



BRIEF



General Officer Commanding in Chief of Army's Northern Command Lt General Upendra Dwivedi presents the award to Army officials during the investiture ceremony, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

Threat call

Mumbai: A 28-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly threatening to carry out a terror attack at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here, officials said. The accused called the airport on Monday night and issued the threat while identifying himself as "Irfan Sheikh," a member of the banned terror outfit Indian Mujahideen, said a Sahar police station official.

Mishap

Khunti: A septuagenarian woman and her 35-year-old daughter were charred to death in a fire that broke out in their house in Khunti district on Tuesday, a police officer said. The victims were identified as Susana Kashyap (75) and her physically challenged daughter Pushpa Kashyap of Amritpur Mohalla, about 40 km from Ranchi, after the fire-fighters doused the fire.

Sentence

Junagadh: A court here on Tuesday sentenced a Congress MLA to six months of simple imprisonment in a 2010 case of rioting and assault in Gujarat's Junagadh district. A court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Snehal Shukla sentenced Vimal Chudasama, the Congress legislator from Somnath, and three others to six months of simple imprisonment.

Arrested

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday arrested an extortionist from Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district. "Police in Pulwama arrested an extortionist along with fake weapons, who was impersonating as a terrorist," a police spokesperson said.

Assault

Mumbai: Actor Rakhi Sawant's husband Adil Durrani was on Tuesday brought to the Oshiwara police station in the city after she filed a complaint accusing him of assaulting her and taking away money and jewellery from her flat without her knowledge, an official said. Citing her statement to the police on Monday night, the official said Sawant (41) got in touch with Durrani (30) in January 2022 and the two opened a joint business account.

Weather
High 32 Low 15

MARKET
NIFTY 17,721.50
SENSEX 60,286.04

BULLION
GOLD 57,077
SILVER 67,343

RUCKUS IN PARLIAMENT

BJP leader 'glorified sati': Oppn

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

Lok Sabha was adjourned briefly on Tuesday due to protests by opposition members who alleged that BJP member C P Joshi had glorified 'Sati' in his speech. Joshi, however, clarified that he did not support the banned practice and that his remarks were on the tradition of 'Jauhar'.

He said he did not mention 'Sati' and perhaps due to an error in translation from Hindi, the word was mixed with his reference to 'Satitva' (chastity). Joshi, a BJP member from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, had initiated the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address when he referred to Padmavati, the queen of Mewar who is believed to have self-immolated when

invader Allauddin Khilji laid a siege at the Chittor fort. Opposition members Supriya Sule (NCP), Kanimozhi, Dayanidhi Maran, A Raja (DMK), K Muraleedharan (Congress) and Imtiaz Jaleel (AIMIM) were on their feet claiming that Joshi had glorified the practice of 'Sati'. Joshi asserted that he had not made any reference to the practice of 'Sati', but mentioned that Padmavati had performed 'Jauhar' (self-immolation) to protect her honour. "I stand by my words," Joshi said, as opposition members raised slogans in the Well of the House. As protests continued, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings for 20 minutes. When the House reassembled, Birla assured the House that objectionable references will be examined and ex-

punged. Joshi sought to further explain his comments and said he was mentioning 'Jauhar', a practice of mass self-immolation by women.

"Neither I nor my party has ever supported Sati... Perhaps due to an error of translation 'Satitva' was mixed with 'Sati'.... My government keeps nation above politics," he said.

"She (Queen Padmavati) sacrificed her life to protect her 'Satitva' (chastity)..." Joshi said, inviting fresh protests from the Opposition benches.

"It was Jauhar... perhaps you don't understand Hindi," he added as protests continued.

As the ruckus continued, the Speaker again assured members that objectionable comments will be expunged and urged members to maintain the deco-

rum of the House.

DMK leader A Raja said even as they wanted to abide by the rulings of the Chair, the reference made by the BJP MP was "completely against the society" and "anti-human". Participating in the debate later, DMK's Kanimozhi said her head was hanging in shame due to the reference made in the House, even as she did not name the MP. "Every country when it talks about its past has different narrations... Whose past are we talking about? We talk about the greatness of the nation, valour, art, temples, and philosophy. "But we can't forget the people who found no place in history - the untouchables, the unseemable and women who were pushed in the fire in the name of honour," she said.

BJP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING

'Budget has something for all sections'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the recent Union Budget has something for every section of the society and asserted that the interests of the poor have been at the centre of every budget presented by his government.

Addressing the first BJP parliamentary party meeting after the budget was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, Modi said no one is calling it a "chunavi budget" (budget influenced by polls) even though it was the last full-fledged one before next year's Lok Sabha election. Overall development and the interests of every section of the society have driven the budget proposals, he added.

Even those who are ideologically opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

(BJP) have welcomed the budget, Union minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters, quoting Modi's speech to the MPs.

Asking the MPs to inform their constituents, including the poor and middle class, about the relevant aspects of the budget, Modi recalled his electoral experiences as the chief minister of Gujarat to say that

when work is recognised by people, there is nothing like anti-incumbency, sources said. Underscoring the wide acceptance of the budget, the prime minister said it is at times difficult to cater to everyone's taste at a family function of merely 25 guests, but the budget proposals have managed to meet the expectations of different sections of the society in a country of more than 130 crore people.

Modi highlighted his involvement with budgets over the years, noting that he has been associated with about 25 of them, including as the Gujarat chief minister between 2001 and 2014, and 10 of them, including interim budgets, at the Centre. The prime minister also asked the MPs, especially those from cities, to organise sports meets, to note that there is a view that youngsters in urban centres are not much involved in sports.

BRIBERY CASE

CBI arrests Western Coalfield officer

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The CBI has arrested a sub-area manager of Western Coalfields Limited for allegedly demanding a bribe of over Rs 3 lakh for allowing a company to lift coal from the Ghonsa open cast mine, officials said Tuesday.

The agency acted on a complaint from a transport company, Shree Transport, that Jitta Trading Company had purchased 8200 MT coal through e-auction and authorised it to lift the coal from the mine before January 11, they said.

Shree Transport could lift only 4623 MT till the deadline, they said.

When the company ex-

ecutives reached the office of Sub-Area Manager Gautam Basutkar's Office on January 31, 2023, to get new delivery order for 2500 MT coal, the officer refused to issue the new delivery order. It is alleged that the officer demanded a bribe of Rs. 3.23 lakh at the rate of Rs 70 per MT in respect of 4,623 MTS already lifted by the company. The complaint alleged that the accused officer demanded a total undue advantage of Rs 3.65 lakh, including Rs 3.23 lakh in respect of 4,623 MTS coal already lifted and Rs 42,000 for earlier favour rendered by him.

Basutkar allegedly agreed to accept the bribe amount of Rs 3.19 lakh during negotiations.

SURPRISE MOVE

Thorat resigns as Cong legislature party chief

Pune, Feb 07 (PTI)

Senior Maharashtra Congress leader and former chief minister Sushilkumar Shinde said on Tuesday it is not yet known if their state legislature party chief Balasaheb Thorat has resigned from his post.

He was responding to reporters about reports that Thorat has sent his resignation to the party high command.

"Whether it is resignation or just a letter, it is still not known. No talks have taken place with him (Thorat). I was with the state Congress president (Nana Patole) and he also had no idea about it. So it would not be appropriate



to comment on it," said Shinde in Solapur.

Thorat on Tuesday resigned as the state legislature party head, a day after his letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over friction with state unit chief Nana Patole came out, party sources said earlier.

Thorat, who represents the Sangamner constituency in Ahmednagar district, has sent his resig-

No talks with Thorat: Shinde

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nation to the party high command, said the sources. When asked about the differences between the senior leaders within the party, Shinde said "all these things" are temporary. "Everything will be alright and there is nothing to worry about," he said.

SCENIC BEAUTY



Fishermen at the Ana Sagar Lake during sunset in Ajmer, Tuesday.

RAHUL RIPS INTO MODI

'Adani magic happened after 2014'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

Leading the Opposition attack over the Adani-Hindenburg issue in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday linked Gautam Adani's meteoric rise to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's coming to power and said "magic" happened after 2014 that propelled the businessman from the 609th to the second spot on the global rich list.

The Congress leader's remarks drew a sharp response from the treasury benches, with Law Minister Kiren Rijiju asking him not to level "wild allegations" and furnish

proof of his claims. Speaker Om Birla disapproved of the Congress leader displaying two pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - one in which he can be seen with Adani inside a plane and the other in which he is getting down from a plane which has an Adani logo on it - to highlight their alleged proximity.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha as the first Opposition speaker, Gandhi made a barrage of allegations including that Modi helped Adani bag overseas contracts in various sectors.

High nitrate content in northeast

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The groundwater in most parts of Delhi is brackish in nature and the nitrate concentration is high in the northeastern parts of the capital, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has said in a report.

"Chemical analysis of ground water samples collected in May 2021 showed that nitrate content in groundwater is within the permissible limit of 45 mi-

CGWB REPORT

Brackish groundwater in most parts of Delhi

grams per litre in most of the state. However, concentration in the north-eastern parts of Delhi is high," the CGWB's groundwater year book 2021-22 said.

Except a few locations in the northern and western parts of the city, all areas have a fluoride concentration within the permissible limit of 1.5 micrograms per litre, it said.

The eastern parts of Delhi, especially the areas around the Yamuna floodplains and the Delhi Quartzite Ridge zones, have an electrical conductivity (EC) within the permissible

range of 0 to 2,250 microsiemens per centimetre, the CGWB said.

"The rest of the capital, barring some pockets of southwest, northwest and west districts, has EC value of more than 3,000 microsiemens per centimetre. It is also observed that water from deeper aquifers have greater EC value than the water from shallow aquifers. The EC value increases with depth," it said.

Salinity, the measure of the amount of dissolved salts in water, is directly proportional to electrical conductivity (EC).

JEE-MAIN RESULT

20 candidates score perfect 100

NTA score of 50 candidates withheld

Perfect 100 candidates....

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Twenty candidates have scored perfect 100 in engineering entrance exam JEE-Main's January edition, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

All the candidates with 100 NTA score in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main are males.

The 20 toppers include 14 from the general category, four from the OBC category and one each from gen-EWS and SC category. While Md Sahil Akhtar is the PwD topper with 99.9848042 NTA score, the SC topper is Deshank Pratap Singh with 100 NTA score and ST topper is Dheeravath Thanuj with 99.99041.

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The candidates who scored 100 NTA scores are Abhineet Majety, Amogh Jalan, Apurva Samota, Ashik Stenny, Bikkina Abhinav Chowdary, Deshank Pratap Singh, Dhruv Sanjay Jain, Dnyanesh Hemendra Shinde, Duggineni Venkata Yuges, Gulshan Kumar, Guthikonda Abhiram, Kaushal Vijayvergiya, Krish Gupta, Mayank Son, N K Vishwaajith, Nipun Goel, Rishi Kalra, Soham Das, Suthar Harshul Sanjaybhai and Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy.

"The NTA scores of 50 candidates have been withheld as they are under scrutiny. The cases of

these candidates are being placed before a committee separately. Their NTA scores will be declared once the committee finalises its report," a senior NTA official said.

NTA score is not the same as percentage of marks obtained but normalised scores.

"NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-session papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one session. The marks obtained are converted into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees," the official explained.

Accident victim's body dragged under car for 10 km

In Mathura Mathura (UP), Feb 07 (PTI):

Weeks after the Kanjhawala case in Delhi, a man was killed in a road accident and his body dragged under a car for nearly 10 kilometres on the Yamuna Expressway here, police said.

The driver of the Maruti Suzuki Swift only detected the body after a toll plaza employee alerted him early on Tuesday morning and the police informed.

"The driver has been taken into custody and his car impounded," Superintendent of Police (Mathura Rural) Trigun Bishen said. The driver has been

identified as Virendra Singh, a resident of Sangam Vihar in Delhi. He was returning from Agra with four family members after attending a wedding.

A detailed investigation was initiated after the toll plaza employee informed the police, Bishen said.

Bloodstains have been found at the Kilometer 106 marker in the Jamuna Paar area. It appears that the accident took place there and the body later got stuck under the car passing the point, the senior police official added.

The driver told the police that he was not aware that the body was stuck under the car and attributed it to poor visibility caused by dense fog.

Millet Cafes to be opened in urban bodies

Organic C-Mart on Wheels to be rolled out in District

Bhilai, Feb 07:

In view of the popularity of delicacies made of millets, 12 millet cafes will be opened in the urban bodies of the district. Popular dishes prepared from Millets will be available to the citizens at these Cafes, which will be run by the women SHGs associated with NULM. Chefs, who are experts in millet cuisine, will provide training to the women. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena conducted detailed discussion in this regard with the officers on Tuesday. He said that along with the Cafes, the concept of "millets on wheels" can also be rolled out so that the nutritious dishes of millets can get more popularity and opportunities can be created for the entrepreneurs. The Collector said that two millet cafes would be opened in Bhilai and one each in the remaining urban bodies. He said that millet dishes are very tasty and it will be a special experience for the citizens of Durg. Similarly, to promote organic products, an organic C-Mart-on-wheel



will also be started in the near future. Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi, Arvind Ekka, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and other officers were present. The Collector said that such livelihood-oriented activities are to be done in the Gauthans of the urban bodies, in which employment can be generated on a large scale. Fish can be reared on a large scale through biofloc culture. Biofloc produces fish on a large scale in a small space. He asked the officials to conduct these activities in a bigger way and assured all possible support from the administration. The Collector fur-

ther said that the beauty of the city is from the plants and trees. Maintaining the beauty of the city is the responsibility of all of us. Under the Mor Shahar - Mor Jimmedari campaign, people would be required to plant at least two saplings in front of their houses. Administration will have to work with the people of the residential societies for this initiative. If every person plants saplings in front of his house or in his park, the cover of greenery will automatically increase. The Collector said that he himself would meet the office bearers of the residential societies for this purpose. The Collector further said that to increase the revenue, the civic bodies

can work in the direction of advertisements. Along with this, tax collection should also be complete. The Collector said that work will also be done in the direction of eradication of mosquitoes in the city and a comprehensive campaign will be launched for this purpose. The Collector also inquired about the action taken by the officers of the urban bodies regarding establishment of vending zones. Collector said that if the reports of Patwari and RI are received on time, the revenue cases are resolved quickly. He asked all the SDMs to give a list of cases pending for more than fifteen days, one month and two months so that appropriate action could be taken after exploring the reasons for the delay. It needs to be mentioned here that the Collector first took a revenue meeting of the revenue officers. Revenue officials informed him that for proper redressal of revenue related problems, revenue camps are being organized where problems of the people are being resolved on the spot.

25 villages to be made 'total clean' in the first phase



Bhilai, Feb 07:

To promote cleanliness in rural areas in the district and to make all the villages clean and beautiful, work will be done on the complete cleanliness model. In the first phase, 25 villages will be covered and later the project will be expanded to all gram panchayats. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena gave these instructions in the meeting of officers of Panchayat Department. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan was also present. He said that the Chhattisgarh government is following Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Surajee villages. It is important to promote cleanliness and beauty prominently in rural areas as per the intention of the govern-

ment. For this, the administration will have to work on the complete cleanliness model. The Collector said that for the campaign of complete cleanliness model, there is a need to mobilize on a war footing. To achieve desired results, only the activism of the administrative staff is not enough but community participation is also very important. First of all, it is important to see that the drainage system is working properly because most of the problems occur due to the lack of a proper drainage system. This work will be done by promoting soak pits in homes. It is necessary to meet people in all the villages and advise them. Along with this, the beauty of traffic junctions is also important. Sharing

his experiences, the Collector said that during his visit to the rural areas of Durg district, he saw that some villages are very beautiful and clean due to the activeness of the administrative staff as well as the participation of the villagers. After the cleanliness campaign started, the traffic squares were also cleaned. Flower beds were planted at such places where people used to throw garbage, due to which the place automatically became beautiful. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that due to the awareness of the villagers and the activeness of the administrative staff in Durg district, appreciable work has been done on cleanliness. The administration has started experiments like utensil banks and

panchayats have adopted it. Diseases are less common in clean villages. The level of health remains good due to less spread of diseases. Further the problem of malnutrition among children has reduced considerably. During the review of the Panchayat Department, the Collector took detailed information about the works being done under MGNREGA and NGBB scheme and gave necessary directions to the staff. The Collector congratulated the officers of the Panchayat Department for doing a good job in creating women man days. He said that the Panchayat department has done a good job in creating the maximum number of women's man days for MGNREGA in the entire state.

Ten students of KCS Educate score above 99 percentile in Session -1 of JEE Main



Bhilai, Feb 07:

For admissions in the prestigious NITs and IITs, the NTA conducted the first session of JEE Main exam from 24th January to 1st February. The result of JEE Main Session -1 was declared on February 06. This exam is conducted by NTA twice a year in the months of January and April.

The students of KCS Educate situated in Civic Centre performed in an excellent manner in this exam. 10 students of KCS Educate scored above 99 percentile in the examination. Arnav Deshmukh scored 99.86 percentile, Siddhant Singh

(99.84), Divyansh Jain (99.82), Pranjali Agrawal (99.72), Kirti Gupta (99.68), Amulya Kumar (99.53), Ansh Gupta (99.29), Bhavya Jain (99.22), Vansh Rajesh Pali (99.09) and Sahaj Saxena scored 99.02 percentile.

The successful students credited their success to the doubt clearing sessions, revision classes, systematic test system and competitive environment in the organization. They added that the guidance of teachers was very important for their preparation. Time to time motivation by the mentors of KCS Educate kept the morale of the students high

and they achieved this success with their dedication and tireless hard work. The parents of successful students stated that their children were benefitted a lot from the guidance they received at KCS Educate. They learnt to consider studies as a game and not a burden.

KCS Educate Chief Mentor and Founder Avansh Saxena extended best wishes to all the successful students and wished them a bright future. Overcoming all the challenges, the students paved the way for success through regular interactions, asking questions and changing their study style according to time.

BSP to host All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023

Bhilai, Feb 07: All India Steel Medical Officers Conference is being organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre Bhilai from February 09 to February 12, 2023. It will once again be a proud moment for the Bhilai Steel Plant fraternity to host the annual "All India Steel Medical Officers Conference".

It may be noted that this conference was first conducted in 1980 when under the leadership of Dr TK Bose (Director M &HS, Rourkela Steel Plant). So far this conference has been organised 41 times by 9 different steel plants by rotation. This is the 6th time that Bhilai has got the opportunity to host it.

About 500 doctors from 9 different steel plants will participate in the conference and share their experiences in depth on the subjects of their expertise. Detailed lectures and appropriate demonstrations will be presented on the use of latest technology in

the medical field. Doctors from Bhilai steel plant, Durgapur Steel plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, Rourkela steel plant, Burnpur steel plant, Vishakhapatnam steel plant and Tata steel plant Bhilai are actively participating in this programme. The 4-day long conference will include various activities like workshop on BLS, Hemodynamic monitoring, Scientific Paper presentation by doctors of all Steel Plants, panel discussions, exhibitions of Scientific stalls, long and short paper presentations, Debate competition, Symposium on 'Recent advances in Medical sciences 'total quality management (TQM)' paper presentations, guest lectures, posters presentation and presentation on 'Challenges for the Physician in 21st century'.

The day's programme will be followed by cultural activities in the evening of February 10-11, 2023 for the entertainment of delegates and guests.

SMS 3, RMP 3 and COB-11'S BPTG make new records

Bhilai, Feb 07: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant continues to make records in techno-economic parameters on a regular basis. In this series, BSP's Modex Unit SMS3, RMP 3 and Coke Oven Battery 11's Back Pressure Turbo Generator (BPTG) make new records. Caster 2 of SMS 3 had made a record of 155 heats on February 05, 2023, surpassing the previous record of 150 heats on March 04, 2022.

RMP 3 produced 1915 T on February 05, 2023, surpassing the previous best daily record of 1860 T made on November 22, 2022.

Coke Oven Battery 11's Back Pressure Turbo Generator (BPTG) created a daily record of electricity production. 3.98 MW electricity was produced by BPTG on February 05, 2023, creating a new record surpassing the previous best of 3.94 MW electricity on October 26, 2022.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the concerned departments for their achievement.

Electrical Safety Manual for Steel Melting Shop 3 released



Bhilai, Feb 07: An Electrical Safety Manual has been brought out by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 3 (SMS 3) to strengthen safety system. Written in Hindi for the benefit of all employees, the manual would enable concerned employees to carry out all electrical related jobs safely. On February 06, 2023, the Electrical Safety Manual was released by Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar.

The manual presents all safety aspects of electrical operation in the shop. Besides describing in detail how shutdown processes are to be carried out safely, the Electrical Safety Manual also describes all standard operating practices (SOPs) and standard maintenance practices (SMPs).

Following the manual would strengthen safety systems in SMS 3 and help achieve the objective of safe production. Use of Hindi as the language would ensure that employees on the shopfloor easily refer and follow the safety instructions in the manual. The Electrical Safety Manual has been compiled by Archana Atika Singh, Assistant Manager (Electrical). Pradyuman Satpathy, GM (Electrical) and Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, GM I/c Electrical SMS 3 edited and checked the manual. The successful publication of the manual was executed under the guidance of SK Kar, CGM (SMS 3) and A Shankar, CGM I/c Electrical and help and support of employees of Electrical Section of SMS 3.

DAV IPS celebrates Annual Day with great zeal

Bhilai, Feb 07:

DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2 celebrated its Annual Function with great zeal and zest. The first phase of the Annual Day was kept specifically for the Pre primary and the primary wing. The Chief Guest of the day was Tapas Dasgupta CGM I/c Iron Bhilai Steel Plant; Chairman LMC of the school, the Guest of Honour was Prashant Kumar Deputy Regional Officer CG

Zone A and the Special Guest of the evening was Dr BP Sahu, Assistant Regional Officer. The function commenced with the arrival of the esteemed guests to the venue after the rituals of Tilak followed by the Raj Geet and the DAV anthem to give the evening an official start. The guests were given a floral welcome with a brief introduction of each to the gathering by the Headmistress of the school Madam Priyanka Shukla. The Headmistress also presented a brief report of the school & its

achievements in the past few years in the fields of academics, co curricular activities and sports. The cultural events captivated everyone as the little stars from classes Nursery to Class V made their appearance on stage in their colourful and vibrant attire. Some of the programmes presented on stage involved the real appearance of the mothers of nursery kids displaying the Bond of Love between a mother and her son. Also kids dancing to the tunes of Disco Beats, giving the message of following The Traffic Rules on road, the concept of school as an integral part of every child & life was brought on stage through the event School Chale Hum, a day in the life of a joker through the programme. The children also paid a heart touching tribute to the great singers whom we lost in the year 2022 viz Lata ji, SP Balasubramaniam, Bappi Lahiri and KK through the programme Tribute To The Lost Legends. The tough times and the chal-

lenges faced by the public during the COVID times was perfectly depicted by the students of Class III, IV and V in the event named Salute To The Frontline Warriors. The Guests in his address to the gathering expressed their best wishes to the little kids for their future and congratulated for showcasing their talents on stage by giving a mesmerizing performance. The academic achievers of the previous session 2021- 22 were also honoured on stage by the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the Special Guest of the evening. The winners and the participants were in high spirits after receiving applause from the Guests, their teachers as well as their parents. The Annual Function of the primary wing concluded with the vote of thanks and the Shantipath.

The second phase of the Annual Function of the school was kept for the students of the middle and the Senior Wing. The occasion was graced by the

presence of the Chief Guest of the evening Mahadeo Kawre, Divisional Commissioner Durg, the Guests of Honour Prashant Kumar,



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Deputy Regional Officer and Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c Iron Bhilai Steel Plant, Chairman LMC of the school and the Special Guest of the evening Dr B P Sahu, Assistant Regional Officer. The evening had a start with the formal rituals of Tilak ceremony of the guests followed by the Raj Geet and the DAV Anthem. The Headmistress of the school Priyanka Shukla offered a floral welcome to all the esteemed guests of the evening followed by the Lighting of the Lamp ceremony. The evening was also graced by the presence of Rajesh Chatterjee, Principal Govt School, Supela, Vandana Julme, Nodal Officer, Sadhna Singh, Corporator Sector 2, Nomen Sahu, Parshad. The Headmistress presented the Annual Report of the school in all the fields. The programme started with the welcome song presented and performed by the school & its choir group. This was followed

by a unique presentation of a live duo presentation of dance and song on stage where the students danced to the live singing of their two teachers on stage which captivated the spectators with the perfect bond displayed on stage like the guru - shishya bond. The students of the middle wing successfully captured the gathering by displaying the victory of good over the evil through the programme Mahishasur Mardini dance drama. The journey of cultural diversity yet celebrating unity in diversity was well displayed by a unique blend of the folk dances of six different states. The DAV National Sports Achievers were honoured on stage by the Guests and the House Champion of the co-curricular activities was also declared on stage which went to the Shradhdhanad (Yellow) House of the School. The Chief Guest in his address to the gathering shared his own experience of his student life and set an inspiration to

the students and parents that if focussed in the right direction with hard work and dedication, a child can achieve whatever target he/ she has set for life. The Guest of Honour Prashant Kumar, speaking on this occasion appreciated the efforts put in by the staff in organising and managing the event well and bringing up a good presentation of cultural events on stage. He congratulated the Academic achievers and wished them good luck for their future. He also urged the parents to give full support to their wards for the upcoming board as well as the home exams. He focussed on the importance of the phase that the students are right now going through and if directed and guided well by their mentors, with the help of the parents, the students can achieve their best and bring glory to their name as well as to the name of the school. The event concluded successfully with the Vote of thanks and the Shantipath.

