



12 BJP MPs elected in state polls quit Parl

New Delhi, Dec 06 (PTI):

Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Prahlad Singh Patel resigned from Lok Sabha on Wednesday as the BJP decided that all of its 12 MPs recently elected to state assemblies will quit Parliament, amid strong indications that they may join the new governments in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

The move has given rise to the view that the party



MP Arun Sao submits his resignation to LS Speaker Om Birla.

leadership may bring in new faces at the helm in all the three states. Senior

BJP brainstorms over CMs

The crucial issue of picking Chief Ministers for three heartland states ahead of next year's general elections started on Wednesday evening with a meeting of BJP's top leaders at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence.

leaders, however, declined to comment on such a development. BJP president J P Nadda accompanied 10

of them as they tendered their resignations from Parliament. Two others, Union minister Renuka Singh and Mahant Balaknath, will also be quitting, party leaders said.

Other MPs who quit are Rakesh Singh, Uday Pratap Singh and Riti Pathak from Madhya Pradesh; Kirodi Lal Meena, Diya Kumari and Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore from Rajasthan and Gomati Sai and Arun Sao from Chhattisgarh.

GOVT IN PARL

'Bharat, India same for NCERT'

New Delhi, Dec 06 (PTI)

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) does not differentiate between India and Bharat, and duly acknowledges the spirit as enshrined in the Constitution that recognises both, according to the Union Education Ministry.

This information was shared by Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi in a written reply to a question asked by CPI(M) member Elamaram Kareem in the Rajya Sabha regarding an NCERT panel's recommendation to replace the country's name "India" with "Bharat" in school

textbooks. "Article 1 of the Constitution of India states that 'India', that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States'. India's Constitution recognises both 'India' and 'Bharat' as the official names of the country which can be used interchangeably. NCERT duly acknowledges this spirit as enshrined in our Constitution and does not differentiate between the two," she said.

The minister further said the country is collectively moving away from the colonial mindset and encourages the usage of the words in 'Bharatiya Bhasha' (Indian languages).



Garba dance in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list

Ahmedabad, Dec 06 (PTI):

UNESCO has approved the inclusion of Gujarat's traditional Garba dance in its 'Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity', Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced here on Wednesday.

India had nominated Garba, performed across Gujarat and in many other parts of the country during the Navratri festival, for inclusion in the list. "The age-old tradition of devotion to Goddess Mother in the form of Garba is alive and growing. Garba which has become the identity of Gujarat has been approved by UNESCO under its intangible cultural heritage list," Patel said in a post on X. "This is a moment of pride for Gujaratis spread all over the world. This is a result of importance being given to the heritage of the country under prime minister Narendra Modi's leadership and such heritage being taken to the world. Congratulations to the people of Gujarat," Patel further said. The inclu-



sion was made under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during the 18th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which began in Kasane, Botswana, on Tuesday. "Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. This inscription underscores Garba's pivotal role as a unifying force that fosters social and gender inclusivity. Garba as a dance form is entrenched deeply in ritualistic and devotional roots, involving people from all walks of life and it continues to thrive as a vibrant living tradition bringing communities together," an official release said.

Lalduhoma to be sworn in as new Mizoram CM on Friday

Aizawl, Dec 06 (PTI):

ZPM leader legislature party leader Lalduhoma will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Mizoram on Friday, a Raj Bhavan official said.

Besides Lalduhoma other members of his council of ministers will also be sworn in on Friday at 11 am in a function at the Raj Bhavan, the official said on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day Lalduhoma met Governor Hari Babu Khambampati at the Raj Bhavan and staked claim to form the government.

The governor invited him to form the govern-



ment. ZPM won 27 of the 40 seats of the Mizoram Assembly, election to which was held on November 7. The party emerged victorious on Monday trouncing Mizo National Front (MNF) headed by Zoramthanga.

Pannun threatens to attack Parl

New Delhi, Dec 06:

The Delhi Police are on alert after the United States-based Khalistani supporter Gurpatwant Singh Pannu released a video message threatening to 'shake the very foundation of Parliament' on December 13 -- the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament. A senior police officer said security has already been stepped up in and around Parliament. "When Parliament is on, we remain alert. We are taking all precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incident," the officer said adding that security has also been beefed up in entire Delhi.

'Goa's rate of rape on minors highest in India'

■ 76 % of rape victims under 18

Panaji, Dec 06 (PTI):

Goa's rate of rape on minors stood at 7.1, the highest in the country, as the tiny state recorded 75 rape cases in 2022 of which 57 victims were girls below 18 years of age, according to statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

What was alarming is that cases of rape on minor girls constituted a whopping 76 per cent of total rapes reported in Goa in 2022. The report of NCRB, an agency

NCRB DATA

under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, was released recently analysing crime statistics for 2022 from different states and Union territories. As per the data, Goa's rate of rape on minors stood at 7.1 (per lakh population), the highest in the country. The coastal state recorded 75 rape cases in 2022 of which 57 victims (76 per cent) were minor girls below 18 years of age. Of the 57 under-age victims, two girls were below 6, while 12 were between 6 to 12 years. Twenty-six victims were between 12 to 16 years and 17 between 16 to 18 years of age, according to the report.

KARNI CHIEF MURDER Shutdown in Raj; SIT formed

Jaipur, Dec 06 (PTI):

Markets remained closed in Jaipur and some other districts of Rajasthan on Wednesday after a bandh call by the Rashtriya Rajput Karni Sena to protest the killing of its chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi. Director General of Police Umesh Mishra formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), to be headed by Additional Director General (Crime) Dinesh MN, to probe the killing while a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to the arrest of the two accused was also announced.

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Skill development and entrepreneurship are integral parts of curriculum in CU-V-C

Bilaspur, Dec 05: A one-day national seminar on the topic 'Startup, Entrepreneurship - Moving Towards a Self-reliant India' was organized by the Department of Management Studies at Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (Central University) on December 05, 2023 in the Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar.



In the National Seminar, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, while giving the basic mantra of entrepreneurship, "Rashtraya Swaha, Idam Rashtraya Idam Na Mam", said that the spirit of nationalism is paramount along with the need for courage and determination for entrepreneurship. Explaining the importance of prudence, morali-

ty, and authenticity in business, he said that youth should choose such enterprises which they feel interested in and in which they can progress. The Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony, Milind Khanchoje, Circle Head DGM of Punjab National Bank, Bilaspur, while describing the topic of the seminar as appropriate, underlined the role of banks in entrepreneurship and startups. Prof. Irala Lokhand Reddy from School of Management Studies, University of Hyderabad, while delivering the keynote address, said that India is the fifth largest economy in the world and will become the third economic superpower of the world by 2027.

Before this, the guests lit the lamp and offered flowers before the idols of Goddess Saraswati and Saint Guru Ghasidasji. The guests were welcomed with saplings. Saraswati Vandana and Kulgeet were presented by Tarang Band. The Coordinator of the national seminar, Prof. B.D. Mishra, presented the welcome address. The Registrar, Prof. Manish Shrivastava and Prof.

Bhuvana Venkatraman, Dean-in-charge, School of Management and Commerce, expressed their views on the relevance of the national seminar. The souvenir of the seminar was released by the guests on the stage. The guests were honoured by presenting them with shawls, shripthal, and mementos. The program was conducted by Dr. Premshankar Dwivedi and the vote of thanks was given by the Co-coordinator of the seminar, Dr. B.B. Pandey. Two hundred participants registered for the seminar in hybrid mode. Deans of various schools, heads of departments, teachers, officers and a large number of students were present on this occasion.

Students create awareness during NSS camp



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Dec 06: National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of NH Goel World School organised a seven-day camp at village Ameri, which is 35 kms from Raipur city recently. 45 students of Grade-11 attended the camp, which was organized and guided by NSS Program Officer Ms. Sakshi Kahar, and was supported by School staff Saket Dubey, Derha Ram, Meera and

Basanti. NSS volunteers took survey of village Ameri and Sakri, in which total 800 responses were taken from rural households, during which volunteers communicated with villagers and understood and recorded their basic information and areas where development is required. Major projects taken were - Free Dental check-up camp in collaboration with Namman Hospital, Raipur - in which total 350 patients

were given check-up and necessary medicines were given. Volunteers camp day schedule included- morning Prabhakar Pheri, Cleanliness Drive, cooking daily for 50 camp participants, living with minimum resources, spreading awareness about basic rights and rural government policies. A gala cultural evening was the major attraction on the last evening of the camp where volunteers along with children of the village gave many performances - Chhattisgarh state song, NSS Lakshya Geet, Spiritual and patriotic songs, Dance performances of Chhattisgarh and other states, Nukkadnatak and skit on - 'BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO' theme. Volunteers also learned Chhattisgarhi language and culture.

Ranjita clinches gold, Chandni grabs bronze

● 3rd Khelo India Sub Junior Women Judo (West Zone) League



Raipur, Dec 06: Chhattisgarh's burgeoning judo talent has made a resounding impact at the 3rd Khelo India Sub Junior Women Judo (West Zone) League, held from December 3 to 6, at the Sanskardham Sports Academy in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

In a remarkable achievement, Ranjita, hailing from Kondagaon district, emerged as the shining star of the tournament by clinching the gold medal in the fiercely competitive 48kg weight category. Her victory not only brought pride to her hometown but

also garnered praise from the entire Chhattisgarh sports community. Ranjita's journey to success was shaped by years of dedication and rigorous training under the guidance of ITBP constable Jaiprakash and, currently, instructor Uday Singh Yadav. This gold medal win is a testament to her unwavering commitment to the sport.

Adding to the state's glory, Chandni, representing Bilaspur district, secured a well-deserved bronze medal in her respective weight category. Her impressive performance underscores the depth of talent that Chhattisgarh possesses in the field of judo.

The cumulative efforts of Ranjita and Chandni have propelled Chhattisgarh to a total of three medals at the Women's League, with

one gold, one silver, and one bronze. Their consistent success in state-level competitions has now translated into national recognition.

