

BRIEF



Migratory ducks swim in a pond in East Burdwan district, Wednesday.

Tail strike

Kolkata: IndiGo on Wednesday said one of its Airbus A321 aircraft suffered a tail strike while landing at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The incident took place on Monday as the aircraft, with flight number 6E1859, was coming to Kolkata from Dhaka.

Charge Sheet

Palghar: The police on Wednesday filed a charge sheet in a court here in Maharashtra, four months after former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry and a co-passenger were killed in a car crash in Palghar district. Mistry (54) and Jehangir Pandole were killed on September 4 when their luxury car hit a divider on a bridge on the Surya river on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway. Anahita Pandole (55), who was at the wheel, and Darius Pandole were seriously injured.

Admitted

New Delhi: Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on Wednesday for treatment of viral respiratory infection. Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accompanied her to the hospital in the morning, sources said. The hospital issued a health bulletin later.

Fire

Bhind: An inebriated man opened fire at three members of a family when they objected to his frequent act of urinating in front of their house and reported the matter to police, killing one of them - a minor boy - in Bind district of Madhya Pradesh, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Death sentence

Banda: A court here on Wednesday awarded a death sentence to a man for raping and killing a five-year-old girl in 2021. Additional District and Sessions Court (POCSO), Special Judge Anu Saxena also imposed a fine of Rs 2.70 lakh on the convict Rambahadur Prajapati (45), government advocate (prosecutor) Kamal Singh said.

Approves

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for naming of Greenfield International Airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport, after former defence minister and Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar.

Weather
High 24 Low 16

MARKET
NIFTY 18,042.95
SENSEX 60,657.45

BULLION
GOLD 55,885
SILVER 70,322

Centre clears Rs 19,744-crore National Green Hydrogen Mission

■ Envisages Rs 8 lakh cr investment

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 19,744 crore incentive plan to promote the manufacturing of green hydrogen in the country in a bid to cut emissions. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission which is expected to attract Rs 8 lakh crore of investment in the green hydrogen chain.

India aims to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen per annum in the next five years and the incentives would help bring down the cost. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime



Union Minister Anurag Thakur briefs the media about the decisions taken in the cabinet meeting, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Minister Narendra Modi, has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission," Thakur said while briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions.

Carbon-free hydrogen, which can be used as fuel in automobiles and as an energy source in industries such as oil refineries and steel plants, is produced by splitting water.

About the mission

Carbon-free hydrogen, which can be used as fuel in automobiles and as an energy source in industries such as oil refineries and steel plants, is produced by splitting water. When electricity generated from renewable sources such as the sun is used to split water through electrolysis, green hydrogen is produced. Oxygen is a by-product of such a process. The initial outlay for the mission will be Rs 19,744 crore, including an outlay of Rs 17,490 crore for the SIGHT programme, Rs 1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs 400 crore for R&D, and Rs 388 crore towards other mission components. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation.

When electricity generated from renewable sources such as the sun is used to split water through electrolysis, green hydrogen is produced. Oxygen is a by-product of such a process.

The initial outlay for the mission will be Rs 19,744 crore, including an outlay of Rs 17,490 crore for the SIGHT programme, Rs 1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs 400 crore for R&D, and Rs 388 crore towards other mission components.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation.

The mission seeks to promote development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition

of about 125 GW in the country by 2030.

It envisages an investment of over Rs 8 lakh crore and creation of over 6 lakh jobs by 2030.

It will also result in cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports of over Rs 1 lakh crore and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Commenting on the move, Rajat Seksaria, CEO of ACME Group, said it offers a great opportunity for India to become a global export hub of green hydrogen and ammonia.

He further said "the incentive program makes the green molecule from India competitive. This is required for the initial few projects and create green hydrogen hubs, which will allow supply chains to be established and scale of production to increase."

Four eclipse events this year

■ Two would be visible in India
Indore, Jan 04 (PTD):

Four eclipse events including a total solar eclipse would occur in 2023 and two of them would be visible in India, an astronomy expert said here on Wednesday.

There would be two solar eclipses and two lunar eclipses, said Dr Rajendra Prakash Gupta, Superintendent of Ujjain's Government Jiwaji Observatory.

The celestial events will start with a total solar eclipse on April 20.

"But it will not be visible from India," Dr Gupta said.

It will be followed by a 'penumbral' lunar eclipse on the intervening night of May 5-6 which will be visible in India, he said.

A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through penumbra or lighter part

of Earth's shadow, and sunlight falling on the Moon appears to be partially cut off.

The Moon remains visible, but with less-than-usual brightness.

The only 'annular solar eclipse' will take place on the intervening night of October 14 and 15, but it would not be visible in the country as it would happen at night.

A partial lunar eclipse would occur on the intervening night of October 28 and 29 and it will be visible in India. As much as 12.6 percent of the Moon will remain in Earth's shadow during this eclipse, Dr Gupta said. In 2022, there were two total lunar eclipses and two partial solar eclipses, he said.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth, while a lunar eclipse takes place when Earth is positioned between the Sun and the Moon.

ISRO planning second development SSLV flight next month

Nagpur, Jan 04 (PTD)

India will test a space-based aircraft monitoring system when it undertakes a development flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) next month, senior officials said on Wednesday.

The SSLV, aimed at launching up to 500 kg satellites in planar orbit, was unsuccessful in its first development flight on August 7 last year.

The second development flight of the SSLV is likely to be held next month, which if successful would allow ISRO to provide on demand launch services for smaller satellites weighing from 10 kg to 500 kg. "I cannot give you a specific date, but we are planning a test flight

next month," ISRO chairman S Somanath told reporters here on the sidelines of the 108th Indian Science Congress. He said India was also planning scientific missions to Mars and Venus besides attempting a land rover to the moon sometime this year. "The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft is almost ready. The orbiter, lander and rover. But we are waiting for the right time to launch the mission, which is sometime in June. We will try to meet that launch window," he said.

A senior ISRO official said the space agency will also test the satellite-based Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) receiver system onboard the SSLV next month.

MEHRAULI KILLING CASE Hair, bones recovered by police confirmed to be of Shradha Walkar

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD)

Hair and bone samples sent for DNA mitochondrial profiling by police have been confirmed to be of Shradha Walkar who was killed by her 28-year-old live-in partner Aaftab Amin Poonawala, a senior official said here on Wednesday.

The bones and hair were recovered during searches from forest areas of Delhi NCR including Gurgaon and Mehrauli, the police said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Sagar Preet Hooda said the bone and hair samples from which DNA could not be extracted were sent to the Centre for DNA

Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) Hyderabad for 'DNA Mitochondrial profiling'.

"On Wednesday, we received the result of the examination. One piece of bone and bunch of hair purported to be of deceased have matched with that of her father and brother which establishes the identity of the bone and hair to be that of Shradha Walkar," he said. The bones will now be sent for autopsy which will be conducted by a medical board at the AIIMS, he added. The gory details about Walkar's murder shook the entire nation after the Delhi Police on November 12 arrested Poonawala who is currently in judicial custody.

HC TO CENTRE Can benefit under RAN be extended without ration card?

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted time to the Centre to state if the financial benefits under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) can be extended to a person on the basis of a document other than the ration card to show the financial status of the family.

Justice Prathiba M Singh passed the order while hearing a petition by a woman suffering from Aplastic Anaemia, whose request to AIIMS for financial aid under the scheme was rejected on account of non-availability of a ration card. The court was informed that despite

being a resident of the national capital, the petitioner does not possess a ration card as the limit set on the number of ration cards by the Centre has been exhausted and the Delhi government's request to increase the threshold has been turned down by the central government. "It is clear that there appears to be an impossibility for the petitioner to submit the ration card to avail the treatment. Under such circumstances, the court directs the Union of India to consider as to whether there can be some other document that can be submitted by petitioner to satisfy the condition of establish-

ing that the income level of the entire family is within the limit prescribed under the scheme," said the court. The court also asked the petitioner to file an affidavit disclosing the details of her family and listed the matter for further hearing in March.

RAN provides financial assistance to patients living below poverty line who are suffering from major life threatening diseases to help them receive medical treatment at super speciality hospitals and other government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is given in the form of a 'one-time grant' which is released to the hospital concerned.

TRADITIONAL ATTIRE



Artists wearing traditional attires participate in the State Level Youth Festival, at Parade Ground in Dehradun, Wednesday.

BILKIS BANO CASE

Justice Trivedi recuses herself from hearing, again

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD)

Supreme Court judge Justice Bela M Trivedi Wednesday recused herself from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case in which she was gang-raped and seven members of her family were killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Bela M Trivedi took up the pleas by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revati Laul, former vice-chancellor of the Lucknow University Roop Rekha Verma and

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra against the premature release of the convicts.

Advocate Rishi Malhotra, appearing for one of the convicts, insisted the petitioners have to prove their locus standi in the case. Advocates Vrinda Grover and Aparna Bhat, representing the petitioners, opposed the contention, saying the stage of maintainability has long been crossed after the court issued notice on their plea.

Bhat said pleadings in the matter are over and the court may keep the pleas for February for the final hearing.

UP URBAN BODY LOCAL POLLS

SC stays HC order on no OBC quota

New Delhi, Jan 04:

Adityanath welcomes SC order

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has welcomed the Supreme Court verdict on civic body elections in Uttar Pradesh and said his government will cooperate in holding the polls within the apex court time limit while implementing reservation for the OBC. In its order on December 27, the high court had said that the UP government had not followed the Supreme Court guidelines on reserving seats for the OBC in local body elections. The UP government had then appointed a panel -- also required under the Supreme Court guidelines -- and said it will hold the elections only after fixing an OBC quota. However, the panel's report was expected only after January 31.

the state government to appoint administrators to run the affairs of the local bodies after the expiry of the tenure of the elected representatives.

It, however, said the administrators will not be empowered to take major policy decisions. The top

court had earlier agreed to hear the Uttar Pradesh government's appeal challenging the high court order quashing its draft notification on urban local body elections and directing it to hold the polls without reservation for other backward classes.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED attaches beach resort of ex-Maha minister Parab

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTD)

A beach resort and its land in Ratnagiri worth more than Rs 10 crore have been attached as part of a money laundering probe against Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former Maharashtra minister Anil Parab and others in a case linked to alleged irregularities of coastal regulation laws, the ED said Wednesday.

"The attached properties are in the form of land measuring about 42 guntas located at Gut No.446, Murud in Dapoli, Ratnagiri district, valued



at Rs 2,73,91,000 and the resort named Sai Resort NX constructed over the said land valued at Rs 7,46,47,000", the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said in a statement.

The total value of the attached properties is Rs 10.20 crore, it said.

Parab, 58, is a Shiv Sena leader from the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) faction of the party. He has earlier denied his association with this resort.

He is a three-time Shiv Sena legislator in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, the Upper House of the legislature, and has held transport and parliamentary affairs portfolios. The politician was questioned by the federal agency in this case earlier.

'COVID-19 taught us judicious use of steroids'

Nagpur, Jan 04 (PTD)

Indiscriminate use of steroids during the COVID-19 pandemic was a key factor behind the spurt in cases of mucormycosis, a serious but rare fungal infection, among coronavirus survivors in the country in 2021, said an infectious disease expert at the ongoing Indian Science Congress here on Wednesday.

The pandemic taught several lessons, including the need to keep the environment clean and judicious use of drugs like steroids, said Dr Tanu Singhal, a paediatrician and infectious disease specialist at Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai



Dr Tanu Singhal

Ambani Hospital. She made the comments while giving a presentation on COVID-19 associated secondary infections' at the five-day science meet which started on Tuesday. Speaking to PTI on the sidelines of the congress, Dr Singhal said India had recorded over 50,000 COVID-19-associated mucormycosis patients till May 2021.

District's first astronomy lab inaugurated at SAGES Sec 6

Students will get information about the universe and astronomical events

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: On Wednesday, Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal inaugurated the astronomy lab at Swami Atmanand Government English School, Sector 6. Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas was specially present. In this Astronomy Lab, the children will be able to get answers to questions about the universe.

Children will be able to learn why the colour of the sky is blue, why the stars shine, where the moon and the sun hide, why the sky appears dark at night, what is the effect of gravity, how many types of planets are there, moon, its orbit, etc. Students will also be able to get new information about twinkling stars.

Telescopic facility is also available in this astronomy lab.

The main objective of Astronomy Lab is to develop curiosity among all students through practical knowledge of space, to develop scientific temper in all children from a young age, to see other planets of the solar system from close quarters through a telescope and to capture their pictures. They will also get information about the activities of space and sky.

As per the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, development is being seen in the field of education in Bhilai's



Atmanand English Medium School. In his address, Bhilai Mayor Neeraj Pal said that with the inauguration of the Astronomy Lab, a lot of work has been done in the field of education. Students will be able to explore several aspects of space through this lab.

He said that with the continuous efforts of Collector Pushpendra Meena and Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas, Atmanand School has been converted into Astoshala. It is a nice effort to move away from the bookish knowledge of space in the direction of



practical knowledge. With the opening of the Astronomy Lab, the general knowledge of the students will increase; the spirit of competition will develop and the interest of the students will increase in science. MLA Devendra Yadav stated that it is a good initiative to promote

education in Atmanand School. Astronomy Lab includes many types of working models, through which information about many mysterious things of space will be available. The Astronomy Lab will prove to be a milestone for the knowledge enhancement of the students. It is

worth mentioning that the BMC Commissioner Rohit Vyas has worked to do some different work in the direction of education. He was striving for an astronomy lab as soon as he was posted in Bhilai. With the opening of the lab, he took the Atmanand School to a new height of education. There is a lot of curiosity among the children about this unique lab. Students will get knowledge on how to go into space, what is the work of missiles, effects on human body parts in space, space travel, etc. There are a number of working mod-

els available in the lab. District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal, Zone President Rajesh Chaudhary, Zone Commissioner Khirodra Bhoi, Assistant Director (Education) Amit Ghosh, School Principal Daljit Korada, Astrolab Developer Anushtha Das Vaishnav, Executive Engineer Sunil Dubey, Assistant Engineer Wasim Khan, Deputy Engineer Shweta Maheshwar and staff and students of the school were present. Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas said that detailed information about Moon, Jupiter, Mars and Stars will also be provided to the children by the experts through the projectors. This programme has begun from Atmanand School in Sector 6.

Siddhant shares his vision on Cyber Security Readiness with GoI

Proud Moment for Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: Bhilain Siddhant Dash recently met with Dharmendra Pradhan, Cabinet Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of the Government of India to discuss his ideas on how India can prepare itself for Digital Revolution and the resulting cyber security issues to ensure the resilience of its technological infrastructure. This involved intriguing

and comprehensive discussions on India's cyber security readiness, data protection and building "Made in India" technical capabilities in cyberspace among others. He also discussed the recent AIIMS Cyber security Attack and the systems India needs to prevent such attacks in future.

Pradhan was extremely impressed and immediately shared his views on Twitter and Facebook. He also suggested Siddhant prepare a recommendation on arenas in which India's cyber security resiliency can prosper. Siddhant is currently working as a Product Manager at Armorblox, a



leading cyber Security Company in the United States. He is based out of San Francisco, USA. An alumnus of DPS Bhilai, gradu-

ate of first batch of IIIT Naya Raipur and Masters from the prestigious Ivy League, Cornell University, USA. His current area of research in-

cludes email security and cyber security for the Internet of Things (IoT).

Previously, he was associated with the prestigious National University of Singapore (NUS) where he developed cutting-edge and novel cyber security solutions. He has authored research papers in top-tier conferences and journals like IEEE and is also a holder of a pending Singapore patent.

Siddhant is son of Dr Trinath Dash (Additional CMO Respiratory Medicine) and Dr Sambita Panda (Additional CMO & HOD Paediatrics) at JLN Hospital, Sector-9, SAIL, BSP, Bhilai.

Caster No 6 in SMS 2 sets new record of 44 Heats

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: High speed Caster 6 in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 2 once again touched a new high with 44 heats in a single sequence on 4th January 2023, surpassing previous best of 42 heats on 01st January, 2023.

Total caster running time was 28 hours. Caster No 6 of SMS 2 had earlier recorded 40 heats achieved on 16th Dec 22, 36 heats on 10th Dec 22 and 35 heats on 6th December 2022.

It is worth mentioning that such a record number of heats have been achieved as against tundish guaranteed life of



17 heats. The record performances have been made possible by Caster 6 Team through high levels of operational efficiency.

The Caster 6 team was congratulated by CGM, SMS 2, SK Ghoshal and other senior officers of the Plant.

Man killed in accident



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: A 45-year-old man was killed in a road accident which occurred in Dhamdha Police Station limits on

Wednesday. The man was moving on a bike and collided with a SUV coming from the opposite direction. He suffered fatal injuries and died on the spot.

According to information, the deceased was Ramchand Sahu (45) son of Shankar Sahu a resident of village Bhilauri. He was moving on his bike for some work.

On the main road, his bike collided with a speeding Mahindra Scorpio bearing registration number CG08-AF-0405. He suffered fatal injuries and died on the spot. Police have arrested the SUV driver and registered a case against him. The body was sent for autopsy after preparing an inquest.

Unseasonal rains disrupt normal life



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: People experienced the winter chill on Wednesday due to the unseasonal rains and cold

wave that dropped the temperature to the lowest mark this winter.

The twin-city received light rains and drizzle throughout the day.



Heavy traffic jams occurred on national highway near the construction sites of flyovers. Potholes that developed on the roads due to rains

have further reduced the speed of traffic movement.

Sudden change in weather made people bring out their rain coats



and woollens again. A blanket of fog enveloped the twin-city till noon, reducing the visibility to great extent.

The change in climate

made several people change their day plans. As the winter chill intensified, many people were seen burning bonfires to keep themselves warm.

BSP teams raised the flag of Innovation at National level

32 teams made Bhilai proud by winning the 'Par-Excellence Award' at the National Convention of Quality Concepts-2022 and set a new record

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: The Quality Circle teams of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have been able to unleash their creativity organization under the guidance of the BE Department. In the National Convention of Quality Concepts Competition held at Aurangabad, Maharashtra, 32 teams of BSP were successful in winning the highest award of the competition i.e. "Par-Excellence Award". In the year 2021, 64 percent of the teams had won the par excellence award. Improving their own performance this year, 75 percent of the BSP teams have created a new record by bringing par excellence Award. Sanjay Dhar, Chief General Manager of HRD & BE Department congratulated the teams on this achievement.

innovative work done by their respective departments. Evaluation of these case studies and evaluation of case study presentations was done through expert judges. In view of the threat of Corona Pandemic, this year QCFI conducted an Online Knowledge Test. Therefore, this year the result was announced by adding the marks obtained in the knowledge test and the overall evaluation of the written submission case studies and physical presentations. SAIL-BSP teams hoisted their flag and 32 teams won the Par-Excellence Award and 11 teams brought laurels to Bhilai by receiving the Excellence Award.