People agitated with present govt: BJP

● **Frontal Organization meet held to give momentum to preparations**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 07: Giving fresh impetus to the preparations for the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly polls, the principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday held a marathon meeting in presence of the central leader in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Mathur and co-in-charge Nitin Nabin at party headquarters here.

According to the information received, the office-bearers of all the frontal organizations were present during the meeting held in presence of other senior leaders in-

cluding the State BJP President Arun Sao, former CM Dr Raman Singh, Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel, Regional Organizational General Secretary Ajay Jamwal, BJP Organizational General Secretary Pawan Sai and Chief Spokesperson Ajay Chandrakar.

Addressing the inaugural session, the State BJP President Arun Sao said that people from weaker section of society are deprived of basic facilities whereas every section of society are feeling unsafe during the last four years of Congress regime.

Sao also held the Congress government responsible for the delay in the implementation of reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe which he said that is a

cheating for every section of society.

BJP in-charge of party affairs Om Mathur said that frontal organization members have a significant role in social life as they have reach to people from every section of society. He urged them to win the confidence of the people with the message of development possible only under the BJP regime.

Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel claimed that people are agitated with the Congress government and added that BJP is determined to fight against the Congress government with the support of people.

Earlier, former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh urged the party leaders to get into momentum for the upcoming elections claiming several issues before them against the Congress government.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION



With frequent closure of roads during peak of traffic-hours, either for some or the other construction work or digging, the denizens of city continue to face problems and unexpected delay in reaching to their destination.

Airtel 5G Plus now live in CG

Raipur, Feb 07: Bharti Airtel, India's leading telecommunications service provider on Tuesday announced the launch of its cutting edge 5G services in Raipur and Durg-Bhilai. Airtel 5G Plus services will be available to customers in a phased manner as the company continues to construct its network and complete the roll out. Customer with 5G enabled devices will enjoy high speed Airtel 5G Plus network at no extra cost until the roll out is more wide-

spread. Airtel 5G Plus is currently operational at Pandri, Jawahar Chowk, Mowa-Saddu, Gol Bazar, Shankar Nagar - Ashok Ratna, Bhanpuri, Urla, Rajatalab, Bhatagaon, RDA Colony, Wall Fort Colony, Santoshi Nagar, Samta Colony and Gudhiyari.

The company will augment its network in due course of time, making its service available across many other locations in the city. Commenting on the launch, Sujay Chakrabarti, CEO, Bharti Airtel,

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh said, 'I am thrilled to announce the launch of Airtel 5G Plus in Raipur and Durg-Bhilai. Airtel customers in these two cities can now experience ultrafast network and can enjoy speeds upto 20-30 times faster than the current 4G speeds. We are in process of lighting up entire cities which will allow superfast access to High-definition video streaming, gaming, multiple chatting, instant uploading of photos and more.'

NIT's Annual Cultural Fest 'ECLECTIKA' from Feb 10

Raipur, Feb 07: The National Institute of Technology Raipur's Sanskriti-The Cultural Committee is organising Central India's largest college cultural fest, ECLECTIKA'23 from 10th to 12th February 2023. The 3-day long fest will be organized under the adept guidance of Dr PY Dhakne, Dean (Student & Faculty Welfare).

After a long gap of 2 years, the campus will witness the most celebrated 3 days of the year with a series of exciting and enthralling events. There will be 8 mega-events, inviting participants from various genres to showcase their talents. The mega events include "Allure", a fashion show, "Avirbhav", a war of bands, "Clash of Choreos", a dance competition, "Eclectika Idol", a singing competition, "Kalopsia", a painting competition, "Goonj", a Nukkad Natak competition, "Taffree", a stand-up comedy competition, and

"Nriyangan+EDS" by Nriyam-The Dance Club, NIT Raipur.

In addition to the mega-events, there will be about 25 minor events covering the diversified talents hidden in students of NIT Raipur, such as "Pixel Lane", "HACE Painting", "Youth Chef", "Hansard Paper Topia", poetry competition, etc. The biggest and most anticipated event of ECLECTIKA'23, which is the "Cult Nite" will feature a huge paraphernalia of serene and captivating performances by highly energetic and ebullient students, and promises to maintain the rich legacy of being the highlight of the fest like every year.

ECLECTIKA'23 will bring forth a massive conglomeration of rich talents and blaze the campus with a cultural aura. The 3 days of the fest will be the most reminisced and embraced days down the memory lanes of all.

Community Medicine Deptt in Pt JNMHC presents 12 research papers



● **In IAPSM conference**

Raipur, Feb 07: Teachers and post graduate students of Community Medicine Department of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College (Pt JNMHC) Raipur presented research papers in conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM). The conference was held at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 2 February to 4 February 2023.

As many as 12 research papers were presented from the Community Medicine Department of

Pt JNMHC, Raipur. Prominent among the doctors who presented the research are Professor and Head of the Department, Dr Nirmal Verma, Professor Dr Kamlesh Jain, Associate Professor Dr Ashish Kumar Sinha and Assistant Professor Dr Prashant Jaiswal. Post graduate students also attended the conference.

The conference was organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bibinagar Telangana at National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad in which various medical researchers from India and abroad presented their research works.

Young tribal students from N-E states of India met Governor



Raipur, Feb 07: Young students from the tribal communities of seven states of North-East India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh) under the leadership of Tilak Nath Poddar met Ms. Anusuiya Uikhey at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday. Addressing all the youth on this occasion, the Governor extended hearty greetings on their arrival in Chhattisgarh. The Governor said that the visit of the North-Eastern States to different parts of India would definitely improve the people-to-people contact of these regions. This tour program will provide a good opportunity to understand each other's culture, food, education, language, geographical conditions and traditions.

The Governor told all the young students that now all of you have to cross many stages in life, you have to discharge many responsibilities in

life. In such a situation, this excursion program gives you an opportunity to learn a lot.

The Governor shared with all the students her experiences of visiting the North-Eastern states during her tenure in various positions. Along with this, the Governor asked everyone about their experiences on their arrival in the state of Chhattisgarh.

It is noteworthy that the Student Experience in Interstate Living-2023 (SEAL-2023) program is being run by the students from February 01 to February 20, 2023 under the National Integration Tour. In this, 450 children in 16 groups are being taken on tour to different states. On this occasion, the students felicitated the Governor with their traditional gamchha. The Governor also honored all the students by giving them a state towel and a memento. On this occasion Dr. Purnendu Saxena and students were present.

Ch'garh's 'Nili Chhatri wale Guruji' honored in New Delhi

● **Sikkim Governor conferred the 'Life's Real Heroes of India' Award on teacher Rudrapratap Singh Rana**

Raipur, Feb 07: Rudrapratap Singh Rana, an assistant government teacher of Chhattisgarh popularly known as 'Nili Chhatri wale Guruji' received the "Life's Real Heroes of India Award" for his outstanding work in the field of education. He was conferred this award by the hands of Sikkim Governor Shri Ganga Prasad and Acharya Pradyumna (mentor of Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev) at programme organized in New Delhi on February 4. The award is given by 'Aas Ek Prayas' Trust every year to people from across the country who have done exemplary work in their field, bring-



ing positive change in society.

Rana is an assistant teacher at Government Primary School Sakda in Korea district of Chhattisgarh. He did outstanding work during the Covid-10 pandemic period keeping children connected with their studies when the schools were shut. The idea behind his unique initiative was that the children cannot go to school, so why not take the school to the children. He decorated his motorcycle with a bell,

green board, a small library, and a blue umbrella and started teaching children in a locality of the village, ensuring their safety.

The children started calling him "Nili Chhatri wale Guruji". The Prime Minister also liked this safe way of keeping children connected with the teaching-learning process during the difficult pandemic times. He also mentioned this in his "Mann Ki Baat" radio programme. Shri Rana, along with his friends, first came up with

the concept of "Mohalla Classes" in Chhattisgarh for inaccessible and no-network areas, which later became very famous and popular across the country. He rejuvenated the primary school of the remote village of Sakda with the cooperation of the government and society and established it as an ideal school. Teacher Rana emphasizes experience-based teaching and tries to make the learning process interesting. Many documentaries have also been made about his school. Numerous children from his school have been selected for Eklavya Adarsh Residential School. He is also a part of the 5 member team of FLN under 'NIPUN Bharat Mission'. His life journey has been highlighted in detail in the book 'Life's Real Hero', which inspires and makes all hard-working teachers proud.

Three players from Ch'garh short-listed for Women IPL auction



Raipur, Feb 07: Three players from Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) have been short-listed for the Women' Indian Premier League (IPL) auction to be held under the aegis of BCCI soon.

According to the information received, Yashi Pandey, Shivi Pandey and Aishwarya Singh have been short-listed for the IPL auction on the basis of their recent performances in the T-20 matches.

The 33-year old Yashi

Pandey who has played 56 T-20 matches as well as 55 ODI matches, has been kept at the Reserve price of Rs 40 lakh whereas Right Hand batter Shivi Pandey and all-rounder Aishwarya Singh have been given an opportunity to enter into auction with the base price of Rs 10 lakh.

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) office-bearers have extended best wishes to the above three players for their Women IPL venture.

Knife that penetrated into left eye through cheek bone removed



Raipur, Feb 07: Doctors in the Department of Ophthalmology at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur saved the eye and vision of a 32-year-old youth by successfully removing a sharp knife that had entered behind his left eye, in the intervening night of Sunday-Monday. The successful operation led by Head of the Department Ophthalmology Dr Nidhi Pandey and Dr Amrita Verma was very



risky as the knife had penetrated through the left cheekbone and got stuck behind the eye due to which the patient was in excruciating pain and eye muscles were also cut.

Dr Nidhi Pandey, Dr. Amrita Verma and the team carried out the operation very carefully and succeeded in saving the left eye of the young man and his vision by successfully removing the knife that entered about seven centimeters in-

side the eye. Giving informa-

tion regarding the said case, Dr Nidhi Pandey and Dr Amrita Verma told that on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, a young man from the Community Health Center Kharora had come to the emergency department after being assaulted. The young man was stabbed by someone during the scuffle. The knife pene-

trated through the left cheek and got stuck behind the eye after crossing the bone due to which the patient was in excruciating pain. The muscles of the eye were also severed. After X-ray, CT scan, it was found that the knife had penetrated about 7 cm deep into the eye. After conducting all the tests, the challenge during the operation

was that the knife should also come out and the young man's eyesight should also be saved. After completing all the medico-legal formalities of the youth, the team of Dr. Amrita Verma, Dr. Vinanti Kangale Dhruv, Dr. Mukesh Bhagat, led by Dr Nidhi Pandey successfully saved the young man's eyes as well as vision.

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New policy soon for rural industries to strengthen village economy: CM

CM reaches village Bhansoj of Arang assembly constituency under 'Bhent-Mulaqat' prog

Made several announcements for the development of the area



Arang, Feb 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said "the number of income-oriented activities conducted in the Rural Industrial Parks being set up in Gauthans will be increased to boost employment opportunities at the local level. For this, a new policy for rural industries will be formulated soon on the lines of the new industrial policy of the state. This will strengthen the rural economy of the state."

He was addressing the Bhent-Mulaqat programme organized at village Bhansoj falling under the Arang assembly constituency of Raipur district. During the programme, CM took direct feedback from the villagers regarding the state government schemes including loan waiver, paddy procurement at support price, income-generating activities conducted in Gauthans, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay

Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, and Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana.

He added that facilities like land, electricity, water and roads are being provided to the youth to start small-scale village industries in the Rural Industrial Park being developed in state-run Gauthans. The move aims to empower rural youth making them self-reliant. He said that we are still waiting for the Centre to give its nod for the production of ethanol from paddy. Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahriya was also present in the programme.

Chief Minister commenced his 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programme by garlanding the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari and lighting the lamp. Explaining about the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, the Chief Minister said that on March 31, the farmers will get the fourth installment of this

scheme. He said that a record 107 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured. Everything was made available at the right time, from gunny bags to paddy lifting, distribution of tokens, and payment to farmers were conducted smoothly.

Tilak, Sukhram got the benefit of the loan waiver scheme

During the meeting, Tilak Dewangan, a resident of village Sandi while interacting with the Chief Minister said that his loan of Rs 3.50 lakh has been waived off and he is sending his child to Swami Atmanand English medium school. Sukhram Sahu, a farmer of village Bhansoj said that he has sold 1100 bags of paddy. Sukhram said that his loan of Rs 3.70 lakh has been waived off. When the Chief Minister asked about the difference in production from the farmers who use vermicompost, Sahu said that he practices organic farming and use vermicompost continuously

Important announcements made by CM

- Approval will be given for construction of Sandi-Kukra road from Bhansoj canal.
- Additional rooms will be constructed in Government High School Bhansoj.
- Construction of compound and staff quarter in Government Primary Health Center Bhansoj building.
- Internal CC road and drain will be constructed in Bhansoj and Nara villages.
- Bank branch will be opened in Bhansoj.
- Nagar Panchayat Mandir Hasaud Primary Health Center will be upgraded to Community Health Center.
- Road construction from Sandi to Nara.
- Swami Atmanand English medium school will be opened in Chandkhuri.
- Access road will be developed from Umaria turn to Parsada in village Umaria.
- Widening of Arang access road from village Ghumrabhatha.
- Construction of high school building in Gondli.
- Upgradation of High School building in Paraskol.

for farming, it also reduces crop diseases and boosts crop production. He said that the tractor was bought with a money loan waiver.

Kumari Sahu opened a grocery store by selling cow dung

When asked by Chief Minister Baghel about PDS, women beneficiary Bindu Banjare said that 35 kg of rice, sugar and salt are being provided. Bindu said that kerosene and gas cylinders are highly expensive. Talking to the Chief Minister, Kumari Sahu told that she has earned an income of Rs 50,000 by selling cow dung under the Godhan Nyay Yojana. She has opened a grocery shop for her son using this money and the shop is running well. She appreciated the ambitious Godhan

Nyay Yojana saying that the scheme is great. Expressing her gratitude to Chief Minister she said that you have done a great job by starting this scheme.

Rajkumari Sahu, a resident of village Nara gave information regarding the health benefits received under 'Mukhyamantri Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana'. She said that she visits the clinic regularly. Iron and Calcium tablets are given free of cost. Medicines and doctor's consultations are all free-of-cost. Mahima Sahu, a class 11th student of Swami Atmanand English Medium School, spoke about the facilities available in the school and told that earlier her school fees was Rs 25,000.

Get construction works completed on priority: Lakhma

Industries Minister reviews DMFT item and other development works



Raipur, Feb 07: Industries Minister Mr. Kawasi Lakhma reviewed the DMFT item and other development works in a meeting held at Collectorate, Bastar on Monday. Minister Mr. Lakhma said in the meeting that there is a link of dialogue between the people's representatives, the public and the administration. Development works have to be speeded up with everyone's cooperation and in the development works being done in the district, especially Anganwadi centers, fair price shops, implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, renovation work of Devguri and schools should be completed within time-limit with priority.

During the meeting, Minister Lakhma reviewed the development works from 2016 to 2022-23

under DMFT head. Taking detailed information about the incomplete works, he instructed the officers to get all the works completed at the earliest. The officials gave information regarding the purchase of cow dung under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana. Minister Mr. Lakhma inquired in detail about all the flagship schemes run by the state government and stressed on their implementation. He also reviewed the distribution of forest rights recognition letters in the urban areas and directed to give its benefits to the eligible beneficiaries on the border and also directed to set up camps for recognition of forest rights. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding purchase of

paddy, transfer of money, lifting of paddy and instructions were given to monitor the movement of paddy coming from the border states. Reviewing the works of the construction department, he said that special attention should be paid to the quality of construction works, road maintenance works. He also reviewed the works of PMGSY, Public Works Department, bridge construction, National Highways. He instructed to speed up the road widening work of Kanger Valley. Minister Mr. Lakhma also reviewed the implementation of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel's announcement and the works of all departments related to it.

National Yoga Anatomy Workshop at AIIMS

Raipur, Feb 07: Chairman of Yoga Aayog Gyanesh Sharma attended the two-day National Yoga Anatomy Workshop organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Raipur (AIIMS) as the chief guest. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, Director and CEO, AIIMS Raipur. About eighty yoga practitioners



and experts from India and abroad participated in this workshop. Detailed analysis was done on the anatomy and the mutual relations between its vari-

ous organs. Gyanesh Sharma highlighted the importance of Yoga in the workshop along with the efforts being made by the Government of Chhattisgarh for awareness of Yoga and healthy lifestyle among the people. Dr Vadiraj from Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog ML Pandey were present.

Chief Secretary reviews PDS



Raipur, Feb 07: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain on Monday reviewed the distribution of food grains to ration card holders under Public Distribution System at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officers of the Food Department to ensure that the ration card holders get timely regular food grains from the fair price shops. He has instructed the officers of the Food Department to continuously monitor it. During the review, the Chief Secretary took detailed information regarding the technical problems faced in the e-pass ma-

chine and server under the Public Distribution System and asked to take appropriate action to resolve the problems. Regarding the distribution of food grains in the meeting, officers, operators of fair price shops, food inspectors and N.I.C. representatives gave information about their work. Food Department Secretary Mr. Topeshwar Verma, along with senior officers of Food Department, food inspectors of Raipur, Durg and Dhamtari districts, representatives of NIC, technical team and operators of fair price shops participated in the meeting.

State govt is encouraging folk artists: Bhagat

Grand inauguration of Sirpur Festival

Raipur, Feb 07: Food and Culture Minister Mr. Amarjit Bhagat inaugurated the three-day Sirpur Festival to be held on the occasion of Magh Purnima at Sirpur, the famous historical place of Mahanadi, by lighting a lamp on the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari. On this occasion, visited the departmental exhibition based on development plans and departmental activities. He felicitated the artists in the program. Minister Bhagat and the guests enjoyed the cultural program Danda dance and wished Maghi Purnima Sirpur Mahotsav. Minister Mr. Bhagat said that the festival is a part of culture and traditions. Despite



having less resources, this festival has maintained its ancient culture and grandeur in the era of modernity. He said that it is a good thing that the people here are maintaining and preserving the old traditions. The government is encouraging folk artists. Especially the young generation gets an opportunity to know about the Buddhist heritage and folk art and culture here. Sirpur is the center of

faith and devotion of the people. People from far and wide come here to exhibit their arts and in this festival people also buy the necessary materials. Everyone should be proud of their culture. He also mentioned the heritage of Sirpur and told about the achievements of the government. Minister Mr. Bhagat said that after the formation of the government, the government is doing development works

everywhere and is taking decisions in the interest of the farmers. Here the farmer is happy. Bumper purchase of paddy has been done in the state. Money has come in the farmer's pocket. The farmer will progress only then Chhattisgarh will progress further. The dream of 'Garho Chhattisgarh' will be fulfilled. Collector Mr. Nileshkumar Kshirsagar welcomed the guests. On this occasion, President District Panchayat Mrs. Usha Patel, Vice President Mr. Laxman Patel, President District Panchayat Mahasamund, District President, Scout Guide Mr. Daulal Chandrakar Sarpanch, People's Representative, Chief Executive Officer Mr. S. Alok and a large number of dignitaries, tourists were present.

Dr Kotwani offering treatment for Vertigo, Snoring

Through MARS Eyes and ENT Clinic



Bilaspur, Feb 07: MARS Clinic in Torva of Bilaspur city is run by Dr Yogesh Kotwani, who is providing treatment for Vertigo and Snoring and other diseases related to ENT using latest of the medical technology and treatments. Dr Yogesh Kotwani informed that it is by using the best of the medical skills in the field of ENT and by adopting other novel methods that he provides best of the treatment to his patients. Dr Kotwani specializes in all aspects of

surgeries and treatment related to ENT. Dr Kotwani is presently practicing in CIMS Hospital and has got valuable experience of Sir Gangaram Hospital Delhi. Some of the fields in which Dr Kotwani offers specialization are Sinus problem, Allergy - its causes and treatment; snoring; sleep apnea its problems and solutions.

Cultural Advisor Dwivedi watches film 'Le Chalhu Apaan Duwari'



Raipur, Feb 07: Cultural Advisor Gaurav Dwivedi reached PVR Magento Mall and watched Chhattisgarhi film 'Le Chalhu Apaan Duwari'. In this film former AGM (PR) of CSPHC and veteran artist Vijay Mishra has acted and has played a crucial role. After watching the film Dwivedi commented that it is a film which touches the heart. All the artists have

played a commendable role in this film.

He added, it is something great that the camera has been handled by a young local girl Arushi Bageshwar which shows girls are progressing in every field of life. Dwivedi was welcomed at the theatre by the film director Mritunjay Singh and others including known popular actor Vijay Mishra.

Aashay Mishra from Bilaspur gets featured in Forbes 30 under 30

Bilaspur, Feb 07: Forbes India has released its annual 30 under 30 list, and Aashay Mishra S/o M.K Mishra, a dynamic entrepreneur from Bilaspur, is among the influential individuals shaping the business landscape in India. Forbes India 30 Under 30, now in its tenth year, recognises and honours young people who are setting new standards in their respective fields. This year's list includes the names of 30 achievers from 21 categories, chosen by a jury after extensive review.

"I am extremely overwhelmed by the honour of being named in the Forbes 30 under 30 list. The previous years have been extremely challenging from a business standpoint, and this news comes as a silver lining for me personally.



"I'm feeling rejuvenated and ready to take on even bigger goals with my brand Preplnsta," said Aashay Mishra, Co-Founder & COO of Preplnsta. Coming from a humble background, Aashay Mishra, who completed his schooling from Delhi Public School Korba and an EEE graduate from VIT Vellore, kicked off his career as an Adobe

experience manager with Publicis Sapient, a digital consulting firm based in Bengaluru. However, Aashay left the job with the zeal to make a large difference in society. He joined forces with his friends Atulya Kaushik and Manish Agarwal to launch the Ed-tech platform Preplnsta in order to address the existing disparity in job opportunities in India. As an engineering student, Aashay had firsthand knowledge of the hustle and trauma that a student goes through while sitting through college placements. By providing access to 200+ upskilling and placement preparation courses, Aashay with the help of his team is helping lakhs of users to grab job opportunities and lower the unemployment burden in India.

Ch'garh DMF Online Portal' selected for 'Award of Excellence'

In the field of e-governance

Ch'garh bags another award at the national level

Award will be given at a ceremony to be held on March 25 in New Delhi

Raipur, Feb 07: Chhattisgarh has been selected for another award at the national level in the field of e-governance. It is noteworthy that the 'Chhattisgarh DMF Online Portal' has been selected by the Computer Society of India CSI, SIG. for the 'Award of Excellence' under the project category of e-governance. This award will be given on 25 March 2023 at a function which will be held in New Delhi. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has congratulated the Secretary, Director, Geology and Mining, NIC and DMF officials and employees of the Mineral

Resources Department for this accomplishment.

Every year, the best innovation in the field of e-governance is selected for the 'Award of Excellence' by the Computer Society of India (CSI), after reviewing the excellent works in the field of e-governance at the national level. For the year 2022, 'Chhattisgarh DMF Online Portal' has been selected for this award. Significant, Chhattisgarh ranks second in the country in receiving contribution under DMF. So far, the state has received a contribution of more than 10 thousand crores under the DMF head. Moreover, Chhattisgarh ranks first in the country in terms of implementation of various schemes in mining-affected areas.

On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in order to maintain transparency in the works of the District Mineral Institute Trust and online approval of various schemes and

arrangement for realtime payment, the DMF portal has been prepared by the Department of Minerals through NIC, which has been successfully operated from the year 2020. In the portal, the work of registering various construction work agencies of DMF items and online payment is being done through their specified bank, treasury as per the plan.

According to the approval received in the State Level Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Minister Baghel, the new version of this portal, DMF 2.0 is being developed with the aim of ensuring transparency and authenticity of approval of various schemes directly and indirectly related to mining in the area and financial limits set by the Department of Minerals. Under this, provisions for geo-tagging of construction works, on-the-spot progress evaluation based online payment, mobile app etc. have been included in the new version.