The Chhattisgarh State Judo Association, led by President Arun Dwivedi, General Secretary SR Soni, and Treasurer Satish Singh, along with various district judo associations, trainers, and well-wishers, have extended their heartfelt congratulations to these judo prodigies. The state is now eagerly anticipating even greater achievements on the national and international stages from these talented athletes, informs Anis Memon working member Chhattisgarh State Judo Sangh.

CEO Kangale hands over list to Gov



● That of newly elected party MLAs

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Dec 06: Chief Electoral Officer Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale met Governor V. Sh. V. Harichandan at Raj Bhavan this afternoon and handed him the list of newly elected representatives along with the notification of formation of the sixth assembly of

Chhattisgarh state. On this occasion, Principal Secretary of the Election Commission of India, Mr. SB Joshi, Joint Chief Electoral Officer of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Nileshe Mahadev Kshirsagar, Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho, Under Secretary of the Election Commission of India, Mr. Ritesh Singh, Section Officer Mr. Devesh. Singh and Junior Assistant Aneesh were present.

IPS Probationary officers met Governor



Raipur, Dec 06: Probationary officers of Indian Police Service met the Governor. Four probationary officers of the Indian Police Service paid a courtesy call on Governor Harichandan. The Governor extended his wishes to all the police officers for their bright future. He asked the police officers to serve the country and society by performing their duty well.

Sabra and Vimal Kumar Pathak headed by Ratan Lal Dangi, Director of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose State Police Academy, Chandkhuri met Governor Harichandan. The Governor extended his wishes to all the police officers for their bright future. He asked the police officers to serve the country and society by performing their duty well.

NIT to host 6th Int'l and National Conference from today

● On Machines and Mechanisms

Raipur, Dec 06: In a significant milestone for the Association for Machines and Mechanisms (AMM), the 6th International and National Conference on Machines and Mechanisms (iNaCoMM 2023) is set to take place at the prestigious National Institute of Technology Raipur from December 7th to 9th, 2023.

On the inaugural day, December 7th, Dr. NV Ramana Rao, Chief Patron of the conference and the esteemed Director of NIT Raipur, will set the tone for the conference and attendees will have the privilege of experiencing the Prof. B. M. Belgaumkar Memorial Lecture-1 delivered by Dr. PM Pathak, a renowned Professor from IIT

Roorkee. Additionally, a Plenary Talk-1 by an expert researcher will enrich the day's proceedings. The second day, December 8th, will showcase Plenary Talk-2 by Dr. Sujatha Srinivasan from IIT Madras, Plenary Talk-3 by Dr. CS Kumar from IIT Kharagpur, and an insightful Expert Talk from Industry-2 by Dr. Priti Yadav. The concluding day, December 9th, promises a captivating Plenary Talk-4, an Industry Presentation-3 by BEMIL, and the distinguished Prof. K. Lakshminarayana Memorial Lecture-2 by Dr. Sunil K. Agrawal, a distinguished Professor from Columbia University, New York, USA. These lectures and talks are set to provide attendees with a comprehensive and enlightening perspective on the latest advancements in machines and mechanisms.

MLA Janak Dhuv receives enthusiastic welcome

Raipur, Dec 06: Janak Dhuv, the state president of Adivasi Congress, secured a historic victory in the Bindra Navagarh Assembly, ending the BJP's long-standing reign in the constituency. The announcement was made in an official press release today by Bhavani Singh Markam, President of Adivasi Congress Raipur City District.

Janak Dhuv's hard-fought win in Bindra Navagarh Assembly is being celebrated as a significant milestone in the political landscape of Chhattisgarh. For years, the BJP had maintained its stronghold in the region, but Janak Dhuv's determined campaign and the overwhelming support he received from the electorate propelled him to victory.

Upon reaching Raipur, Janak Dhuv was accorded a



warm and enthusiastic welcome by a multitude of well-wishers. He was greeted with open arms by fellow tribal hostel students and received a grand reception in Raipur city, courtesy of dedicated Congress workers. Prominent personalities in attendance at the wel-

coming ceremony included Ashish Sahu, Rajesh Das, Manoj Nayak, Santosh Yadav, Shyam Netam, Sanju Thakur, Deepak Yadav, Nihal Netam, and Chitresh Dhruv. Their presence added to the celebratory atmosphere as they congratulated Janak Dhuv on his historic achievement.

Inter-set Music competition held at RKC

Raipur, Dec 06: Following the rich tradition of Rajkumar College, the Music Department of Rajkumar College had their Inter Set Music Competition for the year 2023 on 5th December, 2023. It commenced at 10am at Stow Hall with the lighting of ceremonial lamp before Goddess Saraswati. It began with the tiny talents of Junior school, followed by M.P. House and finally by Senior Section, who enthralled in the audience.

The results of Junior School and M.P. House were as follows: - Vocal (Tiny Talents) 1. Chaitanya Gupta, IG, Bikrams - 1st, 2. ShrivardhanTalreja, I E, Rajputs - 2nd, Devaang Agrawal, I A, Aryans - 3rd and 4. Mihaan Tiwari, I A, Ranas - 4th. Vocal (MP House) 1. Kirti Jain, V D, Rajputs - 1st, 2. RaayaJuneja, IV D, Ranas - 2nd, Hridayansh Jain, IV E, Aryans - 3rd and 4. LeherNihchani, IV G, Bikrams - 4th. Instrumental (M.P. House) 1. Abhyudaya Sharma, VB, Bikrams - 1st, 2. Viraja Agrawal, IV F, Ranas - 2nd, Amaira Kaur Rehal, V D, Rajputs - 3rd and 4. Nyara Shukla, V B, Aryans - 4th. Choice Round (M.P. House) 1. Arshika Agrawal, V F, Aryans - 1st, 2. Anush Joshi, V A, Ranas - 2nd, PranshuChandrawanshi, V B, Rajputs - 3rd & 4. DharinisiSahu, V F, Bikrams - 4th. Final Set Position after Junior School and M.P. House were as follows: - 1. Rajputs (903 points) - 1st, 2. Ranas (851 points) - 2nd, 3. Aryans (839 points) - 3rd, 4. Bikrams (799 points) - 4th. The results of Senior



Section Individual Positions were as follows: - Vocal (Senior Section) 1. Ku. Adeya Varghese, Rajputs - 1st, 2. Atharv Agrawal, Bikrams - 2nd, Saksham Agrawal, Ranas - 3rd and 4. GauriPurohit, Aryans - 4th. Instrumental Round (Senior Section) 1. Ku. Aditi Agrawal, Bikrams - 1st, 2. Navya Agrawal, Aryans - 2nd, Naman Gupta, Ranas - 3rd and 4.

Ku. NishikaBhusania, Rajputs - 4th. Choice Round (Senior Section) 1. Rakshit Raj Pandey, Rajputs - 1st, 2. Ku. Aneet Kaur Sachdev, Bikrams - 2nd, Ku. Sahana Mandle, Aryans - 3rd and 4. Ku. Aisha Kothari, Ranas - 4th. Grand Final Set Positions after Senior Section were as follows: - 1. Rajputs (1566 points) - 1st, 2. Bikrams (1511

points) - 2nd, 3. Ranas (1455 points) - 3rd, 4. A (1445 points) - 4th. It is heartening to note that the winners of IPSC Music Festival, 2023 held at L.K. Singhania Education Centre, Gotan, Rajasthan were honoured by the Principal on this occasion. Both Harshifat Kaur and Ishika Bhamra got Creditable Performance award in Duet Bhajan category. TanveerBhamra (Violin) got Creditable Performance award in Indian Instrumental Solo category. Manan Nathani (Tabla) got Creditable Performance award in Indian Instrumental Solo category. The following students also represented the school in the following categories. 1. Shaurya Diwan Shukla (Indian Classical Vocal Solo category), 2. The following 9 students were in Hindi Patriotic Group Song namely, Pritha Jain, Adeya Varghese, Nanki Kaur, Harshifat Kaur, Ishika Bhamra, Asmi Jain, Kohinoor Kaur Hora, Shaurya D. Shukla and Swarnim Kunj. Accompaniment: - Khushi Jain (Harmonium), Divyansh Agrawal (Flute), Swarnim Kunj (Sitar), Manan Nathani and Lakshya Sethia (Tabla). Western Vocal Solo - Pritha Jain, Western Instrumental Solo - Abhoday Dev Diwan (Flute), Western Band - Priyansha Palsania (Violin), Aryan Mundhra (Guitar), Asmi Jain (Keyboard), Arham Jain (Drum), Khushi Jain (Organ), Kohinoor Kaur Hora (Organ) and Rakshit Raj Pandey (Guitar). Raja Harihar Singh Mardraj of Khandpapra Cup for Best Vocalist went to Adeya Varghese (239) (Rajputs) and Kharaswan Music Trophy presented by Yuvraj P.B. Singh Deo of Kharaswan went to RAJPUTS (1566 points). The judges on the occa-

sion were Anin Roy, Kamla Devi Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Vijaylaksimi Chandrakar and Kumar Pandit, All India Radio, Raipur. Lt. Col. Avinash Singh (Veteran), Principal, Rajkumar College, Raipur (C.G.) distributed the prizes and trophies to the winners of the Inter Set Music Competition, 2023. The judges were also present on the occasion. Vice Principal SNS. Deo read out the names of the winners. The Principal & the judges appreciated the efforts of the students for giving an excellent & heartwarming performance. They also lauded the effort of the staff members of the Music Department for working tirelessly to prepare the students, informs a press release.

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Collector holds weekly time-limit meeting



Instructions given for proper operation of Bijapur Express Jansuvidha bus service

Bijapur, Dec 06:

Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara, while presiding over the weekly time-limit meeting, gave instructions to ensure proper maintenance of paddy procurement, lifting and keeping in view the rainy season in all the paddy procurement centers of the district. He asked to speed-up the development works being conducted in the district, motivate farmers to donate paddy husk, arrange adequate fodder in Gauthans, transport husk and collect it in Gauthans. Instructions were given to inspect the maintenance, insurance etc. of the bus for proper operation of Bijapur Express Jansuvidha bus

service. Instructions were given to ensure necessary action to resolve the applications received for sand excavation lease under Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Sand Excavation 2023. Instructions were given to increase production and sales in all the RIPA centers operating in the district. In the meeting, while reviewing the work of health, education, tribal, women and child development, public health engineering and other departments, necessary guidelines were given. During this, DFO Ranganatha Ramakrishna Y, Deputy Director Indravati Tiger Reserve Sandeep Balga, CEO District Panchayat Ravi Kumar Sahu and senior district level officers, SDMs of all sections, Deputy Collectors, Tehsildars, CEO District Panchayat and CMO Urban Bodies were present.

