Aug 29:** Variety of activities under SVEEP were organised for the Schools and College students here on Monday. Through street-shows, voter awareness rally, human chain and posters the students motivated the citizens to exercise their franchise. In view of the forthcoming elections, variety of programmes are being organised under SVEEP programme. In this series, the students of High School, Mopka staged street-show near Mopka Chowk under voter awareness

campaign and passed on the message of voter awareness. The students of Government High School, Lingiyadih also staged street-show in the streets of Lingiyadih village and created awareness among voters. NSS students of Mission HS School and students of PNS Colege and SBT College also took out a rally for voter awareness in Brihaspati Bazar and formed a human chain and informed about the importance of voting. Students of Govt Bilasa Kanya College made posters to create awareness and made an appeal to all to vote.

## Bike riders explore Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve's beauty

### Chhattisgarh Riding Club's enthusiasts discover wildlife and conservation

Central Chronicle News

**Mainpur, Aug 29:** The Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh has been gaining significant recognition, not only among international tourists but also within the national biking community. The Chhattisgarh Riding Club, comprised of riders from Raipur and the Bastar group, embarked on an expedition to the remote hillside villages nestled within the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve. Their journey offered a close-up glimpse into the local lifestyle, along with the opportunity to relish the region's scenic beauty and observe wildlife thriving in their natural habitat.

Led by Dr. Varun Tamrakar, director of Chhattisgarh Riding Club (36RC) in Raipur, and Jeet Singh Arya, the founder of the Bastar group, along

with consultant Prabodh Baliyan, a group of 22 wildlife enthusiasts primarily focused on promoting ecological awareness and wildlife conservation, especially the conservation of forest buffalo and Malabar pied hornbill (Dhanesh), and promoting ecotourism. Their efforts were channeled through an impactful motorcycle rally.

The rally commenced in Raipur and its way through the route from Gariyaband to Dhaulpur, making stops at the CRPF camp in Aundh and continuing to Aamamora. Aundh and Aamamora Forest Management Committees facilitated homestays and discussions about the promotion and expansion of eco-



tourism took place. The forest committee members guided the riders through treks to religious sites and the Kalipagar waterfall, providing insights into the habitat of the rare bird species, Dhanesh, which is abundantly present in the area. These efforts were aimed at drawing more wildlife enthusiasts to the region, generating local employment opportunities, and

thereby enhancing local participation in forest conservation.

During their stay at the Rest House in Aundh, the bikers were treated to meals served in traditional leaf plates, an experience that gave them a closer look at rural lifestyles. This period also witnessed surveys focused on homestay development. Continuing their journey, the riders trav-



eled from Aundh to Manpur, passing through Jharia Bahra, and reaching the Eco Park Mechka (Sondur). Here, the Mechka Forest Management Committee screened a documentary film on the Anti-Illegal Hunting Campaign and showcased a promotional video about the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve using a projector. The Riders' Club unveiled

posters highlighting forest buffalo and hornbill conservation. Copies of the Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve table book, "Birds and Udanti Sitanadi River" book, were distributed as mementos. The riders engaged in discussions with committee members about biodiversity conservation before resting for the night at the Water Resources Department's Rest House.

Guided by forest department staff and the Eco-Tourism Committee, a bird-watching session was organized near Sodar Reservoir. Riders used binoculars to observe a variety of bird species, including the Grey Hornbill and Yellow Oriole. Near the CRPF camp in Mechka, the riders were treated to the sight of herds of deer roaming freely, adding to their excitement. A trekking expedition to the sacred site of Muchkund Rishi Mountain was organized during their journey from Sondur to Jhariyab?hara. Here, the forest management committees of Am?dad? vjhar Amal? and N?Bhains? shared insights about the

ecological significance of forest elephants. Later, the riders enjoyed mid-day meals at the Eco-Center Koiba (Interpretation Center), where the Udhanti Sit?nadi team provided information about six forest elephants relocated from Manas National Park (Assam) to Chhattisgarh.

The bikers expressed their appreciation to the forest department for meticulously planning the rally route to minimize disruption to the forest and wildlife. Worth noting is that the members of the Awareness Motorcycle Rally have embarked on riding tours to various destinations, including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Bastar. This dynamic group also includes female riders, exemplifying their commitment to environmental consciousness and adventure.