Participation in various quality concepts: SAIL-BSP teams participated in each category of the competition and showed the prowess of its innovation by winning the Par Excellence Award in all categories. It may be noted that these competitions are organized in three



categories under Quality Circle, 5-S System and Lean Quality Circle. Under the guidance of the Business Excellence Department (BE Department), SAIL-BSP teams have proved their excellence by participating in all the three categories.

Par-Excellence Award Winning Teams: A total of 43 teams of SAIL-BSP presented the creative works done in the field of modification, kaizen implementation and development of better methods of works

done for their respective departments in this convention. Out of which, creative works of 32 QC teams were awarded with "Par Excellence Award".

The QC teams that received the Par Excellence Award include TMT Masters of BRM, Sarthak and Utkarsh, Adarsh of Blast Furnace-8, Prayags, Unnati, Agarsar, Utsah, Mahamaya, Sarthak and Navsriyan of Coke-Oven, Coal Safety Circle, Soujanya and Anwarat of

Plant Garage, Merchant Mill's Creative, Steel Structural Shop's Jagriti, Reclamation Shop's Vikas, SMS-3's Ujjwal, Torpedo Sanrakshak and Navodaya, RSM's Udyami and Proma 22, Rail Rakshak, URM's Atmanirbhar, Hawk Insight, Rail Riders, RMP-3's Marble, RCL's Gaurav, Instrumentation's Vijay and Akshat, Power and Blowing Station's Ayyavadhanam, Pravah.

BSP is committed to quality: History is witness that SAIL-BSP has always been encouraging the innovative works of its creative personnel. The BSP management has reaffirmed its commitment to quality by sending a record 43 teams to the National Convention. BSP management has always been in the forefront to promote innovative work. BSP management has also boosted the morale of these creative personnel by giving them a proper platform.

Outstanding Contribution of BE

Department: Under the dynamic leadership of Chief General Manager, (HRD & BE) Sanjay Dhar, the guidance of General Manager (BE) MK Dubey and the training given by Senior Analyst, Sunil Kumar Deshmukh, played an important role in this record breaking performance.

600 prestigious institutions of the country including BSP participated: It may be noted that in the competition of National Quality Concepts Convention-2022 (NCQC-2022) organized by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) in Aurangabad, a total of 2033 QC teams from around 600 reputed institutions of the country presented their case studies. The results of this national competition were declared. 43 SAIL-BSP teams participated in this Quality Concepts Competition. All the 43 teams raised the flag of creativity of Bhilai at the national level by winning prizes.

Gambling den raided; six held



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 04: Police raided a gambling den and arrested six persons red handed while gambling on playing cards in the outskirts of Vijay Nagar area. CSP Vaibhav Banker (IPS) informed that under the directions of SP Dr Abhishek Pallava, they are continuously making efforts to curb the illegal activities of betting and gambling. The network of informers has also been activated. In this sequel, police received a tip off regarding a gambling den near Railway Tracks in Vijay Nagar. Acting on the tip off, Durg CSP's team and team of Mohan Nagar Police Station swung into action and raided the gambling den. Some of the gamblers tried to escape but the

cops chased and nabbed them. The accused are identified as Ashok Kumar Dewangan (36) son of Panchuram Dewangan a resident of Vijay Nagar; Basant Kumar Soni (33) son of Late Gopal Soni a resident of Urla; Jitendra Sahni (27) son of Chandu a resident of Supela; Sheikh Afridi (25) son of Sheikh Fareed a resident of Supela; Arjun sonkar (27) son of Late Dinesh Sonkar a resident of Indira Nagar, Supela and Chinu Thakur (55) son of Sudhakar Thakur a resident of Green Square, Durg. Police recovered Rs 41400 cash and playing cards from the possession of the accused. They have been booked under the provisions mentioned in Gambling Act.

Din in Ch'garh Assembly as BJP seeks probe into 'irregularities' in free rice distribution

**Raipur, Jan 04:**

The Chhattisgarh Assembly witnessed uproar on Wednesday when the opposition BJP alleged irregularities in the distribution of free rice allocated by the Centre to the state under a welfare scheme and demanded a probe by a House committee. Opposition MLAs trooped into the well of the House while shouting slogans on the issue. Some

of them tore papers and threw them towards the dais of Speaker Charandas Mahant.

Raising the issue in Question Hour, senior BJP MLA Dharamlal Kaushik asked about the quantity of free rice allowed to be distributed by the Central government under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) from March 2020 till November 2022 in Chhattisgarh.

In his reply, Food and Civil Supply Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said, the state had received 27.10 lakh tonne of rice from the Centre under the scheme for allocation during the above-mentioned period, of which, 26.40 lakh tonne rice was given to beneficiaries. He further said that 0.70 lakh tonne of rice was remaining (to be distrib-

uted).

Kaushik and other BJP members, including Brijmohan Agrawal and Ajay Chandrakar, claimed irregularities in the distribution of rice under the PMGKY scheme. The charge was denied by the minister.

Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel demanded a probe by constituting a committee of the House. Unhappy with the minister's reply, the opposition members- 12 from BJP and one from Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) trooped into the well of the House and were automatically suspended.

Amid the pandemonium, the Speaker announced the suspension of 13 opposition members and adjourned the House for 10 minutes. The ruckus continued after the House

resumed as MLAs of ruling Congress MLAs and the Opposition raised slogans.

The Speaker then adjourned the proceedings for an hour.

After the House resumed, the Speaker took up the listed business for the day while Opposition members remained sitting on the floor shouting anti-government slogans.

Brijmohan Agrawal alleged the opposition members are not being heard in the Assembly. The Opposition members then went out of the House.

The Speaker said the act of the MLAs (who tore papers and threw them) was against the dignity of the chair and termed it inappropriate.

He adjourned the House sine die after concluding listed business for the day.

FOG IN DAY-TIME

**Denizens of city witnessed light fog due to light drizzle since morning and sudden drop in the temperature here on Wednesday.**

Santram Netam elected Dy. Speaker unopposed

Raipur, Jan 04:

Santram Netam has been elected as the Dy. Speaker of State Assembly unopposed. On third-day of Winter Session of the Vidhan Sabha, MLA Keshkal Santram Netam was elected as the Dy. Speaker with majority. It is notable here that the said post was lying vacant after demise of MLA Manoj Mandavi. For this the name of Santram Netam was finalized in the Congress MLAs meeting on Tuesday and consensus was reached as well.

The nomination for this post was supposed to be filed today and elections were due on Thursday. Prior to this Santram Netam in the presence of



CM Bhupesh Baghel and other Ministers and MLAs filed his nomination and reached office of Secretary VS Dinesh Sharma and completed the procedure. But since only one nomination was filed, his name was finalized for the post of Dy. Speaker unopposed by the Speaker. Netam on this occasion expressed gratitude towards CM Bhupesh

Baghel, MLAs and all in the Opposition and said that now he is going to be seated in constitutional post and would continue to work remaining within the powers assigned. He would try to fulfill his responsibilities with due assistance and support of all MLAs and Speaker of Assembly. It is worthwhile to mention here that first time Santram Netam was elected as MLA from Keshkal in 2013 and then he won in 2018 VS polls.

Prior to this he was also Janpad Panchayat member in Baderajpur. Born in Palma of Vishrampur block of Kondagaon district on 2 May 1972, Santram Netam is MA and LLB and had even worked in Police department.

Two nabbed with brown-sugar worth Rs 1.50 lakh

**By SCCU and Ratanpur police in Ratanpur**

Raipur, Jan 04: The Ratanpur Police nabbed two accused from a bus on charges of smuggling Brown Sugar from Banaras of UP via Ambikapur and planning to sell it in Bilaspur. The two accused were nabbed with Brown Sugar worth Rs 1.50 lakh and had undergone imprisonment for selling of drugs earlier as well. The two accused continued to change

many buses from Ambikapur to Ratanpur and were able to cheat the police many a times. But this time they could not succeed. It was on getting information the police was able to nab the two accused in Ratanpur along with drugs in their possession. The two drug smugglers nabbed include Mohammed Javed and Prem Narayan alias Sunny Choudhary of Katiyapara jointly by SCCU and Ratanpur police. The police stopped the bus at Ratanpur and nabbed the two accused.

Opposition grill Minister Daharia over CC road in illegal colony

Speaker asks Minister to conduct inspection in presence of MLA

Raipur, Jan 04: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday grilled the Minister for Urban Administrator Dr Shiv Daharia over road construction in illegal construction in Dhamtari District. Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant instructed the Minister to conduct inspection of the road construction work by the committee in presence of Dhamtari MLA Ranjana Sahu. Raising the issue during question hour, the BJP MLA raised the issue of construction of CC Road in Sunderganj Ward of Dhamtari Municipal Corporation. She alleged that the CC road has been constructed to provide benefit to the illegal colony and added that despite repeated complaint, no action has been taken on the issue. In his reply, the Minister Daharia said that the said road was sanctioned during the erstwhile BJP gov-

ernment and added that the present government has cancelled the sanction of the said road. He informed that the work order was cancelled on December 22, 2021 after primary investigation revealed illegal plotting and private land. Refuting the claims of Minister, the BJP MLA said that wrong information has been provided in the Legislative Assembly and added that the road has been constructed six months back and in support to her claim she presented the picture of the road.

She further sought who would be making the payment and also sought probe in her presence. Minister said that there exists no need of payment as the construction of CC road has not been done. BJP MLAs Ajay Chandrakar, Brijmohan Agrawal and Shivratna Sharma

grilled the Minister on his inadequate reply. Intervening on the issue, the Speaker Dr Charandas Mahant gave ruling to conduct investigation in presence of the Dhamtari MLA.

It was the first question out of the just two questions which could be taken up for discussion during the Question Hour session in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. It became one of the shortest Question Hour session whereas the five-day session was also adjourned in just three days which sparked angry protest by the opposition.

Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel wrote a letter to Assembly Speaker Dr Mahant to register his protest over curtailing the session without taking the opposition into confidence.

RADA apprised State Transport Minister about the Auto Expo

Raipur, Jan 04:

President of Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) Mr. Vivek Garg, State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce Mr. Amar Parwani along with RADA Secretary Mr. Kailash Khemani, Treasurer Mr. Vivek Agrawal and Mr. Jayesh Pithalia met the State Transport Minister Mr. Akbar and congratulated him for the new year. They also informed about the Auto Expo to be organized by RADA to be held from March 24 to March 27, 2023 at the Science College Ground and informed the Minister that in this expo all the automobile dealers of the city, in which two



wheeler, four wheeler, commercial and tractor dealers will participate. In addition to these those related to automobile business like financier, insurance, oil and more than 200 stalls of different categories will be set up in the expo. In this expo, people will be made aware of the

new technology by displaying new vehicles, as well as latest vehicles launched will also be on display. About 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh people visit this auto expo in this four-day expo. After the Auto Expo organized in Delhi, which is the biggest Auto Expo organized by any association

from all over India, this expo has taken a grand form. President of Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA) Mr. Vivek Garg and the delegation informed the minister that the brochure of Auto Expo 2023 was released by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel four days ago. They requested the minister to participate in the event while giving the brochure of Auto Expo 2023. RADA Presidents thanked the minister for the work and policies made by the government in which the customers and automobile traders have benefited and will continue to contribute by cooperating with the government and the transport department.

BJP stages dharna against Cong govt on reservation issue

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday staged a day-long dharna against the Congress government over the delay in the implementation of Reservation for youth in government jobs.

Addressing the demonstration at Ambedkar Chowk dharna spot, the State BJP President and Member of Parliament Arun Sao said that the state government has been patronizing those who have moved Court against the OBC and Tribal Reservation which has exposed the state government. He further alleged hypocrisy on part of the Congress as on the one hand they deny the rights to the people whereas on the other take



out rally against the Constitutional Head. He said that BJP is ready to challenge the anti-people policies of state government and would expose the Congress by standing with the people.

Former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said that the state government has presented the facts on Reservation by manipulating it and has presented such a legislation

which was bound to face obstacle on Constitutional Grounds. He further added that the people of Chhattisgarh are not only agitated on Reservation issue but are angry on the forceful Religious Conversion. He said that the tribals have been cheated under the patronage of Congress government. He also alleged that the Congress government has resorted to politics on

Reservation and Religious Conversion.

Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel said that improper legislation was presented by Congress government in Legislative Assembly to gain political mileage in the just concluded Bhanupratapur Legislative Assembly by-polls.

Former Minister and BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar alleged that the state government is misleading people on Reservation issue and dared the Congress government to present the Quantifiable Date before public.

Raipur Parliamentarian Sunil Soni, Raipur MLA Brijmohan Agrawal and several others also addressed the meeting.

Light drizzle brings sudden fall in mercury

People burn bonfire to take relief: many preferred going to relish hot-dishes

Raipur, Jan 04: Denizens of capital city witnessed light showers since morning hours and sudden dip in the maximum temperature leading to feeling of chilled weather and this also led to minor fog by noon in city and nearby areas. In the coming days, the weather is expected to change drastically and witnessed more of

fall in the minimum and maximum temperature adding more of chill in the winters. In the workers for outside, they preferred to burn bon-fire to take relief from chill weather and other were keeping themselves well covered with woolen clothes to avoid cold and cough. As per reports from the Meteorological department,

Two flights diverted before scheduled landing

Raipur: Two flights of IndiGo and Air India were diverted before the scheduled landing at the Raipur airport in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday due to bad weather, officials said. Due to poor visibility, AIC 651 (Mumbai to Raipur) and IGO 6687 (Ahmedabad to Raipur), which were scheduled to land at Swami Vivekananda Airport, were diverted to Nagpur and Bhubaneswar, respectively, an airport official said. The flight AIC 651 was scheduled to land at 11:53 am while IGO 6687 at 12:37 pm, the official added.

the weather in the state has changed drastically over the last two days and the cool winds from North have led to sharp fall in the maximum and minimum temperature. The northern part of the state is

Schools closed for 3 days in Ambikapur from Jan 7

Ambikapur In view of increasing cold winds and sudden fall in temperature, the school children are the one badly affected in Northern part of Chhattisgarh facing record minimum temperature. In view of this Ambikapur administration has declared it as winter vacation in all the schools and as per the order by the Collector, the primary to Higher Secondary Schools will remain closed for 3 days from Jan 7 onwards, till the weather turns normal. Due to intense fog and cool wind, it is not possible to drive buses and with sudden fall in mercury, it is posing threat to various winter-borne diseases as well.

witnessing more of chilling winds and fall in mercury. Since it was working day, people had to go out as per their convenience and the weather affected strength of young children in schools, as many preferred to stay back. Since the drizzle continued intermittently, people had to resort to breaks and enjoy a cup of tea and snacks taking a break from daily routine. By evening hours, the road-side joints and vendors got maximum cus-

tomers, with people preferring to eat the best of hot-cooked snacks and meals, going out with friends and family and enjoying the chill in the winter season. The most sought after was the soup and pizzas and hot beverages which are the most sought-after dishes among youngsters. The use of hot-blowers in the houses increased, especially for the elders and they preferred to stay home watching TV and relishing hot-dishes at home.

Delegate of SASA met CM, extends New Year greetings



Raipur, Jan 04: The delegation of the State Administrative Service Association (SASA) headed by President Ashutosh Pandey met the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in Vidhansabha on Wednesday and extended the New Year wishes. On this occasion, Treasurer of State Administrative Service Association Harvansh Miri and member and Director of Public Relations Saumil Ranjan Choubey and Arun Markam, Umesh Patel, Suraj Kashyap and other members were present.

Camp placement to be organised by employment office today

Raipur, Jan 04:

District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Raipur will organise a placement camp on January 5 at the old police headquarters premises, Raipur to connect the educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh with employment. A camp will be organised in the District Employment Office from 11 am to 2 pm for the recruitment of unemployed youth on 165 different posts in prestigious institutions. Deputy Director of District Employment Department, Raipur said that Mahavir Shiksha Prasar Samiti will recruit 25 posts of lecturers including manager in this camp. For these posts, Post Graduate in Arts, Science or Commerce subject and B.Ed pass candidates can join the camp. Selected candidates will be given monthly salary ranging from Rs.6000 to Rs.15000.

Similarly, candidates will be selected for recruitment to 90 different posts by Janadhar Kaushal Vikas Samiti. Recruitment will be done on posts like Field Executive, Marketing Executive, District Nodal Officer, Zonal Officer. 12th, Graduate, D.C.A. and PGDCA passed candidates can apply. On selection, a salary ranging from Rs 8,000 to Rs 15,000 will be given. Similarly, Goyal Borewells organization will also recruit 50 posts of Site Engineer, Senior Engineer and Supervisor in the placement camp. Candidates holding BE, B.Tech or Diploma in Civil Engineering can apply for this. If selected, according to the experience, salary will be given from Rs.8 thousand to Rs.25 thousand per month. For information related to the placement camp, District Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters Complex, Raipur can also be contacted.

Millets Cafe will be opened in Mantralaya and Div C-Mart soon: CM

Baghel organizes a 'Millet' luncheon for MLAs to promote the dishes made of millets

Raipur, Jan 04:

On the invitation of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the members of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly attended the Millet Luncheon organized at Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that he enjoyed all the millet delicacies but liked ragi pudding the best. He further said that year 2023 has been declared as Millet year. Last year, we procured 52 thousand quintals of Kodo, Kutki, Ragi. Chhattisgarh is the only state of the country that procures Kodo, Kutki, Ragi on support price and this procurement has largely benefited the farmers and enhanced the production. He said that millets have high nutritional value and hence these should be incorporated in daily diet.

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the Millet Mission of Chhattisgarh. And as per his request and suggestions, Millet Cafes are being opened in Mantralaya and Divisional C-Mart Centers.

It is notable that a lunch-

■ CM enjoyed Ragi pudding the most, praised the taste and texture
■ Legislators relished the delicious taste of ragi pakoras, kodo bhajija and kutki fara



eon was organized for all the members of the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly with the aim of popularizing and showcasing the dishes made from millet. In the same sequence, various delicious items made of Kodo, Kutki and Ragi were prepared and served for the lunch on Wednesday.

Menu full of the amazing dishes of Ragi, Kodo, Kutki:

All kinds of delicacies made of millets were served to the MLAs at the Millets luncheon. These dishes were inspired by the indigenous cuisine of Chhattisgarh. Ragi soup, ragi pakodas, kodo bhajija, bajra and jaggery pudding, kutki fara, ragi, kutki cheela for starters,

Chhattisgarhi bajra curry, laal bhaji, sweet potatoes, Kodo veg Pulao, jowar, bajra, ragi roti and paratha in the main course were relished by all. Moreover, Ragi Kutki's Cupcake, Ragi Ka Halwa, and Kodo's Dry Fruits Kheer were served in the dessert.

Appreciated by the PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently appreciated the Millet Mission of Chhattisgarh. During his stay in Delhi, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had informed Prime Minister Modi about the Millet Mission being run in the state, on which Modi had advised to open Millets Cafe in Raipur.