27th free yoga practice center started in Changorabhata

Raipur, Feb 07: The Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission has started the 27th free regular yoga practice center at Changorabhata, Raipur under the regular yoga practice programme. It was inaugurated by Mr. Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman of



Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission. Yoga classes will be held every morning from 6 am to 7.30 am at Ward No. 67 of Municipal Corporation, Bhakti Mata Karma Ward. Regular yoga classes will be conducted under the guidance of yoga instructor Mr. Rajendra Verma at KPS

City Garden, Changorabhata. Jal Neti Kriya was performed by Mrs. Priyanka Bisen on the inauguration. On this occasion Ward Corporator Mr. Uttam Sahu, Secretary of Yoga Commission Mr. ML Pandey and distinguished citizens were present as special guests.

Terror of land mafia increasing, no action being taken

Illegal plotting, encroachments on govt land going on openly



Tilda, Feb 07:

The journalists of the region have lodged complaint with the Chief Minister about the encroachments being made and even after this the senior officers are keeping mum. SDM, Tehsildar, Nayab Tehsildar and all other sit in the headquarters, but no action is being taken against the land mafia! The way the land mafia of Tilda region is encroaching upon the grazing land, nazul land, day & night has started raising concern. They are having keen eyes on the costly land in nearby villages viz. Sasaholi, Kohaka, Tulsi, Bahesar, Kota, Biladi and others and here work of il-

gal plotting is going on in full swing and it is causing loss lakhs to government exchequer. On recent example was that of Kohaka where hte land mafia on backing of some small leaders started the work of selling houses that too on government land. Such works is going on the land on way to ITI, opposite Vrindavan Colony, Sai Dhaam Road, and others. The work of illegal plotting on land near the road in Gram Panchayat Bahesar is going on openly. **No action being taken against land mafia:** The Tilda tehsil administration is not at all interested in taking action against identifying such land mafia involved in il-

legal plotting and due to which they have spread their tentacles all over the region. At one place the local district administration in the name of forming many teams is claiming to have made many areas free from encroachments of land mafia and which seems to be ineffective before morale of land mafia. **Officers showing negligence:** If one talks about the officers in the revenue department, then there are about more than two dozen officers, but they all are keeping inactive. Not it seems to be seen as to what step the officers take to remove the encroachment on land of Gram Suraj by the land mafia, so that it can have some visible effect. **What officer says:** Newly posted Tehsildar Jyoti Masiyev posted here said that no encroachment would be allowed in the region and if at all there is, then strict action will be taken against them.

Rohit Verma appointed President CMA Dharsiwa VS



Kharora, Feb 07: Rohit Verma of Kharora has been appointed as the President of Dharsiwa Vidhan Sabha (VS) of Chhattisgarh Media Association (CMA) by the District President Shailesh Singh Rajput. The charge of CMA for Dharsiwa VS area coming under Raipur district has been handed over to Rohit Verma of Kharora and he has also been given additional charge of Arang block. It is by using all the powers envisaged with District President CMA Shailesh Singh Rajput that this responsibility has been given to Rohit Verma. It is notable here that CMA is an association of journalists of Chhattisgarh and it works for the welfare and in the interest of the journalists, taking the local district administration together. It is the society and administration who are getting good benefit of CMA. On appointment of Rohit Verma as President Dharsiwa VS area of CMA, District Gen. secy. Jyotish Sahu, District Secy. Chandrashekhar Yadu, VS media-in-charge Ajay Netam, Balodabazar VS gen. secy. Raju Pal, Tilda block President Prem Kosale, V-P Dharendra Jaiswal, Treasurer- Harimarkande, Secy. Jyoti Pal, Asst. Secy. Saurabh Singh Yadav, Govind Ratne, Dilip Verma, Manish Tandon, Shiva Nirmal and others extended his best wishes.

IGP inaugurates the Mission 'Secure GPM' campaign



Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 07: Under Mission 'Secure GPM', IG Badrinarayan Meena inaugurated CCTV cameras installed for surveillance in the district from Police Control Room. 61 CCTV cameras have been installed, which are being monitored from the police control room, and the recording done in the cameras will be maintained at different places, the records of the CCTV cameras will also be there in the mobiles of top police officers. Superintendent of Police in the press conference Mr. Yogesh Kumar Patel told that the GPM police has become even more alert, and now CCTVs have been installed at the square-intersections and intersections to keep an eye on everyone, preparations have been made to crack down on the criminal type of persons.

Marwahi MLA KK Dhruv, Scheduled Tribe Commission member Porte, Youth Commission member Uttam Vasudev, Madrasa Board member Shahid Raine, Pendra Nagar Panchayat Vice President Pankaj Tiwari, and all the dignitaries of Gourela Pendra attended the program. The program was conducted by Additional Superintendent of Police Mrs. Archana Jha. In the program SDM Pendra Road Mr. Pushpendra Sharma, SDO Mr. Ashok Wadegaonkar, DSP Headquarters Mr. I Tirkey Inspector Yuvraj Tiwari, Inspector Praveen Dwivedi, Inspector Usha Sondhia Inspector Lata Chaura Rakshit Inspector Ramprasad Paikra Subedar Vikas Narang and other police staff of the district were present.

Dust and pollutants causing health problems



Dalli-Rajhara, Feb 07:

The construction of National Highway (NH)-930 has now become a matter of discussion among the residents of the surrounding area, because for the contractors convenience officials are keeping the road construction work on hold. Repeated complaints, by the villagers of Bitul, Jhikatola, Hitkasa, Sherpar and others have been given a deaf ear as dust rising due to the construction of the road without water sprinkling is causing health problems for the people.

Also the non-installation of any type of diversion board in the ongoing culvert construction along the highway is troubling the commuters at night and the officials concerned too are not receiving calls nor answering to complaints from the general public. **What officer says:** All the responsible officers will be ordered to pick up the calls, identify the problems and solve them. **Kuldeep Singh, District Collector, Balod.**

YC, BCC workers stage dharna, demand inquiry

Against investment of public money of LIC police holders and Bank accounts holder of SBI in Adani Group



Kondagaon, Feb 07:

In protest against risky transactions and investment by government institutions against the wishes of more 29 cr policy holders of LIC and more than 45 crore bank account holders of SBI, YC and BCC workers staged one-day dharna at JaistambChowk here on Monday. Coming down heavily against the policies of Modi-led Central government, YC and BCC workers charged that the hard-earned money of common men is being invested for institutions of industrialist Adani and strongly condemned the same. They questioned as to why the institutions like

ED, CBI, IT are keeping mum on the institutions and industrialists which are more Modi-friendly? As such industrialists like Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choukshi, Neerav Modi, Lalit Modi have cheated the Indian banks of funds worth crore and ran away and now it is the Adani group on which there are allegations of world's biggest scam and the Central government is keeping mum! After the dharna, Congmen submitted memorandum in the name of Governor to the SDM (Revenue) Kondagaon and demanded high-level inquiry by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or by forming a joint parliamentary committee. Apart from this discussions should be held on the above issue in the Parliament as well. In this one-day dharna, state working committee member Kailash Poyam, Janpad President Shival Mandavi, MLA's rep Budhram Netam, BCC (urban) President Golcha; BCC (rural) President Bharat Dewangan, District gen. Secy. Gitesh Gadhi, Jt. Gen. Secy. Kapil Chopda, Pradesh Mahila Cong (PMC) State Secy. Tabassum Bano, PMC urban President Hema Dewanga, District media-in-charge Ritesh Patel, Shankar Khan, member Shakambhari Board Anurag Patel and others were present.

Bhupesh govt should release the royalty of the PMAY: Kiran Dev

BJP will agitate in the interest of the poor if state do not release its PMAY share: Mandavi

Jagdalpur, Feb 07:

In 48 wards of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation, the BJP Municipal Board is inviting applications from the poor at the ward-level in the name of the Chief Minister for the rights of the poor. On Saturday, under this movement, 255 beneficiaries in Abedkar Ward, Rabindranath Tagore Ward, Baliram Kashyap Ward came to BJP's 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar Pandal' and submitted applications in the name of the Chief Minister. For all such beneficiaries who have their own land, those who live in slums or live in rented houses, BJP workers are reaching door-to-door and getting them to fill the application form in the name of the Chief Minister for their rights. The formal registration of the form is also being done. The process of filling the form is going on in all the 48 wards. BJP will force the state government through the Collector to issue the Prime Minister's Awas (PMAY) for the poor, the



state's share of the 'Mor Awas, mor Adhikar' without any delay. On this occasion, in-charge of Bilaspur division Kiran Dev said that they are working as an ATM of the Gandhi family. BJP was always with the poor and will fight for their rights from road to assembly. BJP will agitate in the interest of the poor for not releasing the state share of PMAY. BJP city president Suresh Gupta said that Jagdalpur has Congress MLAs and Mayor in the corporation as well as the state government. Along with entire Chhattisgarh, the poor of Bastar are also feeling cheated. Roop Singh Mandavi charged that the Congress government of Chhattisgarh has

done nothing except painting in these 4 years. By doing all such works in which all the limits of corruption are crossed and charged that they are working as an ATM of the Gandhi family. BJP was always with the poor and will fight for their rights from road to assembly. BJP will agitate in the interest of the poor for not releasing the state share of PMAY. BJP city president Suresh Gupta said that Jagdalpur has Congress MLAs and Mayor in the corporation as well as the state government. Along with entire Chhattisgarh, the poor of Bastar are also feeling cheated. Roop Singh Mandavi charged that the Congress government of Chhattisgarh has

Advisory Forum of Bilaspur Smart City Limited meeting held



Bilaspur, Feb 07:

The second meeting of the Advisory Forum of Bilaspur Smart City Limited (BSCL) was held here, in which the ongoing works and schemes under the Smart City Scheme were discussed in detail. Expressing happiness over the progress of the ongoing works under the Smart City Project, the members asked to take care that they should be completed within the time limit. Apart from this, while stressing on the proper use of the Smart City Fund, after the completion of the projects, suggested to prepare resources for its maintenance. Kunal Dudawat, MD, Bilaspur Smart City Limited, in the meeting gave detailed information about the works and schemes going on under

the Smart City Scheme. It is to be known that an advisory forum has been constituted by the state government for suggestions and guidance in the smart city plan, in which MPs of Bilaspur Lok Sabha constituency, MLAs of all assembly constituencies of the district, Mayor, Divisional Commissioner, Range IG, Collector and SP, experts and social workers of various fields have been made members of this forum. The second meeting of the Advisory Forum was held today under the chairmanship of LS MP Arun Sao, in which Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Chairman Atal Srivastava, Mayor Ramsharan Yadav, Masturi MLA Dr. Krishnamurthy Bandhi, Collector Saurabh Kumar and other officials took part.

Students present variety of colourful cultural prog

On occasion of Annual Function of SEMS



Kharora, Feb 07:

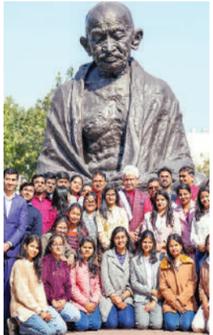
The annual function at Sunrise English Medium School (SEMS) in Korasi was held here on Monday and in this children took part enthusiastically. The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp before photo of Goddess Saraswati and the guests were welcomed. After this the students of the School performed variety of colourful cultural programmes and this included 'Panthi Dance', 'Karma dance', 'Barhamasi dance', 'Raut Nacha', 'Sua Nacha', 'Garba dance' and others. In this young children dressed in traditional attire were the

centre of attraction. On this occasion the talented students of the School were also felicitated at the hands of chief guest Shakun Shivkumar Daharia (in-charge CG Mahila Congress) and it was chaired by MLA Dharshiwa Anita Yogendra Sharma and special guests were Akhilesh Dewangan (Janpad president-Arang) and Rajiv Gupta (President CG Private School). Sarpanchs of nearby villages, and Nagar Panchayats reps and Chairman Sunrise School Sudhir Bandhe, Principal - Bhima Singh and all teaching staff and students of the School were present in large number.

आम सूचना

सर्वसमाचार को पुराने द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि हमारे मुकिल बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा काफ़ी बड़ी रायपुर के सम्मत्र अग्री मेसर्स सदाक इन्टरप्राइजेस प्रो. श्री मोहन कुमार कल्याणी विला प्रो. श्री लालचंद कल्याणी निवासी ए-7, मैत्री विहार, न्यू पुराना, महागौर नगर, रायपुर की भूमि स्वामीय एवं आभिव्यक्ति की परिलक्षित भूमि खसम 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BRIEF



J & K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha poses for photographs with a group of visitors at the Gandhi Statue at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Injured

Chaibasa: A CRPF jawan was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Tuesday, police said. Security forces were on an anti-Naxal operation at Hathiburu jungle in Goilker police station area when the IED planted by Maoists exploded, injuring the CRPF jawan, they said.

Condole

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday condoled the loss of lives in Turkey and Syria after they were hit by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake and urged the global community to extend all possible help to the two countries. The earthquake, which struck on Monday, killed nearly 5,000 people and flattened thousands of buildings in Turkey and neighbouring Syria. It was centred in Turkey's south-eastern province of Kahramanmaraş and was felt as far away as Cairo.

Escape

New Delhi: A 19-year-old snatcher gave the police the slip while they were taking him to a prison, officials said on Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Karan, a resident of Ram Bagh, Ranjeet Nagar. He was arrested on Monday in connection with a snatching case registered at the Ranjeet Nagar police station. He was produced before a court which sent him to judicial custody, a senior police officer said.

Mishap

Surendranagar: Four persons were killed after a minivan in which they were travelling rammied into a stationary truck on a highway in Gujarat's Surendranagar district on Tuesday morning, police said. The van was badly mangled in the accident which took place at around 6 am, and it took a long time for the rescue team to extricate the bodies from the vehicle, an official from Sayla police station said.

Held

Kaushambi: Two men have been arrested for allegedly luring people to convert to Christianity on the pretext of curing them of their diseases, police said on Tuesday. Gendal and Hiralal were arrested on Monday from the Saini area for allegedly trying to convert people in Ghumai village, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said.

'PM effected transformation in Tripura'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Tripura and the entire northeast have witnessed a "transformation" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at power in the Centre, the BJP said on Tuesday, expressing confidence that it will retain power in the poll-bound state. "The 'Look East' policy of the Congress was so hollow that it never touched the ground realities. It was Prime Minister Modi who actually brought a transformation by replacing that policy with an action-oriented 'Act East' policy. His model of 'HIRA' will ensure further prosperity in



Sarbananda Sonowal

Tripura," Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal told a press conference here.

The term "HIRA" is used by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to refer to the government's thrust on highways, internet, roads and airports. Not only nationally, but

Tripura has now earned fame internationally too as its exports and strong infrastructure have put it on the path to development, Sonowal said. Attacking the Left and the Congress, which have joined hands against the ruling BJP in Tripura, the tribal leader alleged that terrorism, drugs and corruption had affected the northeastern state under their four decades of collective rule as they had neither policies nor any intention to develop the region. The BJP has not only policies and intention but also a great leader in Modi, who has worked to ensure social security and

economic uplift for the people of Tripura, he said.

During the Congress rule at the Centre, the northeast was never given due significance in the national agenda as it remained backwards, Sonowal added.

At the press conference, the Public Policy Research Centre, a thinktank affiliated to the BJP, released a report, claiming that the farmers' income saw a massive rise under the saffron party's rule in Tripura since 2018 and piped drinking water has reached more than 58 per cent households in the state from the earlier less than 3.5 per cent.

Shiv Sena's Thackeray faction boycotts parliament debate

● On President's address

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena on Tuesday announced its boycott of the Parliament debate on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address, claiming the government had turned down its demand for a discussion on the Adani issue and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe in the matter. "We have decided to boycott the debate on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address in both Houses of

Parliament. We remain steadfast on our demand for a JPC probe," Vinayak Raut, a Lok Sabha member of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), told PTI.

He said the government had also termed down the demand of the Thackeray faction for a separate discussion in Parliament on the Adani issue.

"As a united opposition we demand the government constitute a JPC over the stock manipulation of a group, over-pricing and round-tripping in the stock market, hence the Shiv Sena has decided to boycott the motion of thanks. We demand a

JPC to get to the bottom of the truth," Sanjay Raut, Rajya Sabha member of the Thackeray faction, said.

Lok Sabha member Pratap Jadhav, belonging to the Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena, participated in the debate on the Motion of Thanks in the lower house. The rival factions of the Shiv Sena are engaged in a tussle for the control of the organisation after Shinde walked out of a majority of MLAs and Lok Sabha members, bringing down the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government in June last year.

'TMC can only oust double engine govt'

Agartala, Feb 07 (PTI)

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday asserted that hers is the only party that can oust the double engine government of the BJP, and provide the people of the country with an alternative to the saffron camp.

Addressing a public rally here, she claimed that democracy has taken a backseat in Tripura under the BJP rule, as "parties were not allowed to organise political meetings, and journalists lost their right to gather news".

"Two years ago, our party leaders and activists were attacked, their vehicles vandalized. Some of them were illegally put be-



New Delhi: IAF's second C-17 Globemaster III heavy lift aircraft carrying NDRF teams including dog squads, search & rescue equipment, extrication tools and vehicles departs India for earthquake-hit Turkey.



WB CM Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign rally for the upcoming Tripura Legislative Assembly elections, in Agartala, Tuesday.

hind the bars. Democracy is in a bad shape in the state, and our leaders and members became subjects of torture for protesting against misdeeds," she

stated. In an oblique reference to the BJP, Banerjee also said that the party which cannot guarantee 100 days' work to people has no right to ask for vote.

"The TMC is the only party which would oust the double engine government from the country and provide an alternative to people," she maintained.

The TMC boss also stated that people in Tripura will "reject" the CPI(M)-Congress alliance, much like what had happened in Bengal.

She gave assurance that her party, if voted to power, will introduce development schemes that are currently available in Bengal, such as Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree.

WATER TAXI SERVICE



Maharashtra Minister of Ports and Shipping Dadaji Bhuse during flag off ceremony of the vessel 'Nayan XI' at Belapur for inauguration of the water taxi service between the Gateway of India and Belapur jetty, in Navi Mumbai, Tuesday.

Hillary Clinton to visit Ellora Caves, Ghrihsheshwar temple

Aurangabad, Feb 07 (PTI)

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton will on Tuesday arrive in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district where she will visit the world-famous Ellora Caves on Wednesday, an official said.

Clinton, who was on a visit to Gujarat for the last two days, will arrive here on Tuesday afternoon and head to Khultabad town for an overnight stay, he said.

On Wednesday, she will visit Ghrihsheshwar temple, which is the 12th jyotirlinga in the country, and the Ellora Caves, the official said.

Around 100 police personnel will be deployed for her security during the Aurangabad visit, he added.

On Monday, Clinton announced a Global Climate Resilience

Fund of 50 million dollars for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt.

The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education, she said.

She attended a programme in Ahmedabad on Sunday to mark 50 years of SEWA as a trade union and paid homage to its founder and renowned social activist Ela Bhatt, who passed away in November last year.

Clinton visited salt pan workers in the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat on Monday and learnt from them the process of salt production and hardships faced by them.

'Menace of drug trafficking a matter of concern'

Aizawl, Feb 07 (PTI)

Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on Tuesday said the menace of drug trafficking and drug abuse has assumed alarming proportions in the state.

He said the menace is of a great concern to the state government.

"To control this menace, the state Excise and Narcotics department has made all-out efforts. As a result, 4,348 persons were arrested under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 2019 and Mizoram Excise Act, 1973 during the current financial year (upto 31.12.2022)," the governor said while addressing the budget session assembly.

He said that 4,755 drug related cases were registered during the same period. He said that 'Drugs and Children Survey 2022' conducted by Mizoram Social Defence and Rehabilitation Board of



Hari Babu Kambhampati

Affairs department, was a pioneering research study, which manifested the government's endeavour to prevent and reduce drug abuse in the state.

"During the past year, Mizoram Police seized huge quantities of illicit drugs and narcotic substances worth around Rs 829 crore in international market," he said.

Kambhampati said that the state government has allocated Rs 920.71 lakh under its flagship programme - Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) for upgradation of Jordan Rehabilitation

Centre, a de-addiction centre in Kolasib district near Assam border. He said that a resource centre for HIV/AIDS would be constructed in the state under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) very soon. The Mizoram Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) Prevention and Control Rules, 2022 was approved and gazetted on November 1 last year, he said. The governor said Mizoram Super Speciality Cancer Hospital and Research Centre would be constructed in Aizawl with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The proposed Rs 700 crore project is under consideration by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, he said.

Quoting a Forest Survey of India Report 2021, the governor said Mizoram has the highest forest cover of 84.53 per cent among Indian states.

THE GARDEN OF TALES

Stories of Rajasthani folk writer Detha translated into English

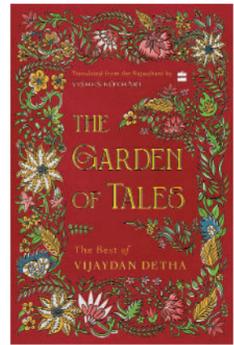
New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

A seth who lends money by mortgaging the borrower's next birth or a bride who after the marriage discovers her husband is actually a woman, stories of legendary Rajasthani folk writer Vijaydan Detha are translated into English in new book, "The Garden of Tales".

The book, translated by Vishesh Kothari, draws the reader into the complex and quirky world of the common folk of Rajasthan, while bringing alive the magic of folklore and fable.

It is published by Harper Perennial.

"My own point of entry into Detha's world has been from the world of oral literature. . . This



world is set in timescales that are immediate and yet eternal, and in spaces that are limited to the village and the lake just outside but at the same time, cosmic.

"I have translated this world with an intuition that has been guided by intimacy, fondness and

assertion. I hope these stories can help readers make sense of this world I share with Detha, and perhaps, of their own worlds," writes Kothari, whose previous translations of Detha's stories was titled, "Timeless Tales from Marwar" (2020).

Born on September 1, 1926, Detha, fondly known as 'Biji' in the literary world, spent decades of his life collecting folk stories from in and around his village Borunda and retelling them.

Nominated for Nobel prize for literature in 2006, he has received national and international acclaim, including Padma Shri, Rajasthan Ratna Award and Sahitya Akademi Award.

SC TO BILKIS BANO

'Will hear plea at the earliest'

● Against remission to convicts

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday assured Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven members of her family killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots, that her plea against the remission of the sentence of 11 convicts will be heard soon after the constitution of a new bench.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new bench will be formed at the earliest.

Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said that a new bench needs to be constituted by the Chief Justice of India as Justice Bela M Trivedi recused from hearing the plea.

CJI Chandrachud said, "I will do so at the earliest.

The matter will be listed soon". Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat government could not be held in the top court as the judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-judge Constitution bench.

On that day, the petition was listed for hearing before a bench of Justices Rastogi and CT Ravikumar.

Both Justices Rastogi and Ravikumar were then busy hearing, as part of a Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph, the pleas seeking modification of guidelines on the execution of a "Living Will or Advance Medical Directive" for permitting passive euthanasia.

On January 4, Justice Trivedi had recused from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the remission of the sentence of 11 convicts in Bano's case.

Quake deaths pass 5,000 as Turkey, Syria seek survivors



A woman sits on the rubble as emergency rescue teams search for people under the remains of destroyed buildings in Nurdagi town on the outskirts of Osmaniye city southern Turkey, Tuesday.

Adana (Turkiye), Feb 07 (AP):

Rescuers raced Tuesday to find survivors in the rubble of thousands of buildings brought down by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake and multiple aftershocks that struck eastern Turkey and neighbouring Syria, with the discovery of more bodies raising the death toll to more than 5,000.

Countries around the world dispatched teams to assist in the rescue efforts, and Turkey's disaster management agency

said more than 24,400 emergency personnel were now on the ground. But with such a wide swath of territory hit by Monday's earthquake and nearly 6,000 buildings confirmed to have collapsed in Turkey alone, their efforts were spread thin.

Attempts to reach survivors were also impeded by temperatures below freezing and close to 200 aftershocks, which made the search through unstable structures perilous.

Nurgul Atay told The Associated Press she

could hear her mother's voice beneath the rubble of a collapsed building in the city of Antakya, the capital of Hatay province, but that her and others efforts to get into the ruins had been futile without any rescue crews and heavy equipment to help.

"If only we could lift the concrete slab we'd be able to reach her," she said. "My mother is 70-years-old, she won't be able to withstand this for long."

Across Hatay province, just southwest of the

earthquake's epicentre, officials say as many as 1,500 buildings were destroyed and many people reported relatives being trapped under the rubble with no aid or rescue teams arriving.

In areas where teams worked, occasional cheers broke out through the night as survivors were brought out of the rubble.

The quake, which was centred in Turkey's southeastern province of Kahramanmaraş, sent residents of Damascus and Beirut rushing into the street and was felt as far away as Cairo.

Sebastien Gay, the head of mission in Syria for Doctors Without Borders, said health facilities in northern Syria were overwhelmed with medical personnel working around "around the clock to respond to the huge numbers of wounded."

In Turkey's Hatay province, thousands of people sheltered in sports centres or fair halls, while others spent the night outside, huddled in blankets around fires.