# Asia Cup perfect testing ground ahead of World Cup

Colombo, Aug 29 (PTI):

The Asia Cup, commencing in Multan on Wednesday, promises to deliver not only three riveting India-Pakistan clashes, a treat for fans long deprived of this intense rivalry but also a crucial platform for five participating nations to fine-tune their strategies before the impending World Cup, set to begin on October 5.

In a landscape dominated by proliferating bilateral contests and a waning interest in ODI cricket, the Asia Cup has often grappled for significance in the past decade. However, the 2023 edition has assumed remarkable importance for teams aiming to optimize their preparations, occupying a prominent slot in the thoughts of team strategists.

Functioning as a final dress rehearsal for all teams except Nepal, the Asia Cup serves as a testing ground for answering persistent queries before the global event. Amidst scattered practice matches and bilateral engagements, this tournament, to be hosted in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, offers a true multi-nation atmosphere that mirrors the World Cup's intensity.

As India enters the Asia Cup as a seven-time cham-



pio, the prospect of securing an eighth title might not be their top priority. Instead, the focus lies on aligning key elements ahead of the World Cup, guided by the collaboration of head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit Sharma. The presence of KL Rahul, albeit conditionally, in the Indian squad carries significance, yet his readiness remains under scrutiny due to recent fitness concerns.

Shreyas Iyer's anticipated return adds flexibility to India's middle-order,

while Jasprit Bumrah and Prasad Krishna's comeback presents an intriguing scenario. Having shown their mettle during the T20I series against Ireland, their adaptation to the challenges of ODI cricket, including the grueling task of bowling 10 overs, remains a focal point for the management.

While India assumes the leading role in the Asia Cup, other contenders - Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan - vie for attention. Sri Lanka's squad

faces challenges with injuries to key players, impacting their formidable pace attack. Bangladesh, grappling with injuries to Tamim Iqbal and Ebadot Hosain, sees the return of Shakib Al Hasan as ODI captain after a six-year hiatus.

Surprisingly, Pakistan stands as a stable unit, led by Babar Azam, who recently propelled them to the No. 1 spot in ICC ODI rankings through a resounding 3-0 series victory against Afghanistan. The tussle between Pakistan and

Afghanistan, though not as hyped as Indo-Pak clashes, promises an explosive future. This edition of the Asia Cup might add another riveting chapter to this rivalry.

Over the next three weeks, as rivalries reignite and fresh talents emerge, the looming shadow of the World Cup casts its influence. The Asia Cup, in its essence, evolves into a crucial precursor to the impending cricketing extravaganza, shaping teams and storylines before the ultimate challenge in October.

# Embracing new challenges in World Cup: Virat Kohli

Bengaluru, Aug 29 (PTI):

Virat Kohli has mastered several obstacles during his illustrious career but the former Indian skipper on Monday said the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023 presents him with an exciting new challenge, something he still relishes after a decade and half of top flight cricket.

The 13th edition of the quadrennial extravaganza will be played in India across October and November, and Kohli said he is gearing up for the challenge of playing a World Cup at home.

"Any challenge in front of you, you look forward to it. When difficulty comes in front of you get excited. You don't shy away from it. After 15 years I still like encounters, and the World Cup 2023 is one (challenge). It excites me, I need something new to, you know, propel me to another level," said Kohli during a promotional event here. Kohli did not deny that there is pressure of expectations on him and the team. But Kohli reminded everyone that no one wants to win the World Cup more than the players themselves.

"The pressure is always there. The fans always say we want (the team) to win a cup very badly. I'd like to say not more than me. So, I'm in the right place. Honestly, I know the expectations are there and the emotions of the people are there. But please know that no one wants to win more than players," he said. Kohli, though, is no stranger to winning a World Cup. He had led India to the ICC U-19 World Cup victory back in 2008 and he was also part of the MS Dhoni-led India side that triumphed in the 2011 50-over World Cup at home.

My career highlights obviously winning the World Cup in 2011. I was 23 at the time, and I probably didn't understand the magnitude of it. But now at 34, and has played many World Cups, which we haven't been able to win. So, I understand the emotions of all the senior players (in



2011). "All the more for Sachin Tendulkar, as it was his last World Cup. He had already played many World Cups by then and to win it in Mumbai, his hometown, was very special for him. I mean, it was stuff from dreams," said Kohli.

Kohli also remembered the pressure piled on players ahead and during the 2011 World Cup.

# Indian men's 4x400m relay quartet confident of Asian Games gold

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

Amoj Jacob, one of the runners in the men's 4x400m relay quartet that came close to shattering the USA's aura of invincibility at the World Athletics Championships recently, said on Tuesday he was confident India would win the Asian Games gold, and would also aim for an Olympic podium finish if it qualifies.