It is notable that the Millet Mission was started by the state government from 01 December 2021 with chief objective of promoting the cultivation of millets (Kodo, Kutki, Ragi, Jowar etc.), to promote the processing of millets and to encourage inclusion of these nutritious millets in the daily diet.

The biggest processing unit in Kanker:

State Government is procuring Kodo, Kutki and Ragi at minimum support price through Chhattisgarh State Minor Produce Association. In the year 2021-22, nearly 52,728 quintals of Kodo, Kutki and Ragi worth Rs 16.03 crore were procured. To pro-



mote the processing of millet in the state, processing centers have been set up at the local level and a millet processing center of 5,000 ton capacity has been set up in the private sector by Avani Ayurveda in Kanker district. This is Asia's largest millets processing unit.

Millets included in the mid-day meal menu to remove malnutrition Millets have also been included under the mid-day meal program conducted in Chhattisgarh. With an aim to eradicate malnutrition in the state, children in schools are being served the dishes made of millets in the mid-day meal. These include cookies made of millets, laddoos and soya chikki.

Ch'garh first state in the country to procure millets on support price

It is noteworthy that Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country to procure millets at the support price. Under this mission operated in 14 districts of the state, the support price of Kodo-Kutki-Ragi has been fixed, and the arrangements have been made for collection through women self-help groups under the Chhattisgarh Small Forest Produce Cooperative Union. Farmers are being provided exchange grants for millet crops under the ambit of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana. Expert advice has been made available to the farmers to further enhance crop productivity. For this, an MoU has been signed between the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad (IIMR) and 14 District Collectors of the state. IIMR has also taken the responsibility of providing good quality seeds of Kodo, Kutki, Ragi, and proper training of millet farming to the farmers, besides extending the support in setting up the seed bank.

Flag hoisting done in village Malpurikhurd



■ On occasion of Guru Ghasidas Jayanti

Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 04: On the occasion of Guru Ghasidas Jayanti, flag hoisting and honoring ceremony was organized in village Malpurikhurd, unit of Lehanga area under Ahiwara assembly constituency. In which the flag was hoisted and respected at the place of Santosh Banjare, President of Satnami Samaj Ahiwara Vidhan Sabha.

In this the Social Officers of Ahiwara Vidhan Sabha, Gan Patron Parganiha Gaikwad, Kheduram Jangde, President Santosh Banjare, Vice President Jagrut

Banjare, Treasurer Sadai Bandhe, General Secretary Chhannulal Banjare, Secretary and Rampur councillor Rakesh Kurre, Pushpendra Jangde, Pandit Rajkumar, Santram Tandon, Rajendra Banjare, Mahendra Banjare, Shuklal Mahilaang, Dilip Kurre etc were present. On this occasion all the people of the society were honoured and this included Agralal Joshi, Ashwani Joshi, Yuvram Gaikwad, Trilok Banjare and among women Mangtin Yadav, Jiteswari Baghel, Chanda Bharti, Shukhwanti Deshlahre etc. and they were honored with a shawl, quince and citation and a large number of men and women attended the event.

Collector listened to the grievances of common citizens

Bemetara, Jan 04: Collector Jitendra Kumar Shukla heard the problems of villagers and farmers who came from far-flung villages including the city during the weekly Janchoupal on Tuesday. In Janchoupal, 27 applications related to demand, problem and complaint were received. The Collector gave instructions to the concerned officers to dispose of the applications received in Janchoupal within the time limit. The Collector assured the citizens who had brought their problems to the Janchoupal to solve their problems on time. On this occasion, CEO District Panchayat Leena Mandavi, Additional Collector Dr. Anil Bajpai, SDM (Revenue) Bemetara Suruchi Singh, Nawagarh

Praveen Tiwari, Berla Yugal Kishore Urvsha and officers of various departments were present.

Rambai, a resident of village Sankra of tehsil Berla, submitted an application for destitute pension, while Hirendra Kumar Yadav, a resident of village Kirki, applied for refund of the fraud money done through phone-pay in Janchoupal held in the meeting hall of the district office. Ramkumar Barmate, a resident of village Gangpur, applied to get the amount of crop insurance and to improve the record. Charan Das, a resident of village Sirsa (C) submitted an application for providing a motorized tricycle. Avdharam Sahu, a resident of village Khati, gave an application regarding getting

the insurance amount of his wife after her death. Uttara Kumar Verma, a resident of Mehna village, gave an application regarding getting the amount of the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi. Pokhan, a resident of village Patora post Karesara, gave an application regarding getting the amount of crop insurance.

Village Jhal resident Uma Anant regarding acceptance of financial assistance grant amount, Nawagarh resident Jahrun Nisha regarding acceptance of financial assistance grant amount, Anusuiya Bai resident of Mohbhattha village regarding providing National Family Assistance and Widow Pension Gave application.

Guidelines issued regarding 'do's or don'ts' to avoid cold wave

Bemetara, Jan 04: The Chief Medical and Health Officer District Bemetara appealed to the general public that an alert has been issued by the National Disaster Management Authority and the India Meteorological Center that, between the months of December and January, the prevalence and intensity of cold wave takes the form of chilling weather conditions. This year also the cold has started from the month of December. Helpless, homeless, poor, old and school going students etc. in urban and rural areas, all of them are likely to be affected by the cold, for which the guidelines of "what to do or what not to do" have been issued. It has been said in the issued guidelines that go out of the house only when

necessary work is done, listen carefully to the news related to weather and emergency, take care of the elderly and children and do not leave them alone, keep drinking hot water as needed. Do not keep food items in the fridge for more than 48 hours in case of power failure, cover the head and ears with a cap or muffler to avoid cold wave, if using kerosene or coal heater Arrangement of skylight should be made to release gas and smoke, if any effect related to cold is visible on the body - like redness of nose, ear, toes and fingers etc., abnormal temperature condition, excessive trembling, lethargy, weakness, shortness of breath. If you have any problem in etc., then immediately contact your nearest Government Health Institute.

Not taking action against the culprits is unfortunate: Todem

■ Terms attack on tribals as highly condemnable

Jagdalpur, Jan 04:

Rajaram Todem, State Vice President of Sarv Adivasi Samaj, has condemned the deadly attack on the tribal community in Narayanpur area by the converted Christians with sharp weapons and sticks. In a statement issued to the media, he said that since the last four-five days, in many villages of Narayanpur district, the tribal community is being attacked in large numbers by the converted missionaries with sticks and sharp weapons. He said that this incident happened due to appeasement and lax policy of the state government and in the event of failure



tribal community, who were meeting peacefully. It was also said that the intention of the converted missionaries was clearly to kill the people of the tribal society. In this act many Pastors were involved.

The people of the society, who believe in the original tribal culture, somehow saved their lives by hiding from this sudden attack and running away. But many people were injured due to this sudden attack, whose treatment is going on in Narayanpur hospital. He said that the district and police administration should take appropriate action in this matter, otherwise if the society, which believes in the original tribal culture, gets angry, then this situation will be very dangerous, for which the district administration will be responsible.

State level competition from Jan 8 to 10 Under Chhattisgarhia Olympics

Raipur, Jan 04: The state level event of Chhattisgarhia Olympics 2022-23 will now be held from January 08 to January 10, 2023 at various sports grounds in Raipur as well as at the Indoor Stadium. The opening ceremony of the state level Chhattisgarhia Olympics will be held on January 08 at Sardar Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium from 11 am. Competitions of all 14 sports events of Chhattisgarhia Olympics will be held at Sardar Balbir Singh Juneja Stadium, Outdoor Stadium Budhapara, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla Vishwavidyalaya Sports Complex and Swami Vivekananda Stadium, Kota. Various cultural programs will be presented by the participants in the opening ceremony and closing ceremony. There will also be an attractive fireworks display at the closing ceremony. The closing ceremony will be organised at Swami Vivekananda Stadium Kota-Raipur in the evening of January 10th. It may be noted that earlier the date of January 07 to January 09 was fixed for the state level sports competition, which has been changed from January 8 to 10.

SAGES students witnessed astronomical wonders

Sky view Android application became the Astro Tutor for children



Raipur, Jan 04:

A three-day Astro Shala event began in Swami Atmanand English Medium School in Bhilai Sector 6 yesterday, where the students of SAGES witnessed the moon and Jupiter through a reflective telescope with a 110X zooming capacity. SAGES students became the live witness of astronomical events like galaxies. The experience was a dream come true for the children of SAGES.

The Swami Atmanand English Medium School has been established in Sector 6 of Durg, where children will be introduced to other worlds beyond the earth through the Astronomy lab. The Astronomy lab started with a stargazing event yesterday, where students endeavored to understand astronomy with the help

of a tubular reflecting telescope, worth Rs. 50 thousand to 1 lakh. The children were enthralled to find celestial bodies like the moon and Jupiter right in front of their eyes. On this occasion, the Coordinator of the Chhattisgarh Amateur Astronomy Club, Rajesh Lohiya, gave them information about astronomical components and the events related to them. He explained to the children that in the universe, we are moving continuously in orbit and therefore, the position of the earth changes continuously. The earth is both rotating on its axis and also revolving around the sun. He also shared information about how, in the old times, people used the Pole star during the night and the sun during the day as direction indicators. Sky View Android Application became an Astro Tutor for chil-

■ Three-day 'Astro Shala' began in SAGES

dren. The children were also given information about the Sky View Android Application. Through this application, children can gain information about astronomical objects by pointing the mobile anywhere in the sky. The coordinator said that this application works like an Astro Tutor for children.

The Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena had given instructions for innovation so that children can gain a better understanding of the world of astronomy and opt for it as a career in the future. The Commissioner of Nagar Nigam Bhilai, Rohit Vyas, made a unique initiative in the field of astronomy events and the astronomy lab. The Mayor of the Nagar Nigam Bhilai, Neeraj Paul, has also praised the initiative.

On this occasion, the trainee IAS Assistant Collector Lakshman Tiwari, the District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal, the Principal of SAGES Baljeet Korada, Astro Lab Developer Anushtha DasVaishnav, Astro Lab Designer Atul Jindal, and other SAGES teachers were also present.

Be alert to maintain law and order: Collector



Jagdalpur, Jan 04: Collector Chandan Kumar instructed all the magistrates and police officers to work cautiously to maintain the law and security system. On Tuesday, a meeting of magistrate and police officers was organized in the meeting room of the district office. SSP Jitendra Meena, Addl. Collector Hareesh Mandavi, Addl. SP Nivedita Paul, CSP Vikas Kumar, all the SDMs, Executive Magistrates, all the Sub-Divisional Officers of the Police Department and Station House Officers were present in the meeting. The Collector praised the officers for maintaining law and order during Christmas and New Year, while stressing on working with constant vigilance to maintain peace. He especially instructed to keep vigil on anti-social elements and to take prompt action on receiving information about any incident. He directed to maintain continuous dialogue with the public and make continuous efforts to increase

Renovate the SDM and Tehsil office

Collector Chandan Kumar instructed to reconstruct the new SDM and Tehsil office on the basis of public facilities. In the meeting held in the 'Prerna' meeting Room of the District Office on Tuesday, the Collector said that the government has made funds available for the renovation of Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Tehsil offices and for increasing the facilities of the public.

While reviewing the works conducted by the Revenue Department, the Collector gave instructions to the sub-divisional magistrates for quick redressal of complaints related to land acquisition for laying slurry pipeline. Expressing displeasure over the delay in resolving the cases of undisputed transfer, the Collector directed to resolve the cases within time-limit. Along with this, a detailed review of the disposal of applications for caste certificates being issued to school students was also done. During the review of the time-limit cases, the Collector discussed about the registration of farmers willing to sell paddy.

The Collector directed the officers of the Education Department to carry out continuous inspection of the schools. He said that disciplinary action should be taken against the teachers who remain absent without the permission of the competent authority. Along with this, instructions were also given to get the information about the lesson plan from the teachers. Along with this, he also discussed about the operation of mini Anganwadi centers in remote areas.

Women in large number take part in Jan-Andolan



Nandini Ahiwara, Jan 04: On the appeal of State Congress and under the guidance of Cabinet Minister Guru Rudra Kumar, 110 women participated in the Jan Andolan rally under the leadership of Ahiwara Block President Rampal Navik. District President Narasimha Rao thanked the women who participated in the said rally and

congratulated the workers of the successful program. On this occasion Heera Verma (Block President Ahiwara), Umesh Sahu (Mandi President), Jagdish Markande (Labour Cell), Shamsheer Khan (City Convener Ravelidih), Afsana Begum, Khatija Bano (City President) Ruby Khan, Maktum Bano participated in the Jan Andolan Maharally.

DAV National sports meet at Ranchi and Jalandhar

Central Chronicle News

Bacheli, Jan 04: DAV National Sports for boys was held at Ranchi (Jharkhand) from Dec 23-25, 2022. Anant Naidu of 12th Commerce participated in 100mt, 200 mt races and in boxing. He bagged third position and got a bronze medal in 200mt race.

The football team of DAVPS, Bacheli reached quarter final. The team members were Hari Jal, Komant Tiwari, CherukuHarshit, Vivek Khurra, Nishidh Manik, NihalBaghel.



DAV National Sports for girls was held at Jalandhar (Punjab) from Dec 29-31. Chanchal Naidu of XI Commerce participated in 200mt race and NishaTamo of



Class IX participated in 400mt race.

The Principal, Dr. Chetna Sharma along with her team blessed the students for their

participation and achievements. N. Patra the sports teacher escorted the boys and Kavita Das (TGT Biology) escorted the girls team.

People welcome New Year enthusiastically

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 04: People of the region welcomed the New Year 2023 in their own way on Sunday and religious places, tourist places, temples, hotels; restaurants took a busy look throughout the day.

There were a lot of fireworks after midnight on Saturday and in the streets and lanes, the youth kept dancing and singing to the tune of the band instruments throughout the night.

Mata Ghatarani and Mata Jatmai, Kukda Dam, Sikasar Reservoir, Ramai Path, Vallabhacharya's



city Champaran, located in the middle of the forest and mountain, more than one lakh people had gathered and the place bared a festive look.

Many people after worshipping Shri Rajeev

Lochan Temple in the religious city of Rajim, reached Shri Kuleshwar Mahadev Temple and Lomash Rishi Ashram located in the middle of the Sangam River through Laxman Jhula.

While Laxman Jhula has the capacity to carry 10,000 people, people took security at hand when more than the capacity of the swinging bridge, people were witnessed throughout the day.

Similarly, lakhs of people also gathered at Mata Jatmai and Ghatarani situated between the forest and the mountain and there was a train of vehicles here.

However the New Year also saw a poor picture when the sight gatherers had left scattered plastic cups plates and other objects strewn under the open sky.

75 bags of paddy seized

Central Chronicle News

Pandariya, Jan 04: These days the work of illegal paddy consumption is going on in full swing in the paddy procurement centers of Vananchal of Pandariya-Block.

According to the information received, on Monday morning, 75 sacks of paddy from Amarpur village were filled in mator number CG 10BD 1360 and taken to the paddy procurement center located at Kodava Godan, which was seized on the instructions of the SDM SDM DR Dahire.

During interrogation, Amarpur resident Pilaram Sahu was found with the seized paddy. A possibility is being expressed that the said paddy would be being taken by a trader through



the loan book of another farmer with a view to consume it here. Similarly another illegal paddy has been reported under Kukdur police station itself.

As per information, the traders of Mungeli district are consuming their

paddy in the cooperatives of Vananchal block via Kodavagodan. SDM DR Dahire said that the Kukdur police seized illegal paddy in Kodavagodan and illegal transportation of paddy in the border areas is being continuously monitored.

Continuous increase in passenger comfort

Bilaspur, Jan 04: The railway administration is working towards increasing passenger convenience continuously. In the same sequence, the railway administration has permanently provided 01 AC-3 coach facility in train number 18518/18517 Visakhapatnam-Korba-Visakha-patnam Link Express for better travel convenience of passengers and to provide confirmed berths to maximum number of passengers. This facility has been made available in train number 18518 Visakhapatnam-Korba Express from Visakhapatnam from January 01, 2023 and in train number 18517 Korba-Visakhapatnam Express from Korba from January 02, 2023. With the availability of this facility, more and more passengers traveling in Link Express are getting the facility of confirmed berth.

Four rice mills blacklisted

For depositing fake bank guarantees**Central Chronicle News**

Gorella-Pendra-Marwahi, Jan 04: Four rice mills were blacklisted in the matter of lifting paddy by depositing fake bank guarantees by District Collector Ms. Richa Prakash Chowdhary.

In the Kharif year 2021-22, a complaint was made against 4 rice millers located in Anjani, an industrial area of Nagar Panchayat Gorela, regarding lifting of paddy by depositing forged bank guarantees in the district marketing office.

Taking the complaint seriously, the Collector constituted an inquiry team under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate and ordered an inquiry.

In the investigation, Shyam Industries, Shyam

**Richa Prakash Chowdhary**

Food Products, Yash Modern Food Products and Yash Rice Mill, have been confirmed by depositing a forged bank guarantee of Rs 21.50 crore in the District Marketing Office.

In the year 2022-23 also, at the beginning of the Kharif season, the said 4

firms, Shyam Industries, Shyam Food Products, Yash Modern Food Products and Yash Rice Mill, Anjani Gorela, deposited fake papers.

In the investigation, conclusion between the officials of the farms and the bank and verification of the bank guarantee by the

district marketing officer was not found as per the rules.

The investigation report was sent to the government, on the basis of which Chhattisgarh government has issued an order by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Naya Raipur, and the four firms have been blacklisted for the year 2022-23 till further orders.

The paddy which has been lifted by the said millers in the current Kharif year 2022-23, will be deposited under the supervision of the District Marketing Office during the contract period.

The District Marketing Officer has been suspended by Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Naya Raipur.

40-Bedded Eye Hospital inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Jan 04: The district got a revamp in health care with the opening of 40-bed eye hospital in the New Year and apart from this, facility service of specialist doctors including 100-bed mother and child hospital, dialysis, surgery, dental treatment will be continued to be available in the district hospital this year.

In the coming New Year, facility of 119 types of tests will also be available through CT scan, Hummer Lab, MR machine in orthopedics along with surgery, complex operations ranging from knee replacement to hip bone are also being done in the district hospital.

From this year itself 100 bedded Mother and Child Hospital was started, where apart from normal and caesarean deliv-



ery facility of SNCU center is available for the care of prematurely born babies. Sonography and various types of modern X-ray machine, including sonography machine, modern X-ray machine and root canal treatment are being done daily in Dental OPD.

Dr. MK Roy, Civil Surgeon cum Chief

Hospital Superintendent of the District Hospital said that services have increased after the recruitment of specialist doctors, from January 2022 to November 2022; about 1923 deliveries have taken place in the district hospital.