Turkey has large numbers of troops in the border region with Syria and has tasked the military to aid in the rescue efforts, including setting up tents for the homeless and a field hospital in Hatay province.

Google to launch ChatGPT competitor 'Bard': Sundar Pichai

New York, Feb 07 (PTI):

Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced that the tech giant will soon launch an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot called 'Bard', aimed at countering the popularity of the ChatGPT tool backed by Microsoft.

According to a blog post by Pichai, the conversational AI service will be assessed by a group of "trusted testers" before being rolled out to the public in the coming weeks.

"Bard can be an outlet for creativity, and a launchpad for curiosity," Pichai, the Indian-origin CEO of Google and parent company Alphabet, said on Monday, adding that Google's chatbot will be able to explain complex subjects like new discover-



ies from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope to a nine-year-old

Google's announcement follows wide speculation that Microsoft is about to bring the AI chatbot ChatGPT to its search engine Bing, following a multi-billion dollar investment in the firm behind it, OpenAI, the BBC reported.

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), which was launched in November 2022, is capable of generating speeches, songs, marketing copy, news articles and student essays or

human-like text based on the input it is given.

Bard, built on Google's existing large language model LaMDA, "seeks to combine the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of our large language models", Pichai, 50, said in the blog.

AI chatbots are designed to answer questions and find information.

"Bard seeks to combine the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of our large language models," Pichai said in the blog post.

Pichai said he wanted Google's AI services to be "bold with innovation and responsible in our approach". However, he did not elaborate on how Bard would be prevented from

sharing harmful or abusive content.

He said that Google will initially release Bard with a "lightweight model" version of LaMDA which will require less computing power and enable the tech giant to scale to more users, allowing for more feedback.

"We're excited for this phase of testing," Pichai said, adding that Google will combine external feedback with internal testing to make sure Bard's responses meet a high bar for quality, safety and groundedness in real-world information.

"It's critical that we bring experiences rooted in these models to the world in a bold and responsible way. That's why we're committed to developing AI responsibly," he wrote in the blog.

Australian, New Zealand leaders' talk focuses on China

Canberra (Australia), Feb 07 (AP):

Australian and New Zealand prime ministers met Tuesday to talk about China's importance to their national economies, resolving to voice their disagreements with their most important trading partner that is becoming more assertive in their region.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins made Australia the destination of his first overseas trip as his government's leader since his predecessor Jacinda Ardern announced her surprise resignation in January.



New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, left, listens as Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks during a joint press conference in Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The visit to Australia's Parliament House comes

two weeks after Hipkins assumed office on Jan. 25.

He used a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese to give an assurance that he was keeping New Zealand's foreign policy direction.

"Our foreign policy position hasn't changed just because there's a change of prime minister," Hipkins said. "The government foreign policy is the same as it was under Prime Minister Ardern."

A reporter put to Hipkins that Ardern had been reluctant to stand up against "bad behaviour by China" and asked if he was concerned about Chinese coercion in the South Pacific.

INFORMAL MEETING



(L to R) Sweden's Energy, Business and Industry Minister Ebba Busch, Sweden's Foreign Trade Minister Johan Forsell and Minister of Employment of Finland Tuula Haatainen pose upon arrival at the Informal meeting of competitiveness ministers at the Scandinavian XPO outside Stockholm on February 7.

Intruder breaches base of Air Force One, shot fired

Washington, Feb 07 (AP): Another intruder has breached the home of Air Force One, one of the nation's most sensitive military bases, and this time a resident opened fire on the trespasser, Joint Base Andrews said in a statement late Monday.

During the incident, which occurred at about 11:30 a.m. Monday, "a man gained unauthorised access to a JBA housing area," Joint Base Andrews said in a statement posted to Twitter. "A resident discharged a firearm, security forces arrived on scene to apprehend the intruder and law enforcement is investigating the incident."

Joint Base Andrews is home

to the fleet of blue and white presidential aircraft, including Air Force One, Marine One and the "doomsday" 747 aircraft that can serve as the nation's airborne nuclear command and control centres if needed. The Air Force said late Monday it did not have anything to add beyond the Andrews statement about Monday's intrusion. It's not the first time the base's security has been breached; in February 2021 a man got through the military checkpoint onto the installation, then through additional fenced secure areas to gain access to the flight line and climb into a C-40, which is the military's 737-equivalent aircraft used to fly government officials.

Natasha named by Johns Hopkins as the 'world's brightest' for second consecutive year

Washington, Feb 07 (PTI):

Indian-American schoolgirl Natasha Perianayagam was named in the "world's brightest" students list for the second consecutive year by the US-based Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth, based on the results of above-grade-level tests of over 15,000 students across 76 countries.

Perianayagam, 13, is a student at Florence M Gaudineer Middle School, in New Jersey.

She also took the Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth (CTY) test in Spring 2021, when she was a Grade 5 student. Her



results in the verbal and quantitative sections levelled

with the 90th percentile of advanced Grade 8 performance, which catapulted her into the honours list that year. This year, she was honoured for her exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, School and College Ability Test, or similar assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search, the university said in a press release on Monday.

Sub-Saharan Africa is 'new epicentre' of extremism: UN

Nairobi (Kenya), Feb 07 (AP):

The new global epicentre of violent Islamic extremism is sub-Saharan Africa where people are increasingly joining because of economic factors and less for religious ones, says a new report by the UN's international development agency.

A significant increase of 92 per cent of new recruits to extremist groups are joining for better livelihoods compared to the motivations of those interviewed in a previous report released in 2017, according to the UNDP report released on Tuesday.

Many Africans' lives have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandem-

ic, high inflation, and climate change, said the report.

There has been a 57 per cent decrease in the number of people joining extremist groups for religious reasons, it said.

Nearly 2,200 people were interviewed for the report in eight African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan. More than 1,000 interviewees are former members of violent extremist groups, both voluntary and forced recruits, said the report.

At least 4,155 attacks across Africa were documented since in 2017, said the report. In these attacks, 18,417 deaths were

recorded in the continent with Somalia accounting for the largest number of fatalities.

The Somali government is currently carrying out what has been described as the most significant offensive against the al-Shabab extremist group in more than a decade.

Those interviewed were drawn from various extremist groups across the continent including Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabab in Somalia, which pledges allegiance to al-Qaeda, and in West Africa Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimen, or JNIM, which is allied to the Islamic State group.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has become the new glob-

al epicentre of violent extremism with 48% of global terrorism deaths in 2021," UNDP administrator Achim Steiner said in a press briefing ahead of the report's launch.

This surge in extremism in Africa "not only adversely impacts lives, security, and peace, but also threatens to reverse hard-won development gains for generations to come," he said.

Military campaigns to stamp out extremism are not proving to be successful, said Steiner.

"Security-driven counter-terrorism responses are often costly and minimally effective, yet investments in preventative approaches to violent ex-

trémism are woefully inadequate," he said. "The social contract between states and citizens must be reinvigorated to tackle root causes of violent extremism."

About 71 per cent of those who joined extremist groups were influenced by human rights abuses by state security forces, such as the killings or arrests of family members, said the report.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR SIGNALING WORKS

(1) Tender Notice No.: Dy. CSTE-GSU-R-T-02-SNT-GSU-Tender-2023. Date: 04.2.2023.

Name of the work: Execution of S&T works in connection with Capacity augmentation of RVH-RSD line. Tender Value: ₹ 2,55,27,081.32. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,77,600/-. Submission of Tender: Upto 15.00 hours on 01.03.2023. Opening of Tender: 15.00 hours on 01.03.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy. CSTE/GSU/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

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कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता,
महानदी परियोजनाजल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

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

संशोधन क्रमांक - 1

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक 121444 एवं निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 03/व.ले.लि./2022-23 रुद्री, दिनांक 24.01.2023 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) जी. नं. 98060 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

पूर्व में प्रकाशित **वर्तमान में संशोधन**

1	Bid Due Date and time : 10.02.2023, 17:30 Hours. (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted).	1	Bid Due Date and time : 13.02.2023, 17:30 Hours. (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted).
2	Bid Open Start Date and time : 13.02.2023, 11:30 Hours. (The Date of opening of Envelope - A & B online).	2	Bid Open Start Date and time : 14.02.2023, 11:30 Hours. (The Date of opening of Envelope - A & B online).

निविदा की अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यालय अभियंता
म.ज.प. बांध संभाग क्र. 2, रुद्री
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी
परियोजना जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-98253/3

कार्यालय उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

निविदा विज्ञापन क्रमांक- उमनि/वपुअ/राय/रनि/715/2023 रायपुर दिनांक 06/02/2023

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक-20/2022-23

उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक जिला रायपुर के द्वारा पुलिस लाईन परिसर में महिला हॉस्टल के उपर द्वितीय तल भवन निर्माण कार्य कराये जाने हेतु मोहबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र अधोस्वास्थ्यकर्ता के कार्यालय से आवेदन पत्र (आयकर चुकता प्रमाण पत्र सहित) के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र के मूल्य राशि रु. 750/-रु. का कोषालय/राष्ट्रीयकृत/अधिकृत बैंकों से उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक रायपुर के नाम से लेखा शीर्ष 0055 पुलिस शीर्ष 800 अन्य प्रापियों के अंतर्गत जमा कर चालान की मूल प्रति रचित आरक्षी केन्द्र रायपुर को प्रस्तुत कर प्राप्त कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	मोहबंद राशि (रु. में)	निविदाकारों की श्रेणी
1	पुलिस लाईन रायपुर स्थित बैरक का प्रथम तल भवन निर्माण कार्य।	20,00,000/-	15,00,000/-	ई-पंजीयन के अंतर्गत श्रेणी "द" अथवा उससे उच्च श्रेणी

1. निविदा फार्म विक्रय की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 22.02.2023 समय 17.00 बजे तक।
2. निविदा फार्म जमा करने का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 24.02.2023 समय 15.00 बजे तक।
3. दैनिकतः बिड खोलने का तिथि एवं समय - 24.02.2023 समय 16.00 बजे तक।
4. फायनेशियल बिड खोलने का समय पृथक से अवगत कराया जावेगा।

नोट - निविदा की नियम व शर्तें टेण्डर फार्म के साथ कार्यालयीन समय में रचित आरक्षी केन्द्र कार्यालय रायपुर से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक
जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date :- 03.02.2023

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01. For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
02. Bid Submission Due Date - 22.02.2023
03. Concern Division - Surajpur Division

S. No.	N.I.T.No/Online System Number	Name of work	P.A.C. in lacks
1	226 1st Call D Class and Above	Renovation of Proposed Sahkari Bank Building at Devnagar Block Ramanujnagar Distt Surajpur (C.G.)	26.67

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle
Ambikapur

G-98275/1

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)

Durg, Dated: 24.01.2023

e-Procurement Tender Notice
(1st Call)

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 14-02-2023 :-

NIT No. / System No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacks.)
282/122310	B.T.Renewal work in Borsi-Dhanora-Utai Road k.m 1/2 to 3/6 =2.60 km & km 6/8 to 6/2 =2.60 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-1.DURG	140.27
283/122311	B.T.Renewal work in Borsi-Dhanora-Utai Road k.m 6/4 to 8/8 & 8/10 to 11/4 Total length = 5.20 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-1.DURG	140.27
284/122312	B.T.Renewal work in Central Jail App.Road Length=0.60 km, Central Jail to Police Line App.Road Length=3.20 km, Gudheli-Murmunda-Khedamara-Nankalthi-Daniya Road Length=29.50 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	59.40
285/122313	B.T.Renewal work in (Durg Dhamda Bemelara Road in km 15, 16 =2.00 km, km 19, 20 = 2.00 km & km 28, 29 =2.00 km) UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	170.27
286/122315	B.T.Renewal work in (Durg Dhamda Bemelara Road in km 30, 31 =2.00 km, km 32, 33 = 2.00 km & km 39 =1.00 km & Dhamda-Gandai Road km 23 Total Length= 1.00 km) UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	167.63
287/122316	B.T.Renewal work in Deokar-Ghota-Jalbandha Road km 9/2 to 10/10 & various other Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	188.09
288/122318	B.T.Renewal work in (Dhamda Gandai Road in km 2/2 to 2/4 = 400 m & various Other Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	167.48
289/122320	B.T.Renewal work in Bemelara-Balsamund-Chandanu road km 29/8 to 31/6 = 2.00 km & km 33/8 to 35/6 = 2.00 km & Belkhun-Jilga-Pulpura-Gidhwa Road km 6/10(100), 7,8,9=3.10 km UNDER SUB-DN.Nawagarh	179.82
290/122415	B.T.Renewal work in Odhija-Jata-Dadhi-Chuchungpur road km 1/6(100), 2, 3, 4, 10, 4/2 to 4/10(100) = 3.40 km & Chhipi-Bera-Martara-Khandarsa Road km 1,2,3/2=2.40 km, Nandghat-Malda-Mau-Bitkuli Road km 3.00 UNDER SUB-DN. Bemelara	158.17
291/122416	B.T.Renewal work in Maniyari-Botka road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km, Saja Approach Road km 1/2 to 2/10 =2.00 km, Kestara-Ghotwani Road km 1/2 to 2/10=2.00 km, Karhi-Kajra Road km 1/2 to 1/10= 1.00 km, Pipariya Approach Road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km UNDER SUB-DN. Saja	81.56
292/122418	B.T.Renewal work in Various Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-3.DURG	121.54
293/122421	B.T.Renewal work in Various Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-3.DURG	88.68
294/122422	B.T.RENEWAL WORK (UNDER ANNUAL REPAIR) GARRA-KHANDSARA ROAD (VR - 156) KM. 1/2 TO 4/8 = 3.80 KM., GARRA-KHANDSARA ROAD (VR - 156) KM. 4/10 TO 7/4 = 2.60 KM., & PENDRITRAI-CHHITAPAR ROAD (VR - 75) KM. 1/2 TO 3/10 = 3.00 KM., Total L. 9.40 KM.	150.56
295/122423	BT Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Sittara Road (MDR) From Km. 1, 2 = 2.00 km, 3, 4 = 2.00 km Sankra Dewada Road (VR169) From Km. 1 to 3/8 (100) = 2.70 km & Under Sub Division Bemelara	158.41
296/122425	BT Renewal of Uria-Patharidih-Kandraka-Berla-Kodwa Road From Km. 11, 12 = 2.00 km, 18, 19 = 2.00 km, & Dhaba Bhimburi Road (VR170) From Km. 1 to 3/8 (100) = 2.70 km Under Sub Division Bemelara	158.41
297/122430	BT Renewal of Pahanda-Bargaon-Khudmuda Road km 10, 11 = 2.00 km & km 12, 13 = 2.00 km Under Sub Division Bemelara	115.50

Note:-

- NIT No. 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 292 & 293 are under Public Works Department Durg Division Durg & NIT No 289, 290, 291, 294, 295, 296 & 297 are under Public Works Department Bemelara Division Durg.
- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.
- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)
Tel. 0788-22110876

G-98262/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 48 No. 126

Switching to Green Mobility

Carbon emissions have been extremely hazardous to the environment and climate change globally has been a major contributor to the rising effects of global warming. The transportation industry has been one of the highest areas generating CO2 emissions and the increasing urbanisation is only worsening this effect. As we move ahead into the future, living with the consequences of this rapidly increasing pollutant is going to be extremely difficult. This is why more and more countries across the world have started to shift their focus on the decarbonization of Mobility with ecological solutions like Electric vehicles. However, when it comes to a country like India, industry leaders, the government and the end users will together need to join hands towards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching E 20 fuel (fuel blended with 20% ethanol) at select outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) in 11 States and Union Territories marks another significant milestone in the country's ethanol blending roadmap. While car manufacturers have been asked to produce E-20 compliant vehicles by 2025, retail outlets of OMC will be required to keep separate tanks for E-10 fuel for at least another ten years as existing vehicles are not E-20 complaint. The government plans to rollout E20 fuel in the entire country in a phased manner over the next two years. The country's Ethanol Blending Programme is aimed at achieving twin objectives of cutting down carbon emissions and reducing crude import bill. Total rollout of E20 fuel is projected to cut India's energy import bill by Rs 30000 crores annually provided target of 1016 crore litres of ethanol production is achieved to cater to the projected vehicle demand. Use of E 20 is estimated to reduce emission of carbon monoxide by 50% in two wheelers and by 30% in four wheelers which explain the emphasis laid by the government in achieving the targets as fast as possible. The "Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India: 2020-2025", however, cautioned that high compression ratio engines may face catastrophic failure due to engine knocking when operated with low or nil ethanol content and the vehicles which are designed for low or nil content of ethanol in gasoline will result in lower fuel economy if used with higher ethanol blends. The report estimates that when using E20, there is an estimated loss of 6-7% fuel efficiency for four wheelers which are originally designed for E0 and calibrated for E10, 3-4% for two wheelers designed for E0 and calibrated for E10 and 1-2% for four wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20. Reduction in fuel efficiency will be a cause of concern for existing owners of vehicles designed for E10 and manufacturers of such vehicles addressing which is necessary to make E20 rollout smooth. India's share in the global oil demand is projected to increase to 11% from the current level of 5% and gas demand is projected to rise 500%. While rise in energy demand will bring opportunities of investment, decarbonizing the energy sector is critical for achieving the updated targets in India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted under the Paris Agreement of reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels. The four major verticals for the strategy for the energy sector outlined by the Prime Minister are: increasing domestic exploration and production, diversifying the supply, and expanding use of biofuel, ethanol, compressed biogas and solar and de-carbonisation via electric vehicles and hydrogen. The Final Report of the Task Force on Sugarcane and Sugar Industry constituted by the NITI Aayog in 2020 estimated that with over 70 lakh tonnes of surplus sugar in the country there is large scope for diverting surplus sugarcane towards ethanol production without affecting sugar supply needed to meet domestic demand. It also highlights that one tonne of sugarcane yields 70 litres of ethanol while producing one tonne of sugar is equivalent to producing 600 litres of ethanol. Apart from using sugarcane, successful use of bamboo as feedstock in the Assam Bio Refinery will be critical to use of bamboo, which naturally grows in abundance in northeast region as alternative crop for ethanol production while simultaneously addressing the concern of depletion of water level due production of sugarcane and paddy cultivation grown using irrigation water. This will also open huge opportunities for entrepreneurship in the northeast region ethanol production and become key stakeholders in the country's EBP. Incentives to sugarcane and bamboo growers will play the crucial role in meeting the targets of ethanol production. India getting its due share from the climate finance mobilization committed by developed countries can facilitate rolling out of attractive incentives to promote raw material for ethanol production. Information furnished by the Government in the parliament shows despite their commitment in 2009 of a climate finance mobilization goal of USD 100 billion per year, by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries, the goal has not been met. India's climate actions have so far largely been financed from domestic sources, including government budgetary support as well as a mix of market mechanisms and fiscal instruments and policy interventions. Building awareness on the EBP, ethanol use efficiency vis-à-vis its importance in reducing emissions from preventing rise in global temperature and climate change mitigation will be crucial to motivate vehicle owners to upgrade to E20 compliant vehicles. Weighing on market sentiments for expensive electric vehicles and E 20 compliant vehicles and policy of incentivizing on ethanol blended fuel can create positive sentiments among vehicle owners to voluntarily transition to environment-friendly vehicles for decarbonizing their mobility solution.

Promote internet safety

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Everyone is aware that today's adolescents live on the internet or in the virtual world. The internet is a hive of engaging activities that can occupy you for a very long time. It provides an array of opportunities, including those for completing online research, reading the news, and having fun. People may now share knowledge fast and store it all in one location thanks to the internet. The number of people using the internet also keeps growing. Globally, the number of internet users is increasing at a rate of 1.9% annually, but year-over-year growth is significantly faster in many developing economies. There will be 5.16 billion internet users globally at the start of 2023, or 64.4 percent of the world's population. The most recent statistics indicate that there were about 100 million more people online in the year that ended in January 2023 than there were in the previous year. However, current trends suggest that two-thirds of the world's population should be online by the end of 2023. It served as a vital instrument for communication throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Every year, on the second day of the second week of the second month, Safer Internet Day is observed around the world to promote internet safety. Nearly 200 nations around the world now observe it. 2005 marked the inaugural Safer Internet Day. Online privacy and security are now key concerns as more and more people use the internet. Staying secure online is referred to as online safety. It is also frequently referred to as cyber safety, e-safety, and online safety. It includes every piece of technology, from PCs and laptops to smartphones and tablets, that has internet connectivity. Being safe online includes avoiding risks and harms that could jeopardize personal information, result in dangerous contacts, or even have an adverse effect on one's mental health and wellness. People and organizations should work together for a safer internet, taking into account issues like cyberbullying, social networking, and digital identity. In order to make the internet a better and safer place for everyone, it is important that all interested parties cooperate. Therefore, the day's goal is to build a better, safer internet where everyone may utilize technology in an ethical, thoughtful, and original way.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

DEMOLITION DRIVE

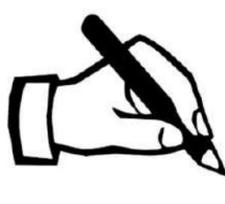


Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) workers dismantle a traffic police beat box during an anti-encroachment drive following implementation of the new land policy, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

India's G 20 Presidency: Weaving Inclusive Growth & Universal Togetherness



ALOK KUMAR



The central theme of India's G20 Presidency- वासुदेव कुटुम्बकम् (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) affirms the value of all living beings - human, animal, plant and microorganisms and the interconnectedness on planet Earth. In the words of our honourable Prime Minister, India's G-20 presidency will strive to foster this universal togetherness and hence the motto "One Earth, One Family, One Future". The opportunity to lead the G20 comes at a phase when existential threats are escalating and there is utmost urgency to find sustainable solutions. Addressing the issues pertaining to climate change is a top priority for India's Presidency, with an emphasis on just energy transitions for the world's developing countries by supporting them through climate financing and technology. To derive meaningful and sustainable solutions for the world, it is imperative to give voice to Global South as well, highlighting their aspirations and issues, as many of these countries do not get a voice on the high table. The challenges facing the world today in the Energy sector are manifold - from access, security, affordability, to the global issue of climate change. It is important to look at these issues holistically for a sustainable energy future. India, on its part, is deeply committed to a low carbon development strategy. India's energy generation mix is rapidly shifting towards ever increasing share of

renewable energy. Today, India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy, with 42.25% of its installed power capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources. We are also the 4th largest country in terms of installed capacity and one of the fastest growing renewable energy destinations in the world. India recorded amongst the fastest levels of growth (70%) globally in Renewable Capacity in 2021 with investments in renewables touching US \$ 11.3 Bn in 2021 alone. Emissions Intensity of India's GDP has also gone down by 28% from 2005 levels. India is taking rapid strides in finding a sustainable solution to issues pertaining to climate change. This follows the Hon'ble Prime Minister's commitment at Glasgow Summit in 2021, to reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes till 2030. In the CCPI Index (Climate Change Performance Index), India has been ranked amongst the top performing large countries. India today is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, representing the aspirations of over one billion people. It is projected that our energy demand will more than double by 2040. With this projected growth comes the responsibility of sustainably producing power, reducing carbon emissions, energy conservation and mitigating climate change. The Government launched Saubhagya - 'the scheme for universal access' aimed at

achieving universal household electrification covering every village and every district in the country. India achieved universal electricity in record time by the end of 2019, with a total of 28.6 million households electrified. Energy efficiency has received high priority in India. At policy level, there have been several initiatives and intervention to promote conservation of energy both at individual and institution levels. Schemes such as UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All), launched in 2015, aimed at providing LED bulbs to domestic consumers with a target to replace 770 million incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs, making it the largest LED distribution program in the world. The program targets energy efficiency in lighting as it offers enormous opportunity to save energy. Another hugely successful scheme is Ujjwala - providing LPG connections to families and households. The scheme has particularly been empowering for women, reduces their drudgery, the time spent in kitchen and overall improving their health. Under Energy Conservation Act, we also launched PAT (Program, Achieve and Trade) scheme aimed at reducing Specific Energy Consumption (SEC) i.e., energy use per unit of production for Designated Consumers (DCs) in energy intensive sectors, with an associated market mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded. The excess energy savings are converted into tradable instruments called Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) that are traded at the Power Exchanges. Recently, the Parliament has passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill promotes energy efficiency and conservation and stipulates that designated consumers can be obligated to meet a proportion of their

energy or feedstock needs from non-fossil sources. The Energy Conservation Code for buildings will now apply to large offices and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above. The Act also now includes provisions for putting in place a carbon market. Carbon credit will be used on priority within the country to meet our NDCs. India has gradually decoupled economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. To support these continuing initiatives, India recently launched the National Hydrogen Mission with the objective to make India the world's largest hydrogen hub. Technology advancements and responses to climate change measures are accelerating the transformation of the world's energy sector. India pledged a 40% share of power generation from non-fossil fuel sources at COP-21 in Paris in 2015. We have achieved this goal in year 2021 way ahead of the 2030 timeline. In the battle against climate change, India has consistently demonstrated leadership. The country's vision is to reach net zero emissions by 2070. While in the short-term the country is aiming to increase non fossil electricity generation capacity to 500 GW by 2030. At the G20 presidency, India has planned to focus on areas that have the potential to bring about a new approach to sustainable life style. We look forward to demonstrating our belief in a human-centred approach to technology and in promoting greater knowledge sharing in priority areas such as digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, and technology-enabled development in sectors from agriculture to education. We earnestly wish to use the G20 forum to highlight inclusive growth and development. (Writer is Secretary Power, India government. Views are personal.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Environmental damage in Bengaluru

The Bengaluru peripheral ring road project, which has been under scrutiny for over 16 years for the environmental damage it may cause, is back in the news. The Bangalore Development Authority has issued new tenders for the road's construction this year, despite the lack of an environmental clearance. According to reports, over 34000 trees are at risk of being cut down. The project is expected to have an impact on Jarakabande Kaval forest land, eight bodies of water and another 28 acres of forest land. Furthermore, the project plan has undergone numerous changes, and the extent of the damage it will cause is unknown because a detailed project report and a new environmental impact assessment have not been published or conducted, respectively. Using an incorrect Environmental impact assessment, the Bengaluru Development Authority claimed that only 300 jobs would be lost. The National Green Tribunal rejected the report based on the horticulture and forest department's submission that approximately 15,000 trees needed to be felled. As a result, Bengaluru's biodiversity and ecology are threatened! The mismanagement of the peripheral ring road project endangers birds, animals, trees, water bodies, and farmers livelihoods. As a result, the parties involved should publish the detailed project report for everyone to comment on, as well as conduct a new environmental impact assessment as soon as possible.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Tax on Cigarette may have positive outcome

Thanks to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Budget 2023-24 has seen a hike in taxes on cigarettes by 16% after persistent demand from sections of the society for a higher tax burden on tobacco products. For a long, tobacco has been one of the leading causes of death in India. As per the WHO, tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year and more than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use, while around 1.2 million happen when non-smokers are exposed to smoking indirectly. Many new reports suggest that tobacco's indirect and hidden promotion is also contributing to the silent epidemic. The current tax hike on cigarettes will not only help the central government to generate more revenue but at the same time will enable curb tobacco use to a large extent. Also, catchy slogans like, [Quitters always win - winners always quit] and [Desist from running the white train in your lips] can help in the fight against cigarette smoking.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

AI-powered robot introduced to save lives on Goa beaches

Aurus, an Artificial Intelligence-based self-driving robot, and AI-based monitoring system Triton are being used to augment life-saving capabilities on Goa's beaches, a state-appointed lifeguard services agency has said. The incorporation of AI-based support follows an increase in beach-related incidents due the rising number of domestic and foreign tourists on Goa's coastline, said a spokesperson from Driшти Marine. There have been more than 1,000 rescue incidents in the past two years along the coastal belt which required assistance from the agency's life savers, he said. "Aurus is a self-driving robot" developed to assist lifeguards by patrolling ex-

tensive non-swim zones and alerting tourists during high tide. The new addition will help in increased surveillance and crowd management at the beaches, he said. Besides, the Triton system's primary focus is to provide a completely AI-based monitoring of non-swim zones, thereby alerting tourists of the danger and notifying the nearest life-saver. Aurus is currently deployed at Miramar beach in North Goa, while Triton is deployed at Baina, Velsao, Benaulum, Galgibag in South Goa and Morjim in North Goa, an official from the agency said, adding they intend to deploy 100 Triton units and 10 Aurus units on the state's beaches this year.