The 4x400m relay team smashed the Asian record in a stunning race, clocking 2 minute 59.05 seconds in the heat to qualify for its maiden final round of the Worlds in Budapest last week.

The quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya,

Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh finished second behind USA to make it to the final of the event before it finished fifth among six teams in the show-down.

Jacob, the second runner in the quartet, said that after shattering the Asian record of 2:59.51, "barring unforeseen circumstances, we will win the Hangzhou Asian Games gold, and will also aim for a podium finish at the Olympic next year (if we qualify)".

Amoj added that the experience at the World Championships was a "huge morale booster ahead of the Asian Games as we have finished fifth in the Worlds".

# Prannoy achieves career-high world ranking of No. 6

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

On a high after his maiden World Championship bronze medal, Indian shuttler H S Prannoy soared to career-high world ranking of No 6 in the latest BWF rankings published on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old Kerala shuttler, who eliminated world Number 1 and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen en route to his maiden World Championships bronze, rose three spots with 72437 points in his kitty.

He is also the only Indian shuttler, who has maintained a top-10 rank since December last year.

In this period, he has won the Super-500 Malaysia Masters and re-



cently finished runner-up at the Australian Open.

Among other Indians in the men's singles, Lakshya Sen's ranking dropped by one place, making him the world number 12, while Kidambi Srikanth maintained his position at 20th

despite a making a first-round exit at the World Championships.

In women's singles, former world champion PV Sindhu, who also made an opening-round exit at the Worlds, moved one spot to secure 14th rank. In the

# Rishabh Pant visits India's training camp ahead of Asia Cup

Alur, Aug 29 (PTI):

Stationed at the National Cricket Academy here for his recovery and rehabilitation work, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant made a visit to India's training camp ahead of the Asia Cup.

Pant, who is on a long comeback trail with no set timeline of return, is making strong recovery from the injuries suffered in a horrific car accident last December. In a video shared by the Indian cricket board on social media, Pant can be seen grinning ear to ear as he enters the field and meets his teammates Kuldeep Yadav and Shardul Thakur, before heading for a chat with the head coach Rahul Dravid. Recently, the explosive batter was seen batting in a recreational event here during the Independence



Day. The little shimmy down the pitch might have come as a confidence booster for the batter as well because the crash had affected his knee the most. The BCCI also shared another video from the team's training camp here, with the team scheduled to depart for Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

# Novak Djokovic wins in his return to the US Open



New York, Aug 29 (AP):

Novak Djokovic is back at the U.S. Open and will now be back at No. 1 in the rankings.

Djokovic made a winning return after missing the tournament last year, rolling to a 6-0, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Alexandre Muller on Monday night. The 23-time

Grand Slam champion had to wait through Coco Gauff's three-set victory to open the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium, followed by an opening-night ceremony marking 50 years of equal prize money at the U.S. Open.

"Well, I knew it was going to be a late night for me, late start of the match," Djokovic

said. "Nevertheless, I mean, I was excited to go out on the court. I didn't care if I started after midnight because I was looking forward to this moment for a few years, to be out on the biggest stadium in our sport, the loudest stadium in our sport, playing the night session."

Djokovic was not allowed to travel to the U.S. last year because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19. Monday was his first match in Flushing Meadows since falling to Daniil Medvedev in the 2021 final, a loss that prevented the Serbian from completing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969.

The No. 2 seed took the first set in just 23 minutes and won the first eight games before Muller finally got on the board, raising his arms in triumph after cutting it to 2-1 in the second set.

"I think the performance explains how I felt tonight, particularly in the first two sets. It was kind of lights-out tennis really, almost flawless, perfect first set," Djokovic said. "I've probably had the answer for every shot he had in his book."

# Dhoni groomed bowlers and left complete package with Kohli: Ishant Sharma



Chennai, Aug 29 (PTI):

Veteran pacer Ishant Sharma feels former skipper MS Dhoni groomed the Indian bowlers and handed over a "complete" bowling lineup to his successor Virat Kohli.