In the district hospital, 740 patients have been operated for eye, 76 patients

related to bone diseases and 21 patients related to nose; ear and throat diseases have been operated. 77 thousand 791 patients were treated in OPD and at the same time, 9 thousand 770 people were admitted in the hospital. 5 thousand 239 patients were treated in the Dental OPD and 1114 children were treated in SNCU.

Indiaka game has its roots in Martial Art Club

Dalli-Rajhara, Jan 04: The Indiaka game has its roots in Dalli Rajhara Martial Art Club in Balod district. Indiaka Sports is a sport similar to volleyball, whose international organization is based in Germany and as per information, till now the game is being played in 22 countries and in India in 15 states the game is played. Chhattisgarh's Indiaka National Level Seminar and National Competition were held in UP in the month of May 2022 and stood second. In this game there are teams of 10 players in which five play and the other five are extra players. The next Nationals of this game are being held in Guru Gobind Singh Stadium, Maharashtra, in which 45 players and 10 officials are taking part. The players are mainly by name Tushar Ramtake, Enos John, Lavdeep Singh Simran Sahu and others.

Daily wage employees plans to hold protest in Feb

In support of their demand of regularisation**Central Chronicle News**

Birkonji, Jan 04: Meeting of Chhattisgarh Daily Wagers Forest Employees' Association, Barnawapara Project Mandal, Raipur was held at 'Van Chetana Kendra', Khallari Mandir Parishad here on Monday. In this state gen. secy. of Association Ramkumar Sinha informed that the state government in its election manifesto has promised for regularisation of daily wage employees, but not a single daily wage employee has been regularised till date and due to which there is great deal of resentment among the daily wagers.

In this meeting a decision was taken to stage protest in support of the



demands of daily wage employees. The meeting was attended by 'Van Vikas Nigam' President Janaklal Sahu, V-P Devendra Thakur, Sachiv-Dihuram Sahu, Asst. Secy. Sandeep Pandey, Treasurer-Poonam Sahu, member Govind Prasad Kurre, Uttam Patel, Bharti

Leela Yadav, Gunjari Sahu, Arjun Dhruv, Deendayal Yadav, Media in-Charge Laxminarayan Sahu, and other daily wage employees were present, informs President of Daily Wage Employee Birkonji-Janaklal Sahu in a press release.

Increase financial facilities for devp of agri infrastructure: Kumar

**Central Chronicle News**

Jagdarpur, Jan 04: Collector Chandan Kumar gave instructions to increase financial facilities for the development of agricultural infrastructure in the district. On Wednesday, a meeting of Agriculture and allied departments was organized in the meeting room of the district office. Representatives of Agricultural and Processed

Food Products Export Development Authority including NABARD were present in the meeting. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding financial requirements in the implementation of schemes related to agriculture development run by the central and state governments. Discussion was also held regarding the credit facilities provided by the banks to the farmers. Along with encourag-

ing progressive farmers to set up processing units, cold storage etc. to preserve agricultural products, instructions were also given by the Collector to include activities related to them for the success of the Millet Mission. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Prakash Survey and officials of Agriculture, Horticulture and Mandi Board were present in the meeting.

MP Deepak Baij launch Mission Self-reliant-2023

- Disabled people of Bastar will get benefit of home access services
- Chariot of Social Welfare Department at the door of disabled people, every disabled person will get the benefit of government's schemes

Central Chronicle News

Jagdarpur, Jan 04: Mission Self-reliant-2023 was launched by the district administration on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. Through this, the reach of the Social Welfare Department to every disabled person of Bastar district will be ensured.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the programme, 5 awareness chariots were flagged off by Bastar Member of Parliament Deepak Baij, from a hearing-impaired government school located



in Adawal. There will be a team of 10 people in this awareness chariot of Social Welfare Department which will reach every village of Bastar district together. That is, together a team of 50 people will be ready to help the disabled.

The team involved in these will take information from the disabled people on a questionnaire of 21 points, under which it can be ascertained whether the UDID card of the disabled people has been made or not, whether their Aadhar card has been made or not, due to which the right ben-

efits of the schemes of the government will be given to the disabled. Will be able to reach and proper data will also be available with the department. On this occasion, Bastar MP Deepak Baij said that the Social Welfare Department always remains ahead for the betterment of the disabled. The work being done by the department always inspires them. He also said that the schemes of the government have brought a new dawn in the lives of the disabled people of the state. The MP also talked about meeting the demand

of the hearing-impaired government school teacher, along with providing facilities for a playground. Indravati Authority's Vice President Rajeev Sharma said on the occasion that the work being done by the department for the disabled is incomparable. It will bring a positive change in the society. He said that the Chhattisgarh government is fully prepared to fulfill every demand of the disabled. Resources are being supplied by the government for every demand of the disabled. The deputy director

of the department, Vaishali Maradwar informed that through this camp, the social welfare department will have complete information about each and every disabled person of the district.

The program was started by singing Rajgeet by the visually-impaired government school children. Along with this, the statue of Louis Braille, the father of Braille script, was also unveiled in the school premises. Mobile handsets were provided to 17 visually-impaired students of the school in the programme.

At the end of the program, prizes were also distributed by the guests to the visually-hearing impaired government school children. Additional Collector Hareesh Mandavi, Secretary of Bastar Division Divyang Jan Samiti Jugdhar Kashyap, members of Madrasa Board participated in the programme.

BRIEF



A child wrapped in woolens on a street during a cold winter morning, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Nominated

New Delhi: Ten aldermen have been nominated to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi ahead of Friday's mayoral poll, an official notification said. Aldermen refers to people who are experts in their fields. However, they do not have voting rights in the mayoral election.

Refuse

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to transfer criminal cases against Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, pending in a Rampur special court, outside Uttar Pradesh on grounds of alleged "persecution". A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice S Nazeer and Justice PS Narasimha said it needed more cogent reasons for transferring the ongoing criminal cases against Khan.

Shut

Ranchi: All primary schools in Jharkhand will remain closed till January 8 amid the cold wave that gripped the state, according to a government notification. The minimum temperature in Ranchi will be hovering between 7 and 10 degrees Celsius till January 8 with fog and cloudy sky.

Nat'l status

Sagar Island: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday demanded that the Centre accord national status for the annual Gangesagar Mela which will be held here next week in the state's South 24 Parganas district.

Deployed

Jammu: In a bid to enhance security setup in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, authorities on Wednesday are deploying a large number of CRPF companies to secure minority areas in the region. The development comes in view of twin terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in which six people of a minority community including two children were killed and 11 others were injured.

Arrested

Chennai: Two DMK functionaries have been arrested for allegedly misbehaving with a woman police constable, said police on Wednesday. The police arrested the two after examining CCTV footage of the incident that occurred on December 31 at a public meeting got up here by the DMK to commemorate the birth centenary of party leader K Anbazhagan.

CPI(M) leader Saji Cheriyan sworn-in as Kerala Minister

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 04 (PTI): CPI(M) leader Saji Cheriyan was on Wednesday again sworn in as Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan government, nearly six months after he had resigned from the Cabinet following a furore over his alleged remarks against the Constitution.



Cheriyan was administered the oath of office by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan at the Raj Bhavan where MLAs of the Congress-led UDF opposition were absent in protest against the reinstatement of the CPI(M) leader.

Speaker A N Shamseer, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, members of his Cabinet, few MLAs of the ruling LDF and some Left leaders were present at the simple and brief swearing-in ceremony where Cheriyan took solemn oath to uphold the Constitution and perform his duties according to it.

After attending the tea party hosted by the Governor at Raj Bhavan, Cheriyan drove to his old office at the Kerala Secretariat Annex where he met mediapersons and expressed hope that he would get the same portfolios he was holding before his resignation.

He held the portfolios of Fisheries, Culture and Youth Affairs prior to his resignation. Both the Congress and BJP held protests against reinstatement of Cheriyan. Several Congress activists marched to Raj Bhavan

and the party also announced a series of protest programmes across the State against Cheriyan's swearing-in.

Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly V D Satheesan said Cheriyan had to quit his minister-ship as he had insulted the Constitution.

"There is no change in the circumstance even now and no court has exonerated him till date. Cases against him are pending before both the magistrate court and high court," he said.

The decision to re-induct him in the Cabinet before a final decision comes from the court amounts to insulting the Constitution, the Congress leader said adding that the party could not accept this at any cost.

The BJP also staged protests in several parts of the State against the ruling CPI(M)'s decision to re-induct Cheriyan in the Cabinet.

Over 95,000 beneficiaries reject house sites provided

Amaravati, Jan 04 (PTI):

More than 95,000 women beneficiaries, who were given house sites in Andhra Pradesh two years ago, are now refusing to build houses under a government scheme for a variety of reasons, according to Housing Department officials.

The beneficiaries have been asking the state government to provide them sites at alternative locations as the layouts now proposed are either far away from human habitations or close to burial grounds, the officials said.

This has pushed the government into a quandary as it will be required to spend close to Rs 800 crore to find alternative sites.

"If we are to fulfil the demand, we will have to ac-

quire more than 2,000 acres of land from private owners for these people. Previously, what we gave away was government land," a top official of the Housing Department said.

The department officials informed Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy recently that there were 95,106 "tough cases" where the beneficiaries were refusing to take the house site (1.5 cents each) and also build a house.

Officials pointed out that in at least 30 per cent of the cases, the new housing layouts were "located near unsuitable areas like burial grounds".

In another 30 per cent of the cases, the proposed layouts were far away from the existing habitations because of which the beneficiaries were rejecting

By AP govt

them. Such problems have cropped up in many mandal headquarter towns and in some semi-urban areas. In some districts, the officials grouped people from two-three villages and sought to develop a single layout, away from the villages. Here, the beneficiaries are demanding that they be provided sites in their respective villages only.

Special Chief Secretary (Housing) Ajay Jain, however, maintained that the problem arose only in respect of about 50,000 beneficiaries.

"We have asked the district collectors to conduct a survey and identify alternative land for house sites. After the survey, we will

TRIBUTES TO LOUIS BRAILLE



Specially-abled women pay tributes to the statue of Louis Braille on the occasion of World Braille day, at a disabled-friendly park, in Hyderabad, Wednesday.

SC sets aside HC order directing CBI probe

Against ex-CM Trivendra Rawat

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside an order of the Uttarakhand High Court which directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate corruption allegations against former chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.

The high court on October 27, 2020 had ordered the CBI probe into the allegations levelled against the BJP leader while quashing an FIR against journalists Umesh Sharma and Shiv Prasad Semwal. The top court noted that the two journalists had moved the high

court seeking quashing of an FIR against them and had not sought any inquiry into the allegations of corruption that they levelled in social media.

It said there was no prayer for an inquiry or to initiate criminal proceedings against Rawat.

A bench of justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar said the order passed by the high court is unsustainable and in violation of the principles of natural justice.

"The impugned directions calling for a criminal investigation against the appellant and the observations made are hereby quashed and set aside.

PROTEST AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE



Chanakya National Law University students block Bailey Road during a protest against the alleged sexual abuse of an intern, in Patna, Wednesday.

RPI's Kawade group joins hands with CM Shinde-led Shiv Sena

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

The ruling Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena and Jogendra Kawade-led People's Republican Party of India on Wednesday announced an alliance ahead of civic and local body elections in Maharashtra. The alliance could bring in Dalit votes for the Chief Minister Shinde-led party which is seeking to consolidate its base after splitting the Shiv Sena last year and toppling the Uddhav Thackeray government. Speaking at a press conference with Shinde, Kawade said he was forming alliance only with the 'Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena' (the official name of the Shinde group) "Maharashtra has got a

very daring chief minister. There is a feeling that this is a government of everyone. We are very impressed by him," said Kawade, a veteran Dalit leader.

The main ideological thrust of the alliance would be the reformist ideals of Jyotiba Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Dr B R Ambedkar and 'Prabodhankar' Thackeray (Sena founder Bal Thackeray's father who was a well-known reformer), Kawade said. Notably, the tie-up was announced when talks are on-going with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi of Prakash Ambedkar, an influential Dalit leader.

Bhaichung's HSP forms alliance with Sikkim Republican Party

Gangtok, Jan 04 (PTI):

Legendary footballer Bhaichung Bhutia-led Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) on Wednesday formed an alliance with another regional party, K B Rai-led Sikkim Republican Party, ahead of the assembly and Lok Sabha elections due next year.

The two parties also announced a three-point Common Minimum Programme (CMP), which includes implementation of Inner Line Permit in Sikkim, reservation of seats in the assembly for Nepali-speaking people and preservation and protection of Article 371F.

Addressing a joint press

conference here, Bhutia and Rai asserted that the people of the Himalayan state want the two parties to join forces and fight the next assembly polls together.

They asserted that Sikkimese people are looking up to them as an alternative to the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), which has "failed to deliver its promises made during the 2019 assembly polls and has been inclined to hold on to power just for the sake of it without doing anything worthwhile for the people of the state".

Bhutia said Sikkim needs a political coalition that will raise voice to secure, protect and preserve

the rights of the people. "We need leaders who will speak in the assembly and Parliament without fear or obligations. We need strong leaders and political parties to implement the three-point agenda we have raised today," he said.

The HSP president said that in the coming days, both parties will fight for the three-point CMP from a common platform.

"Younger generations must understand the provisions in Article 371F," Bhutia said.

He said seat reservation for Nepali-speakers was in place in Sikkim Assembly till 1979, and this is not a new demand but its restoration will require political will.

Rajasthan helicopter joyride service shuts down

Within week due to violation of forest rules

Jaisalmer, Jan 04 (PTI):

The helicopter joy ride service which was inaugurated by two ministers and the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) chairman in Jaisalmer was stopped within a week due to violation of forest rules.

The helipad is located in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ), adjacent to desert national park (DNP) which is the habitat of the endangered bird the Great Indian Bustard or Godawan.

There was no environmental clearance for this activity following which the forest department wrote a letter to the

Jaisalmer district collector to ensure that the service was immediately stopped.

A forest official said the activity was a violation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.

The helicopter joyride was an initiative of the RTDC under which a private company was providing the service.

"The helipad was located in the eco-sensitive zone adjacent to the desert national park. The company had no clearance from the forest department to operate flying from there. Such activities are prohibited as per the central gov-

ernment's guidelines regarding ESZ," Ashish Vyas, Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) of the Desert National Park (DNP), told PTI.

He said the service was stopped on Tuesday.

DNP is famous for Godawan or Great Indian Bustard.

Wildlife lovers and locals had raised objections over flying near the DNP with an argument that this was disturbing the wildlife.

Mal Singh Jamda, secretary of Godawan Conservation Society, said the helicopter was ferrying over Godawan habitat, which was a disturbing activity for the bird.

Video shows BRS MLA 'slapping' toll plaza worker, goes viral

Mancherial (Telangana), Jan 04 (PTI): A video-clip from a CCTV footage purportedly showed an MLA of the ruling BRS in Telangana assaulting a worker of a toll plaza and went viral on social media, prompting the legislator to deny the allegations.

The clip beamed by local TV news channels also purportedly showed the Bellampalli MLA Durgam Chinniah slapping the worker near the plaza on a national highway in Mancherial district on Tuesday. The incident happened when the MLA was travelling in his car.

The footage shows some people, including a gunman, near the toll plaza. It further shows a person approaching a man and slap-

ping him after which the man is seen moving away. The legislator, on his part, denied media reports on the incident. According to the MLA, a toll fee was being collected even before the work on the highway was completed. "I only enquired regarding the norms. There was no response from officials. When I asked for their manager, this person (toll plaza staff) spoke rudely to me. I did not manhandle or attack anyone," Chinniah said. A senior police official told PTI that no complaint has been lodged till now, but an inquiry has begun. "We've not received any sort of complaint till now. We are verifying and will proceed accordingly," the official said.

British PM Sunak wants all pupils to study maths to age 18

London, Jan 04 (PTI):

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is looking at plans to ensure all pupils in England study maths in some form until the age of 18, according to a media report on Wednesday.

In lines briefed to journalists ahead of his first speech of 2023, the Indian-origin prime minister is expected to say the UK must reimagine its approach to numeracy, the BBC News reported.

"In a world where data is everywhere and statistics underpin every job, our children's jobs will require more analytical skills than ever before," he will say.

"And letting our children out into the world without those skills, is letting our children down".

Just half of 16 to 19-year-olds in the UK study maths, according to Sunak - but this figure includes



pupils doing science courses and those who are already doing compulsory GCSE resits in college, the report said.

It is not clear what the plans will mean for students who wish to study humanities or creative arts qualifications, including BTecs and no new qualifications are immediately planned and there are no plans to make A-levels compulsory.

The government is instead exploring expanding

existing qualifications as well as "more innovative options", a Downing Street spokesperson said.

The idea appears to be an aspiration rather than a fully developed policy, with the precise mechanics for how it would work not set out.

The government acknowledges it would not be possible to implement before the next general election, although the prime minister is expected to begin working on the plan in this parliament, the report said.

The Association of School and College Leaders, however, said there was a "chronic national shortage of maths teachers" in the UK.

And Labour's shadow education secretary Bridget Phillipson called on Sunak to "show his working" on how greater participation in maths will be funded.

US stands with Afghan women: White House

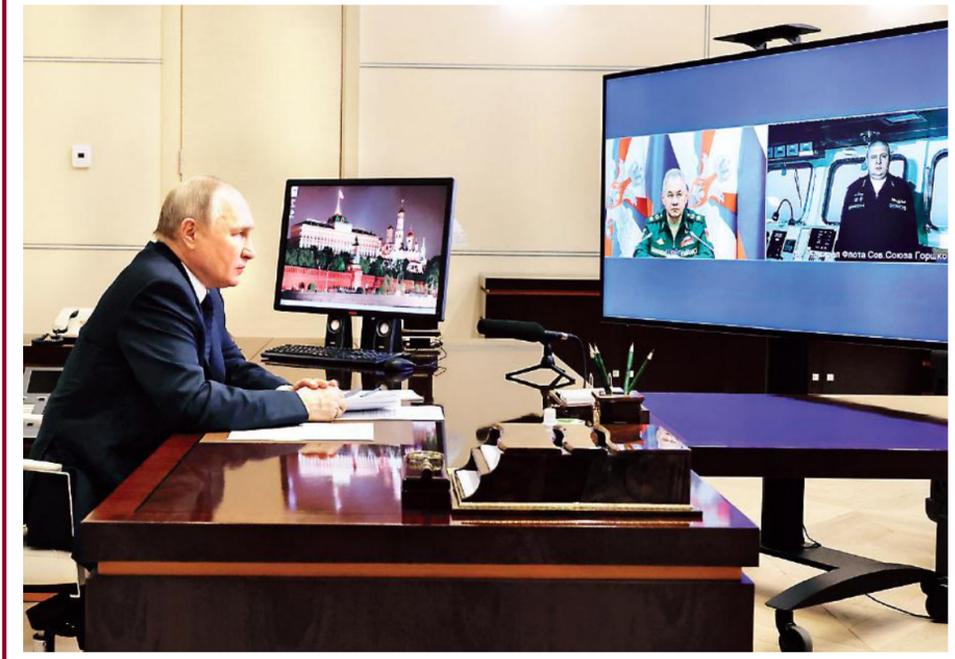
Washington, Jan 04 (PTI):

The United States stands with the women of Afghanistan and strongly condemns the recent Taliban move regarding restrictions on girls' education in the country, the White House said on Tuesday.