Scientists split seawater to produce green hydrogen

Researchers have successfully split seawater without pre-treatment to produce green hydrogen. According to the international study, the researchers split natural seawater into oxygen and hydrogen with nearly 100 per cent efficiency, to produce green hydrogen by electrolysis. They used a non-precious and cheap catalyst in a commercial electrolyser, the study said. A typical non-precious catalyst is cobalt oxide with chromium oxide on its surface. "We used seawater as a feedstock without the need for any pre-treatment processes like reverse osmosis desalination, purification, or alkalisation," said Yao Zheng, lead researcher from University of Adelaide, Australia. "The performance of a commercial electrolyser with our catalysts running in seawater is close to the performance

of platinum/iridium catalysts running in a feedstock of highly purified deionised water," said Zheng. The team published their research in the journal Nature Energy. "Current electrolysers are operated with highly purified water electrolyte. Increased demand for hydrogen to partially or totally replace energy generated by fossil fuels will significantly increase scarcity of increasingly limited freshwater resources," said Zheng. Seawater is an almost infinite resource and is considered a natural feedstock electrolyte. This is more practical for regions with long coastlines and abundant sunlight, the study said. However, it is not practical for regions where seawater is scarce, the study said. Seawater electrolysis is still in early development compared with pure water electrolysis because of

electrode side reactions, and corrosion arising from the complexities of using seawater. "It is always necessary to treat impure water to a level of water purity for conventional electrolysers including desalination and deionisation, which increases the operation and maintenance cost of the processes," said Zheng. "Our work provides a solution to directly utilise seawater without pre-treatment systems and alkali addition, which shows similar performance as that of existing metal-based mature pure water electrolyser," said Zheng. The team will work on scaling up the system by using a larger electrolyser so that it can be used in commercial processes such as hydrogen generation for fuel cells and ammonia synthesis, the study said.

BRIEF

Urea exports



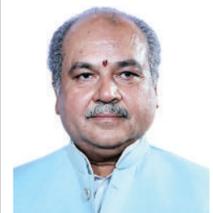
Ranchi: Fertiliser major IFFCO Ltd is eyeing nano urea exports to 25 countries and expecting that output is likely to be 30 crore bottles by December 2024, a top company official said on Tuesday. The company is currently exporting the fertiliser to five countries, he said. "We have already produced six crore bottles of 500 ml each and have sold five crore units to farmers, which is equivalent to 22 lakh tonne of solid urea or conventional urea... We are already exporting to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Suriname and Mexico," Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Managing Director US Awasthi told PTI in an interview.

Brand Punjab



Ludhiana: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann called upon the local industrialists to showcase 'brand Punjab' before the global industry representatives who will participate in the 'Invest Punjab Summit' during February 23-24. Interacting with the industrialists during a session organised here, the chief minister said Punjabis are known world over for their hard work and entrepreneurship skills.

Farmers' income



New Delhi: The government's efforts to double the income of farmers have yielded "very positive" results, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in Parliament on Tuesday. The government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee in April 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers' Income (DFI)" and recommended strategies to achieve the same.

Energy transition has to ensure surviving present: Puri

Bengaluru, Feb 07:

India, the world's third largest oil consumer, on Tuesday said it is committed to energy transition but surviving the present and cushioning the vulnerable from price volatilities is essential before moving to clean and green energy. India has committed to net zero carbon emission by 2070 and has repeatedly emphasised that 'dirty' fuels like oil and coal, on which the economy is two-thirds dependent, will have to continue to be in use in the foreseeable future.

An immediate shift from low-priced coal and oil to expensive fuels of the future such as hydrogen will entail huge costs in a nation with low per



capita income. "Unless we survive the present, we will not be able to go into the world of clean and green energy," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at India Energy Week here. "While affordable traditional energy resources are essential for meeting the base load requirements, new sources of energy which are cleaner, sustainable, and inno-

vative, are critical for combating the menace of climate change." Geopolitical situations last year led to a spike in prices of crude oil - raw material for petrol and diesel, and rates of natural gas - which is used to make CNG, electricity and fertilizer - shot up to record high.

Countries in Europe switched back to coal-fired power plants as gas became unaffordable to many. "We have to make sure our transition entails surviving the present and cushioning vulnerable from volatility," he said, adding the transition has to be affordable and sustainable particularly for vulnerable sections. "We are actively conscious of the need to facilitate energy transition and in the in-

terim insulate consumers."

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and roughly half of its gas requirement too comes from overseas. And the spike in global energy prices meant it had to shell out more for imports. To insulate domestic consumers, it had to cut taxes as well as ask oil companies to hold prices. "Affordable energy is a vital ingredient to achieving inclusive economic growth and energy justice," he said adding economies worldwide, particularly the emerging economies, are facing the daunting task of safeguarding energy security, affordability and accessibility which has created the cost-of-living crisis.

K Satyanarayana Raju appointed new MD & CEO - Canara Bank



Raju Reddy, MD & CEO, Canara Bank

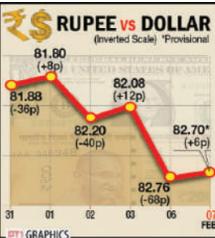
Raju is a Physics Graduate, Post Graduate in Business Administration (Banking and Finance) and CAIIB.

He has joined erstwhile Vijaya Bank in 1988 and has risen to the level of Chief General Manager in Bank of Baroda. During his 33 years of long banking career he has headed various Branches for 12 years including Specialised Corporate Banking Branch. He was Regional head of Shimoga, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Mumbai. He was also Zonal Head of Mumbai Zone which is the Biggest Zone of the Bank. He has also headed Operations and Services Department at Head Office. He has a very rich and vast experience in all Segments of Banking including Branch Banking, Corporate Credit, Retail Credit, Agri Financing, Credit Monitoring, Credit Recovery, Compliance etc. Also his rich experience and exposure led to digital transformation of Banking products and services.

Bengaluru, Feb 07:

The Government on Feb 7 announced the appointment of K Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank. He has replaced LV Prabhakar who demitted office on 31 December 2022. The Government of India appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as MD and CEO with effect from 07.02.2023. K Satyanarayana Raju has also served Canara Bank as Executive Director since 10th March 2021. K Satyanarayana

Rupee gains 6 paise to end at 82.70 against US dollar



Mumbai, Feb 07:

The rupee appreciated 6 paise to close at 82.70 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as a weak American currency against major rivals overseas boosted investor sentiments. However, muted domestic equities, unabated foreign capital outflows and rising crude prices restricted the rupee's rise, forex dealers said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 82.68 and touched an intra-day high of 82.62 and a low of 82.80 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.70, up 6 paise over its previous close of 82.76.

BoM organizes All India Hindi Seminar

On 'Digital Banking and Languages'

New Delhi, Feb 07:

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) is a leading public sector bank of the country. An All India Hindi Seminar on 'Digital Banking and Languages' was organized by Bank for all the Banks, Financial Institutions and Insurance Companies across the country at Delhi. Anshuli Arya, IAS, Secretary, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was present as the chief guest in this seminar. A.S. Rajeev, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra presided over the function. K. Rajesh Kumar, General Manager, HRM and Rajbhasha, Head Office and Chitra Datar, General Manager and Zonal Head,

Coal import cannot be zero, its blending with domestic dry fuel helped plants maintain stock: Singh

New Delhi, Feb 07:



Coal imports cannot be reduced to zero as several thermal power projects in India are designed to utilise the imported dry fuel for its high calorific value and blending it with domestic coal is also needed to maintain fuel stocks, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"The power plants designed for utilizing high Gross Calorific Value (GCV) non-coking coal, and cement, sponge iron, aluminum customers are utilizing high-ranked low ash coal. The coal requirement for such category of consumers cannot be substituted by domestic coal. Thus, import of coal cannot be reduced to zero," Power Minister R K Singh said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Singh said thermal power plants have been importing coal for blending since 2009. During 2022-23 (till January 2023), Coal India Ltd despatched 485.99 million tonne (provisional) coal to the power sector as compared to 440.05 MT during the same period a year ago, registering a growth of about 10 per cent. However, he stated that with the rise in electricity demand, the increase in supply of coal to power

plants is not commensurate with the domestic coal requirement. The gap between daily coal consumption and daily arrival of domestic coal ranged from 2.65 lakh tonne to 0.5 lakh tonne between September 2022 and January 2023. If the imports for blending had not been made, coal stocks at thermal power plants would have been reduced to zero in September 2022, he pointed out. Therefore, he said, Ministry of Power advised central, state genscos and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on January 9, 2023 to import coal through a transparent competitive procurement for blending so as to have sufficient coal stocks at their power plants for smooth operations till September 2023.

Jeeves strengthens its partnership with Samsung

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Flipkart's service arm, Jeeves, today announced the opening of authorised service centers for Samsung in multiple locations across the country. The operations of these service centers in Lucknow, Gurgaon, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Durg, and Raipur will be managed by Jeeves, that provides end-to-end after-sales service solutions to consumers and businesses. These service centers will offer after-sales support for all Samsung products irrespective of where it was purchased. The collaboration between Jeeves and Samsung has grown over the years. From two ASCs (Authorised Service Center) in Lucknow and Gurgaon, Jeeves now man-

ages seven ASCs that provide after-sales services for the installation and repair of Samsung products that are both under warranty and out of warranty. To ensure the customers get the best service all technicians in these service centers are trained by Samsung.

In addition to recently opened service centers, Jeeves also plans to open three more ASCs for Samsung in Ahmedabad and Surat in the coming month. Speaking about the opening of the service centers, Dr. Nipun Sharma, CEO at Jeeves, Flipkart Group, said, "With its extensive experience in servicing national and international brands, Jeeves is well equipped to provide a comprehensive after-sales service to Samsung's customers."

Skoda Auto India introduces innovative anytime warranty package

Mumbai, Feb 07:

After wrapping up 2022 as its Biggest Year in terms of sales, Skoda Auto India opens 2023 with its first introduction. Not a new car, but an all-new, revolutionary, customer initiative aimed at enhancing ownership experience and customer satisfaction. Called Anytime Warranty, it is a 1-year/20,000km warranty package that can be used to enhance any existing standard or extended warranties.

Petr Solc, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "We began 2023 by telling you the way forward for Skoda Auto India is not going to be just about newer cars, but several innovations that provide an unparalleled ownership and maintenance

experience for our customers. Anytime Warranty is one such offering, that delivers on our promise of customer satisfaction and hassle-free ownership experience, in our path towards Accelerating Growth." Skoda Auto India already leads the Indian automotive market with a 4-year/100,000 km standard warranty when the industry standard is about 3-years/75,000kms.

In addition, Skoda offered an option to extend the 4-year standard warranty to the 5th and 6th year/150,000 km under its Peace of Mind programme. The all-new Anytime Warranty is in addition to the existing standard and extended warranties and allows customers to have an addi-

Delhi Zone were prominently present in the seminar. Sudhir Shyam, Economic Advisor, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance was present in the seminar as a special guest. He enlightened the participants in regard to digitalization in banking. A large number of top executives and Hindi Officers of all the banks, financial institutions and insurance companies participated in the seminar.

Anshuli Arya, IAS in her address said that the

banks and financial institutions are the backbone of economy of the country. She said that bankers are serving the nation through banking services. Anshuli Arya said that the use of Hindi and regional languages in digital banking is very important in present scenario and customers from remote areas will also be benefited by this. She appreciated the efforts being made by Dr. Bank of Maharashtra and other banks in this direction. K. Rajesh Kumar, General Manager, HRM

and Rajbhasha welcomed all the participants. Sessions and panel discussion on "digital banking" were conducted in the seminar. Various Hindi Mobile Apps of the bank and a booklet in Braille script were released by the dignitaries present on the stage. The winners of the All India Hindi Essay Competition organized by the Bank of Maharashtra were also awarded on the occasion.

In his address A.S. Rajeev, Managing Director & CEO said that this is the era of digitalization. Hindi and regional languages are powerful mediums to convey our ideas and our schemes to far-flung areas. Chitra Datar, General Manager and Zonal Head, Delhi Zone proposed a vote of thanks. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Rajendra Srivastava, Deputy General Manager (Rajbhasha), Bank of Maharashtra.

Reiki Healing to boost recovery of Cancer Patients

Mumbai, Feb 07:

World Cancer Day targets misinformation to raise awareness and reduces stigma. Multiple initiatives are run on World Cancer Day to show support for those affected by cancer. When it comes to cancer treatment, most people think of radiation and chemotherapy and while treating the physical causes of cancer is an obvious part of treatment, alternative treatments that address the spiritual, Mental and emotional needs of cancer patients have begun increasingly popular at cancer treatment centers and programs. The benefits of Reiki are most effective when they accompany traditional cancer treatments. Reiki, a Japanese Healing technique and its roots are connected with India, has become a concept of curiosity for cancer patients everywhere. Studies and anecdotal evidence have shown that, Reiki can be used to encourage healing and provide other benefits also. In fact, some studies have even explored the effect of Reiki on patients who are undergoing cancer treatment concurrently. These studies have found that, although Reiki is not a substitute for other cancer treatments, but it enhance these treatments and offer a number of benefits to patients as they deal with the symptoms and stresses of cancer. Ayush Gupta who is the world's youngest Reiki Healer, Renowned Celebrity Tarot Card Reader & Numerologist, Started an initiative with his team to do absolutely free REIKI HEALING for Cancer Patients who are actually in need and cannot afford Alternate Healing Therapies. He says that "as Reiki Helped healed most difficult situations of his life."

of its scrips ending in the red. The index touched a high of 17,811.15 and a low of 17,652.55 during the session. Profit-taking in the FMCG and auto majors was weighing on the sentiment while buying in select heavyweights in banking and financials capped the fall, analysts said.

Govt trims budget for MGNREGS as PMAY, Jal Jeevan get more funds, says CEA

New Delhi, Feb 07:

Higher allocation towards PM Aawas Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission led to a decline in the budget for rural job scheme MGNREGS for the next fiscal, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said. "One of the reasons why allocation for MGNREGS was lowered is because there is a much larger substantive increase in allocation in particularly PMAY (rural) and Jal Jeevan Yojana. "... so the expectation is that the rural workers would be able to find jobs in these projects," he said at 5-Institute Budget Seminar 2023.

The allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme has been cut by almost one-third by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The rural job scheme has been allocated Rs 60,000 crore for 2023-24, almost 32 per cent lower

than revised estimates for the last fiscal. He further said, "If they (rural workers) don't get absorbed (in PMAY or Jal Jeevan Mission) then since MGNREGS is a demand-driven programme, we can accommodate them through higher allocation in MGNREGS."

Explaining further the thinking behind allocating fewer funds for MGNREGS, Nageswaran said is India's economic growth is expected to be around 10.5-11 per cent next fiscal year in nominal terms, that will also see some of the rural workers migrating back to urban areas and finding jobs.

NEW LAUNCH

Samsung India's Raju Pullan poses for photos during the launch of Galaxy S23 mobile, in Kolkata, Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Banks to face margin pressure next fiscal: Fitch

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Banks will face margin pressure next fiscal as they increase the deposit rates to attract funds to support sustained high loan growth, and the same will fall by 10 basis points to 3.45 per cent, a global rating agency said. "We expect the domestic banking sector's average net interest margin to slightly contract by about 10 bps (basis points) in FY24 to 3.45 per cent, following a 15 bps increase in FY23 to 3.55 per cent, in a base case scenario, but remain well above that during FY17-FY22 average of 3.1 per cent," Fitch Ratings said in a report.

Sensex, Nifty decline for 2nd day on selling in FMCG, steel stocks

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for a second straight day on Tuesday due to selling in FMCG, metal and auto shares ahead of the RBI monetary policy. The 30-share BSE barometer declined further by 220.86 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 60,286.04, as 22 of its constituents ended in the red. The index opened flat amid mixed global trends. It moved in a range of 60,655.14 to 60,063.49 in the day. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange fell by 43.10 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 17,721.50, with 31



&TV's Doosri Maa completes 100 episodes!

It is celebration time for &TV's Doosri Maa as the show completes 100 episodes! Launched in September 2022, the show narrates the story of a woman living in Uttar Pradesh with her husband, two daughters, and in-laws whose happy, peaceful family life comes to a screeching halt when she and her husband unknowingly end up adopting his illegitimate child. In a short time, the show has become the audience's favourite family drama on television. The star cast of the show Neha Joshi (Yashoda), Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna), and Mohit Dagga (Ashok), among others, shared their excitement about achieving the 100-episode milestone. Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda, shares, "I can't believe the show has already reached the 100-episode mark. My journey with Doosri Maa has been special. I was nervous and excited at



the same time when this opportunity came to me. I was getting married because I had to relocate to Jaipur the same week. But I decided to play Yashoda because of my husband's support and belief in the show director Imtiaz Punjabi. With this success, I feel I made

the right decision. Achieving this feat would not have been possible without my co-stars and the crew behind the show. They made everything run so well. The show has offered me many opportunities to experience a wide range of emotions as an actor. I

am glad we have gotten this far; the audience has shown us so much affection. This accomplishment inspires us to keep entertaining our viewers." Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Vijay Deverakonda ties up with Parasuram for 'Geeta Govindam'

Down but not out: that seems to be the message that Vijay Devarakonda is sending out after his failure to click in the box office with 'Liger'. He has just announced his next project with Parasuram, who previously helmed 'Geeta Govindam' which saw Vijay cast with Rashmika. "We are getting back together" shared Vijay Deverakonda while announcing his next with 'Geeta Govindam' director. The 2018 Telugu movie is among Vijay's biggest hits and firmly out him in the top bracket.



The movie is being bankrolled by ace producer 'Dil' Raju's Sri Venkateswara Creations who tweeted: "Very happy to announce that we are collaborating with block-

buster combination of Vijay Devarakonda and Parasuram." Vijay Devarakonda's last theatrical outing 'Liger' a pan-India movie directed by Puri Jagannath, was a box office disaster. The debacle was a big blow for the Tollywood actor who had captured the imagination of youngsters across the country. The announcement of his next movie with Parasuram indicates that Vijay is getting back to the drawing board to redefine his career path with movies that are story-oriented.

Wagle Ki Duniya to see senior Wagle Radhika's life in danger



Only SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey is a slice-of-life family drama that tackles the daily struggles of a middle-class man with sensitivity. The show is thought provoking and heart-warming at the same time as it brings to light societal issues faced by the common man. Wagle Ki Duniya's next few episodes focus on Rajesh Wagle's (Sumeet Raghavan) personal and professional turmoil as Radhika Wagle (Bharti Achrekar) faces a medical challenge while challenges

crop up on the professional front. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness Radhika Wagle having a heart-attack and the whole family struggling to cope in this tense situation. They will also follow Rajesh undergoing a stressful situation as a mysterious person tries to oust him from his company. With Manoj's (Vipul Deshpande) entry creating chaos for the Wagle family, this new turn in events is sure to make the lives of the Wagle's more tense and challenging.

Kangana goes after those spying on her, tells 'ghar mein ghus ke maarungi'



After hitting out at a 'well-known' actor for spying on her, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, on Monday again took to her social media to send a public warning to the actor while she also shared that there has been no spying since she put up her last post. Taking to the story section of her Instagram, Kangana wrote a note, telling her followers that the incessant spying around by the paparazzi has stopped. She wrote: "All those who worry about me please know that since last night there are no suspicious activi-

ties around me, no one is following me, with or without cameras." She then pointed the gun again at the said actor, as she wrote: "Dekho jo bhoot baton se mante hain woh toh sirf laton se he mante hain (there's no point in having a conversation with those who understand only through muscle). Message to gang changu mangu: bachchon tumhara kisi dehati se pala nahi pada sudhar jao nahi toh ...ghar mein ghos ke marungi (You guys haven't dealt with a village blood, mend your ways or you are going to have it from me)."

Rakul Preet, Jackky to walk the ramp for Lakshmi Manchu's Teach for Change



Tollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh and film producer Jackky Bhagnani will headline a fashion show-cum-fundraiser for actor-producer Lakshmi Manchu's NGO, Teach for Change, which is working in the space of quality education for children from disadvantaged communities.

The annual show will be held in Hyderabad on February 19. It promises to have a robust lineup of film stars from Bollywood and the South as well as sportspersons. Funds raised from the show will be utilised for Teach for Change's campaigns throughout the year.

The stars will sashay down the ramp in designer Varun Chakkilam's outfits, a collection especially designed for the show.

Started in 2014 by Lakshmi Manchu and Chaitanya MRSK, Teach for Change has created various winning modules, ranging from a flagship volunteer programme to creating an ICT infrastructure and smart classrooms in government schools.

The organisation has so far worked with 432 government schools, transforming the lives of 42,608 students across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Speaking on the occasion, Lakshmi Manchu said: "This fundraiser is a platform that can help bridge their basic educational needs with our willingness to support their cause. I am so grateful to all my industry friends, family and colleagues who have time and again supported this cause for Teach for Change and have come together to support and celebrate."

Designer Varun Chakkilam said: "Lakshmi is a powerhouse of energy and anything she touches is always the real deal. The show is just one evening but has a ripple effect round the year. It is really humbling to be a part of something that is larger than all of us."

Thalapathy-Lokesh movie 'Leo' earns Rs 246 crore even before release

The next movie of Tamil superstar, Thalapathy Vijay, 'Leo', according to reports, has collected Rs 246 crore from digital rights, satellite, and music rights.