The two-time World Cup-winning skipper led the Indian white-ball teams from 2007 to 2017 and the Test side from 2008 to 2014 before handing over the reins to Kohli. It was under Dhoni's leadership that the likes of pacers Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and

Jasprit Bumrah made their debuts. "When Virat was captain, bowling was complete. When we were playing under Mahi bhai, we were in a transition phase. At that time, Shami and Umesh were new, and only I was there. Everyone else would rotate. Bhuvni was also new. There is no match for Mahi bhai as a communicator." "But, what he did was groom the bowlers and leave them with Virat. Shami and Umesh, over time, became different bowlers, and then, Jasprit came in. So, he got a complete package," Ishant said on JioCinema.

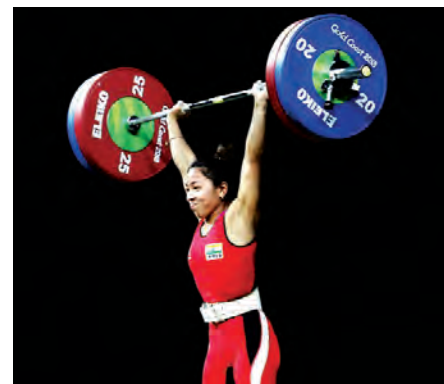
# Asiad on mind, Mirabai won't lift at World C'ships

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

With her sights firmly set on an elusive Asian Games medal, Mirabai Chanu will only mark her attendance by completing the necessary formalities and not lift any weight at next week's World Championships, which is a compulsory qualifying event for the Paris Olympics.

The World Championships are scheduled from September 4 in Riyadh, while the Asian Games begin less than 20 days later in Hangzhou, China on September 23. The short time between the two events makes it difficult for lifters to manage their weight and peak at both the events.

"There is very less time between the Asian Games and the World Championships. Since there is compulsory participation at the World Championships, we have decided that Mirabai only travel to Riyadh and give the body weight. She will complete all the mandatory protocols like give the dope test, if required. But she will not lift any weight. She is only going there to participate," head coach Vijay Sharma told PTI. The Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, who competes in the 49kg weight class, has registered an entry weight of a mere 60kg at the World Championships. Based on that she has been placed in Group D of the competition. The lifters who register the highest entry weight are placed in group A, followed by B and so on. Having won the World Championships in 2017 ideally, Chanu would have skipped the event but under the 2024 Olympic qualification rule,



a lifter has to compulsorily compete in the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 World Cup.

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Chronicle

## STAY ON WFI POLLS

# SC refuses to interfere with Punjab and Haryana HC order

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the Punjab and Haryana High Court order staying the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections.

The development came days after UWW, the world governing body for wrestling, suspended the WFI for not conducting its elections on time. As a result of the global wrestling body's decision, the country's grapplers will not be able to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal asked the petitioner, Andhra Pradesh

Amateur Wrestling Association, to approach the high court with its grievances.

"Why should we entertain this? You go to the high court... Instead of applying for vacating the interim stay, the petitioner has chosen to approach the Supreme Court. We, therefore, decline to entertain this special leave petition," the bench said and granted the petitioner liberty to seek impleadment as a party in the high court.

The apex court also asked the high court to give necessary priority to the case, if the petitioner files a plea for impleadment.

During the hearing, the counsel appearing for the

petitioner told the bench that WFI has now been de-recognised by United World Wrestling (UWW), a development which is an embarrassment for the country.

"The election process should not be stopped. We have no axe to grind," the lawyer for the association said.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, contended the petitioner has bypassed the high court and jumped directly to the top court.

The top court was hearing a plea by the Andhra Pradesh Amateur Wrestling Association against the August 11 order of the high court staying the election.

The Indian Olympic Association-appointed ad-hoc panel governing the WFI had initially scheduled the elections for July 6 but was forced to reschedule the polls to July 11 after disaffiliated state bodies from Maharashtra, Haryana, Telangana, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh approached it for a hearing, claiming their dismissal was not appropriate.

The panel heard the aggrieved representatives of the state bodies but the polls could not go ahead even on July 11, with the Gauhati High Court staying the elections after the Assam Wrestling Association (AWA) sought the right to participate in the poll process.

## RAKSHA BANDHAN SHOPPING



Women buy 'rakhi' ahead of 'Raksha Bandhan' festival, in Kolkata, Tuesday.

## NAT'L SPORTS DAY

# Vedanta organises events bolstering sporting culture across operations

Bhubaneswar, Aug 29:

On National Sports Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, organised several sporting events across its operations like 'Cyclothon' and indoor games tournament, furthering its commitment to enhancing grassroots sporting culture by engaging local youth and employees.