"We stand with Afghan women and condemn the Taliban's indefensible decision to restrict women's education and their rights. So, as we have made clear, these actions by the Taliban will further alienate them from the international community and deny them the legitimacy that they so desire," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

"We remain in touch with our partners and allies on this issue, and we'll continue to take steps to advance our shared efforts to support Afghan women and girls and provide a robust humanitarian support to the people in Afghanistan.

PUTIN ATTENDS A VIDEOCONFERENCE



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a videoconference with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, on a tv screen, and Igor Krokhnal, commander of the frigate named "Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Gorshkov", right on a tv screen, in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Jan. 4.

UN Security Council welcomes new members; 2 are first-timers

United Nations, Jan 04 (AP): Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland got a formal welcome into the U.N. Security Council taking the two-year seats they won unopposed in June.

In a tradition that Kazakhstan started in 2018, the five countries' ambassadors installed their national flags Tuesday alongside those of other members outside the council chambers.

Mozambican Ambassador Pedro Comissiro Afonso of Mozambique called it "a historic date" and Swiss Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl said she felt "a deep sense of humility and responsibility" as their countries marked their first-ever terms on U.N.'s most powerful body. Malta joined for a second time, Ecuador a fourth and Japan a record 12th.

Twin bombings targeting Somalia's military kill at least 10



Mogadishu, Jan 04 (AP):

Police in Somalia say two suicide car bombers killed at least 10 people early Wednesday when they targeted a military facility in a region at the heart of the government's

offensive against al-Shabab extremists. The attack occurred in the Mahaas district of Hiran region after the dawn prayer. "It was loud and heard all across the town," resident Osman Abdullahi told The

Associated Press. "I have rescued several people wounded in the attack, including soldiers and journalists who were embedded with soldiers."

Police official Mahad Abdulle told the AP the vehicles exploded in a neighbourhood full of civilians and that at least 10 people were killed. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack. Mahaas is at the centre of the ongoing government offensive against al-Shabab, the al-Qaida-linked group of thousands of fighters that has controlled parts of central and southern Somalia for years. The government has vowed to defeat it this year.

The Somali army, together with local militias, recently opened a key supply route to Mahaas after it had long been under siege.

Authorities on Wednesday ordered shopping malls and markets to close by 8.30 pm as part of a new energy conservation plan aimed at easing Pakistan's economic crisis, officials said. The move comes amid talks with the International Monetary Fund.

On Tuesday, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif and Minister for Power Ghulam Dastghir said the government decided to shut establishments early as part of the new energy conservation plan approved by the Cabinet. Authorities also ordered wedding halls and restaurants to shut at 10 pm. The government expects these measures to save energy and curtail the costs of imported oil, for which Pakistan spends USD 3 billion annually. In Pakistan, most of the elec-

tricity is generated by using imported oil. So far, there has been a mixed reaction from representatives of shopping malls, restaurants and shop owners who want the government to reverse the decision. Many Pakistanis do their shopping and dine at restaurants as late as midnight. Business leaders say the new measures will have a negative impact on their establishments, which suffered during the pandemic under government-imposed lockdowns to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Since 2021, the coronavirus has caused 36,000 deaths out of 1.5 million cases in Pakistan. Pakistan is currently in talks with the IMF to soften some conditions on its USD 6 billion bailout, which the government thinks will cause a further increase in inflation.

Pakistan orders malls to close early amid economic crisis

Islamabad, Jan 04 (AP):

Authorities on Wednesday ordered shopping malls and markets to close by 8.30 pm as part of a new energy conservation plan aimed at easing Pakistan's economic crisis, officials said. The move comes amid talks with the International Monetary Fund.

On Tuesday, Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif and Minister for Power Ghulam Dastghir said the government decided to shut establishments early as part of the new energy conservation plan approved by the Cabinet. Authorities also ordered wedding halls and restaurants to shut at 10 pm. The government expects these measures to save energy and curtail the costs of imported oil, for which Pakistan spends USD 3 billion annually. In Pakistan, most of the elec-

tricity is generated by using imported oil. So far, there has been a mixed reaction from representatives of shopping malls, restaurants and shop owners who want the government to reverse the decision. Many Pakistanis do their shopping and dine at restaurants as late as midnight. Business leaders say the new measures will have a negative impact on their establishments, which suffered during the pandemic under government-imposed lockdowns to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Since 2021, the coronavirus has caused 36,000 deaths out of 1.5 million cases in Pakistan. Pakistan is currently in talks with the IMF to soften some conditions on its USD 6 billion bailout, which the government thinks will cause a further increase in inflation.

Pakistani Taliban threatens to target top leaders of PML-N and PPP

Islamabad, Jan 04 (PTI): The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on Wednesday threatened to target the top leaders of the two major political parties in the ruling coalition if they continued to support tough measures against the militants. The TTP, which is believed to be close to al-Qaeda, has warned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari led Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) - the two major parties of the ruling coalition. "If these two parties remain firm on their position and continue to be slaves of the army, then action will be taken against their leading people," a statement issued by the militant group said. The group warned that "people should avoid getting close to such leading people." It claimed that the TTP was only waging what it called "jihad" in Pakistan and "our target is the security agencies occupying the country".

South Korea: Talks with US on management of nukes underway

Seoul, Jan 04 (AP):

South Korea maintained that Seoul and Washington are discussing its involvement in U.S. nuclear weapons management in the face of intensifying North Korean threats, after President Joe Biden denied that the allies were discussing joint nuclear exercises.

The purported difference came as South Korea is seeking a greater U.S. security commitment after North Korea's record number of missile tests and escalating nuclear doctrine last year caused security jitters among many people in the South.

Some experts say South Korea's statement on the discussion is likely largely based on an agreement between their defence chiefs in November to conduct table-top exercises, usually computer simulations, annually and further strengthen the alliance's information sharing, joint planning and execution. In November, they also reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to providing extended deterrence, a reference to a U.S. promise to use full U.S. capabilities, including nuclear, to protect its allies.

In a newspaper interview published Monday, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said that Seoul and Washington were pushing for joint planning and training involving U.S. nuclear assets and that the United States responded positive-

Biden renominates Eric Garcetti as envoy to India

Washington, Jan 04 (PTI):

US President Joe Biden has renominated Eric Garcetti as his envoy to India, with the White House exuding confidence that the former Mayor of Los Angeles would be confirmed by the Senate this time. Garcetti, 51, is a close aide of President Biden. He has been Mayor of Los Angeles since 2013.

"Eric M Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India," the White House said after sending the nomination to the Senate. The move came as the White House began renominating can-

didates who were not confirmed in the last Congress. "As Secretary (of State, Antony) Blinken said very recently, our relationship with India is crucial and it's consequential, so we see this as a very important nomination," White



House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Tuesday at her daily news conference.

In July 2021, President Biden nominated Garcetti as his Ambassador to India. His nomination was initially blocked by Republican Senator Chuck

Grassley because of allegations of inappropriate behaviour by one of his senior staffers.

Though the hold on his nomination had been lifted, he could not be confirmed by the last Congress.

"We will continue to seek the confirmation of Mayor Garcetti, who has who was voted out of committee unanimously and with strong bipartisan support to serve as ambassador to India," Jean-Pierre said.

"And that's important, as we're talking about bipartisanship, as we're talking (about) how we're going to move forward.

Government Of Chhattisgarh, Water Resources Department
Office of The Executive Engineer
Hasdeo Canal W/M Division, Janjgir-Champa
Distt. Janjgir-Champa (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
CORRIGENDUM NO. 2

Following corrigendum is issued against NIT No. 07/SAC/2022-23, Dated: 28.11.2022, System No. 115412, G. No.-96832 Dt. 19.12.2022 (FIRST- CALL) in the aforesaid tenders, the amendment is done in the earlier circulated date as follows -

S. No.	Particulars	NIT No.	Previous Published	Read as
1.	Bid Start date & time (The date and time from which bidders start preparation / submission of their bid response, before this bidder's action will not be allowed.)	07	20.12.2022 (17.31)	05.01.2023 (17.31)
2.	Bid Due date & time (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted.)		03.01.2023 (17.30)	19.01.2023 (17.30)
3.	Bid Open, Start date & time (The date of opening of Envelope- A & B online)		04.01.2022 (11.30)	20.01.2022 (11.30)

All Other Terms and Conditions of NIT will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer,
Hasdeo Canal W/M Division
Janjgir-Champa (C.G.)

G-97318/1

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता,
महानदी गोदावरी कछार, जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
eProcurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय का आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 21/वलेलि/2022-23 दिनांक 24.11.2022 सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 115000 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) विज्ञापन क्र. 96128 (में एक ही निविदाकार को योग्य पाये जाने से प्रतिस्पर्धा का अभाव एवं एकल निविदा की स्थिति निर्मित होने के कारण) एवं निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 22/वलेलि/2022-23 दिनांक 24.11.2022 सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 115001 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) विज्ञापन क्र. 96129 तथा निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 18/वलेलि/2022-23 रायपुर, दिनांक 17.11.2022 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) विज्ञापन क्र. 96548 (दोना में किसी भी निविदाकार को योग्य नहीं पाये जाने के कारण) तीनों निविदाओं को पुनः निविदा आमंत्रण की कार्यवाही हेतु उच्च कार्यालय द्वारा निर्देशित किया गया है, जिसके फलस्वरूप निविदा निरस्त किया जाता है।

सहपत्र:- शून्य।

कार्यालय अभियंता,
जल संसाधन सभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
कुते, मुख्य अभियंता,
महानदी गोदावरी कछार,
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-97321/1

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking)
(ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified)
1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Ring Road No, 1, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) - 492006
CIN : U45203CT1981SG001853, PAN: AABC6288N, GST Regn No22AABC6288N5ZY
Phone : 0771-6621000 Fax : 0771-2583794
Website : www.csidc.in, Email address : csidc.cg@nic.in, csidc_raipur@yahoo.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

NIT No. 29/CSIDC/E.E.1/Division-1/2022-23/ Raipur, dated 02/01/2023

Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Raipur (CSIDC), a Government of Chhattisgarh Undertaking constituted under the Companies Act, engaged in Industrial Infrastructure Development & Other Related Activities in the State invites online tender for the following works :-

S. No.	Name of work	Registered Contractor in CGPWD or in appropriate class in other dep't.	Probable Amount of Contract (PAC) (INR Lacs)	Last Date for Submission of Tender
1	Infrastructure development Work Including, Road, Drain, Culvert, the work under Water Supply, Street light & Building works for Proposed New Food park Area at Gram-Hathkera-Bibbida, District-Mungeli (C.G.)	Class-B & Above	769.92	17.01.2023

The tender document containing detailed terms & conditions, scope of works and other details can be downloaded from the web portal (website) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> on 02/01/2023 and shall be submitted online only. Amendment in tender, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper

NOTE: 1) The interested tenderers for online submission of tender may contact **CG e-Proc Helpdesk. Operated by Mjunction Services Limited**, they may reach Helpdesk using 18004199140 (from 9AM to 11 PM) (therein press 2 for CG e-Proc) or you can email them at Helpdesk.eproc@cgswan.gov.in.

Executive Engineer
Division-I

S-35179/4



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 276

Coal production and consumption to make higher records in 2023

Pledges made by countries in all climate crises summits are really angelic, but what is done is clear dichotomy and hypocrisy, which the world will see in full play in 2023 with rise in production and consumption of coal, the dirtiest of the three fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas - that are the largest contributor to global climate change, accounting for over 75 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions. Coal alone is responsible for over 0.3 degree Celsius of the 1 degree Celsius increase in global average temperature, which makes it the single largest source of global temperature rise. Global carbon dioxide emission from coal reached to 40 per cent in 2021 to the highest level in history, but it failed to teach any lesson. The latest IEA report Coal 2022 has said that the global coal demand was set to rise in 2022 by 1.2 per cent, reaching all-time high and surpassing 8 billion tonnes for the first time. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sharply altered the dynamics of coal trade, price levels, sand supply and demand patters in 2022. Hence the global coal demand might well reach a new peak in 2023. Fossil fuel prices have risen substantially in 2022, with natural gas showing the sharpest increase. This has prompted a wave of fuel switching away from gas, pushing up demand for more price-competitive options, including coal, says the IEA report. Droughts and heat waves in China had accelerated coal burning to meet a surge in power demand for air conditioning. Coal used in electricity generation, the largest coal consuming sector, was expected to grow by over 2 per cent in 2022. Amid economic crisis, the world is witnessing a fall in iron and steel production due to which coal consumption was set to fall by over 1 per cent. However, global coal power generation rose to record levels. High natural gas prices led to significant switching to coal in electricity generation in Europe, although both gas and coal generation increased as the growth of wind and solar was insufficient to fully offset lower hydro and nuclear power output. China is the biggest carbon dioxide emitter or the world. Coal power generation in China have increased significantly in 2022. In August, it increased around 15 per cent. This monthly level of generation is higher than the total annual coal power generation of any other country, except India and the United States. In India and China, where coal is the backbone of electricity systems and gas accounts for just a fraction of power generation, the impact of steeper gas prices on coal demand has been limited. IEA has estimated that coal power generation was set to rise to a new record in 2022, surpassing its 2021 levels. It is driven by robust coal power growth in India and the European Union (EU) and by a small increase in China - and it comes despite a decline in the United States. Europe has made a U-turn on coal, since it has been one of the hardest hit region by the ongoing energy crisis due to Russia-Ukraine war. Germany has reversed its coal usage significantly. In the entire European Union, coal power generation are to remain at the higher levels for some time, which may return to downward trajectory only in 2024 or thereafter. IEA forecast says that global coal demand would plateau around the 2022 level of 8 billion tonnes through 2025, but it also points out to the uncertainties the present energy crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war. The uncertainties would also depend on the changes in global economic activities, weather conditions, fuel prices, or government policies - among many other potential variables. Developments in China may well have the largest impact on the outlook for global coal demand, since it accounts for more than half of it. China's power sector alone accounts for one-third of global coal consumption. Coal consumption in China grew strongly in 2021, but growth is expected to remain relatively stagnant at an average of 0.7 per cent a year to 2025. Meanwhile, India's coal consumption has doubled since 2007 at an annual growth rate of 6 per cent - and it is set to continue to be the growth engine of global coal demand. China and India are the world's largest coal consumers, the biggest producers, and the top importers. In response to price rises and supply shortage of oil and gas, China and to a lesser extent India, pushed up domestic coal production after summer 2021. In March 2022, Chinese production reached a new monthly high and it is set to rise to a new annual record with expected growth of 8 per cent for the full year, reducing the need for imports and replenishing stocks. In India, the government has tried to increase production for a long time to reduce imports. In 2021, coal production reached 800 million tonnes for the first time. IEA forecast says that India's production would surpass 1 billion tonnes by 2025. Indonesia is the world's third-largest coal producer. It was also expected by IEA to expand production to reach a new high in 2022 with exports playing a more important role than domestic demand. With minor growth in the United States and Europe global coal production would rise to its highest level ever above 8 billion tonnes in 2022. Coal prices have been rising and also reached record levels in the year 2022.

A new era in the digital education

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

The ongoing rollout of the digital university in India this year, an ambitious initiative of the Center that gives students with online access to a variety of courses and degree programmes, is an excellent example of a development in the digital age. The primary goal is to provide students with skill-based training, and the courses ought to be career-focused. In its budget for 2022-2023, the Indian government had already declared plans to establish a digital university, giving students access to a high-quality, universal education that is suited to their needs right outside their front doors. The digital university is seen as a significant step towards improving employability through programmes in developing fields and achieving 50% gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education by 2030, as planned in the National Education Policy, 2020. National Digital University (NDU) will be India's first digital university and help establish the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). Giving students the choice between earning their degrees from traditional colleges or through online universities is the premise behind this initiative. It's interesting to note that the digital university will begin offering certificate and diploma programmes in the following academic year before moving on to degree programmes. The best universities in India and abroad can collaborate with the digital university to provide students with a tailored education at any time and anywhere in the world. Therefore, the government's big initiative to establish NDU would undoubtedly change the educational environment of the digital education system.

BSF JAWANS AT THE BORDER



Border Security Force personnel patrol along the India-Bangladesh border, ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Dharmanagar, Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Budget as an instrument of delivery

KARAN BHASIN



A quintessential feature of Indian politics has been promises - some of them have been kept while many remain unfulfilled. Manifestos, government programs and even budget exercises have been a victim of the electoral politics - or coalition compulsions - that require promises that are meant to be broken. In late 2018, there were several exercises that were undertaken to review the promises made by India's Prime Minister - Narendra Modi in his 2014 manifesto. He had performed rather well in terms of delivery of the promises - both in absolute and in relative terms. Post 2019, there has been a pandemic which has caused major disruption across economic activity and government finances. It is therefore time to take a closer look at budget announcements and see if such promises have been met - or if they remain unfulfilled much like previous budget announcements - more so, relating to railway budgets. We looked at 34 major announcements made in the budget 2022-23 closely and tracked their implementation. Several of these announcements involve different ministries and state governments which makes it difficult to execute them in a time bound manner. Therefore, improved per-

formance on execution of these announcements could be indicative of improved administrative efficiency of the Indian state. To our surprise, a lot of progress has been made on each of these major announcements reflecting two things. First pertains to a conscious effort at restoring the credibility of the annual budget by announcing what can be delivered - and second pertains to a focused effort at effective delivery of what has already been announced. This comes with the backdrop of a clean up of the fiscal numbers during the pandemic - a clean up which was overdue since before 2014 as successive ministers tried to understate the true deficit through off balance sheet borrowings. It is therefore evident that the end objective is to restore the seriousness of the budget exercise and make a departure from the past experience of unfulfilled promises.

Let us begin with the PM Gati Shakti announcement from the previous budget. The objective was to build a platform that will help accelerate infrastructure development and alleviate delays due to different ministries responsible for managing various aspects of infrastructure development. The platform brings together 16 ministries and allows for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects paving way for rapid development of multi-modal connectivity across the country. The platform has been operational for some time and 766 out of 4827 projects given in PM Gati Shakti National Infrastructure Pipeline have been mapped on the National Master Plan platform. Further, the finance minister had announced a

decision to expand the National Highways by 25,000KMs. The ministry has already initiated the formulation of revised guidelines for declaring state roads as National Highways and intends to notify new national highways once the policy has been finalized. It plans to raise Rs 20,000 crores through monetization of existing assets in the present financial year to support the augmentation of the existing national highways.