The movie directed by Tamil's super director Lokesh Kanagaraj (previously in the news for 'Vikram') has collected a huge amount immediately after the announcement promo of the movie is done. Kanagaraj's previous movie 'Vikram' featuring Kamal Haasan shattered collection records and, the industry buzz suggests, the movie 'Leo', in which he is uniting with Thalapathy Vijay, seems headed in the same direction. According to Tracktollywood.com, the movie has been made



at a cost of around Rs 250 crore and that it has already collected a staggering Rs 246 crore. The digital rights of the movie fetched it Rs 150 crore while its satellite rights gave Rs 80 crore and the music rights led to a collection of Rs 16 crore. The movie has Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt as the anti-hero and hence a huge money has come from Hindi dubbing rights.

Amrita's world comes crashing down with this big revelation

Only SAB's family drama Dil Diyaan Gallaan brings to focus the story of a family distanced by physical and emotional differences. The show brings to light how misunderstanding, miscommunication and unspoken words lead to differences between three generations. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness an emotional and vulnerable side of Amrita (Kaveri Priyam). She feels devastated when she discovers the true identity of Veer (Paras Arora) as she has always treated him to be one of her closest confidants and being betrayed by him came as a great shocker.



Amrita finally comes to know that Veer is Dr Durgarpal and he has also rejected her thesis. However, little does she know that Veer's intention wasn't to hide his real identity, however, the circumstances made him

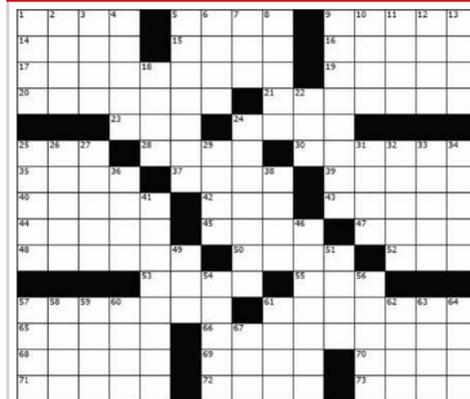
take such a tough decision. The show is heading towards an interesting phase where Veer and Amrita's lives are going to change forever due to Riya (Hema Sood)'s actions. Riya's love and admiration for Veer is not unknown and she ends up damaging Amrita and Veer's budding relationship.

What will be Amrita's reaction to Veer's betrayal? Will she forgive him or does destiny have some other plans for both of them? Kaveri Priyam, who portrays the character of Amrita, said, "The upcoming episodes on the show are very emotionally challenging for my character Amrita, and it's been a

roller coaster ride shooting for these sequences. Amrita's life has taken an entire turn after she came to India and there has been no looking back. From finding out about her real grandparents to coming face to face with Veer's truth, Amrita's life has taken unexpected twists and turns. In the short span she has uncovered and come face to face with many life changing events. I believe the upcoming episodes will show the audience a never seen before side of Amrita and it will be great to see how she finally copes with Veer's truth and deals with the new challenges coming her way."

CROSSWORD

555



ACROSS

1. Remote
5. Singer
9. Remove soap
14. Festive event
15. Deep affection
16. Lagoon's boundary
17. Very skinny
19. Satan
20. Abandon
21. Make lively
23. Go downhill

24. Vicinity
25. Vegas
28. Ilk
30. Marked down in price (2 wds.)
35. Get trouble
37. Musical sound
39. Hot chocolate
40. Postage mark
42. diem
43. Revises copy
44. Gopher
45. Radiate

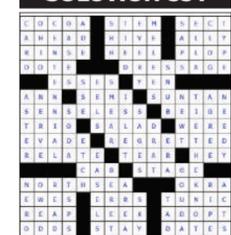
47. Initial stake
48. Panoramas
50. Summit
52. "In We Trust"
53. Count calories
55. Harden
57. Eyelash makeup
61. Georgia's capital
65. Broad tie
66. Party after a wedding
68. Musical instrument
69. Tibetan priest
70. Frozen
71. Cavalry sword
72. Flower support
73. Loch monster

DOWN

1. Ancient
2. Celebrity
3. Lamenting cry
4. Track events
5. Great happiness
6. Deteriorates
7. Common contraction
8. Fragrant wood
9. Brightness
10. Article
11. Flaring star
12. Narrow opening
13. She, in Paris
18. Annoys
22. Keanu Reeves role
24. Try
25. Rosters
26. Caper
27. Theater platform

29. Thick cord
31. Fizzy beverage
32. Serving perfectly
33. Game of chance
34. Soothed
36. Harbinger
38. A great lake
41. "Alien Vs."
46. Wrestling duo (2 wds.)
49. Respectful title
51. Seaweed
54. English nobleman
56. Caesar's language
57. Atlas entries
58. The Orient
59. Strike-breaker
60. Traffic barrier
61. Peak
62. Kind
63. Little piggies
64. Ampersands
67. Break a fast

SOLUTION 554



Can Australia end India's home domination?

Nagpur, Feb 07:

Australia's blockbuster four-Test series against India will be the greatest challenge Pat Cummins has faced in his young captaincy as he looks to conquer the "final frontier" in his country's proud cricketing battles. India hold the Border-Gavaskar Trophy having won the last three Tests series between the teams, including their breakthrough triumph Down Under in 2018-19 and another on the road in 2020-2021. They have been even more imposing at home, where they have lost only two out of 42 Tests over the best part of a decade and are on a winning streak of 15 successive series wins. Cummins has gone on the record as saying that a series win in India, which Australia have achieved only four times and most recently in 2004-05, is on a par with the benchmark of Australian cricketing success - an Ashes triumph.

A triumph in India, which former captain Steve Waugh once called Australian cricket's "Final Frontier", would go a long way in bolstering Cummins' leadership credentials.

Also at stake in the four-match series, which begins in Nagpur on Thursday, are spots in the second World Test Championship title-decider in June.

The two teams could



Indian batsman Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan during a practice session.

face off again in the WTC final at The Oval and sit atop the standings with Australia only needing to avoid a 4-0 whitewash to book their spot. The tourists will be without some key names for the first test at least, however. Seasoned fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will miss the

Nagpur match with an Achilles issue, while finger injuries have ruled left-arm quick Mitchell Starc out of the opener and made all-rounder Cameron Green a doubtful starter.

India are not without injury woes with wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant missing the series

INDIA	AUSTRALIA
World ranking: 2	World ranking: 1
Captain: Rohit Sharma	Captain: Pat Cummins
Coach: Rahul Dravid	Coach: Andrew McDonald
Top-ranked batsman: Rohit Sharma (10)	Top-ranked batsman: Marnus Labuschagne (1)
Top-ranked bowler: Ravichandran Ashwin (4)	Top-ranked bowler: Pat Cummins (1)
India squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K S Bharat (w/k), Ishan Kishan (w/k), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Suryakumar Yadav.	Australia squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey (w/k), Cameron Green, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.



HEAD-TO-HEAD

Test series: 27

India wins: 10

Australia wins: 12

Draws: 5

LAST THREE SERIES



2020-21: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in Australia
 2018-19: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in Australia
 2016-17: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in India

after a car crash in December and paceman Jasprit Bumrah ruled out of the first two Tests due to a back injury.

Ravindra Jadeja is returning from an ankle injury to add to Rohit Sharma's headaches, although the India skipper still has plenty of spin options in his squad for what could be a turning wicket in the opener. With spin

talk dominating the build-up to the series, which also includes Tests in New Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad, the touring side left no stone unturned by practising on a scuffed up surface in Sydney before flying to India. Having decided against playing "irrelevant" warm-up matches, they gathered a bunch of local spinners for their net sessions in Alur



Australian captain Pat Cummins (L) with teammate Lance Morris during a practice session.

and hired a bowler with a delivery similar to India's Ravichandran Ashwin.

"Hopefully we get really good training facilities where the ball is likely to do what it's likely to do in the middle and we can get our practice in," former Australia skipper Steve Smith said last week.

"We're better off having our own nets and getting spinners in and bowling as much as they can." Australia have kept their own bowling options open by including four spinners and six pace bowlers in their squad.

Former Australia pace-man Ryan Harris said that

Schedule

First Test: February 9-13, Nagpur
Second Test: February 17-21, New Delhi
Third Test: March 1-5, Dharamsala
Fourth Test: March 9-13, Ahmedabad
 Play begins at 9.30am IST.

Where to watch

Australia's tour of India will be broadcast live on Star Sports channels, it will also be streamed live on Disney Hotstar app.

they would need to be competitive in every session of every match to snatch a series victory. "Having the confidence they have and the form they're in, it can definitely help them. But it can change pretty quickly over there," he said on Tuesday. "They're not going to leave much grass on the pitches for our quicks, no doubt about that."

India's chances of making the World Test Championship final hinge on avoiding a series defeat and they will hope that New Zealand can help them out by beating third-placed Sri Lanka in their two-Test series in March.

A 3-0 triumph against Australia would be enough for Rohit's side to go through if Sri Lanka beat the Black Caps.

There's temptation to play three spinners: KL Rahul

Nagpur, Feb 07 (PTI):

India's Test vice-captain KL Rahul feels it's never easy to predict the nature of a track but there is a "temptation" to play three spinners in the first Test against Australia, beginning here on Thursday.

With less than 48 hours left for the Border Gavaskar Trophy to begin, Rahul didn't provide any definitive answers about three key slots in the team - the wicketkeeper, the third spinner and the number five in the batting order.

Asked if Shubman Gill will bat in the middle-order, Rahul said: "We still haven't decided on the final XI. It's going to be a tough decision to make. There are guys who have performed exceedingly well and there are a few spots open so there are a few discussions going on and the players are being spoken to."

"The VCA track is expected to assist spinners from day one itself but Rahul doesn't want to be a sooth-sayer when it comes to reading the 22-yard strip.

"Yes, we did see it (the



Indian batters K L Rahul and Cheteshwar Pujara with batting coach Vikram Rathour during a practice session.

pitch), but it's still too early to really know what the pitch is going to do. We need to come here on the day of the match to know how it's really going to play," he told reporters.

"We can only look at it and assume it's going to

play a certain way, but you never know with pitches. Yes, there is the temptation to play three spinners because we're playing in India. We'll take that call on the day of the game or the day before the game," the stylish right-hander said.

With skipper Rohit Sharma back in the mix, Rahul was asked if he would like to bat in the middle-order where he had started his Test career back in 2014.

"If it arises, then I'm more than happy to do that. Whatever little cricket I've played for the country, I've always done that.

"Whatever the team has asked me to do, I try and prepare that way and try and do my best for the team, and if that is something that the team wants me to do here, I'll be more than happy to do it," Rahul said, although it is unlikely that he would come down the order. So does he find it unique that there is no straightforward choice for picking the playing eleven this time around?

"I don't know if it has happened before but, yes, this time is going to be tough. Tough decision to select an eleven. All the 15 guys in the side are top quality, and that's why they're here. Anyone of them on any given day can be a match winner.

"The playing XI, we always try and make a decision based on what's best

for the team and for that particular Test match. We have done that over the last two years," that was his response to a PTI query.

Rahul didn't forget to remind the media that he is still pretty sour about the backlash that he got for dropping Kuldeep Yadav for the second Test against Bangladesh after his match-winning performance in the series opener.

"There have been questions about why a certain player has played even in Bangladesh, I remember, Kuldeep (Yadav) got the man of the match and did not play the next Test.

"Obviously, the only reason, or the only thinking, behind such decisions is which player fits the role for that particular condition. "You said, I have played for 10 years, but even if I have played for 20-30 years, and even after retirement, there is nobody who can look at the pitch and say accurately that this is how it is going to play." "It's really based on some experience and a little bit of history of that place. Even in this series, that's something we will continue to do," he said.

India U-17 women's team routs hosts Jordan 7-0 in friendly match

Zarqa (Jordan), Feb 07 (PTI):

Shilji Shaji scored four goals in the Indian U-17 women's team's 7-0 thrashing of Jordan in a friendly match here on Monday.

Shilji struck in the second, 37th, 74th and 76th minutes while Manisha Kumari (13th), Pooja (18th) and Sanjana (90+1) were the other goal-scorers at the Prince Mohammed Stadium. The Young Tigresses are preparing for the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup, which is set to take place next year. This was the first international match the newly-assembled squad played after they set camp in Chennai last month. It took Shilji all of two minutes to open the scoring for India, before Manisha Kumari doubled the lead in the 13th minute, as she nodded a corner from captain Heena Khatun. Five minutes later, Pooja produced a glorious volley that went in at the far post, after Arya Anilkumar sent in the cross. Pooja turned provider in the 37th minute when her shot from the right was saved by the opposition keeper. However, she got on the rebound and sent it in for Shilji to score her second.

Aaron Finch retires from international cricket

Melbourne, Feb 07 (PTI):

Australia's most successful T20 International batter and captain Aaron Finch, who led the country to its maiden shortest format World Cup triumph in 2021, announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old will, however, continue to play for the Renegades in the Big Bash League and would consider domestic T20 opportunities in other countries. "Our World Cup winning, longest serving men's T20I captain has called time on a remarkable career. Thanks for everything @AaronFinch5." Cricket Australia (CA) said in its official Twitter handle.

Finch's retirement from international cricket was on expected lines. He played just five Tests, the last one being in 2018, and retired from the ODIs last year after a much-publicised struggle for form as captain of the Australian team. He captained the team to their first T20 World Cup title when they defeated New Zealand in Dubai in 2021



and is one of only four male Australians to captain a World Cup winning side.

But, the Australian team under him failed to qualify for the semifinals T20 World Cup at home last year. His last international match came in the T20 showpiece when he top-scored with 63 as Australia beat Ireland by 42 runs.

"Realising that I won't be playing on until the next T20 World Cup in 2024, now is the right moment to step down and give the team time to plan and build towards that event," Finch told reporters at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"I also want to say a huge thank you to all the fans who have supported me throughout my international career."

Siraj, Shubman nominated for ICC Player of the Month Award

Dubai, Feb 07 (PTI):

India pacer Mohammed Siraj and opener Shubman Gill were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month Award for their stellar show in January.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway, who has had a fine start to the year with three hundreds and two fifties across formats, is the third contender for the award.

Following a fruitful 2022, Gill displayed his batting prowess in both the white-ball formats last month while Siraj led India's fast-bowling attack with distinction in ODIs in recent times, showcasing his brilliance consistently, especially with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah.

Gill was handed his



maiden T20I cap in the first match against Sri Lanka in Mumbai, where he managed just seven, before another single-digit score in the second game. He made a steady 46 in the

third T20I in Rajkot. Gill then registered scores of 70, 21 and 116 in the three ODIs against the island nation, but it was his breathtaking display in the first ODI against New Zealand in Hyderabad that stole the show.

The 23-year-old struck 208 off 149 balls in an incredible knock on a day when none of his teammates crossed 28.

Gill got to 200 with three consecutive sixes off Lockie Ferguson, and with it, became the youngest player to the milestone in ODIs. He backed that up with scores of 40 not out and 112 in his next two outings to close out the series with an aggregate of 360, the joint-highest for anyone in a three-match ODI series, equalling Babar Azam's record against the West Indies in 2016-17.

Sania-Bethanie crash out in first round of Abu Dhabi Open



Abu Dhabi, Feb 07 (PTI):

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands suffered a straight-set defeat against the pair of Kirsten Flipkens and Laura Siegemund in the first round of the Abu Dhabi Open here.

The Sania-Bethanie duo lost 3-6 4-6 to their Belgian-German opponents in the match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes Monday night to make an early exit from the tournament.

Sania, a six-time Grand Slam winner, is set to retire from professional tennis after playing in the Dubai Tennis Championships beginning February 19.

Last month, Sania and Rohan Bopanna had finished runners-up in the mixed doubles in the Australian Open in Melbourne as they lost to Brazilians Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos in the final. That match was the last time Sania featured in a Grand Slam.

WPL auction: 409 players to go under the hammer

Mumbai, Feb 07:

A total of 409 players from 15 countries will go under the hammer at the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on February 13 in Mumbai. The BCCI said it had received a whopping 1525 registrations, out of which 246 Indians and 163 overseas players made the final list.

As many as 24 players - 14 overseas and 10 Indians - have listed themselves at the highest base price of INR 50 lakh (USD 60,400 approx.), including Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry, Sophie Ecclestone, Sophie Devine and Deandra Dottin. All of the victorious India Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup squad have registered for the auction. Apart from India, the final list includes players from Australia, England, New

Players with INR 50 lakh base price

- India** - Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Pooja Vastrakar, Richa Ghosh, Sneha Rana, Meghna Singh
- Australia** - Ashleigh Gardner, Ellyse Perry, Meg Lanning, Alyssa Healy, Jess Jonassen, Darcie Brown
- England** - Sophie Ecclestone, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danni Wyatt, Katherine Sciver-Brunt
- New Zealand** - Sophie Devine
- South Africa** - Sinalo Jaftha
- West Indies** - Deandra Dottin
- Zimbabwe** - Lorny Phiri

Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ireland, Zimbabwe, and also eight Associate players from UAE, Hong Kong, Thailand, Netherlands and USA. The five franchises will have a purse of INR 12 crore (USD 14.6 million approx.) each to spend on forming their teams. With each squad comprising between 15 and 18 players, a maximum of 90 players can be bought at the auction which starts at 2.30 pm IST. Each

squad can contain up to six overseas players. On January 25, the BCCI had unveiled the owners of Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and the Adani Group and Capri global as the five successful bidders for teams in the WPL. The inaugural season of the WPL will be played from March 4 to 26, with all 22 matches held at the Brabourne Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai.

SC dismisses plea to restrain Gowri from taking oath

■ As HC judge

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking to restrain lawyer Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri from taking oath as an additional judge of the Madras High Court, saying a "consultative process" had taken place before her name was recommended by the collegium for the appointment. The apex court said Gowri has been appointed as an additional judge and if she is not true to the oath or does not discharge her duties in accordance with the oath, the collegium is entitled to take a view of that, while pointing out that there have been instances where peo-



ple have not been made permanent judges. Minutes before the top court dismissed two pleas against Gowri's appointment, she was administered the oath of office as an additional judge by Madras High Court's Acting Chief Justice T Raja at around 10:48 am. "We are not entertaining the writ petition. Reasons will follow," said a special bench of Justices

Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, which assembled at 10:25 am to hear the plea, five minutes before the scheduled time of the court. The two pleas, including one moved by three Madras High Court lawyers, opposed Gowri's appointment as an additional judge. The bench told senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, who appeared in the matter for the petitioners, that there

'Will realise the dreams of Constitution makers'

Gowri, in her address, after being sworn in as additional judge by Acting Chief Justice, T Raja asserted that she would dispense justice in realising the dreams of the makers of the Constitution. She was administered the oath of office at around 10:45 AM while the top court was hearing arguments on why Gowri should not be elevated. While the Supreme Court refused to entertain the plea seeking to restrain Gowri from taking oath as additional judge, sources close to the petitioners said that the apex court's ruling signalled the end of the matter and there appeared to be no scope to take the legal fight forward.

have been cases where people with political backgrounds have taken oath as judges of the Supreme Court and high courts.

"Mr Ramachandran, there have been cases where people with political backgrounds have taken oath over here also, as judges of the Supreme Court and high courts," it said. "You have placed certain utterances of 2018 etc. on record. We have seen it. The fact of the matter is,

all these must have been placed before the collegium," the bench observed. It said when the collegium takes a decision, it also takes the opinion of the consultee judges, who are from that particular high court, and the petitioners cannot assume that those judges were not aware of all these things.

"In any case, the candidate is being appointed as an additional judge. If the candidate is not true to the

oath and if it is found that he or she has not discharged duties as per the oath, is the collegium not entitled to take a view of that? And there have been instances where people have not been confirmed," the bench said during the hearing that went on for about 25 minutes. The bench told Ramachandran that there is a difference between eligibility and suitability. It said as far as suitability or merits are concerned, normally, even according to apex court judgments, courts should not go ahead, otherwise the whole process of appointment will become "unworkable". Ramachandran referred to Article 217 of the Constitution, which deals with the appointment and conditions of the office of a high court judge.

'Telangana saw over 10,000 cases of cyber crime in 2021'

Hyderabad, Feb. 07 (PTI): Cyber crimes in Telangana have doubled to 10,303 cases in 2021 from 5,025 cases in 2020 with Cyberabad topping the chart with 4,412 felonies, according to a report. Revealing data, the Telangana Socio Economic Outlook 2023 said, "As many as 10,303 cases of cyber crime were registered in 2021 as against 5,025 cases in 2020, an increase of 105.03 per cent. The highest number of cases were reported from the police commissionerates of Cyberabad (4,412) followed by Hyderabad (3,303) and Rachakonda (1,548), it said. Cyber crime is a rapidly evolving transnational crime committed across borders and affects individuals and societies globally, said the report. It said the

Telangana government is trying to use technical assistance in capacity-building, prevention, creating awareness, increasing cooperation, collecting data, researching and analysing cybercrime, the report said. The Telangana Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (T4C) was set up in 2021 to provide round-the-clock assistance to victims of cyber fraud. The T4C has a 24x7 call centre that helps coordinate with district police in the registration, investigation and detection of cyber crime, it said. T4C has successfully prevented almost Rs 30 crore of public money from reaching the hands of cyber fraudsters. The State has also created Telangana Cyber Security Policy 2016 to address cyber security issues.

'Glamour of conflict' attracts youth to armed movements: Singh

Amingaon (Assam), Feb 07 (PTI): 'Glamour of conflict' attracts the youth to armed movements, which is also fuelled by various other socio-economic factors like 'widespread unemployment', Union Minister VK Singh said here on Tuesday.

Force against conflict can be used for a positive outcome but the whole process of reconciliation involves several steps like equal opportunity and transparent process, Singh, a former Army chief said. Speaking in the same vein on youth caught in conflicts, Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya stressed on the need to include the voice of the youth while discussing peace as this section of the populace is 'disproportionately affected' in times of conflict.



VK Singh

tion's strength," Singh said. Social economic conditions create haves and have-nots. Dissatisfaction in minds lead to conflicts, he added.

Dissidence leads to conflicts and 'widespread unemployment' widens the conflict, with various factors like 'external support' and 'internal political conflicts' fuelling it further, he said. The perpetrators of conflicts create a fear psychosis so that people are made to join them even if they were not willing themselves, he claimed.

"Glamour of conflict unfortunately attracts the youth. Youth is the most impressionable age and they will matter how a nation is run in the future," the Union MoS for Road Transport and Civil Aviation said.

They were speaking at a panel discussion on 'Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War' at the Youth 20 inception meeting here. "Diversity of a nation contributes to differing perceptions. It can create disharmony if not managed properly, otherwise it becomes the na-

9-year-old girl suffers seizures after application of 'mehndi' on hand

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI): Doctors at a leading private hospital here on Tuesday said they have reported an "unusual" case of a nine-year-old girl who suffered epileptic seizures triggered by the smell of "mehndi" applied on her hand. The case study has been published in the January 2023 edition of the Clinical Neurophysiology, the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said in a statement.

The department of neurology at the hospital recently reported "an unusual case" of a nine-year-old girl who was suffering epileptic seizures after application of "mehndi", it said. When she had suffered her first convulsion after application of "mehndi", she had "abrupt loss of consciousness, leading to fall and convulsions for 20 seconds", doctors at the hospital said.



An artist gives final touches to a painting as a tribute to victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, in Mumbai, Tuesday.

'India can be superpower in defence manufacturing'

Pune, Feb 07 (PTI):

Lauding the private sector contribution in defence manufacturing, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday said India has the potential to emerge as a superpower in making military equipment and has displayed wherewithal to develop big and complex platforms. Referring to the inauguration of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's new helicopter factory — India's largest chopper manufacturing unit — in Tumakuru district of Karnataka on Monday, General Chauhan said post-independence, it was the country's dream to become self-reliant in defence manufacturing.

He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs) Defence Expo 2023, organised by NIBE Defence and Aerospace Ltd in Chakan on Pune city fringes.

"When we imagine a powerful India, our major focus goes towards the Armed Forces and we feel proud about their achievements. According to me, a big defence ecosystem is standing behind the Armed Forces, which is making the country powerful and this defence ecosystem works in tandem with the Armed Forces," General Chauhan said. The people in this ecosystem do not wear uniforms and do not come under the Army, Navy or Air Force Acts, but they have a strong desire to do something for the nation and they are always inspired by that desire, said the CDS. "I feel that to make the country more



CDS General Chauhan

powerful, the silent majority has a big role to play and we should recognise this contribution. Which is why I have come here to give recognition to this silent majority and say that all you people are with us in the process of making the country pow-

erful," General Chauhan said. Post-independence, it was the country's dream to become self-reliant and independent in the defence sector, and ordnance factories and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) have played a major role in realising that goal, he said.

Sometime ago, the defence sector was thrown open to private players and emphasis was given to the Make-in-India initiative (aimed at country becoming a manufacturing powerhouse), he said.