Acknowledging the fundamental contribution of sports to holistic youth development, the company is further bolstering the ecosystem and training infrastructure for young enthusiasts propelling them to achieve national recognition, particularly in disciplines such as Archery, Hockey, and Karate.

On the occasion, the company organised several sporting events for its employees and community members across its operations in Odisha at its world-class alumina refinery at Lanjigarh and its mega aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda.

A spirited 'Cyclothon' was organised in association with Marwari Yuva Manch in Jharsuguda which was inaugurated by Ms. Dipali Das, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Jharsuguda and Mr. Sunil Kumar Satya, CEO - Power, Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business where hundreds of community members cycled to promote the benefits of leading an active life.

Fostering grassroots sports is also an integral part of the culture at Vedanta Aluminium, and the company has created vibrant sports committees at each of its operations for employee and community engagement.

The Sports Committee at Lanjigarh refinery organised an indoor games tournament for employees, 'Spardha-2023' where they demonstrated their skills at games like chess, table tennis and carrom. The company's mines vertical will also be conducting inter-school sports competition in the Sundargarh district.

# ECI team's visit fuels speculation of early assembly polls

● In Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Aug 29 (PTI):

The visit of an ECI team to Odisha on September 13 to review poll preparedness has triggered speculations of early assembly elections in the state.

Although Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Bihari Dhal on Tuesday said the ECI team's visit has nothing to do with early polls, the three major political parties BJD, BJP and Congress - have asserted that they are ready for election whenever it takes place. The Election Commission of India (ECI) team will hold a meeting with all district collectors on September 13. "EVMs and VVPATs will be examined in October and the

process will be completed by November 15. But this process or the ECI team's visit has nothing to do with early polls. Both Lok Sabha and assembly elections will be held as per schedule," he said.

Political parties, particularly opposition BJP and Congress, speculated that early polls might be held in Odisha along with five other states later this year.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan was among the first politicians from the state to have speculated in recent times that the ruling BJD might seek early polls in the state. Early polls were held in Odisha in 2004. Even though the BJD leaders remained tight-lipped over speculations of a repeat this year, they said they were prepared to face polls at any time.

# SC defers hearing Kejriwal's plea against proceedings in UP

● Over election law violation

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned for four weeks the hearing of a plea by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking discharge in a case against him for allegedly making objectionable remarks against the BJP and the Congress in Uttar Pradesh during the 2014 Lok Sabha poll campaign.

Kejriwal has moved the apex court against an order of the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court which had declined to discharge him in the criminal case pending before a trial court in

Sultanpur. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and J B Pardiwala noted there was a request for adjournment by Kejriwal's counsel.

The top court said it will take up the matter after four weeks.

Kejriwal has been accused of promoting enmity between classes in connection with elections under section 125 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951.

On the campaign trail, Kejriwal had allegedly said, "Jo Congress ko vote dega, mera manana hoga, desh ke saath gaddari hogi... Joh Bhajapa (BJP) ko vote dega use Khuda bhi maaf nahin karega (Those who will vote for the Congress will be betraying the nation, and

God will not forgive those who will vote for the BJP)."

In his plea before the apex court, Kejriwal has said the petition raises some important questions of law, including whether a case under section 125 of the Act can be made out without there being any video clip or full transcript of the alleged speech made by him.

The plea said it has been alleged that while campaigning on May 2, 2014, Kejriwal uttered some sentences which amounted to commission of offence under section 125 of the Act.

The petition said two days after the alleged utterances by the AAP leader, a complaint was filed against him.

# Mamata slams BJP for trying to distort' history

Kolkata, Aug 29 (PTI):

## Bengal Foundation Day

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that the BJP is trying to distort the history of the state and if the date of June 20 is not opposed, it will be established as the State Foundation Day.

On June 20, 1947, two meetings of separate sets of legislators in the Bengal Assembly were held. One of those who wanted West Bengal as part of India voted in favour of the resolution by a majority. The other was of legislators of areas which eventually became East Pakistan.

Despite strong objections from the chief minister, the State

Foundation Day was observed in the Raj Bhavan here and in other states on June 20 this year, following an instruction from the Centre.

"They (BJP) are trying to distort history. If we don't oppose it, then this day (June 20) would be established as State Foundation Day," Banerjee, also the Trinamool Congress supremo, said at an all-party meeting on determining a day for observing 'Paschimbanga Divas' (state's foundation day).

The CPI(M), CPI, Congress and the BJP did not attend the meeting, even as Banerjee wondered why since, except

the saffron party, all including the TMC are constituents of the opposition bloc INDIA.