Another important announcement pertained to the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) which was announced with the objective of efficient movement of goods through different modes, reducing logistics cost and time, assisting just-in-time inventory management, and in eliminating tedious documentation. The platform was to provide real time information to all stakeholders. The platform has subsequently been developed and it has integrated 29 digital systems of different ministries and agencies in an effort to give a fresh boost to India's logistics sector. On Kisan Drones for use in agricultural sector; the Finance Ministry has been releasing the funds to state governments and concerned organizations for purchasing the same. Similarly, the ECLGS enhancement was approved by the cabinet on 17th August 2022.

A major announcement was on housing for all under the PM Awas Yojana. The finance ministry set a target of construction of 80 lakh houses under the program in the current financial year. Out of a total of 120.38 lakh sanctioned houses, construction has started in 104.12 lakh houses while 63.27 lakh houses were delivered or

completed as on 30th of September. These are just some of the examples of the key announcements that were made as a part of the budget along with some details regarding the status of their implementation. A thorough analysis of all of the 34 major announcements reveal considerable progress on each one of those announcements indicating an improved efficiency and commitment towards fulfilling what has been promised.

Private sector employees are aware of the important of defining targets and tracking progress towards those targets over the course of the financial year. The analysis of the budget announcements made last year indicate that a similar approach has been adopted by the Finance Ministry. This is a welcome change from the past - more so when populist feel good announcements were made without much of follow-up leading to bitter disappointments such as during the farm loan waivers of 2008.

Prudent policies combined with an intent on execution are important to maintain the sanctity of the treasury and the trust between the government and the citizens. Therefore, this exercise leads one to conclude that India's annual budgeting exercise has moved towards the right direction over the last several years as they have become an instrument for delivery. The budget 2022-23 broke the previous record of execution of budget announcements. It would be interesting to see if the government can break its own record over the coming years.

(Author is a Political economist in OPIndia)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Research work on Arya Samaj

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the annual general meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society urged the need for far-reaching research work on modern Indian history and mentioned the need for bringing forth well-researched works on Arya Samaj founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 and his contributions to social reformation during the times of modern India. The contributions of this great Indian philosopher and social leader will always be a major advocate in making India a global leader. His works are inspired from the Vedas and he tried his best to share the truth of Hinduism among the masses. It is very important to note that Dayanand Saraswati's vision of India was a country free from foreign rule and a united land with Aryan religion as the common religion of all, which included all important aspects a developed society requires- religious, educational, social reformations. His vision of Indian society was a society not discriminated on the basis of caste and class, the realization and agreement of which is related to the need of the hour to make India achieve more goals. The notable contributions of the Arya Samaj to the Indian society again include promotion of education, Shuddhi Movement, campaigns against untouchability, advocacy for female education and widow remarriage, inter-caste marriage, gender equality, campaigns for accelerating civil rights movement and so on. Therefore, along with making widespread research on the modern history of India and producing well-researched work on the ideals of Dayanand Saraswati and the Arya Samaj, it is parallelly important to realize the need of the contributions of the Samaj which are already known to us, in order to make the world a noble society.

Bibhash Deva Nath Rangia

Keep picnic spots clean

Cleanliness has been always important from ancient times to the present globalized society. Cleaning civility are interconnected with cultural expectations and natural resources. We all know that the most exciting thing of a new year is picnic. Everyone tends to enjoy picnics in scenic environments such as parks, lakeside or any interesting view place. But it is very disappointing to see the consequences of people's callous and indifferent attitude towards picnic areas. If the adults neglect the issue, the young generation will follow the same. It is everyone's duty to keep picnic spots clean. Therefore, everyone must be asked to dispose off waste properly and not to litter picnic spots.

Spain Barman by mail

Khadi not a cloth, but a movement to help the poor

Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit

PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat

We all are aware that for the last several years, our PM Narendra Modi has left no stone unturned to popularize Khadi and create a mass movement where everyone purchases Khadi products, specially on the special day of Gandhi Jayanti. Recently PM Modi inaugurated new Khadi Gramudhyog Bhavan in Ahmedabad's "Khadi Utsav" and said that "Khadi instils self respect, can inspire India to become developed nation". Modi has always been promoting Khadi and has also mentioned it in his radio address multiple times. His Mann Ki Baat' gives utmost importance of Khadi and its role in the empowerment of the countrymen.

He even talked about the growth of the Khadi industry in this year's Independence Day address. According to him poor are getting jobs because the sales of Khadi have increased and the recent data re-

vealed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) backs the claim. In relation with Khadi, Sardar Patel has said that India's freedom lays in Khadi and so does the nation's cultural identity. Our PM himself regularly wears Khadi and has been doing so since the very early days when he was working for the RSS and BJP organisation. He has popularised it among the masses and even among foreign dignitaries, while developing his own styles around khadi. He has given the Mantra of 'Khadi for nation, Khadi for fashion' - the idea that Khadi can become a symbol of national pride and a fashion statement, which can be popular among the youth. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), is a statutory organisation engaged in promoting and developing Khadi and village industries created by the Act



of Parliament. Khadi refers to a hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. The raw materials may be cotton, silk, or wool, which are spun into threads on a charkha, a traditional spinning implement. Khadi was launched in 1920 as a political weapon in the Swadeshi movement of Mahatma Gandhi. The relevance

of Khadi and Village Industries is that they are both labour intensive in nature. In the wake of industrialization, and the mechanization of almost all processes, Khadi and Village industries are suited like no other to a labour surplus country like India. Modi repeatedly says that "When we purchase a Khadi, we are brightening the lives of the lakhs of weavers who toil day and night. Buying a Khadi product is like ushering a Diwali in the homes of the weavers. He feels that khadi is getting wide acceptance in the society for the last decade and it would be in the fitness of things for each person to buy at least one pair of khadi dress as the best possible tribute to the Mahatma. Gandhiji was the founder of Khadi, but it was Khadi which inspired Gandhiji at every stage of his life and work. The first inspiration came to him in the year 1908. He re-

turned to India from South Africa on Jan 9th 1915 and started his ashram at Ahmadabad. Here the Khadi became a practical. Khadi became a common factor among the "satyagrah" and served as unifying thread among Indians. It was right called "the livery of freedom"

Gandhiji launched the programme of Khadi and village industries as an integral part of the freedom struggle for the economic emancipation of the downtrodden masses of India by providing them with gain full employment and subsistence to them. The Charkha is a powerful symbol that Mahatma Gandhi used during his fight against colonialism and injustice. It stood for self-sustenance and a war against poverty. Mahatma Gandhi strongly advocated the usage of Khadi products. No doubt, today there is greater awareness about Khadi and it can be a powerful means of empowering the poorest of the poor.

BRIEF

Appointment



Chennai: Public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) on Wednesday said Sanjay Mudaliar has joined the bank as its executive director with immediate effect. Prior to taking up this responsibility, he was in Bank of Baroda serving as its chief general manager and chief technology officer. He was a postgraduate in science and technology and a certified project management practitioner from London. He served Bank of Baroda in various capacities across the country and in the United Kingdom for over 25 years, Indian Overseas Bank said in a statement.

Production drops

New Delhi: Vedanta on Tuesday said that its total aluminum production dropped by 2 per cent to 5,66,000 tonnes in the third quarter of the current fiscal. The company's total aluminum output stood at 5,79,000 tonnes in the year-ago period. "Alumina production at Lanjigarh refinery decreased by 6 per cent YoY and 2 per cent QoQ to 443kt due to maintenance activities in calciners," Vedanta said in a filing to BSE. The company said at Zinc India, the mined metal production increased marginally by 1 per cent to 2,54,000 tonnes in the third quarter.

GST Collection



Bengaluru: Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the monthly collection of goods and services tax (GST) in the State has crossed Rs 10,000 crore for three months in a row. He said Karnataka is behind Maharashtra in emerging out of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Karnataka's monthly GST collection has crossed Rs 10k crore for 3 months in a row, just behind Maharashtra. The positive growth proves we are on the trajectory of good growth & well past the negative impact of the Covid-induced slowdown."

FD rates

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Tuesday increased the interest rate of fixed deposits across various tenures by 50 basis points or 0.5 per cent in a bid to attract deposits. Interest rates on term deposits below Rs 2 crore between one year and three years have been raised by 50 basis points to 6.75 per cent from earlier rate of 6.25 per cent, PNB said in a statement. The bank said that new rates of FDs are effective from January 1, 2023.

Trying to draw new scheme to support machinery manufacturing: Goyal

New Delhi, Jan 04:

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the government is considering a new scheme to support domestic manufacturing of machinery and accessories used in the leather industry. He also expressed hope that the country's exports during the current fiscal would register a high growth rate in both goods and services compared to 2021-22. In 2021-22, exports of goods and services touched an all-time high of USD 676 billion. "We are trying to draw up a new scheme to support manufacturing of machinery domestically, to support manufacturing of trimming or embellishments and other accessories that



may be required in your industry," Goyal said here at an event of Council for Leather Exports (CLE). On the council's demand for the reinstatement of basic customs duty exemption on the wet blue crust and finished leather, Goyal assured them to take up the matter with the concerned ministry. According to CLE, such leathers are mainly imported by domestic ex-

porters for making value-added products, such as handbags and garments, and duty-free import of finished leather helps manufacturers to become more competitive.

Goyal suggested the industry to utilise the benefits of the Manufacture and Other Operations in Customs Warehouse (MOOWR) scheme of the finance ministry that allows the import of any goods duty-free. Under this programme, a unit can import goods (both inputs and capital goods) under customs duty deferment with no interest liability. There is no investment threshold or export obligation. The duties are fully remitted if the goods resulting from such operations are exported. "I do hope that this year, we

can look at a significant ramp up (in exports) both in goods and services collectively" despite global uncertainties, he added. He said regions like Europe are in a stressful situation and most of the developed world is facing high inflation.

The minister suggested the sector to explore new export destinations and focus on innovation and quality. He also informed that leather and footwear exports to UAE jumped by 64 per cent in November. India has implemented a trade pact with the UAE in May last year. Further, he said that 'Kolhapuri Chappals' holds huge potential for exports and suggested encouraging hotels to keep this footwear in their rooms.

Jaishankar defends India's move to import Russian oil

Says Europe imported 6 times more than India since Feb 2022

Vienna, Jan 04:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has defended India's move to import crude oil from Russia notwithstanding the growing disquiet over it by Western powers, saying that Europe has imported six times the fossil fuel energy from Russia than India has done since February 2022. Jaishankar, who arrived here from Cyprus on the second leg of his two-nation tour, also said that if the European political leadership would like to soften the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict to their population, it's a privilege they should extend to



other political leaderships as well. "Europe has managed to reduce its imports while doing it in a manner that is comfortable. If at a (per capita income) of 60,000 euros, you are so caring about your population, I have a population at USD 2,000. I also need energy, and I am not in a position to pay high prices for oil," Jaishankar said during an interview to Austria's national public broadcaster ORF on Monday. Jaishankar also pointed out

that Europe has imported six times the energy from Russia than India has done since February 2022. "Essentially, if it was a matter of principle, why didn't Europe cut off energy from Moscow on February 25," he asked while replying to a question. India's appetite for Russian oil has swelled ever since it started trading on discount as the West shunned it to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. The Indian government has been vehemently defending its oil trade with Russia, saying it has to source oil from where it is the cheapest.

Russia has for the second month in a row remained India's top oil supplier in November, surpassing traditional sellers Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa.

India to take over leadership of Asian Pacific Postal Union

New Delhi, Jan 04:

India will take over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) from this month, an official release said on Tuesday. Following the successful elections held during the 13th APPU Congress held in Bangkok during August-September 2022, Vinaya Prakash Singh, erstwhile Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board, will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of four years. "India will take over the leadership of the APPU having its Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand from this month," the release said. Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an inter-governmental organisation of 32-member countries of the Asia-Pacific region. APPU is the only Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in the region, which is a specialised agency of the United Nations, the release added. The goal of APPU is to extend, facilitate and improve postal rela-

tions between member countries and promote cooperation in the field of postal services. As the regional centre for various UPU projects, APPU also takes the lead in ensuring that all technical and operational projects of UPU are fulfilled in the region so that it is integrated into the global postal network in the best possible way. Secretary General leads the activities of the Union and is also the Director of the Asian Pacific Postal College (APPC) which is the largest inter-governmental postal training institute in the region. "My goal is to improve the regional coordination with postal players in the Asia Pacific region to improve the growth of business through the postal network, to ensure the sustainability of the Union, and to revamp the training courses offered at APPC," Singh said. Vineet Pandey, Secretary, Department of Posts, noted that this is the first time an Indian is leading an international organisation in the postal sector.

President Droupadi Murmu lays foundation stone for SJVN's 1,000 MW solar project in Rajasthan

New Delhi, Jan 04:

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday virtually laid the foundation stone of state-owned energy firm SJVN's 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Governor of Rajasthan Kalraj Mishra and state Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also attended the event, SJVN said in a statement.

This project will be implemented through its wholly-owned subsidiary SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), the company said. According to SJVN CMD Nand Lal Sharma, "Development cost of the project is Rs 5,492 crore and viability gap funding support of Rs 44.72 lakh per megawatt for this project is being done by IREDA. It will



President Droupadi Murmu with Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during the inauguration of 'Samvidhan Udayan' at Raj Bhawan in Jaipur, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

come up on a 5,000 acres area". The project is scheduled to be commissioned by March 2024, he said, adding the project will generate 2,454.55 million units (MU) in the first year and approximately 56,838 MU would be generated on a cumulative basis

NTPC starts India's first green hydrogen blending operation in PNG network

New Delhi, Jan 03:

State-owned power giant NTPC on Tuesday said it has started India's first green hydrogen blending operation in the PNG (piped natural gas) network of its township in Kawas, Surat. "The project is a joint effort of NTPC and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL). The first molecule of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by P Ram Prasad, Head of Project, Kawas, in presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GGL," a company statement said. The green hydrogen blending has been started in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township in Surat, it added. After the start of the blending operation, NTPC Kawas held aware-

ness workshops for township residents with the help of GGL officials. NTPC and GGL have worked relentlessly towards achieving this milestone in record time after the foundation stone laying by the Prime Minister on July 30, 2022. This set-up is geared up to supply H2-NG (natural gas) to households of Kawas township at Adityanagar, Surat. Green hydrogen in Kawas is made by electrolysis of water using power from an already installed 1 MW floating solar project. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the regulatory body, has approved 5 per cent vol/vol blending of green hydrogen with PNG to start with, and the blending level would be scaled phase-wise to reach 20 per cent.

GOOD AND EDUCATOR SHOWCASE



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella in a group photo at the Tech for Good and Educator Showcase, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

Markets decline 1 pc; Sensex ends below 61k mark

Mumbai, Jan 04:

Market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty tumbled 1 per cent on Wednesday amid continuous foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank. The 30-share BSE Sensex slumped 636.75 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 60,657.45. During the day, it declined 700.64 points or 1.14 per cent to 60,593.56. The broader NSE Nifty ended lower by 189.60 points or 1.04 per cent at 18,042.95. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the positive zone in mid-session deals. Markets in the had US ended lower on Tuesday.



Tata Consultancy Services were the only winners. Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green, while Tokyo settled lower. Europe were trading in the positive zone in mid-session deals. Markets in the had US ended lower on Tuesday.

India's services sector growth hits 6-month high in Dec on strong demand

New Delhi, Jan 04:

The Indian services sector growth touched a six-month high in December, supported by a robust intake of new work and favourable market conditions, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 56.4 in November to 58.5 in December, highlighting the strongest rate of expansion since mid-2022. For the 17th straight month, the headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a

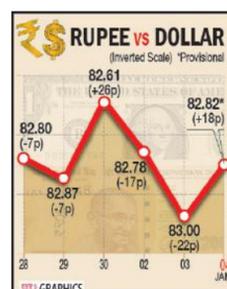
score below 50 denotes contraction. "December saw a welcome expansion in Indian services activity, underscoring the resilience of demand as 2022 came to an end," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. Lima further noted that "as we head into 2023, companies signalled strong optimism towards the outlook for output. Around 31 per cent of panellists forecast growth, while only 2 per cent anticipate a contraction." Meanwhile, in December, more jobs were created and companies remained strongly upbeat towards the year ahead outlook for business activity.

"Positive sentiment and ongoing growth of new business continued to support job creation, but there were areas where capacities were reportedly adequate to cope with current requirements," Lima said. On the inflation front, input costs at services companies rose further, with companies mentioning wage pressures and higher prices for energy, food and transportation. "Inflation trends were mixed, as input prices rose at a faster pace and the upturn in charges moderated. On the expense front, services firms reported pressure from energy, food, staff and transportation costs," Lima said.

Rupee gains 18 paise to close at 82.82 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 04:

The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled 18 paise higher at 82.82 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, supported by easing crude oil prices. Forex traders said the weakness of the greenback in the overseas market, strong Asian peers and suspected intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also helped the currency. However, sustained foreign fund outflows and a weak trend in domestic equities restricted the appreciation bias to some extent. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.87 and



touched an intra-day high of 82.74 and a low of 82.91 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.82, registering a rise of 18 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee had slumped 22 paise to close at its all-time low of 83 against the dollar.

Ducati lines up 9 motorcycle models for India in 2023

New Delhi, Jan 04:

Italian superbike maker Ducati on Tuesday said it will launch nine products in the Indian market in 2023, which are expected to be priced between Rs 10.39 lakh and Rs 72 lakh (ex-showroom). The models set to hit the Indian roads this year are Panigale V4 R, Monster SP, Diavel V4, Streetfighter V4 SP2, Multistrada V4 Rally, Scrambler Icon 2G, Scrambler Full Throttle 2G, Scrambler Nightshift 2G and Streetfighter V4 Lamborghini. Ducati India Managing Director Bipul Chandra said the company witnessed 15 per cent sales growth last year, while also registering its highest revenue in the last five years. He, however, did



not disclose further details. "We are incredibly confident about 2023 and hence, we announce the arrival of nine new Ducati motorcycles and 2 new dealerships for the Indian market," he added. The two new dealerships will be opened in Chandigarh in January followed by Ahmedabad during the first quarter, the company said. At the start of the

second quarter of 2023, Monster SP will be launched at an expected price of Rs 15.95 lakh. This will be followed by Panigale V4R, which will come for Rs 69.99 lakh, the company said. In the third quarter, the Streetfighter V4 SP2 will be launched priced at Rs 35.33 lakh. Following this will be the Diavel V4 priced at Rs 25.91 lakh, it added.