Life affected by cyclonic storm Michaung

40% paddy not been harvested yet

Rajim, Dec 06:

The effect of cyclonic storm Michaung has started becoming visible in Rajim area also and daily life has been affected due to drizzle since Tuesday morning. People have now taken out warm clothes and lighting a bonfire is becoming a routine. On the other hand apart from disrupting normal life the farmers are suffering the most, as those who have harvested and brought home their produce and those who have sold it, are ridden of the seasonal change but those farmers whose produce is lying in the fields or in the open, and has not been harvested, are worried as 40% of the paddy in the area has not been harvested yet. The crops are ripe and flourishing in the farmers' fields but the fields are still



wet, due to which the harvester machine is not able to move. It should be noted that only 30% of the farmers are weeding using sickles and 70% of the farmers do machine harvesting here in the region adding to the trouble. Farmers Udaychand Sahu, Ganpat Patel, Mohanlal, Deendayal Sahu, Ramkumar Sonkar told that although they have to pay for harvesting with harvester machine, but this provides convenience as the machine does both cutting and threshing and also saves time. After harvesting the paddy crop and tying it in bundles, they used to bring it in bullock cart and later threshing was done with a roller or tractor, which took a lot of time. At present, various types of harvester and thresher machines are being used, but the bad weather has made the condition of the farmers critical,

they opined. After the departure of monsoon in the month of September, the umbrellas were dismantled and kept in an organized place, but lately people have again taken out raincoats and umbrellas to avoid getting wet in the name of rain, apart from warm clothes. Last year it was very cold in December, but this time the cyclonic storm made one feel the cold and climate change is adversely affecting people's health.

Sweets distributed among the advocates in the court premises



After BJP won with a huge majority in three states

Jagdalpur, Dec 06:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Legal Cell Bastar District celebrated the historic victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in three states Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Gratitude was expressed for the efficient leadership of the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda, State President Arun Sao. BJP Legal Cell Bastar District celebrated the

victory by distributing sweets in the court complex Jagdalpur. Sapan Dewangan, District Convener of Law Cell, Bastar, said that the people of three states have risen above caste politics and voted for development and provided an opportunity to form a government with an overwhelming majority. During this, District Convener of Law Cell Sapan Dewangan, Deepak Trivedi, Naveen Thakur, Dinesh Panigrahi, Sanjay Mishra, Anand Mohan Mishra L. Ishwar Rao Ish Narayan Pandey, Jaiprakash Padhi, Anjali Sharma and other workers were present.

BJP got the blessings of the people of Ch'garh: Verma

Khairagarh, Dec 06:

Leader of Yuva Morcha, Harsh Vardhan Verma, while thanking the people of Chhattisgarh for the return of BJP to the government in Chhattisgarh and its spectacular victory, said that Ram Raja has arrived in Chhattisgarh and the lotus of good governance has blossomed, the biggest credit for this goes to the people of Chhattisgarh, who have shown their faith in the Bharatiya Janata Party and the party will definitely live up to the trust of the people of Chhattisgarh.



Regarding Congress's Bhupesh government, Harsh Vardhan said that this is the result of the insult he took to Mother Ganga and taking a false oath on her. Today, the

whole of India considers Mother Ganga as sacred and worships her, the insult done to Sanatan Dharma has not survived till date. Regarding Khairagarh assembly, Harsh Vardhan said that we are sad that we could not win the Khairagarh assembly, the candidate here, young Samrat Vikrant Singh, worked very hard, the workers also showed their full strength but still we were disappointed by a very small margin, but there is no doubt that in the upcoming elections, we will definitely win the assembly elections.

Unseasonal rains damage standing crops including paddy

National Highway 130 A remains closed

Pandaria, Dec 06:

Unseasonal rains which started in Pandaria city and area from early Tuesday morning, which continued throughout the day has caused damage to the crops including paddy. There is a possibility of the paddy sprouting and turning black due to unseasonal rains and if there is heavy rain in the coming days, the Karpa of paddy may drown and the paddy will completely rot, and may get spoiled.



Along with this, pigeon pea flowers have started falling due to rain and the infestation of insects has also started increasing. According to the weather department, the weather



is expected to remain like this for the next two-three days. National Highway 130 A passing through Pandaria remained closed due to rain, and construction work of the said road

going from Pandaria to Kawardha and Mungeli is going on. In which base work is being done. Base work is being done by the contractor and in the work, soil is being poured

instead of mud, due to which there is mud near Baghamuda on Mungeli road and near Pandatarai on Kawardha road. A large number of employees from Kawardha and Mungeli come to the block headquarters and schools, they are unable to reach their duty places due to road closure. Passengers going to Pandaria from Mungeli, Kawardha and Bilaspur remained troubled since morning and due to closure of the route, most of the passengers had to return before their destination and had to go to Kawardha via Kunda, Padhi, Lormi and other routes.

Weather unpredictable due to storm Michaung



Kurud, Dec 06:

Due to cyclonic storm Michong, the weather of rural areas including Kurud city kept changing every moment throughout the day. The Meteorological Department had also issued a bulletin regarding cyclonic storm Michaung, due to cloudy sky since

Monday morning, light rain occurred in some places of the region on Tuesday morning and due to change in weather the temperature has dropped. It was cloudy since the morning and with the cloud cover throughout the day, the cold winds coming from the Gulf continued. Due to the cold winds coming from the Gulf, the chill



has increased further these days and people are sitting near the bonfire in the Chowk intersection. Crops are also being affected due to the continuously changing weather and these days, harvesting of paddy crop is going on in the villages of Kurud, but due to wet fields, disruption in harvesting of paddy crop, farmers can

be seen worried. The fields became wet due to light rain in the past few days and due to which harvesting had to be stopped. The situation is that due to the land being wet, the crop is not being harvested by machine and for this; the farmers have to bear the cost of supporting laborers and renting threshers etc.

Gagda has insulted the mandate of the people of Bijapur: Mandavi

Bijapur, Dec 06:

The newly elected MLA of the district, Vikram Mandavi has reacted to the statement of former MLA Mahesh Gagda. He said that elections are held through democratic process. During elections, people choose their representatives as per their choice. Under this process, the people of Bijapur expressed their confidence in the Congress candidate in the assembly elections and democratically elected me as their public representative. But the statement given by former BJP MLA Mahesh Gagda in a press conference on the elections is an insult to the mandate given to Congress from the voters of Bijapur. While addressing the journalists on Tuesday,



Vikram Mandavi said that former MLA and BJP candidate Mahesh Gagda has lost the elections twice in a row. Frustrated with his defeat, he is busy insulting the voters of Bijapur district by making wild statements about the elections held in a peaceful atmosphere in Bijapur. He said that he was also elected MLA in the year 2008 and 2013. BJP government was also formed and he also became a minister. So, did the then Collector and SP

of the district make former MLA Mahesh Gagda win the election or did the people of Bijapur make him win the election? They should disclose this. Vikram Mandavi said that former MLA Mahesh Gagda has insulted the mandate of the people of Bijapur. Therefore Mahesh Gagda should apologize to the people of Bijapur. Mr. Mandavi said that Mahesh Gagda is an expert in making false allegations. Even now they are trying to create an atmosphere of fear in the district by scaring the officers, employees and contractors of the district by making false allegations. Even today he considers himself a minister. He challenged former MLA Mahesh Gagda and said that now there is BJP government in the state. If Vikram Mandavi has committed corruption then conduct a fair investigation and put him in jail. During this, a large number of Congress workers including District Congress Committee President Lulu Rathore, District Panchayat President Shankar Kudiam, District Panchayat member Neena Rawatiya Udde, District Panchayat Vice President Kamlesh Karam, MP representative Venugopal Rao were present.

Panch Kundiya Gayatri Mahayagya concludes

1000 lamps donated

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Dec 06:

Panch Kundiya Gayatri Mahayagya was organized from Nov 29 to Dec 2 under the leadership of All World Gayatri Parivar Branch Pendra and under the guidance of Shantikunj Haridwar. On the occasion of the conclusion of the program, many important programs were organized in which a special youth consciousness workshop was organized for the youth and children by Gayatri Parivar Youth Branch Diya Divine Group. During this, Korba Divine Group Diya member and state campaigner Khilavan Patel, state campaigner Diya Chhattisgarh by Kanhaiya Chauhan On this occasion, Kanhaiya Chauhan, Har Prasad Pal Korja provided information about the harm caused by drugs through songs along with



music on the topic of de-addiction. At the end of the program, Deep Yagya was performed by donating more than 1000 lamps. While explaining the importance of lamp, Swami Krishna Prapannacharya Kamta Maharaj said that just as this lamp removes the darkness, similarly we all need

to take a resolution to continuously light a lamp in our hearts, so that no trace of darkness remains away. On this occasion, Vishwa Hindu Parishad District President Harsh Chhabria said that the way Divine Group Diya is continuously working to spread the light of knowledge to the people.

Certainly, by joining through this divine group Diya, the youth will contribute their role in nation building by channelizing their talents and abilities in a positive direction. On this occasion, Diya Mandal was also formed in Amarpur Gram Panchayat in which the announcement of making Kumari Rani Yadav the director of Diya Mandal Amarpur was made by District Coordinator Vasundhara Verma. On the occasion of the conclusion of Mahayagya, prominent members of the program committee and members of various organizations were present, including Nattu Prasad Gupta, Baijnath Patel, Rekha Kesari, Omprakash Balbhadra, Sunita Balbhadra, Rekha Rathore, Vasundhara Verma, Preeti Trivedi, Santoshi Sahu, Sushma Sahu, Ashu Patel, Anita Kewat, Pooja Pawar, Naveen Vishwakarma, Bajrang Dal District Coordinator Sagar Patel.