"I firmly believe these two attempts of the government will unleash the power of the youth and entrepreneurs of India. NIBE Defence is a fine example of this entrepreneurship," General Chauhan said. Considering the contribution of the private sector; it

can be seen that India can emerge as a superpower in defence manufacturing, he said. The CDS further said there was a need for a "whole-of-nation approach, instead of the whole-of-government approach", in the field of defence manufacturing. For that, all stakeholders like Armed Forces, DPSUs, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), private industries, MSMEs and individual innovators have worked together, he said.

"Until now, there was a mindset that India cannot develop big and complex platforms. However yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the HAL helicopter factory in Karnataka's Tumakuru. This will encourage tier-2 and tier-3 industries and generate employment," he said.

NCERT gets ETS on board for establishing first national assessment regulator

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

The NCERT has partnered with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) which conducts TOEFL and GRE tests, for setting up India's first national assessment regulator - PARAKH.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) notified "PARAKH" last month. The Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) will work on setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards in the country. The regulator will set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove dis-

parities in scores of students enrolled with different state boards, a reform outlined in the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2022. "NCERT on behalf of Ministry of Education, is in the process of setting up PARAKH, as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is delighted to have ETS as the technical partner in this endeavour," said Indrani Bhaduri, Professor and Head of the Educational Survey Division, NCERT.

"Their understanding of global best practices in curriculum and assessment will be a great asset in standardising these aspects across the various school boards in the country thereby paving the path towards quality,

consistency and uniformity in the teaching-learning and assessment practices. "We at NCERT are enthused to partner with ETS and deploy their considerable expertise in educational research in learning assessments and intend to capitalise the same for the betterment of all aspects of school education, benefiting the learners, teachers and educational delivery system in this country," she said.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE



Bulldozer being used to demolish illegal structures during an anti-encroachment drive in Dehradun, Tuesday.

Keen tussle on cards as AIADMK files papers

Chennai, Feb 07 (PTI): The opposition AIADMK candidate K S Thamarasu filed his nomination papers for the Erode East Assembly bypoll on the last day for filing of nominations on Tuesday after the O Panneerselvam faction opted out of the race.

The former legislator's entry into poll fray is likely to make the contest a keen tussle between the AIADMK and former Union Minister E V K S Elangovan (Congress), though Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) and Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) candidates, too, have submitted their papers, signifying their preparedness to lock horns with the DMK-backed Congress candidate. About 75 candidates have filed the papers seeking to contest the February

ERODE BYPOLL

27 byelection. They will be taken up for scrutiny on Wednesday. The last day for withdrawal of nominations is February 10. Former Chief Minister Panneerselvam's announcement to withdraw his nominee Senthil Murugan to prevent the Election Commission from freezing the party's Two Leaves symbol and to ensure the party's victory at the hustings, had strengthened the hands of another former Chief Minister K Palaniswami, who is the interim general secretary of the party. Presidium Chairman Tamilmagan Hussain, who belongs to the Palaniswami faction, rushed to the national capital on Monday to convince the ECI on the collective decision of the general council in selecting a candidate and to retain the party sym-

bol. The ECI authorised Hussain to sign the forms meant to nominate the official candidate. Following this, the former lawmaker filed the nomination before the returning officer and Corporation Commissioner K Sivakumar in Erode today.

हिंदिलस
कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी द्वारा गालों में स्थायी हिंदिलस

डॉ. ग. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त

कालड़ा बर्न एवं
प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर

एच.एम.एस. रोड, कलकत्ता-700007, रायपुर
फोन: 9827143060/8871003060

BRIEF



General Officer Commanding in Chief of Army's Northern Command Lt General Upendra Dwivedi presents the award to Army officials during the investiture ceremony, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

Threat call

Mumbai: A 28-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly threatening to carry out a terror attack at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport here, officials said. The accused called the airport on Monday night and issued the threat while identifying himself as "Irfan Sheikh," a member of the banned terror outfit Indian Mujahideen, said a Sahar police station official.

Mishap

Khunti: A septuagenarian woman and her 35-year-old daughter were charred to death in a fire that broke out in their house in Khunti district on Tuesday, a police officer said. The victims were identified as Susana Kashyap (75) and her physically challenged daughter Pushpa Kashyap of Amritpur Mohalla, about 40 km from Ranchi, after the fire-fighters doused the fire.

Sentence

Junagadh: A court here on Tuesday sentenced a Congress MLA to six months of simple imprisonment in a 2010 case of rioting and assault in Gujarat's Junagadh district. A court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Snehal Shukla sentenced Vimal Chudasama, the Congress legislator from Somnath, and three others to six months of simple imprisonment.

Arrested

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday arrested an extortionist from Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district. "Police in Pulwama arrested an extortionist along with fake weapons, who was impersonating as a terrorist," a police spokesperson said.

Assault

Mumbai: Actor Rakhi Sawant's husband Adil Durrani was on Tuesday brought to the Oshiwara police station in the city after she filed a complaint accusing him of assaulting her and taking away money and jewellery from her flat without her knowledge, an official said. Citing her statement to the police on Monday night, the official said Sawant (41) got in touch with Durrani (30) in January 2022 and the two opened a joint business account.

Weather
High 32 Low 15

MARKET
NIFTY 17,721.50
SENSEX 60,286.04

BULLION
GOLD 57,077
SILVER 67,343

RUCKUS IN PARLIAMENT

BJP leader 'glorified sati': Oppn

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

Lok Sabha was adjourned briefly on Tuesday due to protests by opposition members who alleged that BJP member C P Joshi had glorified 'Sati' in his speech. Joshi, however, clarified that he did not support the banned practice and that his remarks were on the tradition of 'Jauhar'.

He said he did not mention 'Sati' and perhaps due to an error in translation from Hindi, the word was mixed with his reference to 'Satitva' (chastity). Joshi, a BJP member from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, had initiated the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address when he referred to Padmavati, the queen of Mewar who is believed to have self-immolated when

invader Allauddin Khilji laid a siege at the Chittor fort. Opposition members Supriya Sule (NCP), Kanimozhi, Dayanidhi Maran, A Raja (DMK), K Muraleedharan (Congress) and Imtiaz Jaleel (AIMIM) were on their feet claiming that Joshi had glorified the practice of 'Sati'. Joshi asserted that he had not made any reference to the practice of 'Sati', but mentioned that Padmavati had performed 'Jauhar' (self-immolation) to protect her honour. "I stand by my words," Joshi said, as opposition members raised slogans in the Well of the House. As protests continued, Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings for 20 minutes. When the House reassembled, Birla assured the House that objectionable references will be examined and ex-

punged. Joshi sought to further explain his comments and said he was mentioning 'Jauhar', a practice of mass self-immolation by women.

"Neither I nor my party has ever supported Sati... Perhaps due to an error of translation 'Satitva' was mixed with 'Sati'.... My government keeps nation above politics," he said.

"She (Queen Padmavati) sacrificed her life to protect her 'Satitva' (chastity)..." Joshi said, inviting fresh protests from the Opposition benches.

"It was Jauhar... perhaps you don't understand Hindi," he added as protests continued.

As the ruckus continued, the Speaker again assured members that objectionable comments will be expunged and urged members to maintain the deco-

rum of the House.

DMK leader A Raja said even as they wanted to abide by the rulings of the Chair, the reference made by the BJP MP was "completely against the society" and "anti-human". Participating in the debate later, DMK's Kanimozhi said her head was hanging in shame due to the reference made in the House, even as she did not name the MP. "Every country when it talks about its past has different narrations... Whose past are we talking about? We talk about the greatness of the nation, valour, art, temples, and philosophy. "But we can't forget the people who found no place in history - the untouchables, the unseemable and women who were pushed in the fire in the name of honour," she said.

BJP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MEETING

'Budget has something for all sections'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the recent Union Budget has something for every section of the society and asserted that the interests of the poor have been at the centre of every budget presented by his government.

Addressing the first BJP parliamentary party meeting after the budget was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, Modi said no one is calling it a "chunavi budget" (budget influenced by polls) even though it was the last full-fledged one before next year's Lok Sabha election. Overall development and the interests of every section of the society have driven the budget proposals, he added.

Even those who are ideologically opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

(BJP) have welcomed the budget, Union minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters, quoting Modi's speech to the MPs.

Asking the MPs to inform their constituents, including the poor and middle class, about the relevant aspects of the budget, Modi recalled his electoral experiences as the chief minister of Gujarat to say that

when work is recognised by people, there is nothing like anti-incumbency, sources said. Underscoring the wide acceptance of the budget, the prime minister said it is at times difficult to cater to everyone's taste at a family function of merely 25 guests, but the budget proposals have managed to meet the expectations of different sections of the society in a country of more than 130 crore people.

Modi highlighted his involvement with budgets over the years, noting that he has been associated with about 25 of them, including as the Gujarat chief minister between 2001 and 2014, and 10 of them, including interim budgets, at the Centre. The prime minister also asked the MPs, especially those from cities, to organise sports meets, to note that there is a view that youngsters in urban centres are not much involved in sports.

BRIBERY CASE

CBI arrests Western Coalfield officer

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The CBI has arrested a sub-area manager of Western Coalfields Limited for allegedly demanding a bribe of over Rs 3 lakh for allowing a company to lift coal from the Ghonsa open cast mine, officials said Tuesday.

The agency acted on a complaint from a transport company, Shree Transport, that Jitta Trading Company had purchased 8200 MT coal through e-auction and authorised it to lift the coal from the mine before January 11, they said.

Shree Transport could lift only 4623 MT till the deadline, they said.

When the company ex-

ecutives reached the office of Sub-Area Manager Gautam Basutkar's Office on January 31, 2023, to get new delivery order for 2500 MT coal, the officer refused to issue the new delivery order. It is alleged that the officer demanded a bribe of Rs. 3.23 lakh at the rate of Rs 70 per MT in respect of 4,623 MTS already lifted by the company. The complaint alleged that the accused officer demanded a total undue advantage of Rs 3.65 lakh, including Rs 3.23 lakh in respect of 4,623 MTS coal already lifted and Rs 42,000 for earlier favour rendered by him.

Basutkar allegedly agreed to accept the bribe amount of Rs 3.19 lakh during negotiations.

SURPRISE MOVE

Thorat resigns as Cong legislature party chief

Pune, Feb 07 (PTI)

Senior Maharashtra Congress leader and former chief minister Sushilkumar Shinde said on Tuesday it is not yet known if their state legislature party chief Balasaheb Thorat has resigned from his post.

He was responding to reporters about reports that Thorat has sent his resignation to the party high command.

"Whether it is resignation or just a letter, it is still not known. No talks have taken place with him (Thorat). I was with the state Congress president (Nana Patole) and he also had no idea about it. So it would not be appropriate



to comment on it," said Shinde in Solapur.

Thorat on Tuesday resigned as the state legislature party head, a day after his letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over friction with state unit chief Nana Patole came out, party sources said earlier.

Thorat, who represents the Sangamner constituency in Ahmednagar district, has sent his resig-

No talks with Thorat: Shinde

"Whether it is resignation or just a letter, it is still not known. No talks have taken place with him (Thorat). I was with the state Congress president (Nana Patole) and he also had no idea about it. So it would not be appropriate to comment on it," said CM Shinde in Solapur.

nation to the party high command, said the sources. When asked about the differences between the senior leaders within the party, Shinde said "all these things" are temporary. "Everything will be alright and there is nothing to worry about," he said.

SCENIC BEAUTY



Fishermen at the Ana Sagar Lake during sunset in Ajmer, Tuesday.

RAHUL RIPS INTO MODI

'Adani magic happened after 2014'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

Leading the Opposition attack over the Adani-Hindenburg issue in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday linked Gautam Adani's meteoric rise to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's coming to power and said "magic" happened after 2014 that propelled the businessman from the 609th to the second spot on the global rich list.

The Congress leader's remarks drew a sharp response from the treasury benches, with Law Minister Kiren Rijiju asking him not to level "wild allegations" and furnish

proof of his claims. Speaker Om Birla disapproved of the Congress leader displaying two pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - one in which he can be seen with Adani inside a plane and the other in which he is getting down from a plane which has an Adani logo on it - to highlight their alleged proximity.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha as the first Opposition speaker, Gandhi made a barrage of allegations including that Modi helped Adani bag overseas contracts in various sectors.

High nitrate content in northeast

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The groundwater in most parts of Delhi is brackish in nature and the nitrate concentration is high in the northeastern parts of the capital, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has said in a report.

"Chemical analysis of ground water samples collected in May 2021 showed that nitrate content in groundwater is within the permissible limit of 45 mi-

CGWB REPORT

Brackish groundwater in most parts of Delhi

grams per litre in most of the state. However, concentration in the north-eastern parts of Delhi is high," the CGWB's groundwater year book 2021-22 said.

Except a few locations in the northern and western parts of the city, all areas have a fluoride concentration within the permissible limit of 1.5 micrograms per litre, it said.

The eastern parts of Delhi, especially the areas around the Yamuna floodplains and the Delhi Quartzite Ridge zones, have an electrical conductivity (EC) within the permissible

range of 0 to 2,250 microsiemens per centimetre, the CGWB said.

"The rest of the capital, barring some pockets of southwest, northwest and west districts, has EC value of more than 3,000 microsiemens per centimetre. It is also observed that water from deeper aquifers have greater EC value than the water from shallow aquifers. The EC value increases with depth," it said.

Salinity, the measure of the amount of dissolved salts in water, is directly proportional to electrical conductivity (EC).

JEE-MAIN RESULT

20 candidates score perfect 100

NTA score of 50 candidates withheld

Perfect 100 candidates....

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Twenty candidates have scored perfect 100 in engineering entrance exam JEE-Main's January edition, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Tuesday.

All the candidates with 100 NTA score in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main are males.

The 20 toppers include 14 from the general category, four from the OBC category and one each from gen-EWS and SC category. While Md Sahil Akhtar is the PwD topper with 99.9848042 NTA score, the SC topper is Deshank Pratap Singh with 100 NTA score and ST topper is Dheeravath Thanuj with 99.99041.

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The candidates who scored 100 NTA scores are Abhineet Majety, Amogh Jalan, Apurva Samota, Ashik Stenny, Bikkina Abhinav Chowdary, Deshank Pratap Singh, Dhruv Sanjay Jain, Dnyanesh Hemendra Shinde, Duggineni Venkata Yugesha, Gulshan Kumar, Guthikonda Abhiram, Kaushal Vijayvergiya, Krish Gupta, Mayank Son, N K Vishwaajith, Nipun Goel, Rishi Kalra, Soham Das, Suthar Harshul Sanjaybhai and Vavilala Chidvilas Reddy.

"The NTA scores of 50 candidates have been withheld as they are under scrutiny. The cases of

these candidates are being placed before a committee separately. Their NTA scores will be declared once the committee finalises its report," a senior NTA official said.

NTA score is not the same as percentage of marks obtained but normalised scores.

"NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-session papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one session. The marks obtained are converted into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees," the official explained.

Accident victim's body dragged under car for 10 km

In Mathura

Mathura (UP), Feb 07 (PTI):

Weeks after the Kanjhawala case in Delhi, a man was killed in a road accident and his body dragged under a car for nearly 10 kilometres on the Yamuna Expressway here, police said.

The driver of the Maruti Suzuki Swift only detected the body after a toll plaza employee alerted him early on Tuesday morning and the police informed.

"The driver has been taken into custody and his car impounded," Superintendent of Police (Mathura Rural) Trigun Bishen said. The driver has been

identified as Virendra Singh, a resident of Sangam Vihar in Delhi. He was returning from Agra with four family members after attending a wedding.

A detailed investigation was initiated after the toll plaza employee informed the police, Bishen said.

Bloodstains have been found at the Kilometer 106 marker in the Jamuna Paar area. It appears that the accident took place there and the body later got stuck under the car passing the point, the senior police official added.

The driver told the police that he was not aware that the body was stuck under the car and attributed it to poor visibility caused by dense fog.

Millet Cafes to be opened in urban bodies

Organic C-Mart on Wheels to be rolled out in District

Bhilai, Feb 07:

In view of the popularity of delicacies made of millets, 12 millet cafes will be opened in the urban bodies of the district. Popular dishes prepared from Millets will be available to the citizens at these Cafes, which will be run by the women SHGs associated with NULM. Chefs, who are experts in millet cuisine, will provide training to the women. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena conducted detailed discussion in this regard with the officers on Tuesday. He said that along with the Cafes, the concept of "millets on wheels" can also be rolled out so that the nutritious dishes of millets can get more popularity and opportunities can be created for the entrepreneurs. The Collector said that two millet cafes would be opened in Bhilai and one each in the remaining urban bodies. He said that millet dishes are very tasty and it will be a special experience for the citizens of Durg. Similarly, to promote organic products, an organic C-Mart-on-wheel



will also be started in the near future. Additional Collector Padmini Bhoi, Arvind Ekka, District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan, Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rohit Vyas and other officers were present. The Collector said that such livelihood-oriented activities are to be done in the Gauthans of the urban bodies, in which employment can be generated on a large scale. Fish can be reared on a large scale through biofloc culture. Biofloc produces fish on a large scale in a small space. He asked the officials to conduct these activities in a bigger way and assured all possible support from the administration. The Collector fur-

ther said that the beauty of the city is from the plants and trees. Maintaining the beauty of the city is the responsibility of all of us. Under the Mor Shahar - Mor Jimmedari campaign, people would be required to plant at least two saplings in front of their houses. Administration will have to work with the people of the residential societies for this initiative. If every person plants saplings in front of his house or in his park, the cover of greenery will automatically increase. The Collector said that he himself would meet the office bearers of the residential societies for this purpose. The Collector further said that to increase the revenue, the civic bodies

can work in the direction of advertisements. Along with this, tax collection should also be complete. The Collector said that work will also be done in the direction of eradication of mosquitoes in the city and a comprehensive campaign will be launched for this purpose. The Collector also inquired about the action taken by the officers of the urban bodies regarding establishment of vending zones. Collector said that if the reports of Patwari and RI are received on time, the revenue cases are resolved quickly. He asked all the SDMs to give a list of cases pending for more than fifteen days, one month and two months so that appropriate action could be taken after exploring the reasons for the delay. It needs to be mentioned here that the Collector first took a revenue meeting of the revenue officers. Revenue officials informed him that for proper redressal of revenue related problems, revenue camps are being organized where problems of the people are being resolved on the spot.

25 villages to be made 'total clean' in the first phase



Bhilai, Feb 07:

To promote cleanliness in rural areas in the district and to make all the villages clean and beautiful, work will be done on the complete cleanliness model. In the first phase, 25 villages will be covered and later the project will be expanded to all gram panchayats. Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena gave these instructions in the meeting of officers of Panchayat Department. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan was also present. He said that the Chhattisgarh government is following Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Surajee villages. It is important to promote cleanliness and beauty prominently in rural areas as per the intention of the govern-

ment. For this, the administration will have to work on the complete cleanliness model. The Collector said that for the campaign of complete cleanliness model, there is a need to mobilize on a war footing. To achieve desired results, only the activism of the administrative staff is not enough but community participation is also very important. First of all, it is important to see that the drainage system is working properly because most of the problems occur due to the lack of a proper drainage system. This work will be done by promoting soak pits in homes. It is necessary to meet people in all the villages and advise them. Along with this, the beauty of traffic junctions is also important. Sharing

his experiences, the Collector said that during his visit to the rural areas of Durg district, he saw that some villages are very beautiful and clean due to the activeness of the administrative staff as well as the participation of the villagers. After the cleanliness campaign started, the traffic squares were also cleaned. Flower beds were planted at such places where people used to throw garbage, due to which the place automatically became beautiful. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan said that due to the awareness of the villagers and the activeness of the administrative staff in Durg district, appreciable work has been done on cleanliness. The administration has started experiments like utensil banks and

panchayats have adopted it. Diseases are less common in clean villages. The level of health remains good due to less spread of diseases. Further the problem of malnutrition among children has reduced considerably. During the review of the Panchayat Department, the Collector took detailed information about the works being done under MGNREGA and NGBB scheme and gave necessary directions to the staff. The Collector congratulated the officers of the Panchayat Department for doing a good job in creating women man days. He said that the Panchayat department has done a good job in creating the maximum number of women's man days for MGNREGA in the entire state.

Ten students of KCS Educate score above 99 percentile in Session -1 of JEE Main



Bhilai, Feb 07:

For admissions in the prestigious NITs and IITs, the NTA conducted the first session of JEE Main exam from 24th January to 1st February. The result of JEE Main Session -1 was declared on February 06. This exam is conducted by NTA twice a year in the months of January and April.

The students of KCS Educate situated in Civic Centre performed in an excellent manner in this exam. 10 students of KCS Educate scored above 99 percentile in the examination. Arnav Deshmukh scored 99.86 percentile, Siddhant Singh

(99.84), Divyansh Jain (99.82), Pranjali Agrawal (99.72), Kirti Gupta (99.68), Amulya Kumar (99.53), Ansh Gupta (99.29), Bhavya Jain (99.22), Vansh Rajesh Pali (99.09) and Sahaj Saxena scored 99.02 percentile. The successful students credited their success to the doubt clearing sessions, revision classes, systematic test system and competitive environment in the organization. They added that the guidance of teachers was very important for their preparation. Time to time motivation by the mentors of KCS Educate kept the morale of the students high

and they achieved this success with their dedication and tireless hard work. The parents of successful students stated that their children were benefitted a lot from the guidance they received at KCS Educate. They learnt to consider studies as a game and not a burden. KCS Educate Chief Mentor and Founder Avansh Saxena extended best wishes to all the successful students and wished them a bright future. Overcoming all the challenges, the students paved the way for success through regular interactions, asking questions and changing their study style according to time.

BSP to host All India Steel Medical Officers Conference 2023

Bhilai, Feb 07: All India Steel Medical Officers Conference is being organised by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre Bhilai from February 09 to February 12, 2023. It will once again be a proud moment for the Bhilai Steel Plant fraternity to host the annual "All India Steel Medical Officers Conference". It may be noted that this conference was first conducted in 1980 when under the leadership of Dr TK Bose (Director M &HS, Rourkela Steel Plant). So far this conference has been organised 41 times by 9 different steel plants by rotation. This is the 6th time that Bhilai has got the opportunity to host it. About 500 doctors from 9 different steel plants will participate in the conference and share their experiences in depth on the subjects of their expertise. Detailed lectures and appropriate demonstrations will be presented on the use of latest technology in

the medical field. Doctors from Bhilai steel plant, Durgapur Steel plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, Rourkela steel plant, Burnpur steel plant, Vishakhapatnam steel plant and Tata steel plant Bhilai are actively participating in this programme. The 4-day long conference will include various activities like workshop on BLS, Hemodynamic monitoring, Scientific Paper presentation by doctors of all Steel Plants, panel discussions, exhibitions of Scientific stalls, long and short paper presentations, Debate competition, Symposium on 'Recent advances in Medical sciences 'total quality management (TQM)' paper presentations, guest lectures, posters presentation and presentation on 'Challenges for the Physician in 21st century'. The day's programme will be followed by cultural activities in the evening of February 10-11, 2023 for the entertainment of delegates and guests.

SMS 3, RMP 3 and COB-11'S BPTG make new records

Bhilai, Feb 07: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant continues to make records in techno-economic parameters on a regular basis. In this series, BSP's Modex Unit SMS3, RMP 3 and Coke Oven Battery 11's Back Pressure Turbo Generator (BPTG) make new records. Caster 2 of SMS 3 had made a record of 155 heats on February 05, 2023, surpassing the previous record of 150 heats on March 04, 2022. RMP 3 produced 1915 T on February 05, 2023, surpassing the previous best daily record of 1860 T made on November 22, 2022. Coke Oven Battery 11's Back Pressure Turbo Generator (BPTG) created a daily record of electricity production. 3.98 MW electricity was produced by BPTG on February 05, 2023, creating a new record surpassing the previous best of 3.94 MW electricity on October 26, 2022. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (BSP) and Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) congratulated the concerned departments for their achievement.

Electrical Safety Manual for Steel Melting Shop 3 released



Bhilai, Feb 07: An Electrical Safety Manual has been brought out by SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 3 (SMS 3) to strengthen safety system. Written in Hindi for the benefit of all employees, the manual would enable concerned employees to carry out all electrical related jobs safely. On February 06, 2023, the Electrical Safety Manual was released by Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar. The manual presents all safety aspects of electrical operation in the shop. Besides describing in detail how shutdown processes are to be carried out safely, the Electrical Safety Manual also describes all standard operating practices (SOPs) and standard maintenance practices (SMPs).

Following the manual would strengthen safety systems in SMS 3 and help achieve the objective of safe production. Use of Hindi as the language would ensure that employees on the shopfloor easily refer and follow the safety instructions in the manual. The Electrical Safety Manual has been compiled by Archana Atika Singh, Assistant Manager (Electrical). Pradyuman Satpathy, GM (Electrical) and Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, GM I/c Electrical SMS 3 edited and checked the manual. The successful publication of the manual was executed under the guidance of SK Kar, CGM (SMS 3) and A Shankar, CGM I/c Electrical and help and support of employees of Electrical Section of SMS 3.