5 reasons to watch 'Aashao Ka Savera... Dheere Dheere Se'



Unique Concept

The show 'Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se' is a story that revolves around the life of a widow 'Bhavna' played by the versatile actress 'Reena Kapoor'. The plot of the serial is centered around Bhavna who recently lost her husband and faces difficulty to sustain her day-to-day life after her husband's death since she was so dependent upon him for her each and everyday necessities which seems very obvious but her life takes a turn when Raghav played by Rahil Azam enters her life giving her a hope for being independent and financially literate which helps her overcome the obstacles of her life. The show is a mirror to the society which shows how a woman, especially a widow is treated in the society after she loses her husband and what difficulties she goes through which is not often talked about.

Supporting Women Empowerment

The television show "Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se" promotes women empowerment in one of the ways where it shows how important it is for women to be financially literate and independent. It highlights the importance of being self-sufficient as life can be unpredictable at any point of life and to live in a society which is dominated by a man it becomes difficult for women especially a widow who are often considered as burden to the family to survive for her daily needs if she is not independent or financially literate. It also teaches how one can overcome the obstacles of their life and not be dependent on anybody.

Believe in second chances

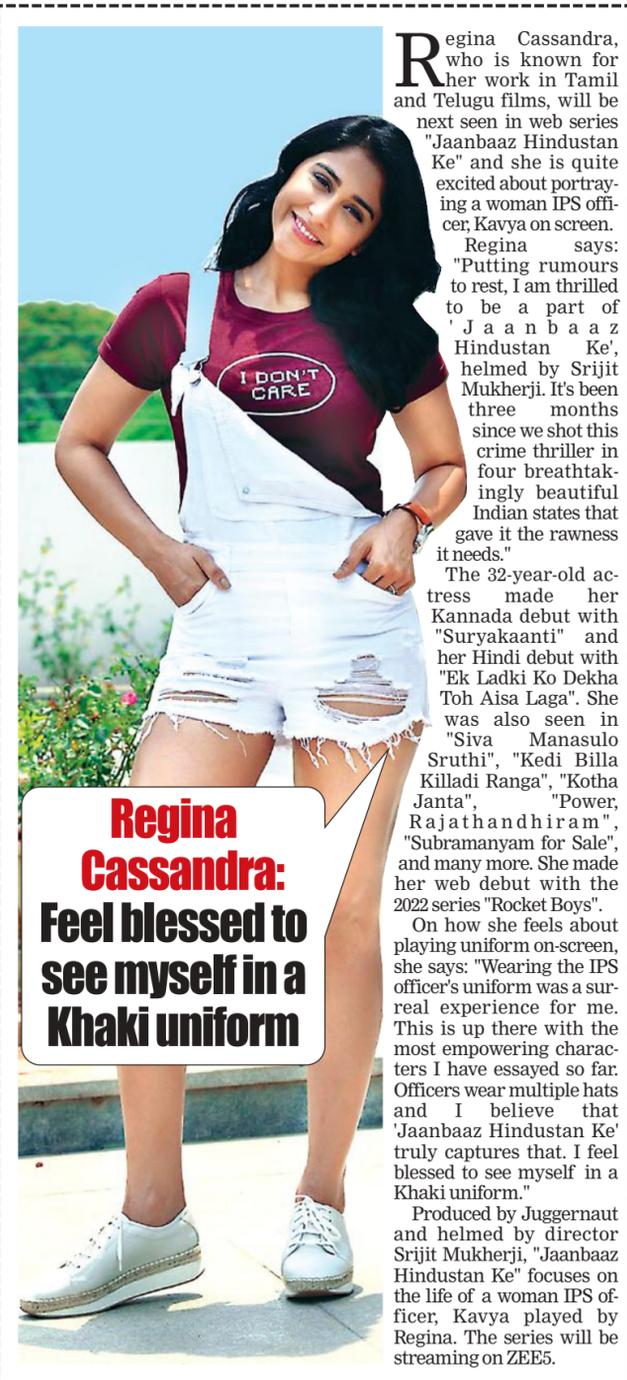
The television show, 'Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se' questions social norms that have already been established for women, this serial uses its original idea to convey a crucial message to the broader audience., the drama also gives hope to those who have lost their life partners and encourages them to discover love again to give it another chance. It gives an important message that one's life doesn't stop after losing a loved one or their partner; it's not a full stop but merely a comma. The story of the serial brings back hope in people through the two antagonistic characters Bhavna and Raghav, who are alternately played by Reena Kapoor and Rahil Azam. where fate pulls them together and provides them with a second chance at love.

Intriguing Characters

The actors in Dheere Dheere Se are all exceptionally talented and well-known in the television industry, which contributes to the show's high quality. Aman Varma, who had taken a break from television, made his comeback to the TV industry through Star Bharat's serial 'Aashao Ka Savera... Dheere Dheere Se' with a strong character. The serial cast also features well known artists like Reena Kapoor, Rahil Azam, and Raju Kher, who play the roles Bhavna, Raghav, and Shastris, respectively. The serial's cast, which provided unforgettable characters, had already established a standard.

Beautiful Location

While filming the serial 'Aashao Ka Savera...Dheere Dheere Se,' the serenity of Ujjain is captured. The serial gives the viewers another opportunity to experience Ujjain's numerous notable spots on their television screen. The audience will be able to observe the diversity and culture of Ujjain maintaining the originality in the content.



Regina Cassandra: Feel blessed to see myself in a Khaki uniform

Regina Cassandra, who is known for her work in Tamil and Telugu films, will be next seen in web series "Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke" and she is quite excited about portraying a woman IPS officer, Kavya on screen.

Regina says: "Putting rumours to rest, I am thrilled to be a part of 'Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke', helmed by Srijit Mukherji. It's been three months since we shot this crime thriller in four breathtakingly beautiful Indian states that gave it the rawness it needs."

The 32-year-old actress made her Kannada debut with "Suryakaanti" and her Hindi debut with "Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga". She was also seen in "Siva Manasulo Sruthi", "Kedi Billa Killadi Ranga", "Kotha Janta", "Power Rajathanthiram", "Subramanyam for Sale", and many more. She made her web debut with the 2022 series "Rocket Boys".

On how she feels about playing uniform on-screen, she says: "Wearing the IPS officer's uniform was a surreal experience for me. This is up there with the most empowering characters I have essayed so far. Officers wear multiple hats and I believe that 'Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke' truly captures that. I feel blessed to see myself in a Khaki uniform."

Produced by Juggernaut and helmed by director Srijit Mukherji, "Jaanbaaz Hindustan Ke" focuses on the life of a woman IPS officer, Kavya played by Regina. The series will be streaming on ZEE5.

Akshay Oberoi on 'Fighter': My character is a tribute to real life heroes

Actor Akshay Oberoi, who will be seen in the upcoming Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone-starrer 'Fighter', said that his character in the film is a tribute to real life heroes. Akshay, who will be seen playing the role of an Air Force officer, said that it's an honour for him to play his part. He said: "It's an honour to be playing the part of someone who has served the nation. My character is a tribute to all those real life heroes who have fought for their country. As actors, we might imitate their actions, but the grit and courage that they would have shown in real life situations are unfathomable. All thanks to the director Siddharth and Mamta Anand for picking me for the part."

For Ridhi Dogra, the medium doesn't really matter

Actress Ridhi Dogra, who is all set for her movie 'Lakadbagha' starring Anshuman Jha to release, said that mediums don't really matter to her as long as she is a part of a good story, character and team. Speaking about films and her debut with 'Lakadbagha', Dogra said: "There's no system, clean slate. I don't think that okay now I am doing a film, my process on whatever I have done is that I ask many questions, I would like to know everything, I would like to make as much logical sense and it continues to whichever set I am on." "I think when I saw myself on the big-screen in Kolkata I felt like Oh my God! I don't look bad at all, I sound good, I should do more films."



YRF to unveil Pathaan trailer on Jan 10!

The much awaited trailer of the most awaited film, Pathaan, is set to be unveiled on social media on Jan 10th! The news is surely going to set fans and audiences into a frenzy as people have been clamouring for Pathaan's trailer ever since Yash Raj Films released the teaser of the edge of the seat visual extravaganza. A trade source reveals, "Mark the date. Pathaan's trailer is being released on Jan 10! The teaser sent internet to a tizzy. So, expect the trailer to cause a meltdown! The visually stunning trailer is a feast for big scale action entertainer lovers. It has stunning action set pieces that will wow you when you see the trailer. Pathaan is a true blue theatrical event film and the trailer will justify that status." The source adds, "YRF always wanted to launch the trailer two weeks to the film's release."



They wanted to build intrigue around the film and create more anticipation and hysteria for the trailer. They have done the needful. Pathaan has become the hottest film in a long, long time and it's because of a clear strategy to delay the trailer so that there is frenzy around Pathaan." Pathaan is being touted as India's biggest ever action spectacle that audiences have ever seen on the big screen. The visually spectacular Yash Raj Films' action extravaganza, Pathaan, is part of Aditya Chopra's ambitious spy universe and has the biggest superstars of the country Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham in it. SRK and Deepika, the lead pair of Pathaan, is one of the biggest on-screen pairs in the history of Indian cinema given their epic blockbusters Om Shanti Om, Chennai Express and Happy New Year.

Project K makers drops a special high-tech video



Rebel Star Prabhas' futuristic film 'Project K' helmed by Nag Ashwin is going to be the most expensive movie in the history of Indian cinema. The director is not leaving any stone unturned in scripting or the pre-production formalities. He also made a public appeal to Anand Mahindra, requesting automobile technology from his Mahindra Group for 'Project K'. The movie project sought Mahindra Group's support in developing futuristic automobiles for the film, and Anand Mahindra is fully supporting, a unit source stated. As a New Year's treat, the makers released the first episode of 'From Skratz: Re-inventing the Wheel', which shows the process undergone to make a wheel. Of course, it's not a regular wheel. The fun part is the team made a mockery of Nag Ashwin for his enthusiasm to design and make the wheel. But only he knows the importance of it. Priyanka Dutt's involvement can also be noticed in the video and there's much more to come in the 'From Skratz' series.

Namita Thapar reacts to trolls criticising 'Shark Tank India' judges



Shark Namita Thapar has responded to those criticising the sharks on 'Shark Tank India' for rejecting a makeup brand, Recode as it poses competition for co-judge Vineeta Singh's makeup brand, Sugar Cosmetics. The fans have called the judges biased and commented that they are showing 'friendship goals' rather than judging talents. Namita wrote in the tweet: "Being a shark doesn't mean we are not entitled to our independent values & speaking candidly so if I don't invest in a fellow sharks competition, that's me, no regrets & if I call out toxicity & don't join the ignorant that celebrate people w lack of integrity, that's me :)" However, her tweet didn't go well with the fans and they strongly reacted to her tweet. One fan wrote: "You are not even self made entrepreneur so obviously you don't understand how someone can be self made! The format of the show is to support entrepreneurship not to show your friendship goal on TV!"

Another social media user expressed: "The problem isn't your values, it's the lack of candidness. When a person spends time and goes to your platform for funding, the very least you can do is give a candid and genuine response as to why you're out. What you did was you have a false reason to make yourself look good." While another Tweet went: "This is utter non sensical theory. If you want to play friendship then why call ppl to the show. You limit creativity and opportunities and that's can't be justified by saying holy words of value. So exit the show or give chance to neutral investors looking for business."

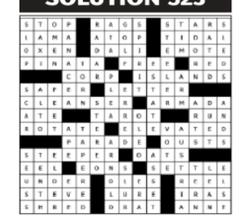
CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20				21		22			23				
24				25		26			27				
				29					30		31	32	33
34	35	36	37		38				39		40		
41				42					43	44			
45						46	47			48			
49					50		51			52			
54	55	56		57		58			59		60	61	62
65				66					67		68		
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

- ACROSS**
- Behind
 - Corn spikes
 - Bubble
 - Boldness
 - Bed board
 - Burn-soothing plant
 - Welcome
 - Support for an institution
 - TV collar
 - Track event
 - Somber
 - Overhead railways
 - Roman emperor
 - And so forth (Abbr.)
 - Desertlike
 - Mother
 - Lima's land
 - Got it! (2 wds.)
 - Competitor
 - Supervise
 - Actor
 - Beattie
 - Starr
- DOWN**
- Geometric corner
 - Wild
 - Ringlet
 - Preceding nights
 - Eye part
 - Psychic letters
 - With ice cream (3 wds.)
 - Charge per unit
 - Lane
 - Forbidden
 - Poor me!
 - Roman garb
 - Listen
 - Aquatic mammals
 - Weird
 - Goes up

524

- Extend over
- Quarry
- Church leaders
- Korea's locale
- TV room
- Clears as profit
- Superlative ending
- Lyric poem
- Love seat
- Real
- Distract
- Passenger vehicles
- Hangs back
- Sycamore or oak
- Inactive
- Bullring cries
- Actor
- Connery
- Highway divisions
- Crunchy
- Always
- Shopper's delight
- Friend
- Skin opening
- Demonic
- Pull apart
- Encouraged
- Make disappear
- Most painful
- Come together
- Cure-all
- Nasal sounds
- Assault
- Corroded
- Boutique
- Exams
- Norway's capital
- Clock face
- Perimeter
- Bus money
- Salad fish
- Snaky curve
- Barbie's beau



2nd T20I: Focus on Gill's Powerplay approach, Chahal's form

Pune, Jan 04 (PTI):

Shubman Gill will be aiming to up the ante in the Powerplay overs to keep his nearest competitor Ruturaj Gaikwad at bay as a buoyant India team aims to come all guns blazing against Sri Lanka in its bid to clinch the series in the second T20I here on Thursday.

India won a last-ball thriller by two runs in the opener at Wankhede while defending a below-par score and skipper Hardik Pandya spoke about the benefits of overcoming difficult situations as the team moves forward.

While T20Is aren't of highest priority in an ODI World Cup year, Gill will not like to repeat the mistakes of his predecessors while aiming to cement his place in the T20I side after making a reputation for himself in the longer versions.

Gill's career strike-rate after playing 96 T20 games (mostly IPL and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy) is a modest 128.74 and, even on debut, he looked like a shaky starter.

While Gill has opened a lot for KKR and even was



India's Sanju Samson (L) and Yuzvendra Chahal attend a practice session.

an integral part at the top of the order for Gujarat Titans, his game is primarily based on consolidation and then going for the kill.

However, this is the identical approach that had cost KL Rahul a place in the T20 squad. While skipper Pandya, like every other Indian captain in the recent past has promised a fearless approach at the top, he would need each of his player to walk the talk.

The Indian T20 cupboard

is brimming with talent with players likes Ruturaj and Rahul Tripathi cooling their heels in the dugout.

It is expected that both Gill and Ishan Kishan will get all three games in the series and an impactful Powerplay will also give the batters coming down the order more confidence to play fearless cricket.

The batting unit will like to score more runs in the second game and a lot will depend on the manner in

which new vice-captain Suryakumar Yadav does what is known as "front-loading" (heavy-duty hitting in the first 10 overs) in cricketing jargon.

Surya was dismissed cheaply one of his rare T20 failures after a golden 2022 but it was more to do with a bit of less pace off the surface unlike Australia and New Zealand where the 'blind scoop' over '45', would normally go for a six.

But the smart operator

Match Starts 7 pm.

that he is, Surya will find a way to manoeuvre against a Sri Lankan bowling attack which is more dependant on spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Mahesh Theekshana who accounted for two wickets, giving away only 51 runs in their cumulative eight overs.

Deepak Hooda and Axar Patel's batting effort was lauded by one and all and their utility is there to be seen. Shivam Mavi's dream debut is certainly a big relief for skipper Pandya, who could be lauded for taking the new ball and bowling an incisive first spell alongside the newcomer.

Mavi (4/22), with his ability to swing the ball, and Umran Malik's (2/27) raw pace is welcome addition to this T20 playing XI and seem to be long-term investments going into the 2024 T20 World Cup.

However the worry will be leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who must have lost a bit of confidence after being ignored during the T20 World Cup. In fact, Chahal went for 26 in his first two overs and the skipper couldn't let him complete his spell.

Shakeel, Sarfaraz shepherd Pakistan to 407/9 in 2nd test

Karachi, Jan 04 (AP):

Saud Shakeel hit a se-date first test hundred and Sarfaraz Ahmed made an aggressive third consecutive half century to lift Pakistan to 407-9 on the third day of the second test against New Zealand on Wednesday.

Shakeel was unbeaten on 124 and Sarfaraz, who hit half centuries in his first test match in almost four years last week, fell to a contentious stumping just before tea for 78. Pakistan reached 407-9 at stumps.

Part-time seamer Daryl Mitchell came close to dismissing Sarfaraz off his first ball, but the batter successfully overturned umpire Alex Wharf's lbw ruling through television referral. Tom Blundell then had him stumped in the same over after collecting the ball down the leg-side.

TV umpire Ahsan Raza felt Sarfaraz's heel was not grounded in the crease when Blundell whipped the bails off after going through several replays. Sarfaraz hit 10 boundaries and faced 109 balls as he dominated New Zealand pace and spin. Pakistan now trails by 42 runs after



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel celebrates after scoring a century.

New Zealand's last-wicket pair of Matt Henry and Ajaz Patel had lifted the total to 449 with a century stand.

Shakeel and Sarfaraz kept New Zealand at bay with their determined

150-run stand in three hours as Pakistan lost the sole wicket of Imam-ul-Haq in a quiet first session after resuming on 154-3.

Both batters looked solid against the spinners with their sweep shots and New Zealand couldn't get through their defenses even after taking the second new ball after lunch before Mitchell struck late in the second session.

Shakeel, who spent almost an hour before scoring his first run off his 42nd ball on Day 2, showed plenty of patience before accelerating to complete his half century off 173 balls. He reached 99 with a swept boundary against offspinner Michael Bracewell and then ran a quick single to mid-off to raise his memorable maiden hundred off 240 balls with 14 boundaries.

Shakeel had a terrific start to his test cricket last month when he made four half centuries in Pakistan's 3-0 loss against England. He also scored a half century in the drawn first test against New Zealand last week before finally getting his first hundred.

Yuki quits singles, targets doubles Grand Slam success



Pune, Jan 04 (PTI):

Without any emotive rhetoric or balderdash, Yuki Bhambri says that he has quit the singles format.

The 28-year-old, once considered a top-50 prospect, is the first big Indian player after Sania Mirza to quit the singles format to prolong his tennis career.

Tired of a stop-start singles career due to knee injuries, Yuki had made up his mind sometime back that doubles is the way forward for him.

He did not make any excuse that the system did not help him enough, nor did he have any regrets that he could not achieve the heights he was expected to. Walking out of the outside courts at the Balewadi stadium,

his gait was assuring as he uttered, "no more singles for me". "I did the best I knew in my singles career and I am at peace with it. Maybe things were wrong, maybe it was bad luck, I don't know. No regrets, there is nothing more I could have done," Yuki told PTI in an interaction.