'Hamar Sugghar Pandar Dalli Seva Samiti' provides aid to ailing woman

Dalli-Rajhara, Dec 06:

A selfless service organization of Dalli-Rajhara "Hamar Sugghar Pandar Dalli Seva Samiti" has lately provided financial help to one Mrs. Mirabai who was ailing since long. The woman lived behind Ward No. 2 Ganesh Chowk Government Primary and Pre-Secondary School, Pandar Dalli (Anasuviya School) and due to ill health; she was admitted to Pushpa Hospital, Dalli-Rajhara for the last two months. The doctor told that she was suffering from chest and skin infection and both she and her mother aged sixty and eighty were in bad shape financially. The cost of treatment was borne by Pushpa Hospital



but extended aid was provided by Hamar Sugghar Pandar Dalli Seva Samiti in the form of Rs.8000. Apart from this monetary help was also provided by staff of Government Primary and Pre-Secondary School, where the ailing woman priority worked as a cleaning staff and a blanket was also provided by Jain Trading

Company. The woman has expressed her gratitude to the organization and its members. On this occasion, all the members of Sugghar Pandar Dalli Seva Samiti, Jeevanlal Sahu, Bhoj Ram Sahu, Shiv Prasad Sahu, Ms. Mamta Netam, Bachittar Singh Sandhu, Milap Kurre, Vikas Gajbhije, Rohit Sahu were present.

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Chennai Deluge Lessons Unlearned

Chennai, a bustling metropolis in the south of India, has once again found itself submerged in despair due to the relentless fury of nature. Cyclone Michaung, accompanied by torrential rain, has plunged the city into chaos, leaving in its wake at least a dozen lives lost and a landscape inundated with floodwaters. This is a grim reminder that despite repeated alerts from the early-warning system, Chennai was woefully unprepared for the cyclonic onslaught. In a discordant note, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin suggested that Chennai narrowly escaped disaster due to the massive desilting efforts costing Rs 4,000 crore. He compared this year's rainfall to that of 2015 when the city faced a devastating flood that claimed nearly 200 lives. However, the people of Chennai have once again been subjected to waterlogged roads, submerged subways, and rescue operations by boat—a chilling reminder of the 2015 deluge. The question looms large: How does the rainfall this time compare to that of 2015? According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the highest recorded rainfall in the recent deluge was in Poonamallee, at 34 cm between December 4-5. Tambaram received 24 cm, while Chembarambakkam saw 21 cm. To put this in perspective, in 2015, Tambaram received over 49 cm of rainfall in a single day, with Chembarambakkam recording over 47 cm. So, why did the 2015 disaster claim so many more lives than the 2023 deluge, despite the "unprecedented" rainfall claims by authorities? The answer partly lies in the mismanagement of the Chembarambakkam reservoir in 2015 when sudden water releases exacerbated the flooding of the Adyar river. It appears that lessons have been learned since then, with precautionary water releases being carried out in anticipation of heavy rainfall this time. However, it is disheartening that amidst this calamity, the Chief Minister has chosen to engage in political one-upmanship. Claiming that the DMK government's response is superior to that of the 2015 floods under the AIADMK's leadership serves no constructive purpose. What this crisis has laid bare are the inadequacies in Chennai's storm-water drainage system and questions surrounding the implementation of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project, which is designed to prepare vulnerable states for such eventualities throughout the year. India's approach to disaster management has evolved from relief and rescue operations to a warning-based strategy aimed at minimizing loss of life and property. Cyclone Biparjoy's impact earlier this year highlighted the need for improved disaster mitigation, and the Chennai tragedy underscores this imperative. Regardless of political affiliations, it is crucial for the central and state governments to collaborate closely in addressing these gaps and bolstering preparedness. The flooding of Chennai should serve as a wake-up call for authorities at all levels. It is not just about responding to crises but about anticipating and mitigating them. The citizens of Chennai deserve more than just reactive measures; they deserve a proactive approach that safeguards lives and livelihoods. It is high time that we, as a nation, rise above politics and prioritize the safety and well-being of our people in the face of natural disasters. The lessons must not remain unlearned; they should pave the path to a more resilient future.

Assembly Elections

A Glimpse into Lok Sabha Prospects

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



In the aftermath of the recently concluded assembly elections in five states, it becomes evident that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has secured a stronger position compared to previous contests. With a triumph in three states and improved performance in the remaining two, the electoral outcomes offer a valuable insight into the mindset of the voters, their preferences, and their assessment of the incumbent parties. From these assembly election results, it is apparent that the public gravitates towards parties and governments with transparent policies and intentions. Voters increasingly seek alignment between rhetoric and action, a commitment to the welfare of the economically disadvantaged, and a dedication to fostering development, education, employment opportunities, and inflation control. They demand the establishment of a law-abiding state, free from crime, and above all, a leadership with a nationalist vision. What these results underscore is the evolving wisdom of the electorate. No longer swayed solely by election-time promises, voters now contemplate which party can genuinely translate those pledges into concrete actions. The message is clear: the public expects sincerity from their elected representatives, and they reject duplicity and deceit. These elections also signal a noteworthy shift in public sentiment. Attacking Hindus, Hindutva, belittling the nation, or favoring one particular class no longer resonates with the educated and discerning electorate. Instead, a winning formula appears to be coalescing: a party with a formidable, nationally respected, honest, and devoted leader; a robust organizational structure; dedicated workers; a sound strategy; and announcements that inspire voter confidence. Moreover, these elections have seen the rejection of indecent and hate-filled rhetoric, both in the recent Lok Sabha polls and the current assembly contests. Anti-incumbency has played a role in three states, while the absence of it in another underscores the public's preference for a unified government at both the state and central levels. There's a prevailing belief that such a setup fosters a more expeditious pace of development. The BJP's improved showing in these assembly elections also highlights the importance of state governments efficiently implementing the pro-poor and pro-women policies initiated at the national level. It reaffirms the significance of a Chief Minister who can forge a genuine connection with the populace and demonstrates unwavering commitment. Winning elections is no longer a matter of mere campaign sprints; parties and governments must remain tirelessly devoted to the public throughout their five-year tenure. However, the lack of coordination and cooperation within the opposition alliance in these state elections raises pertinent questions. Can these parties convincingly convey to the voters that they are united and committed to a shared vision? As we reflect on the outcomes of the recent assembly elections, it becomes evident that they serve as a harbinger for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. The patterns of voter behavior, their inclination towards genuine and effective leadership, and their preference for synchronized governance at the state and central levels all indicate a clear direction for the future.

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

ADHIKAR YATRA



Jharkhand BJP President Babulal Marandi plays with a traditional drum 'Mandar' during the start of 'Adhikar Yatra', in Pakur, Jharkhand, Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Facts About The Existence Of Aliens



PROF. ANIL JAIN



The existence of aliens has always been a fascinating matter of argument. During the last few months NASA held a meeting on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). UFOs are seen time and again which makes us inquisitive as to whether there exist life in the universe and if they are more intelligent than us, to whom we commonly call aliens. Hollywood movies are crammed with the themes of aliens or life beyond this planet. The themes are full of fact and fiction.

What are the facts?

On the basis of the facts the scientists have assembled and computed, hypothetically, they have come to the conclusion that there exist intelligent seats of learned species somewhere. It is believed that there are 20,000 crore suns or stars in our Milky Way. Our Sun is one of them. Since stars are burning balls of fire life is not possible

on the stars but possibility of life may be on the planets of these stars.

Which stars have planets?

The scientists computed that the stars which move slowly on its axis may have planets because their rotational velocity has been cheated out by its planets, as of our Sun. They believe that less the rotational velocity of the star more the number of its planets. When it was ascertained then they divided the stars into two similar numerical groups—one, the stars revolving like our Sun and the other revolving fifty times faster on its axis. They found out that approximately six percent of the 20,000 crore stars are moving like our Sun. It means there are around 1200 crore suns that may have planets of their own.

Raw material for life

In the universe there is an abundance of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen

and other elements which is the raw material for life. The history of life on earth shows that it took 400 crore years to develop life on our Earth, from protein molecules to man.

For the existence of life, we need 10 degree to 40 degree temperature which is known as the zone of comfort (although there are exceptions to it). This temperature is obtained on some of the planets. After careful study they presumed that millions of planets of the stars may have the possibility of life.

Why do they believe that life on other planets is likely to be more intelligent?

The simple answer to this question is that our Sun is relatively young, 500 crore years old. Young as the Sun, mankind is immeasurably younger. There are many stars in our galaxy which are older than our Sun which means their planets are older than our Earth. As mentioned earlier, life came to this earth around 400 crore years ago. The first human beings appeared about ten lakh years ago.

Of these ten lakh years at least 9,90,000 were occupied by primitive savagery or infancy of science. The period of transition to modern history is even shorter: If in that small duration humans have attained so much intelligence, then how intelligent would be

the species who are residing on the planets which are millions year older than our planet. If we are to believe the supposition, there is no doubt that there are intelligent seats somewhere in the universe.

The legions of stars contain luminaries of all ages. A simple calculation shows that of the several thousand million seats of intelligence only a few complete their transition from infancy to maturity at each given moment. So, some civilizations may be in the state of infancy, but according to the calculus of probability have undoubtedly achieved the highest stages of social harmony and technical might.

The scientists are hopeful that one day they will meet these developed civilizations, who are our 'elder brothers' in spirit and intelligence. For that they have coined the phrase 'The Era of Great Ring'.

The Ring Era will cause a revolution in mankind's social thinking. The Earth will become a member of the community of intelligent forces of the Universe. People will be regenerated spiritually and morally and join their brothers in intelligence in a single, infinitely happy family.