"When I am part of the INDIA alliance, CPI (M) and CPI are questioning why this meeting on the State's Foundation day was called," Banerjee said. Several dignitaries such as noted historian Sugata Bose who is grandnephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, and poet Subodh Sarkar spoke in favour of April 15 to be observed as the state's foundation day. The Bengali New Year (Poila Baisakh) is celebrated on April 15.

The decision to call the all-party meeting came

days after a committee set up by the West Bengal government to determine the day for the 'Paschimbanga Diwas' (state's foundation day) recommended that it be observed on April 15 as 'Bangla Diwas'.

The celebration of the day on June 20 had kicked off a storm in the state this year, with the state government and Raj Bhawan locking horns with Banerjee who accused the BJP and Governor CV Ananda Bose of using the state's 'Foundation Day' for political gains and promoting a narrative favoured by the saffron camp.

The governor, who organised the state's 'Foundation Day' programme at Raj Bhavan

despite objections by Banerjee, said the state government's concerns would be "treated with all seriousness." The BJP, too, had observed the day across the state.

For the district of Sylhet which was part of Assam, it was decided to conduct a referendum.

Nearly 2.5 million people were displaced from both sides and properties worth crores of rupees were burnt down in post-partition rioting.

In a letter to Governor CV Ananda Bose earlier, Banerjee had said that the pain and trauma of partition were such that the people of West Bengal have never commemorated any day as Foundation Day' since India's Independence.

# Delhiites to lose 11.9 yrs of their lives to pollution

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

Delhi has emerged as the world's most polluted city in a new study which has also found that its residents are on track to lose 11.9 years of life if the current levels of pollution continue to be higher than the limit set by WHO.

The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago also showed that all of India's 1.3 billion people live in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level exceeds the 5 g/m3 (micrograms per cubic meter) limit set by World Health Organization (WHO).

It also found that 67.4 per cent of the country's population lives in areas that exceed the country's own na-

tional air quality standard of 40 g/m3.

The study said fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, relative to

## NEW STUDY

what it would be if the 5 g/m3 pollution limit set by (WHO) was met.

The AQLI said Delhi is the most polluted city in the world and if the current pollution levels persist, its 18 million residents are on track to lose 11.9 years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO limit and 8.5 years relative to the national guideline. "Even in the least polluted district in the region - Pathankot in Punjab - particulate pollution is more than seven

times the WHO limit, taking 3.1 years off life expectancy if current levels persist," it said. Particulate pollution has increased over time. From 1998 to 2021, the average annual particulate pollution increased by 67.7 per cent in India, further reducing average life expectancy by 2.3 years, the report said.

From 2013 to 2021, India was responsible for 59.1 per cent of the world's increase in pollution.

In the most polluted region of the country the northern plains 521.2 million residents or 38.9 per cent of India's population are on track to lose eight years of life expectancy on average relative to the WHO guideline and 4.5 years relative to the national standard if current pollution levels persist.

## MISS WORLD EVENT



Miss World 2022 Karolina Bielawska (2nd from left), Miss World India 2022 Simi Shetty (right), Miss World America Shree Saini (2nd from right) and Miss World Caribbean Emmy Pena during a media interaction, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

# Delhi excise scam: ED to probe its own officials

New Delhi, Aug 29 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is expected to press money laundering charges against its two officers and some private individuals who were recently booked by the CBI in a bribery case linked to an accused arrested in the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam, official sources said Tuesday.

ED officials Pawan Khatri and Nitesh Kohar, chartered accountant (CA) Praveen Kumar Vats, Air India assistant general manager (AGM) Deepak Sangwan, CEO of Claridges Hotels and Resorts Vikramaditya, Amandeep Dhall, owner of liquor company Brindco Sales who was arrested in the Delhi liquor

policy case, and his father Birender Pal Singh, have been named as accused by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in its FIR filed on August 25. The CBI had acted on a complaint sent by the ED on August 8. While Khatri is an Assistant Director rank officer of the ED working in its Delhi zone office, Kohar is an upper division clerk (UDC) with the federal anti-money laundering agency at its headquarters here and both were not part of the team probing the Delhi liquor policy case.

Amandeep Dhall was arrested by the ED on March 1 in the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam. It is alleged that Dhall's father paid Rs 5 crore

"bribe" to Vats in tranches of Rs 50 lakh from December 2022 onwards so that Amandeep Dhall is "protected from arrest and being made an accused" in the Delhi excise policy case.



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