"It was more because of injuries and not for lack of sponsors. Sponsors were not there and I was fortunate to have done well throughout my career and could continue on the Tour but, of course, injuries were a big factor." Just last weekend he was competing in the singles qualifiers at the Tata Open Maharashtra, so was it a sudden decision to quit the format? Yuki said the idea to play the singles qualifying event was to earn some prize money by entering the main draw because the doubles does not offer much. But the decision to quit singles was taken long back. "I (had) decided in 2019 that doubles is the way forward for me and I wanted to do it while I was still able to play a bit of singles, which I did last year: I was injured. I came back in 2021 and the first 2-3 tournaments I played using Protected Ranking. Then I went to America and got COVID and I got hurt again, so the plan was always there but it got delayed," he explained.

Weather halts Australia to 147-2 in 3rd test against Proteas

Sydney, Jan 04 (AP):

Marnus Labuschagne and Usman Khawaja made half-centuries as luckless South Africa was denied twice by the TV umpire before bad light and then rain brought an early end to the opening day of the third test at Sydney Cricket Ground.

Khawaja and Labuschagne shared a 135-run partnership after Australia won the toss and batted, chasing a sweep of the three-match series and confirm their place in the world test championship final later this year.

At stumps Wednesday, Australia was 147-2 with Khawaja unbeaten on 54. Labuschagne was dismissed by Anrich Nortje for 79 with what was the last ball of a truncated day that lost more than three hours to the weather conditions.

The day could have been far brighter for South Africa had the television umpire agreed with its on-field colleagues with two close calls going against the tourists in an eventful middle session. Khawaja survived an lbw appeal from Simon Harmer with the second ball after lunch. The opener was given out by the on-field umpire but Khawaja immediately re-



Australia's Marnus Labuschagne (R) and Usman Khawaja stand together during the third cricket Test match between Australia and South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) in Sydney.

quested the TV umpire review which showed the ball had hit the batters glove on the way through to hitting the pad to see the decision overturned.

Labuschagne was even more fortunate when he edged a low catch to

Harmer at first slip off Marco Jansen when on 70. Labuschagne stood his ground while South Africa celebrated the wicket. After several minutes of deliberation the TV umpire found that the ball had not carried cleanly through to

Harmer and overturned the on-field call to earn Labuschagne a reprieve.

Labuschagne had earlier scored his 14th test 50 off 10 balls with a thumping pull shot off Kagiso Rabada, his ninth boundary of the innings.

Khawaja brought up his 4,000th test run in 56 matches and shortly after completed his half-century off 113 balls as he closes in on another hundred after twin centuries against England in his triumphant return to test cricket at the SCG last year. Bad light then forced the players from the field just after the drinks break in the afternoon session. Heavy rain then fell at the venue leading to a near three-hour stoppage.

When play finally resumed just four more overs were bowled before play was again victim to poor light. But that was enough time though for the impressive Nortje (2-26) to prise out Labuschagne with a steeply rising delivery that the batter could only fend at and edge through to wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne to have Australia at 147-2.

Play was then halted by the umpires due to deteriorating light and rain showers appearing to the disappointment of the 31,264 crowd at the SCG.

Sharjah, Jan 04 (PTI):

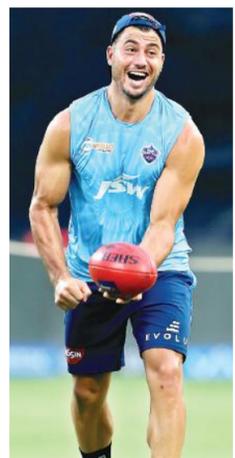
International League Twenty20 (ILT20) side Sharjah Warriors have signed up hard-hitting all-rounder Marcus Stoinis for the upcoming season, making the 33-year-old the first signing from Australia.

In the T20 freelance industry, this move will be considered a significant one as Stoinis will be the first player who would play in two overlapping leagues - Big Bash League and ILT20, making this switch seamless in coming years.

Stoinis' addition will boost the international appeal of the six-team league, which will have 24 UAE cricketers as well and will be held from January 13 to February 12.

Stoinis is currently playing in the Big Bash League (BBL) for Melbourne Stars and will join England vice-captain Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, former Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi and Namibia's JJ Smit in the Warriors side.

Stoinis is ranked No. 9 in the latest ICC T20I world rankings for all-rounders, while Sharjah Warriors' Nabi (No. 2), Smit (No. 5), and Moeen (No. 10) too figure in the



top-10 list. Stoinis, a white-ball specialist with 57 ODIs and 51 T20Is under his belt after making his debut in 2015, has been part of several IPL teams, including Delhi Capitals, Kings XI Punjab, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Lucknow Super Giants.

The 33-year-old holds the record for the highest partnership for the seventh wicket in the T20 format, along with Daniel Sams. The pair made 92 against New Zealand in Dunedin in February, 2021. New Zealand had won the high-scoring game by four runs.

Rohit, Kohli will play massive role in ODI World Cup: Gambhir



New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir feels seniors like skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are great players of spin, will play a massive role in the ODI World Cup, to be held in the country later this year.

Gambhir said India need to identify fearless players and have a mix-

ture of cricketers in the 50-over format.

"First, you need to identify the players who got that fearless approach and probably in a format like 50 overs you need to have a mixture of every kind of player. There are players who can anchor their innings. Change in role has also made a huge difference," Gambhir said Star Sports show 'Road to

World Cup Glory'.

"I feel people like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and all those guys who can anchor their innings, who probably can play spin really well will play a massive role coming World Cup."

The cricketer-turned politician said the introduction of two balls from two ends has changed the template in ODIs.

"During that time we had only one new ball, now we've got two new balls with five fielders inside. So, the role of a part timer has gone out of the window. The reverse swings, you don't see enough of reverse swings anymore, you don't see enough of chase for the finger spinners as well," Gambhir said.

Losing a game is alright, key is to get feel of difficult situations: Pandya



Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

India T20I captain Hardik Pandya has said he will not get unduly perturbed if his side loses a match here and there, adding that the most important thing was to be in "difficult situations", which helps the team prepare for bigger challenges.

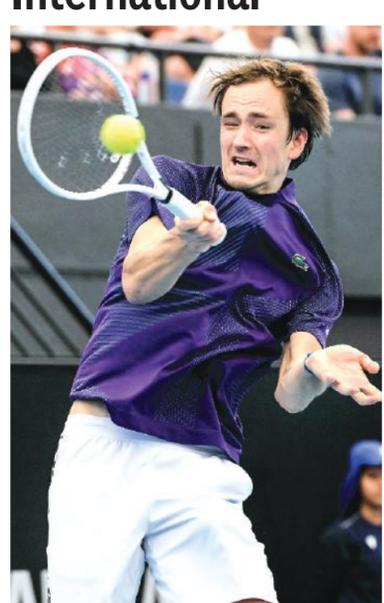
Pandya also allayed fears about his fitness, saying he had to leave the field for a brief while due to cramps as he didn't have a sound sleep the previous night and didn't drink enough water.

India defeated Sri Lanka in the opening T20I by just two runs at the Wankhede Stadium, with unbeaten Hooda (41) and Axar Patel (31) giving the hosts a decent target to defend after they were in trouble at 94 for five. "We might lose a game here and there but it's alright. I want to put this team in difficult situations because it will help us in big games. Bilaterals we are very good at and this is how we are going to challenge ourselves. To be honest, all the young guns got us out of the situation today," said Pandya.

Medvedev advances to quarter-finals at Adelaide International

Adelaide, Jan 04 (AP):

Daniil Medvedev defeated Miomir Kecmanovic 6-0, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals of the Adelaide International. The former world No. 1 -- now ranked No. 7 -- had an easy time on Wednesday for his third victory in three tries against the Serbian, who is ranked No. 29. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who has won 30 straight singles matches on Australian soil, will play on Thursday for his place in the quarter-finals and a possible matchup against Medvedev in the semi-finals. Medvedev is seeded No. 3 and will face fellow Russian Karen Khachanov for his spot in the semifinals. "Really happy to be through, happy with my level and looking forward to my next match," Medvedev said. "Miomir is a tough opponent, high-rep player. There are no easy guys left in Adelaide, not sure there were even in the first round." Khachanov, a semi-finalist at last year's U.S. Open, defeated Jack Draper of Britain 6-4, 6-2 to advance. On the women's side of the combined ATP-WTA tournament, Aryna Sabalenka and Marketa Vondrousova are set to meet in the quarter-finals after both won matches on Wednesday. Sabalenka, seeded No. 2, defeated Liudmila Samsonova in a gruelling match that lasted 2 hours, 15 minutes, winning 7-6 (8) 7-6 (3). Vondrousova, the 2019 French Open finalist, defeated Kaia Kanepi 6-0, 6-4.



No move to privatize state-run power firms: Maha Government

Unions call off strike

Mumbai, Jan 04 (PTI):

Hours after employees of three state-owned power companies in Maharashtra started a three-day strike on Wednesday, the agitation was called off following the government's assurance that the utilities will not be privatized.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the energy portfolio, said the government had no intention to privatize state-run power utilities.

The decision to call off the strike was announced in the afternoon by Sanjay Thakur, president of the Subordinate Engineers Association, one of the

unions participating in the 72-hour-long stir over a host of demands, following a meeting with Fadnavis.

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd (Mahavitaran), Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co Ltd (Mahapreshan) and Maharashtra State Electricity Generation Co Ltd (Mahanimriti) are the state-owned power firms whose employees had gone on the strike earlier in the day.

Fadnavis said a "communication gap" between the state government and agitating trade unions led to the stir.

"If a meeting had taken place between the state

government and trade union representatives earlier, the strike wouldn't have happened," he said.

The deputy chief minister said the state government doesn't want any state-run company to be privatized.

"One private company (belonging to Adani group) has applied for 'parallel distribution licence'. I want to make it clear that we are not supporting privatisation of these (power) companies," he said.

Maharashtra Rajya Karmachari, Adhikari and Abhiyanta Sangharsh Samiti, an action committee of 31 unions of power companies, had started an agita-

tion last month over their various demands.

Their major demand was not to issue a 'parallel distribution licence' to the Adani Group's power subsidiary as they apprehended grant of the licence would have led to eventual privatization of state-run power firms.

In November last year, Adani Electricity Navi Mumbai Ltd, a subsidiary of Adani Transmission, had applied to the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) for a parallel licence for power distribution under the jurisdiction of Mahavitaran in Bhandup, Mulund, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Taloja and Uran areas.

PROTEST FOR PERMANENT JOB



Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) contractual nurses protest demanding permanent jobs, in Patna, Wednesday.

Ekbalpur Clashes

NIA conducts raids, seizes cash and weapons

New Delhi, Jan 04 (PTI):

The NIA recovered more than Rs 33 lakh in cash in multiple searches in Kolkata on Wednesday in its probe linked to the Ekbalpur clashes between two communities last year, an official spokesperson said. The raids were carried out at 17 locations on Bhukailash road in Mominpur area of the West Bengal capital city.

The searches pertain to the clashes that took place in Ekbalpur area of Kolkata in October last year, where persons of different communities were involved. "These persons were equipped with deadly weapons, firearms, bombs and sticks, etc. near 12/1, Mayur Bhanj Road in Kolkata. These persons indulged in throwing

bricks, stone pelting and also hurled bombs at each other," the spokesperson for the federal agency said.

"They also attacked the security forces personnel and physically assaulted them, and damaged a number of vehicles," the spokesperson said. The case was taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from the local police that first filed the FIR at Ekbalpur police station on October 10.

An amount of Rs 33,87,300, which includes Rs 30,55,000 from the house of Md. Salauddin Siddique, Rs 1,59,300 from the house of Zakir Hossain and Rs 1,73,000 from the house of Tipu has been seized apart from "sharp-edged" weapons and other "incriminating" items, the spokesperson said.

'China will interfere with Dalai Lama succession'

Kolkata, Jan 04 (PTI):

Anticipating China's interference in the succession of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan government-in-exile has worked out a plan for a democratic transition of the Tibetan leadership.

In an interview to PTI, President of the Tibetan government-in-exile Penpa Tsering pointed out that a replay of the 1995 appointment of a rival Panchen Lama by the Communist government of China while a boy chosen by the Dalai Lama as the incarnate of the Lama was whisked away from the public eye, can be expected.

"What happens after the present Dalai Lama is no more, is a big challenge for the Tibetans, especially if the Sino-Tibetan con-

flict is not resolved," he said on Tuesday. "We believe China will definitely interfere with the succession process of the Dalai Lama... They have been preparing for that for the last 15 years," he added.

Tsering, who also holds the title of Sikyong, stated that the Chinese government issued a "diktat" in 2007 on the need for it to be involved in the succession of all reincarnate Lamas. "This was done, aiming at using religion as a political tool... (Even) though China should not have any role nor any other government," he said.

"They (Chinese) intervened in 1995 when they chose a boy (Gyancain Norbu) as the Panchen Lama. The boy recognised by His Holiness (the Dalai Lama) as Panchen Lama (Gedhun Choeyi Nyima)



Penpa Tsering

was whisked away and we still have no news of whether he is alive," he said. Nyima has not been seen by any independent observer since May 17, 1995. While the Chinese government claims he lives a "normal" life, Tibetan exiles and human rights groups believe that he is being held at a "Chinese gulag as a prisoner of conscience".

Tibetan Buddhists believe that the soul of a high Lama or "living Buddha" after his death may be reborn as "soul boy" and can be found through the interpretation of arcane signs.

"Communist China professes not to believe in religion, yet it wants to interfere in what is a purely a religious function," rued Tsering, adding that the Dalai Lama in jest has said that if the "Chinese government is so interested in re-incarnation, it should study Tibetan Buddhism".

To prepare the world and Tibetans for the day when the 14th Dalai Lama passes away, a six-point plan has been prepared. The cornerstone of the plan, Tsering said, is a democratic transition.

While the religious

leadership remains with the Dalai Lama, since 2011, the political leadership of the Tibetan community has devolved on the directly elected Sikyong or president of the Tibetan government-in-exile.

Till then, the temporal head of the Tibetan government-in-exile elected by the 'Kashag' or parliament-in-exile was 'Kalon Tripa' or prime minister with the Dalai Lama as the overall head.

A popular uprising in 1959 against the Chinese who had invaded Tibet in 1950, which was bloodily put down killing thousands of civilians, saw the Dalai Lama and many of his followers fleeing to India. A year after that, the Dalai Lama established a democratically-elected parliament.

Acquitted in gang rape case, man sues MP govt

Seeking Rs 10,000 crore compensation for 'suffering and mental agony'

Ratlam (MP), Jan 04 (PTI): After being acquitted of gang rape charges, a man from Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam has sought compensation of more than Rs 10,000 crore from the state government citing "suffering and mental agony" caused to him as his incarceration sent his family to the brink of starvation.

Of the Rs 10,006.02 crore compensation, the man has sought Rs 2 lakh towards the "loss of God's gift to humans e.g. sexual pleasure", as per his petition.

Kantu, alias Kantilal Bheel (35), moved the district and sessions court after a local court on October 20, 2022, dropped the gang rape charges, said his lawyer Vijay Singh Yadav. His case against the MP government and the investigators will be heard on January 10.

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORM



American Ice Skater Natalie Falsgraf performs a traditional dance of Ladakh at the Opening Ceremony of the 18th National Speed and Figure Skating Championship, at Ambience Mall, in Gurugram, Wednesday.

Medical colleges in Rajasthan grapple with cadaver shortage

Seek nod to acquire unclaimed bodies

Kota (Raj) Jan 04 (PTI):

Medical college authorities have sought the Rajasthan government's permission to claim bodies of the destitute and those abandoned in shelter homes amid a crippling shortage of cadavers for students. Medical colleges in Kota and Jhalawar are grappling with a severe shortage of cadavers, being forced to manage practical studies by grouping students together.

Government Medical College - Kota is conducting practical classes for its 250 students with 8 to 10 cadavers. Government Medical College - Jhalawar, on the other

hand, has only six cadavers for its 200 students.

This practice, however, runs contrary to the Medical Council of India -- now the National Medical Commission -- guidelines of one cadaver for 10 students. Cadavers are human bodies used by medical students, physicians and other scientists to study anatomy, identify disease sites and determine causes of death. Most state-run medical colleges in Rajasthan and across India rely on donations for cadavers.

Accepting the shortage of cadavers, Government Medical College - Jhalawar Dean Shiv Bhagwan Sharma said

he wrote to the state government two months ago to request permission for claiming bodies from shelter homes.

Manoj Sharma, nodal officer of the body donation programme at Government Medical College - Jhalawar, said almost all colleges across the state, including private ones, were facing the cadaver shortage.

However, SMS Medical College -- the biggest hospital in the state -- in Jaipur and RNT Medical College in Udaipur are exceptions. Udaipur's location on the border with Gujarat enables it to acquire cadavers for students, he said.

Dean Sharma proposed

coordinating with shelter homes to claim bodies of the destitute and abandoned people who die of natural causes, he said.

However, the state government is yet to respond to the proposal. Sharma asserted that the situation was the same across medical colleges in the state, depriving the students of the opportunity to get a better insight into human anatomy.

Bharatpur-based NGO Apna Ghar, which provides shelter homes to the destitute and the abandoned, proposed to send bodies to medical studies and wrote to the state government for permission, he added.

NFR instals acoustic-based tech in 2 divisions

To prevent jumbo deaths due to train hits

Guwahati, Jan 04 (PTI):

Northeast Frontier Railway has installed an acoustic-based technology in two of its divisions to prevent the death of elephants by speeding trains on the tracks, a senior official said on Wednesday. NFR General Manager Anshul Gupta told PTI that this is the first time in the world that the technology has been used by any railway for saving the collision of jumbos with trains.

The lives of over 400 pachyderms have been saved in the last six months after the first installation was done in Lumding division, the official said. "We developed the software and hardware

in association with a private firm and installed the Intrusion Detection System (IDS) for the first time in a 60 km stretch of elephant corridor in Lumding," Gupta said.

Explaining the technology, the senior official said that IDS uses the existing optical fibre along the tracks to capture the sound of the heavy footsteps of pachyderms when jumbos approach the tracks. Once the sound is captured by the cables, the acoustic signal is sent to the control room. "The software then differentiates the sound of the footsteps of elephants from other noise through artificial intel-

ligence. It then analyses the sound and sends alerts to the station masters informing the exact location of the animals," Gupta said.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

PRP तकनीक द्वारा गंजेपन का इलाज

डॉ. प्रशासन वै काल्यदा प्रान्त

आर.के.सी.के. सामने, चौबे कालोनी एवं पंचपेड़ी नाका, धमतरी रोड कलर्स मॉल के पास, रायपुर कॉल: 9827143060/8871003060

Baidyanath
NAGPUR ASLI AYURVED

HELPFUL FOR UNBEARABLE PAIN

➤ Enriched with **swarna bhasma** - hence more potent.

➤ Helps to relieve joint pain, backache, knee - joint pain, sprain and stiffness of muscles

RHEUMARTHO gold+ CAPSULE
ENRICHED WITH SWARNA BHASMA

Doctor's Consultation: 8448444935
www.baidyanath.co