(Writer is from Deptt. of English, Govt. PG College, DAMOH MP)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hindi Heartland Alliance

Five months can seem like an eternity when it comes to reshaping public opinion, especially in the Hindi heartland. Despite the Congress party's setbacks in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, the future of the INDIA alliance appears uncertain. The Congress confidently predicted victories in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and even Telangana, yet only the latter materialized. They couldn't retain Chhattisgarh, reclaim Madhya Pradesh, or secure Rajasthan. Kamal Nath's arrogance and Congress's reluctance to grant seven seats to Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav contributed to their defeat in Madhya Pradesh. The Congress's loss not only erodes its leadership within the alliance but also squanders the opportunity to present a united opposition. The alliance now stands on shaky ground. The Congress must become more accommodating and cooperative in the lead-up to the national elections. The opposition, particularly the Congress, must learn to collaborate without expecting immediate gains. It's time for introspection and setting an example of consideration towards allies.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad

Saffron wave on top

The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh on Sunday, inflicting a resounding defeat on the Congress to tighten its stranglehold in the Hindi heartland, in a big boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and setting the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In some consolation for the Congress in the face of the saffron wave after it lost Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the party ousted the BRS in Telangana to make it 3-1 for the BJP in the latest round of Assembly elections billed as a semifinal before next year's poll showdown. Thereby, on the one hand, the BJP set the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. On the other hand, Congress has won Telangana, which shows that it has not died; it has just been marginalized.

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai

Rising Drug Trend

Today, the country's youth face a growing drug problem due to declining resilience. Quick loss of morale leads to depression and eventual drug addiction. Parents must instill resilience in their children to combat such situations. Another major issue is the glorification of addiction in popular culture, with films depicting smoking and drinking. This influences young minds to embrace drug use. The vulnerability of youth lies in succumbing to peer pressure. Empowering and open communication with parents is crucial for them to resist this harmful trend.

Ashraf Nawaz, Hyderabad

Ronaco, Aussies and Rat-Miners

Kajal Chatterjee

No congratulation is enough for Cristiano Ronaldo for successfully urging the referee to reverse a penalty decision given in his favour while representing Al Nassr club in Asian Champions League as the tackle by the rival Persepolis player didn't merit such a harsh decision.

The iconic Ronaldo has transmitted a great message through his actions that despite hard competition in life,

morality and remaining true to one's conscience are the only things which matter at the end of the day.

Now the World Champion Australians. Far from returning to the home country as the combined full squad in victorious mode, as many as seven of them (that included Adam Zampa Steve Smith Glen Maxwell Marcus Stoinis and even Man of the Match in World Cup final Travis Head) preferred to stay back to play an absolutely inconsequential T20I series against an almost "India B team" led by Suryakumar Yadav.

Thereafter in batches of 2 or 4 the winning members have returned to Australia after playing few matches with the star sensation Head still remaining in India.

So obviously arises no team parade upon bus rooftop or even public reception despite such stupendous success after initial setbacks in group

league stage.

Only after more than a week, just a simple media conference attended by just the captain Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc with the casual display of the World Cup without any fanfare or boisterousness.

What a sense of maturity and poise on the part of the Aussies! No public or media lunacy on victory with the cricketers being turned into "Gods", no question of attacking the residences of cricketers or burning their posters on defeat also treating them as "Devils".

Can such things be imagined if India wins any World Cup tournament in foreign shore! Many stars of the squad remaining in that country to play inconsequential matches against home team, players returning in batches, no public parade or reception with the captain Rohit Sharma and say Mohammad

Shami casually meeting the press after passage of more than a week.

When would the Indians take a lesson of maturity from the Aussies and learn the essence of life.

As for the saviour heroes in Uttarakhand who had ultimately accomplished the "Mission Impossible"; on being asked "What do you want in return", the rat-miners replied "Absolutely nothing. Labourers have saved fellow labourers. May be someday we will be trapped somewhere during work and these rescued workers will save us".

How coolly can they utter the hard realities of life with full knowledge that they can also get similarly trapped somewhere in life along with optimism intact that their fellow brothers would also save them selflessly.

What a message of optimism and selflessness have been transmitted by these un-

sung valiant philosophers of life in this materialistic world where prices of airlines to hotels, cabs to essential commodities get astronomically inflated in the slightest smell of any "opportunity", that too even during crisis as got witnessed in Balasore with hotel tariffs attaining a massive height immediately after the devastating train accident in nearby Bahanaga Bazar railway station few months ago.

Will the commercial sector learn few lessons of humanity and fair play from these "uneducated" rat-miners (language at the lowest end of social and economic hierarchy) and get morally enlightened that compulsion and tragedy of people should never be encashed upon.

Neither the filthy rich glamorous matinee stars nor the overhyped cricketers, rather these hardworking community are the real heroes of the nation and society.

BRIEF

Digital India Act



New Delhi: The government may not be able to put in place the Digital India Act, which aims to replace over 23 years old IT Act 2000, before the next general election, as there is not much time left for extensive consultation, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday. While speaking at the Global Technology Summit 2023, the minister, however, said that the rules for Digital Personal Data Protection Act will be out later this month for consultation and are expected to be notified by the end of December or early January.

Appointment

Mumbai: Electric mobility firm Magenta Mobility on Wednesday announced the appointment of Aravind Kumar S R as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Kumar, a veteran finance professional, joins the company from Kineco Ltd and will be leading finance and accounts, supply chain management and legal and secretarial functions as CFO at Magenta, the company said in a statement.

Model bylaws



New Delhi: Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said 31 states and Union Territories have adopted the model bylaws that aim to bring professionalism, transparency and accountability in the operation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). After incorporating the suggestions received, the model bylaws were circulated to all states/ UTs on January 5, 2023 for their adoption by PACS, he said.

Coal import

New Delhi: Country's coal import has registered a drop of five per cent at 125.21 million tonnes (MT) in the April-September period of the ongoing financial year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, coal and power minister Pralhad Joshi said that, had the production through auction, commercial coal auction not started, then as per compound annual growth rate (CAGR) there would have been a need to import 150 million tonnes (MT) of coal, but the country has actually imported only 125.21 MT of coal during the April-September period of 2023-24.

India's economy to grow at 6.8 pc in current fiscal: CII

New Delhi, Dec 06:



Industry chamber CII expects the country's economy to grow at 6.8 per cent in the current fiscal and accelerate to 7 per cent in 2024-25, driven by the government's continued focus on infrastructure development and promotion of ease of doing business. In an interview with PFI, CII President R Dinesh, who is also the Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, said even on a conservative basis, the expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.8 per cent will be more than the 6.5-6.7 per cent estimated earlier by the industry body. Sharing growth projections, the CII President said: "In the beginning, we had said 6.5-6.7 per cent. Now, actually, we are saying it is going to be 6.8 per cent for this year, and we are

looking at 7 per cent for next year. Obviously, the first half has given the comfort for 6.8 per cent. In fact, I would say it is a conservative number because if you look at what has happened in the first half, we are being conservative here". On the recent state elections, he said the stock market and the industry favour continuity in policy. During the recently held state elections, the BJP won in three

major states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while the Congress won in Telangana. "We welcome continuity in policy and making sure that the consensus is for the growth of the country... for us, continuity in policy is very important and that's something that whichever party be in power, we make sure that we communicate that... The stock market is cheering the fact that there is continuity from an approach". According to him, India is in a "sweet spot", owing to various reasons, including the government's focus on infrastructure and the push for ease of doing business.

India's economy recorded a growth of 7.7 per cent in the first half of the current fiscal ended in September. When asked about the possibility of an

interest rate cut by the RBI in its upcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review, he said: "We are not asking for that (interest rate cut) at all because we don't believe that it's the right time to ask because inflation is above the benchmark (4 per cent), which they (RBI) have set for themselves". "Today, we have 75 per cent to 95 per cent capacity utilisation cutting across many sectors, that has been there for the last 3 quarters. So, more or less, we can expect that very soon, we will have that percentage crossing, where people will continue to make capex investments. We did our membership survey and found that a majority of our members were actually looking at higher private sector investments taking place in H2 as compared with H1," Dinesh said.

As many as 65 illegal telecom setups unearthed during FY24: Devusinh Chauhan

New Delhi, Dec 06:



As many as 65 illegal telecom setups, that allowed international calls with spoofed Indian numbers, were busted during FY2023-24, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed the International Long Distance Operators (ILDOS) to drop incoming calls with no Calling Line Identification (CLI), or improper CLI or having certain prefixes. Moreover, DoT is blocking the apps allowing the origination of spoofed calls. Such apps are also blocked at Google Play Store and iOS App Store, Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan said in a written reply in Lok

Sabha. DoT in coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) is unearthing illegal telecom setups that allow international calls with spoofed Indian numbers. Such illegal setups are used to bypass the ILDOs for anti-national activities, cybercrimes and financial frauds, Chauhan said.

Govt to take serious note of any report about dumping of lithium-ion battery waste: Nitin Gadkari

New Delhi, Dec 06:



The government will take serious note of any report about ill effects of dumping lithium-ion battery waste on the environment and is promoting circular economy for recycling of various waste materials, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The issue of ill effect of lithium-ion battery waste dumping and on workers in manufacturing units of this storage system was raised by Congress member Ranjeet Ranjan during the question hour in the Rajya Sabha. In a supplementary question, Ranjan stated that there is a research report which highlights the ill effect on the health of workers involved

in the process of manufacturing lithium-ion batteries. The report also shows that the dumping of these batteries after completing life cycle affects the environment and poisons earth and deteriorates soil fertility, she stated. In response, Gadkari said, "There is no such report or finding with us. If anything of such sort comes to our notice then we will consider it. We will take serious note

Govt recognises 1,14,902 entities as startups as on October 31

New Delhi, Dec 06:



The government has recognised 1,14,902 entities as startups as on October 31, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. These eligible firms are allowed to seek fiscal incentives under the Startup India Action Plan, which was launched in January 2016, and that includes income tax exemption for three years. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said the action plan includes 19 items spanning across areas such as simplification and hand-holding, funding support and incentives and industry-academia partnership and incubation. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) "has recognised 1,14,902 entities as startups as on 31st October 2023," he said. Replying to a separate question, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel

said subdued demand in major export destinations such as the US, Hong Kong, the Middle East and China and availability of raw materials at competitive rates were some of the challenges faced by the gems and jewellery export industry. Export of gem and jewellery during 2022-23 was at USD 38.11 billion, a decline of 2.95 per cent compared to the previous year's export of USD 39.27 billion, she informed. The sector constituted 8.45 per cent in the total merchandise exports

during 2022-23 and the industry employs around 5 million skilled and semi-skilled workforce. In another reply, she said that to ensure goods imported are not of substandard quality, the customs authority follows a risk-based framework to intelligently prevent entry of non-compliant goods at the borders. "A task force has also been constituted in CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs) for enforcing national standards," Patel said. She added that as far as imported goods such as TVs and tyre, are concerned, the trade data indicates that there are several categories of import of such products where there has been considerable reduction in imports. Citing certain examples, she provided data that showed imports of different size of TV sets, liquid crystal display television set, and different kinds of tyres declined during April-October this fiscal.

Govt to mandate e-invoice for B2C transactions in 2-3 years

New Delhi, Dec 06:

The government is likely to make it mandatory for businesses to issue electronic or e-invoice for B2C transactions in the next 2-3 years, an official said on Wednesday.

Currently, businesses with a turnover of Rs 5 crore and above are required to generate e-invoice for their Business to Business (B2B) sales and purchases. The government is planning to extend the e-invoice requirement to B2C transactions as well. Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) member-GST Shashank Priya said GST systems have to be upgraded and the work is on to bring B2C (business to consumer) transactions under e-invoicing. "We are looking at requirement of e-invoice for

B2C. GSTN capacities need to be upscaled. Systems will have to be put in place. We have to see which are the sectors we can start first. It is work in progress but we hope in years to come we will be able to take this forward," he said at an Assocham event. Priya further said businesses with turnover between Rs 5-10 crore are not fully issuing e-invoices and CBIC officers have been nudging non-compliant businesses. "Its (business with Rs 5 crore turnover issuing e-invoice) implementation is still quite tardy. We have issued instructions. We are trying to nudge taxpayers that it has certain advantages like ease of doing business. GSTR-1, e-way bills will get populated," Priya said at the National Conference on GST.

NEW LAUNCH



Lamborghini's Regional Director for Asia Pacific Francesco Scardaoni with the company's India Head Sharad Agarwal during the launch of the Lamborghini 'Revuelto', in Mumbai, Wednesday, Dec. 6.

ONGC to cut gas flaring, use green power at oil wells: Arun Kumar Singh

New Delhi, Dec 06:



State-controlled Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to wheel green electricity to its installations in the Arabian Sea to replace natural gas it uses in operation of oil wells as part of its ambitious decarbonisation programme, its Chairman Arun Kumar Singh said. India's top oil and gas producer has substantially cut gas flaring -- burning of methane gas is produced when oil is extracted from below surface -- and would look to bring it down to nil as part of its environmental commitments, he said while

speaking at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, called COP28. Singh said ONGC uses a lot of gas to generate electricity as well as meet compression and other process needs of an oil and gas field. By 2028, this gas is intended to be

replaced with green power wheeled to installations as far as 160 km from the west coast. The gas thus freed will be sold to industries like fertiliser and powerplants. Companies around the globe have pledged to slash down methane emissions by 30 per cent from 2020 levels by 2030. Methane, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, tends to leak into the atmosphere. This is sometimes deliberate when companies flare the gas that comes alongside crude oil, due to lack of consumption markets. It also can leak undetected from drill sites, gas

pipelines and other oil and gas equipment. Controlling methane, which has been rising in atmospheric concentration for decades, is seen as one of the easiest and cheapest ways to make an immediate impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. "We have been working very consistently on reducing methane emissions," Singh said at the session on 'Accelerating the Elimination of Methane Emissions and the Decarbonisation of Oil & Gas'. "Because of the (Indian) geography and population, we hardly have any scope to flare," he said.

Markets scale fresh lifetime highs; Nifty nears 21k-level

Mumbai, Dec 06:



Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rallied for the seventh straight session to hit fresh lifetime highs on Wednesday, driven by gains in index majors Reliance Industries, ITC and L&T amid persistent foreign fund inflows. Besides, receding crude oil prices in international markets also boosted sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 357.59 points, or 0.52 per cent, to settle at a new record of 69,653.73. The barometer rose to 69,744.62 during intra-day. The broader index Nifty also climbed 82.60 points, or 0.40 per cent, to hit its fresh peak of 20,937.70. "Post-state elections, market optimism

thrives, confirming policy continuity and meeting investor expectations. A robust FII reversal is fuelled by receding inflation and dropping yields in US and Indian markets. The allure of Indian market gains post-China credit rating downgrade and decline in oil prices was followed by ease in geopolitical tensions," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

RBI's MPC meet begins amid expectations of status quo on interest rate

Mumbai, Dec 06:

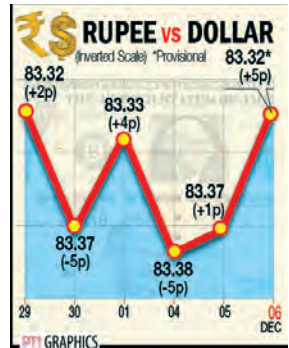
The RBI's high-powered rate setting panel on Wednesday began its 3-day brainstorming on the next set of bi-monthly monetary policy amid expectation of continued pause on the short-term key lending rate as GDP growth is gaining momentum, and inflation manageable. RBI left the benchmark policy rate (repo) unchanged in its past four bi-monthly monetary policies. It had last increased the repo rate in February to 6.5 per cent, thus ending the interest rate hike cycle which began in May 2022 in the aftermath of Russia-Ukraine war and subsequent disruptions in the global supply chain resulting in high in-

flation in the country. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das would unveil the decision of the six-member MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) on December 8. On expectations from the MPC, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA said with the GDP data for the second quarter of 2023-24 appreciably higher than the MPC's last forecast, and continuing concerns on various aspects of food inflation, "we expect the MPC to pause in its December 2023 review, amidst a fairly hawkish tone of the policy document". According to Deutsche Bank Research, RBI will likely increase 2023-24 GDP forecast to 6.8 per cent year-on-year, from 6.5 per cent earlier, while holding the

CPI forecast unchanged at 5.4 per cent. "RBI will likely keep repo rate and stance unchanged, persist with tight liquidity and ensure that short-term rates remain around 6.85-6.90 per cent, resulting in an 'effective rate hike'," it said. India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-than-expected rate of 7.6 per cent in the September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing. Director of Medical Technology Association of India (MTAi) Sanjay Bhutani, said the central bank's recent MPC meetings have kept the policy rate unchanged, aligning with market expectations.

Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 83.32 against US dollar

Mumbai, Dec 06:



The rupee appreciated 5 paise to close at 83.32 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, helped by a bullish trend in domestic equities and sustained foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said elevated American currency in the overseas markets and dollar buying by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) capped sharp gains for the local unit. The rupee consolidated in a narrow range as investors remained on the sidelines ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision later this week. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.35 against the greenback. The rupee oscillated between an intra-

day low of 83.37 and a high of 83.29 against the greenback and finally settled at 83.32 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 5 paise from its previous close, even as domestic benchmark indices touched new lifetime peaks. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 83.37 against the dollar.

Police nab culprit in obscene photo circulation case

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Dec 06: In a significant breakthrough, Khairagarh police have successfully apprehended Arpit Rai, the individual responsible for circulating an obscene photo of a young girl on social media. The swift action taken by the local authorities has ensured that the accused is now in custody.

The incident came to light when the victim reported the matter to the Khairagarh police station, prompting an immediate response from law enforcement. The victim revealed that Arpit Rai had been harassing her for several days with malicious intentions, even going so far as to send her private photos to her father via WhatsApp.

According to the victim, the accused had used deceitful tactics to manipulate her into abandoning her education and staying at home. As a result of the

victim's complaint, Arpit Rai, 21 years old and son of Jaikumar Rai, residing in Ward No. 19 Vidyasagar Chowk, Baraiha Marwahi district, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, is now under investigation.

He is being charged under Section 354 (d) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 67A of the IT Act at the Khairagarh police station, and senior officials have been informed of the case. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, a special team, led by Police Station In-Charge Rajesh Devdas, and under the guidance of ASP Neha Pandey and SDOP Khairagarh Lalchand Mohle, was formed to apprehend the accused.

The police, with the assistance of the Technical Branch, closely monitored suspicious mobile numbers. Finally, on December 4th, after confirming the possible location of the accused in Marwahi, a successful



raid was conducted.

Arpit Rai was taken into police custody, and during the interrogation, he admitted to sending the obscene photo of the girl to her father's mobile via social media WhatsApp. The

mobile phone used for this malicious act has also been seized by the police.

It has come to light that the accused had been exploiting the victim by providing her with intoxicants. According to the

victim's statement, the accused youth had raped her after drugging her. Subsequently, the police filed a statement under Section 164 of the CrPC in the Honorable Court, resulting in additional charges under sections 376(2)(n) and 323 of the Indian Penal Code being filed against the accused.

Khairagarh police acted swiftly and decisively, leading to the arrest of Arpit Rai, who is now behind bars. The accused has been presented before the Honorable Court on judicial remand.

This marks a significant victory for justice and a testament to the dedicated efforts of TI Rajesh Devdas, ASI Prakash Soni, ASI Cyber Cell Tadesh Singh, constables Laxman Sahu, Pradeep Yadav, Mani Shankar Verma, Pradeep Kumar Dhankar, Vijay Kurre, and the District Technical Branch who played pivotal roles in this case.

Unpredictable weather threatens paddy harvest

Farmers fear losses as bad weather looms over ripe crops

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Dec 06: As the post-Diwali paddy harvesting season gains momentum, farmers in the region are busy reaping the fruits of their labour. Fields are bustling with activity as farmers harvest their crops and begin the threshing process. However, the specter of bad weather has cast a shadow of concern over their efforts.

With ripe crops standing in the fields, farmers are increasingly worried about the unpredictable weather conditions. The looming threat of rain and adverse weather patterns could spell disaster for their hard-earned yields. On Tuesday, Anwari experienced a change in weather, with drizzles in the morning that eventually subsided. Nevertheless,



the skies remained overcast throughout the day, exacerbating the challenges faced by farmers.

The fear of significant damage to the mature paddy crops due to unseasonal rains has etched lines of worry on the foreheads of farmers. Many have yet to complete their harvest, while some fields still hold unharvested crops. This precarious situation leaves them vulnerable to potential losses caused by rain.

Farmers Bhuneshwar Sahu, Thamman and Golu, voiced their concerns, stat-

ing that numerous farmers have only just begun their harvest. The abrupt change in weather and rain pose a genuine threat to the paddy crops. Rain could lead to the collapse of paddy plants in the fields, resulting in grain losses. Late sowing this year delayed the crop's maturity, leaving most farmers with unharvested paddy. Farmers also mentioned that several paddy crops had already suffered damage due to disease, and the impending bad weather might further exacerbate their losses.

SECR celebrates Mahaparinirvan Divas

Raipur Division pays tribute to Dr Ambedkar

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Dec 06: The South East Central Railway's Raipur Division came together in a solemn ceremony to commemorate Mahaparinirvan Divas, paying homage to the visionary leader and architect of the Indian Constitution, Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. The event saw the active participation of railway officials and employees, reaffirming their respect for Dr Ambedkar's enduring legacy.

Divisional Railway Manager Sanjeev Kumar, accompanied by Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Ashish Mishra, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations) RK Sahu, Divisional President of



Scheduled Caste and Tribe All India Railway Employees Association Bholi Choudhary, Divisional Secretary YK Mihulia, and Divisional Personnel Officer (In-charge) Rahul Garg, led the tributes by garlanding the portraits of Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha.

The ceremony also included a Buddha Vandana

performed by officials from the Scheduled Caste and Tribe All India Railway Employees Association. Various employee organizations shed light on the life of Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, emphasizing his exceptional intellect and visionary thinking.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjeev Kumar ex-

tolled the multidimensional personality of Babasaheb Ambedkar and urged all railway personnel to dedicate themselves to the service of Indian Railways. He emphasized that true homage to the great leader could be paid by diligently fulfilling their responsibilities.

Additionally, Sanjeev Kumar commended the outstanding contributions of the various departments within the Raipur Railway Division, highlighting their roles in passenger transportation, goods transportation, and ensuring women's safety.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Divisional Personnel Officer (In-charge) Rahul Garg, reaffirming the commitment of the railway community to the ideals of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Unity emerges victorious

In School level football tournament

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Dec 06: In a vibrant display of sportsmanship and teamwork, a school-level football competition took center stage on December 5th at the Adarsh Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Dongargaon.

The football tournament, held as part of the school-level sports competition series, was graced by several esteemed individuals, including Uma Harivansh, the school's principal, Bhupesh Kumar Yadav, a special guest, Laxman Rao Kadam, a national football player, Pooja Rajput, a state-level



football player, and program coordinator Anil Kumar Patel, along with exercise instructors from various schools and dedicated match officials Aman Thakur and Purushottam Kumar.

The distinguished guests used the occasion to emphasize the importance of promoting constitutional values and human virtues such as social spirit, unity, fraternity, freedom, and gender equality among students through

the medium of sports.

The highly anticipated final match unfolded between Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Unity and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Unity. In a hard-fought battle on the field, both teams failed to score a goal in stipulated match time.

As a result, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Unity claimed victory with a 4-3 win in their favour, through a penalty shootout. The triumphant players were showered

with well-deserved gold medals, while the runners-up received silver medals in a heartwarming gesture of recognition from the guests.

Throughout the entire football tournament, players like Dameshwari Kanwar, Deepika Dhimar, Usha Mandvi, Pooja, Nirmal Kumar, Bhisham, Subhash, Shiv Nirmalkar, Maulesh Kumar, Rajkumar, Gaurav, Pradeep, Sajan, Vipin Dhruv, Sanjay Sahu, Khilendra Sahu, Ansh Kumar, Saurav, Ram Avtaar, Krishna Kumar, Devendra, Ajay Sumit, Devkarar, and Ved Prakash displayed their exceptional skills and sportsmanship, making the event a true celebration of talent and teamwork.

Anusuiya Sahu receives prestigious Women Empowerment Award

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Dec 06: Anusuiya Sahu, a dedicated supervisor at the Women and Child Development Department, who has tirelessly worked to uplift education and healthcare for rural women and young children while fostering positive behavioural changes in underprivileged and sensitive regions, has been bestowed with the prestigious title of "Excellent Women Empowerment Award 2023."

This well-deserved recognition has garnered



praise and congratulations from the local community. Leading the expressions of appreciation was District Panchayat President Hemant Dhruv, along with Jhadu Ram Mandavi, Janpad Member, Saurabh Thakur, Sarpanch of Korer, Ramkumar Daron, Sarpanch of Haatkaran,

Sunher Gajendra, Deputy Sarpanch, Naveen Pandey, Raghavendra Rajput, Mamta Sukhdev, Project Officer, as well as all the supervisors and Anganwadi workers from Sector Haatkaran, along with other prominent women in the area who joined in celebrating this remarkable achievement.

Soldiers demolished Naxalite memorial in Bagdeguda

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Dec 06: In the district, the joint party of DRG, Bastar Fighters, District Force and CRPF has demolished the memorial of Naxalites in Bagdeguda.

The Naxalites had built a huge memorial here, but with the effort to open a new camp, this Naxalite memorial built years ago has been razed to the ground.

According to the soldiers, this memorial was built by Naxalites in Bagdeguda in 2006.



Sukma SP Kiran Chavan said that work is being done to demolish the memorial of Naxalites and start a new camp in the area.

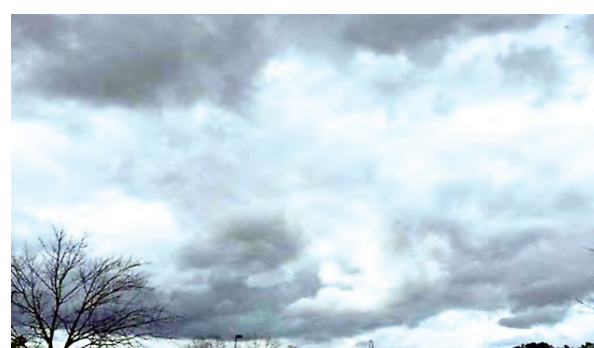
Cyclonic storm Michaung caused heavy rains

In many parts of Bastar division

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Dec 06: Bastar division has been cloudy for the last two days due to the impact of the cyclonic storm Michaung formed in the Bay of Bengal. It has been raining lightly since Tuesday afternoon and it intensified by night time and due to which the chill in the air has increased. It rained throughout the night and it continued to rain throughout the day on Wednesday.

Due to change in weather, the entire work of the



city has come to a standstill. A drop in temperature has been recorded due to rain. Due to the sudden change in weather, there is a possibility of damage to the paddy and maize crops kept in the barns of the farmers, and there is also a possibility of damage to the paddy procurement

center due to rain. According to the Meteorological Department, there is a possibility of a drop in the maximum temperature. As soon as the weather opens after the storm, the temperature will start falling and the cold will increase.

Safety related mock drill held at HTPS

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Dec 06: In the series of programmes being organized under the Industrial Safety Week, a training program related to Hazard Identification was conducted for the personnel and contract workers working in the 1500 MW plant of Hasdev Thermal Power Station, Korba West, on Dec 5, after which Hazard Hunt game was conducted. The participants who performed excellently by making the plant workers aware through this medium were rewarded. In this series, a safety related mock drill was organized in the chlori-



nation plant of the thermal power plant, in which a large number of plant employees enthusiastically participated.

DAV Dalli-Rajhara triumphs in cluster-level sports competition

Bringing glory to the Iron city

Central Chronicle News

Dalli-Rajhara, Dec 06: DAV Dalli-Rajhara has emerged as the undisputed champion in the recent cluster-level sports competition held in Bhilai. The talented students of the school have not only made their institution proud but have also brought honour to the iron city by showcasing exceptional performance in various sports disciplines.

Executive Director (Personnel and Administration), Pawan

Kumar, graced the city today and extended his heartfelt encouragement to these remarkable young athletes in the school's multipurpose hall. He shared his best wishes for their promising futures, joined by Chief General Manager (Mines) and DAV School Management Committee Chairman, R.B. Gaharwar, who blessed and motivated the victorious players.

Also present at this inspiring occasion were C. Srikanth, GM of Rajhara Mines, and A.G.M. Personal IOC, M.D. Reddy, who congratulated the accomplished athletes.

The three-day DAV Cluster Level Sports



Competition took place at DAV HUDCO Sector 2 School and DAV ACC Jamul, with participants competing in three categories. The school achieved remarkable results, securing first place in several events.

Under 14 girls excelled in badminton, under 17 boys dominated in volley-

overs for DAV Sector-2. Chasing this challenging score, Sector-2 could manage only 95 runs, granting Rajhara a well-deserved victory. Similarly, in the football competition, the Rajhara team defeated DAV Monnet Mandir Hasaud with a score of 3-1.

In addition to these accomplishments, Taekwondo players earned their spot in the state-level competition, while five Judo players secured gold medals. Additionally, players of Usu were selected to participate in the state-level competition.

During the felicitation ceremony held in the Multipurpose Hall, school Principal Alka Sharma

congratulated the winners and offered guidance for their future endeavours, aiming for similar success in national competitions. She acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the participants, highlighting the significant role played by sports teacher A.K. Singh and Purnima Mandal in their success.

Furthermore, the school's sports competition in Bhilai received unwavering support from teachers VV Giri, L. Kashyap, Ajay Thawre, Dhiresht Dubey, Sarita Dwivedi, and Kavita S. Kumar, who provided continuous encouragement and guidance to all the players.

Mushfiqur Rahim becomes first Bangladesh batter to be out for obstructing field



Mirpur, Dec 06 (PTI):

Former captain Mushfiqur Rahim on Wednesday became the first Bangladesh batter to be given out for 'obstructing the field' in a bizarre dismissal on the opening day of the second Test against New Zealand here.

The 36-year-old Rahim defended a rising delivery from New Zealand quick Kyle Jamieson in the fourth ball of the 41st over and then extended his right hand to apparently keep the ball away after it bounced up wide outside off stump. The Black Caps were quick to appeal and the on-field umpires referred the matter to the TV umpire Ahsan Raza who gave Rahim out.

According to Law 37.1.2, "The striker is out obstructing the field if, except in the circumstances of 37.2, in

the act of receiving a ball delivered by the bowler, he/she wilfully strikes the ball with a hand not holding the bat. This will apply whether it is the first strike or a second or subsequent strike.

The act of receiving the ball shall extend both to playing at the ball and to striking the ball more than once in defence of his/her wicket. "Earlier such dismissals were classified as "handled the ball" but a change in the laws in 2017 brought them under "obstructing the field" category. Former England captain Michael Vaughan was the last batter to be given out 'handling the ball' against India in 2001. Rahim was Bangladesh's top-scorer with his 35 off 83 balls as the hosts were bundled out for 172 inside 67 overs. Bangladesh won the first Test in Sylhet by 150 runs.

Bangladesh takes control of 2nd test

Mirpur, Dec 06 (AP):



Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan Miraz (2R) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Tom Blundell.

Bangladesh asserted their dominance on the second test match against New Zealand, with a dramatic day one in Mirpur that saw 15 wickets tumble. The hosts were determined to secure their first-ever test series win against the Kiwis, and their performance on the opening day put them in a favorable position.

After Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto elected to bat first, his team struggled to find their footing on a challenging wicket. New Zealand's bowlers maintained a disciplined line and length, conceding only eight runs in the first seven overs. Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (3-31) and off-spinner Glenn Phillips (3-65) wreaked havoc on the Bangladesh batting lineup, with Ajaz Patel and skipper Tim Southee also chipping in with crucial wickets. Mushfiqur Rahim top-scored for Bangladesh with 35 runs before a controversial dismissal for handling the ball. The experienced batter used his right hand to push the ball away while defending a de-

livery from Kyle Jamieson, leading to his dismissal. Despite the challenges, Bangladesh managed to post a total of 172 runs. In response, New Zealand's batting lineup struggled as well. Mehidy Hasan led the charge for Bangladesh with three wickets for just 17 runs, while Taijul Islam,

who had taken 10 wickets in the first test, added two more to his tally.

Tom Latham, Devon Conway, Kane Williamson, and Tom Blundell all fell victim to Bangladesh's determined bowling attack. When bad light forced the day to end prematurely, Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips were at the crease for New Zealand, with the visitors reeling at 55-5.

Despite the low-scoring and challenging conditions, the second test in Mirpur promises to be an exciting contest, with both teams aiming to gain the upper hand and secure a series victory.

ICC Rankings: Ravi Bishnoi becomes world's No.1 T20I bowler



Dubai, Dec 09 (PTI):

Young Indian leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi on Wednesday rose to the top spot in the ICC T20I bowling chart on the back of his recent performance against Australia. The 23-year-old was India's go-to bowler in the just-concluded series against Australia, taking nine wickets from five games.

Bishnoi, who is on 699 rating points, has jumped five places to displace Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (692) from the top slot. Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and England's Adil Rashid, who both

have 679 points, are in joint third.

Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana (677) completes the top five.

Bishnoi is the only Indian bowler in the top 10 in the shortest format even as Axar Patel climbed nine spots to be 18th. Meanwhile, the s w a s h b u c k l i n g Suryakumar Yadav, who captained India during their 4-1 T20I series win against Australia, held on to the top spot among batters, while opener Ruturaj Gaikwad dropped a place to be seventh.

Hardik Pandya retained the third spot in the all-rounders' list, despite missing the series against Australia due to injury.

Junior Hockey WC

India need to guard against complacency against Spain

IKuala Lumpur, Dec 06 (PTI):

Their campaign has started off positively, but India must guard against complacency when they face Spain in their second Pool C match of the FIH junior men's hockey World Cup here on Thursday.

Vice-captain Arajjeet Singh Hundal came out to be India's saviour, scoring a hat-trick as India overcame some anxious moments to beat Korea 4-2 in their opener on Tuesday.

But India's coach C R Kumar was not too satisfied with the performance and said his side needs to be more clinical and avoid conceding unnecessary penalty corners.

India conceded six penalty corners, while earned just two against Korea.

"We are very happy that we got the three points and that's the positive side. But we have to be more clinical in both circles. We conceded two goals in penalty corners which we need to pay

attention to," Kumar said after the Korea match.

"We gave away too many penalty corners, six in the whole game where we had just two. We need to be more cautious." India are striving to secure their fourth podium finish in the event after having won the tournament twice in 2001 (Hobart) and Lucknow (2016). The country had clinched a silver medal way back in 1997 in Milton Keynes, England.

Skipper Uttam Singh and his deputy Hundal are the only two players who have experience of the big event, having featured in the last edition of the tournament, where India finished fourth in Bhubaneswar, losing to France in the bronze medal play-off match.

The Spaniards, who have a bronze medal in their kitty at the 2005 edition in Rotterdam, are India's toughest opponent in the pool, comprising Canada as the other side.

Wozniacki awarded one of the first wild cards for 2024 Australian Open

Melbourne, Dec 06 (AP):



Former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki has been awarded one of the first wild cards for the 2024 Australian Open and is planning on bringing her two young children to the scene of her biggest Grand Slam triumph.

Wozniacki, the 2018 Australian Open women's champion, and six Australian players were granted the first batch of wild cards.

The 33-year-old Wozniacki returned to top-flight tennis in August after more than three years off the tour. She played in Montreal and Cincinnati before making a run to the fourth round of the US Open, where she lost to eventual champion Coco Gauff.

"I have so many wonderful memories of Melbourne, and of course winning the Australian Open is an all-time career highlight," Wozniacki, ranked No. 242 this week, told Australian Open organizers on Wednesday.

Wozniacki won her only Grand Slam singles title in Australia a couple of years before she left the sport in early 2020 to start a family. She spent time working as a TV analyst, and now, she and former NBA play-

er David Lee are the parents of two children. Wozniacki said she planned to travel to the tournament at Melbourne Park with her daughter, Olivia, and her son, James.

"I can't wait to share it with my family and my kids," she said.

Tournament director Craig Tiley announced in October that three former Australian Open champions Naomi Osaka, Wozniacki and Angelique Kerber were set to return to the year's first major following maternity leave. (AP)

Khawaja urges selectors to pick Warner's replacement on class not form



Melbourne, Dec 06 (PTI):

Australia Test batter Usman Khawaja has urged the national selectors to look for class over form when they choose his next opening partner after David Warner quits the longest format next month.

Warner is set to play his last Test at his home ground in Sydney against Pakistan in the final game of the three-match series starting January 3.

Khawaja isn't too concerned about his next partner but urged the selectors to pick the right player who can flourish and succeed at the international

level." "To be honest, it (who my next opening partner is) doesn't really matter to me, genuinely. Whoever the selectors are going to pick, they're going to pick because they think they're the best for the role," Khawaja told on SEN Radio. "I don't even believe in the 'bat-off' people are talking about right now. I think it is going to come to a lot more than that. You can't pick teams on form. You've got to pick teams on who you think the best player is."

"If we pick teams on form, the Australian team would be changing every second week, so you just can't do that."

India open campaign against Afghanistan in ACC U-19 Asia Cup on Friday



Face Pak on Sunday

Dubai, Dec 06 (PTI):

India will face Afghanistan in the opening match of the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament here on Friday.

Pakistan will play Nepal in the other match of the opening day. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan will face each other on Sunday.

Eight teams will compete for the top prize in the 50-over event which is being hosted by the Emirates Cricket Board.

The teams have been divided into two groups of four each. India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan are placed in Group A. Bangladesh, Japan, Sri Lanka and hosts UAE feature in Pool B.

The top two teams from each of the two groups will progress to the semi-finals which will be played on December 15.

The tournament final will be played at the Dubai International Stadium on December 17. All group matches and semi-finals will be played at the ICC Academy Ovals 1 and 2. All tournament matches will begin at 9:30 am local time.

Too much cricket is affecting development of all-rounders: Kallis

New Delhi, Dec 06 (PTI):

Jacques Kallis, one of the last multi-skilled legends, says quality all-rounders have become a scarcity in modern-day cricket, especially in Test cricket, because of "too much cricket across formats".

While Sir Garfield Sobers (8032 runs and 235 wickets) is considered 'greatest of 'em all' across generations, Kallis (25,000-plus runs and nearly 600 wickets in three formats) is arguably one of the legendary all-rounders the modern era has seen.

In the 1980s, there were four great all-rounders in Imran Khan, Richard Hadlee, Ian Botham and Kapil Dev while the new millennium saw emergence of Kallis and Andrew Flintoff.

But with advent of T20 cricket and mushrooming leagues across the globe with new rules have actually discouraged develop-



ment of multi-skilled cricketers. "It is a tough question to answer, all-rounders don't come around every day. There aren't many throughout the history. Lot of things, amount of cricket that is played certainly plays a role," Kallis told PTI during an exclusive interview.

The former Proteas captain is in India to play the Legends League Cricket.

While he didn't name Indian Premier League but the former KKR coach isn't a great fan of 'Impact Player' rule where a team can change one player during its batting or bowling innings as per need.

Will play IPL until I can't walk anymore: Maxwell

Melbourne, Dec 06 (PTI):

Star Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has vowed to play in the world's biggest cricket league, the IPL "until he can't walk anymore".

The 35-year-old, who played a massive role in Australia's ODI World Cup-winning campaign in India recently, will once again don the colours of Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL next year.

"The IPL will probably be the last tournament I ever play, as I will play the IPL until I can't walk anymore," Maxwell was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press (AAP) at the Melbourne Airport on Wednesday.

"I was talking about how good the IPL has been to me throughout my career, the people I've met, the coaches I have played under, the international players that you get to rub shoulders with, how beneficial to my whole career



that tournament has been. "You're rubbing shoulders with AB (de Villiers) and Virat (Kohli) for two months, talking to them while watching other games. It's just the greatest learning experience that any player could ask for," he said. Maxwell feels Australian cricketers should play in the IPL for experience ahead of the T20 World Cup in the United States and the West

Indies in June.

"Hopefully, a lot of our Australian players can get over to the IPL and get to work in slightly similar conditions to the West Indies, where it is a little bit drier, it will spin."

Maxwell will return to action as captain of Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League opener against Brisbane Heat in the opener at the Gabba on Thursday.