DAV IPS celebrates Annual Day with great zeal

Bhilai, Feb 07:

DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2 celebrated its Annual Function with great zeal and zest. The first phase of the Annual Day was kept specifically for the Pre primary and the primary wing. The Chief Guest of the day was Tapas Dasgupta CGM I/c Iron Bhilai Steel Plant; Chairman LMC of the school, the Guest of Honour was Prashant Kumar Deputy Regional Officer CG

Zone A and the Special Guest of the evening was Dr BP Sahu, Assistant Regional Officer. The function commenced with the arrival of the esteemed guests to the venue after the rituals of Tilak followed by the Raj Geet and the DAV anthem to give the evening an official start. The guests were given a floral welcome with a brief introduction of each to the gathering by the Headmistress of the school Madam Priyanka Shukla. The Headmistress also presented a brief report of the school & its

achievements in the past few years in the fields of academics, co curricular activities and sports. The cultural events captivated everyone as the little stars from classes Nursery to Class V made their appearance on stage in their colourful and vibrant attire. Some of the programmes presented on stage involved the real appearance of the mothers of nursery kids displaying the Bond of Love between a mother and her son. Also kids dancing to the tunes of Disco Beats, giving the message of following The Traffic Rules on road, the concept of school as an integral part of every child & life was brought on stage through the event School Chale Hum, a day in the life of a joker through the programme. The children also paid a heart touching tribute to the great singers whom we lost in the year 2022 viz Lata ji, SP Balasubramaniam, Bappi Lahiri and KK through the programme Tribute To The Lost Legends. The tough times and the chal-

lenges faced by the public during the COVID times was perfectly depicted by the students of Class III, IV and V in the event named Salute To The Frontline Warriors. The Guests in his address to the gathering expressed their best wishes to the little kids for their future and congratulated for showcasing their talents on stage by giving a mesmerizing performance. The academic achievers of the previous session 2021-22 were also honoured on stage by the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the Special Guest of the evening. The winners and the participants were in high spirits after receiving applause from the Guests, their teachers as well as their parents. The Annual Function of the primary wing concluded with the vote of thanks and the Shantipath. The second phase of the Annual Function of the school was kept for the students of the middle and the Senior Wing. The occasion was graced by the



presence of the Chief Guest of the evening Mahadeo Kawre,

Divisional Commissioner Durg, the Guests of Honour Prashant Kumar,

Deputy Regional Officer and Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c Iron Bhilai Steel Plant, Chairman LMC of the school and the Special Guest of the evening Dr B P Sahu, Assistant Regional Officer. The evening had a start with the formal rituals of Tilak ceremony of the guests followed by the Raj Geet and the DAV Anthem. The Headmistress of the school Priyanka Shukla offered a floral welcome to all the esteemed guests of the evening followed by the Lighting of the Lamp ceremony. The evening was also graced by the presence of Rajesh Chatterjee, Principal Govt School, Supela, Vandana Julme, Nodal Officer, Sadhna Singh, Corporator Sector 2, Nomen Sahu, Parshad. The Headmistress presented the Annual Report of the school in all the fields. The programme started with the welcome song presented and performed by the school & its choir group. This was followed

by a unique presentation of a live duo presentation of dance and song on stage where the students danced to the live singing of their two teachers on stage which captivated the spectators with the perfect bond displayed on stage like the guru - shishya bond. The students of the middle wing successfully captured the gathering by displaying the victory of good over the evil through the programme Mahishasur Mardini dance drama. The journey of cultural diversity yet celebrating unity in diversity was well displayed by a unique blend of the folk dances of six different states. The DAV National Sports Achievers were honoured on stage by the Guests and the House Champion of the co-curricular activities was also declared on stage which went to the Shradhdhanad (Yellow) House of the School. The Chief Guest in his address to the gathering shared his own experience of his student life and set an inspiration to

the students and parents that if focussed in the right direction with hard work and dedication, a child can achieve whatever target he/she has set for life. The Guest of Honour Prashant Kumar, speaking on this occasion appreciated the efforts put in by the staff in organising and managing the event well and bringing up a good presentation of cultural events on stage. He congratulated the Academic achievers and wished them good luck for their future. He also urged the parents to give full support to their wards for the upcoming board as well as the home exams. He focussed on the importance of the phase that the students are right now going through and if directed and guided well by their mentors, with the help of the parents, the students can achieve their best and bring glory to their name as well as to the name of the school. The event concluded successfully with the Vote of thanks and the Shantipath.

People agitated with present govt: BJP

● **Frontal Organization meet held to give momentum to preparations**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 07: Giving fresh impetus to the preparations for the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly polls, the principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday held a marathon meeting in presence of the central leader in-charge of party affairs in Chhattisgarh Om Mathur and co-in-charge Nitin Nabin at party headquarters here.

According to the information received, the office-bearers of all the frontal organizations were present during the meeting held in presence of other senior leaders in-

cluding the State BJP President Arun Sao, former CM Dr Raman Singh, Leader of Opposition in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Narayan Chandel, Regional Organizational General Secretary Ajay Jamwal, BJP Organizational General Secretary Pawan Sai and Chief Spokesperson Ajay Chandrakar.

Addressing the inaugural session, the State BJP President Arun Sao said that people from weaker section of society are deprived of basic facilities whereas every section of society are feeling unsafe during the last four years of Congress regime.

Sao also held the Congress government responsible for the delay in the implementation of reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe which he said that is a

cheating for every section of society.

BJP in-charge of party affairs Om Mathur said that frontal organization members have a significant role in social life as they have reach to people from every section of society. He urged them to win the confidence of the people with the message of development possible only under the BJP regime.

Leader of Opposition Narayan Chandel claimed that people are agitated with the Congress government and added that BJP is determined to fight against the Congress government with the support of people.

Earlier, former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh urged the party leaders to get into momentum for the upcoming elections claiming several issues before them against the Congress government.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION



With frequent closure of roads during peak of traffic-hours, either for some or the other construction work or digging, the denizens of city continue to face problems and unexpected delay in reaching to their destination.

Airtel 5G Plus now live in CG

Raipur, Feb 07: Bharti Airtel, India's leading telecommunications service provider on Tuesday announced the launch of its cutting edge 5G services in Raipur and Durg-Bhilai. Airtel 5G Plus services will be available to customers in a phased manner as the company continues to construct its network and complete the roll out. Customer with 5G enabled devices will enjoy high speed Airtel 5G Plus network at no extra cost until the roll out is more wide-

spread. Airtel 5G Plus is currently operational at Pandri, Jawahar Chowk, Mowa-Saddu, Gol Bazar, Shankar Nagar - Ashok Ratna, Bhanpuri, Urla, Rajatalab, Bhatagaon, RDA Colony, Wall Fort Colony, Santoshi Nagar, Samta Colony and Gudhiyari.

The company will augment its network in due course of time, making its service available across many other locations in the city. Commenting on the launch, Sujay Chakrabarti, CEO, Bharti Airtel,

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh said, 'I am thrilled to announce the launch of Airtel 5G Plus in Raipur and Durg-Bhilai. Airtel customers in these two cities can now experience ultrafast network and can enjoy speeds upto 20-30 times faster than the current 4G speeds. We are in process of lighting up entire cities which will allow superfast access to High-definition video streaming, gaming, multiple chatting, instant uploading of photos and more.'

NIT's Annual Cultural Fest 'ECLECTIKA' from Feb 10

Raipur, Feb 07: The National Institute of Technology Raipur's Sanskriti-The Cultural Committee is organising Central India's largest college cultural fest, ECLECTIKA'23 from 10th to 12th February 2023. The 3-day long fest will be organized under the adept guidance of Dr PY Dhakne, Dean (Student & Faculty Welfare).

After a long gap of 2 years, the campus will witness the most celebrated 3 days of the year with a series of exciting and enthralling events. There will be 8 mega-events, inviting participants from various genres to showcase their talents. The mega events include 'Allure', a fashion show, 'Avirbhav', a war of bands, 'Clash of Choreos', a dance competition, 'Eclectika Idol', a singing competition, 'Kalopsia', a painting competition, 'Goonj', a Nukkad Natak competition, 'Taffree', a stand-up comedy competition, and

'Nriyangan+EDS' by Nriyam-The Dance Club, NIT Raipur.

In addition to the mega-events, there will be about 25 minor events covering the diversified talents hidden in students of NIT Raipur, such as 'Pixel Lane', 'HACE Painting', 'Youth Chef', 'Hansard Paper Topia', poetry competition, etc. The biggest and most anticipated event of ECLECTIKA'23, which is the 'Cult Nite' will feature a huge paraphernalia of serene and captivating performances by highly energetic and ebullient students, and promises to maintain the rich legacy of being the highlight of the fest like every year.

ECLECTIKA'23 will bring forth a massive conglomeration of rich talents and blaze the campus with a cultural aura. The 3 days of the fest will be the most reminisced and embraced days down the memory lanes of all.

Community Medicine Deptt in Pt JNMHC presents 12 research papers



● **In IAPSM conference**

Raipur, Feb 07: Teachers and post graduate students of Community Medicine Department of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College (Pt JNMHC) Raipur presented research papers in conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM). The conference was held at National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 2 February to 4 February 2023.

As many as 12 research papers were presented from the Community Medicine Department of

Pt JNMHC, Raipur. Prominent among the doctors who presented the research are Professor and Head of the Department, Dr Nirmal Verma, Professor Dr Kamlesh Jain, Associate Professor Dr Ashish Kumar Sinha and Assistant Professor Dr Prashant Jaiswal. Post graduate students also attended the conference.

The conference was organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bibinagar Telangana at National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad in which various medical researchers from India and abroad presented their research works.

Ch'garh's 'Nili Chhatri wale Guruji' honored in New Delhi

● **Sikkim Governor conferred the 'Life's Real Heroes of India' Award on teacher Rudrapratap Singh Rana**

Raipur, Feb 07: Rudrapratap Singh Rana, an assistant government teacher of Chhattisgarh popularly known as 'Nili Chhatri wale Guruji' received the "Life's Real Heroes of India Award" for his outstanding work in the field of education. He was conferred this award by the hands of Sikkim Governor Shri Ganga Prasad and Acharya Pradyumna (mentor of Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev) at programme organized in New Delhi on February 4. The award is given by 'Aas Ek Prayas' Trust every year to people from across the country who have done exemplary work in their field, bring-



ing positive change in society.

Rana is an assistant teacher at Government Primary School Sakda in Korea district of Chhattisgarh. He did outstanding work during the Covid-10 pandemic period keeping children connected with their studies when the schools were shut. The idea behind his unique initiative was that the children cannot go to school, so why not take the school to the children. He decorated his motorcycle with a bell,

green board, a small library, and a blue umbrella and started teaching children in a locality of the village, ensuring their safety.

The children started calling him "Nili Chhatri wale Guruji". The Prime Minister also liked this safe way of keeping children connected with the teaching-learning process during the difficult pandemic times. He also mentioned this in his "Mann Ki Baat" radio programme. Shri Rana, along with his friends, first came up with

the concept of "Mohalla Classes" in Chhattisgarh for inaccessible and no-network areas, which later became very famous and popular across the country. He rejuvenated the primary school of the remote village of Sakda with the cooperation of the government and society and established it as an ideal school. Teacher Rana emphasizes experience-based teaching and tries to make the learning process interesting. Many documentaries have also been made about his school. Numerous children from his school have been selected for Eklavya Adarsh Residential School. He is also a part of the 5 member team of FLN under 'NIPUN Bharat Mission'. His life journey has been highlighted in detail in the book 'Life's Real Hero', which inspires and makes all hard-working teachers proud.

Three players from Ch'garh short-listed for Women IPL auction



Raipur, Feb 07: Three players from Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) have been short-listed for the Women' Indian Premier League (IPL) auction to be held under the aegis of BCCI soon.

According to the information received, Yashi Pandey, Shivi Pandey and Aishwarya Singh have been short-listed for the IPL auction on the basis of their recent performances in the T-20 matches.

The 33-year old Yashi

Pandey who has played 56 T-20 matches as well as 55 ODI matches, has been kept at the Reserve price of Rs 40 lakh whereas Right Hand batter Shivi Pandey and all-rounder Aishwarya Singh have been given an opportunity to enter into auction with the base price of Rs 10 lakh.

Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (CSCS) office-bearers have extended best wishes to the above three players for their Women IPL venture.

Knife that penetrated into left eye through cheek bone removed



Raipur, Feb 07: Doctors in the Department of Ophthalmology at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur saved the eye and vision of a 32-year-old youth by successfully removing a sharp knife that had entered behind his left eye, in the intervening night of Sunday-Monday. The successful operation led by Head of the Department Ophthalmology Dr Nidhi Pandey and Dr Amrita Verma was very



risky as the knife had penetrated through the left cheekbone and got stuck behind the eye due to which the patient was in excruciating pain and eye muscles were also cut.

Dr Nidhi Pandey, Dr. Amrita Verma and the team carried out the operation very carefully and succeeded in saving the left eye of the young man and his vision by successfully removing the knife that entered about seven centimeters in-

side the eye. Giving informa-

tion regarding the said case, Dr Nidhi Pandey and Dr Amrita Verma told that on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, a young man from the Community Health Center Kharora had come to the emergency department after being assaulted. The young man was stabbed by someone during the scuffle. The knife pene-

trated through the left cheek and got stuck behind the eye after crossing the bone due to which the patient was in excruciating pain. The muscles of the eye were also severed. After X-ray, CT scan, it was found that the knife had penetrated about 7 cm deep into the eye. After conducting all the tests, the challenge during the operation

was that the knife should also come out and the young man's eyesight should also be saved. After completing all the medico-legal formalities of the youth, the team of Dr. Amrita Verma, Dr. Vinanti Kangale Dhruv, Dr. Mukesh Bhagat, led by Dr Nidhi Pandey successfully saved the young man's eyes as well as vision.

Young tribal students from N-E states of India met Governor



Raipur, Feb 07: Young students from the tribal communities of seven states of North-East India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh) under the leadership of Tilak Nath Poddar met Ms. Anusuiya Uikhey at Raj Bhavan on Tuesday. Addressing all the youth on this occasion, the Governor extended hearty greetings on their arrival in Chhattisgarh. The Governor said that the visit of the North-Eastern States to different parts of India would definitely improve the people-to-people contact of these regions. This tour program will provide a good opportunity to understand each other's culture, food, education, language, geographical conditions and traditions.

life. In such a situation, this excursion program gives you an opportunity to learn a lot.

The Governor shared with all the students her experiences of visiting the North-Eastern states during her tenure in various positions. Along with this, the Governor asked everyone about their experiences on their arrival in the state of Chhattisgarh.

It is noteworthy that the Student Experience in Interstate Living-2023 (SEAL-2023) program is being run by the students from February 01 to February 20, 2023 under the National Integration Tour. In this, 450 children in 16 groups are being taken on tour to different states. On this occasion, the students felicitated the Governor with their traditional gamchha. The Governor also honored all the students by giving them a state towel and a memento. On this occasion Dr. Purnendu Saxena and students were present.

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Scan for a Home Loan

New policy soon for rural industries to strengthen village economy: CM

CM reaches village Bhansoj of Arang assembly constituency under 'Bhent-Mulaqat' prog

Made several announcements for the development of the area



Arang, Feb 07: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said "the number of income-oriented activities conducted in the Rural Industrial Parks being set up in Gauthans will be increased to boost employment opportunities at the local level. For this, a new policy for rural industries will be formulated soon on the lines of the new industrial policy of the state. This will strengthen the rural economy of the state."

He was addressing the Bhent-Mulaqat programme organized at village Bhansoj falling under the Arang assembly constituency of Raipur district. During the programme, CM took direct feedback from the villagers regarding the state government schemes including loan waiver, paddy procurement at support price, income-generating activities conducted in Gauthans, Godhan Nyay Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay

Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, and Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana.

He added that facilities like land, electricity, water and roads are being provided to the youth to start small-scale village industries in the Rural Industrial Park being developed in state-run Gauthans. The move aims to empower rural youth making them self-reliant. He said that we are still waiting for the Centre to give its nod for the production of ethanol from paddy. Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahriya was also present in the programme.

Chief Minister commenced his 'Bhent-Mulaqat' programme by garlanding the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari and lighting the lamp. Explaining about the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, the Chief Minister said that on March 31, the farmers will get the fourth installment of this

scheme. He said that a record 107 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured. Everything was made available at the right time, from gunny bags to paddy lifting, distribution of tokens, and payment to farmers were conducted smoothly.

Tilak, Sukhram got the benefit of the loan waiver scheme

During the meeting, Tilak Dewangan, a resident of village Sandi while interacting with the Chief Minister said that his loan of Rs 3.50 lakh has been waived off and he is sending his child to Swami Atmanand English medium school. Sukhram Sahu, a farmer of village Bhansoj said that he has sold 1100 bags of paddy. Sukhram said that his loan of Rs 3.70 lakh has been waived off. When the Chief Minister asked about the difference in production from the farmers who use vermicompost, Sahu said that he practices organic farming and use vermicompost continuously

Important announcements made by CM

- Approval will be given for construction of Sandi-Kukra road from Bhansoj canal.
- Additional rooms will be constructed in Government High School Bhansoj.
- Construction of compound and staff quarter in Government Primary Health Center Bhansoj building.
- Internal CC road and drain will be constructed in Bhansoj and Nara villages.
- Bank branch will be opened in Bhansoj.
- Nagar Panchayat Mandir Hasaud Primary Health Center will be upgraded to Community Health Center.
- Road construction from Sandi to Nara.
- Swami Atmanand English medium school will be opened in Chandkhuri.
- Access road will be developed from Umaria turn to Parsada in village Umaria.
- Widening of Arang access road from village Ghumrabhatha.
- Construction of high school building in Gondli.
- Upgradation of High School building in Paraskol.

for farming, it also reduces crop diseases and boosts crop production. He said that the tractor was bought with a money loan waiver.

Kumari Sahu opened a grocery store by selling cow dung

When asked by Chief Minister Baghel about PDS, women beneficiary Bindu Banjare said that 35 kg of rice, sugar and salt are being provided. Bindu said that kerosene and gas cylinders are highly expensive. Talking to the Chief Minister, Kumari Sahu told that she has earned an income of Rs 50,000 by selling cow dung under the Godhan Nyay Yojana. She has opened a grocery shop for her son using this money and the shop is running well. She appreciated the ambitious Godhan

Nyay Yojana saying that the scheme is great. Expressing her gratitude to Chief Minister she said that you have done a great job by starting this scheme.

Rajkumari Sahu, a resident of village Nara gave information regarding the health benefits received under 'Mukhyamantri Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana'. She said that she visits the clinic regularly. Iron and Calcium tablets are given free of cost. Medicines and doctor's consultations are all free-of-cost. Mahima Sahu, a class 11th student of Swami Atmanand English Medium School, spoke about the facilities available in the school and told that earlier her school fees was Rs 25,000.

Get construction works completed on priority: Lakhma

Industries Minister reviews DMFT item and other development works



Raipur, Feb 07: Industries Minister Mr. Kawasi Lakhma reviewed the DMFT item and other development works in a meeting held at Collectorate, Bastar on Monday. Minister Mr. Lakhma said in the meeting that there is a link of dialogue between the people's representatives, the public and the administration. Development works have to be speeded up with everyone's cooperation and in the development works being done in the district, especially Anganwadi centers, fair price shops, implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, renovation work of Devguri and schools should be completed within time-limit with priority.

During the meeting, Minister Lakhma reviewed the development works from 2016 to 2022-23

under DMFT head. Taking detailed information about the incomplete works, he instructed the officers to get all the works completed at the earliest. The officials gave information regarding the purchase of cow dung under the Godhan Nyaya Yojana. Minister Mr. Lakhma inquired in detail about all the flagship schemes run by the state government and stressed on their implementation. He also reviewed the distribution of forest rights recognition letters in the urban areas and directed to give its benefits to the eligible beneficiaries on the border and also directed to set up camps for recognition of forest rights. In the meeting, discussions were held regarding purchase of

paddy, transfer of money, lifting of paddy and instructions were given to monitor the movement of paddy coming from the border states. Reviewing the works of the construction department, he said that special attention should be paid to the quality of construction works, road maintenance works. He also reviewed the works of PMGSY, Public Works Department, bridge construction, National Highways. He instructed to speed up the road widening work of Kanger Valley. Minister Mr. Lakhma also reviewed the implementation of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel's announcement and the works of all departments related to it.

National Yoga Anatomy Workshop at AIIMS

Raipur, Feb 07: Chairman of Yoga Aayog Gyanesh Sharma attended the two-day National Yoga Anatomy Workshop organized by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Raipur (AIIMS) as the chief guest. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, Director and CEO, AIIMS Raipur. About eighty yoga practitioners



and experts from India and abroad participated in this workshop. Detailed analysis was done on the anatomy and the mutual relations between its vari-

ous organs. Gyanesh Sharma highlighted the importance of Yoga in the workshop along with the efforts being made by the Government of Chhattisgarh for awareness of Yoga and healthy lifestyle among the people. Dr Vadiraj from Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog ML Pandey were present.

Chief Secretary reviews PDS



Raipur, Feb 07: Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain on Monday reviewed the distribution of food grains to ration card holders under Public Distribution System at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan. The Chief Secretary has instructed the officers of the Food Department to ensure that the ration card holders get timely regular food grains from the fair price shops. He has instructed the officers of the Food Department to continuously monitor it. During the review, the Chief Secretary took detailed information regarding the technical problems faced in the e-pass ma-

chine and server under the Public Distribution System and asked to take appropriate action to resolve the problems. Regarding the distribution of food grains in the meeting, officers, operators of fair price shops, food inspectors and N.I.C. representatives gave information about their work. Food Department Secretary Mr. Topeshwar Verma, along with senior officers of Food Department, food inspectors of Raipur, Durg and Dhamtari districts, representatives of NIC, technical team and operators of fair price shops participated in the meeting.

State govt is encouraging folk artists: Bhagat

Grand inauguration of Sirpur Festival

Raipur, Feb 07: Food and Culture Minister Mr. Amarjit Bhagat inaugurated the three-day Sirpur Festival to be held on the occasion of Magh Purnima at Sirpur, the famous historical place of Mahanadi, by lighting a lamp on the portrait of Chhattisgarh Mahtari. On this occasion, visited the departmental exhibition based on development plans and departmental activities. He felicitated the artists in the program. Minister Bhagat and the guests enjoyed the cultural program Danda dance and wished Maghi Purnima Sirpur Mahotsav. Minister Mr. Bhagat said that the festival is a part of culture and traditions. Despite



having less resources, this festival has maintained its ancient culture and grandeur in the era of modernity. He said that it is a good thing that the people here are maintaining and preserving the old traditions. The government is encouraging folk artists. Especially the young generation gets an opportunity to know about the Buddhist heritage and folk art and culture here. Sirpur is the center of

faith and devotion of the people. People from far and wide come here to exhibit their arts and in this festival people also buy the necessary materials. Everyone should be proud of their culture. He also mentioned the heritage of Sirpur and told about the achievements of the government. Minister Mr. Bhagat said that after the formation of the government, the government is doing development works

everywhere and is taking decisions in the interest of the farmers. Here the farmer is happy. Bumper purchase of paddy has been done in the state. Money has come in the farmer's pocket. The farmer will progress only then Chhattisgarh will progress further. The dream of 'Garbo Chhattisgarh' will be fulfilled. Collector Mr. Nileshkumar Kshirsagar welcomed the guests. On this occasion, President District Panchayat Mrs. Usha Patel, Vice President Mr. Laxman Patel, President District Panchayat Mahasamund, District President, Scout Guide Mr. Daulal Chandrakar Sarpanch, People's Representative, Chief Executive Officer Mr. S. Alok and a large number of dignitaries, tourists were present.

Dr Kotwani offering treatment for Vertigo, Snoring

Through MARS Eyes and ENT Clinic

Bilaspur, Feb 07: MARS Clinic in Torva of Bilaspur city is run by Dr Yogesh Kotwani, who is providing treatment for Vertigo and Snoring and other diseases related to ENT using latest of the medical technology and treatments. Dr Yogesh Kotwani informed that it is by using the best of the medical skills in the field of ENT and by adopting other novel methods that he provides best of the treatment to his patients. Dr Kotwani specializes in all aspects of

surgeries and treatment related to ENT. Dr Kotwani is presently practicing in CIMS Hospital and has got valuable experience of Sir Gangaram Hospital Delhi. Some of the fields in which Dr Kotwani offers specialization are Sinus problem, Allergy - its causes and treatment; snoring; sleep apnea its problems and solutions.

Cultural Advisor Dwivedi watches film 'Le Chalhu Apaan Duwari'



Raipur, Feb 07: Cultural Advisor Gaurav Dwivedi reached PVR Magento Mall and watched Chhattisgarhi film 'Le Chalhu Apaan Duwari'. In this film former AGM (PR) of CSPHC and veteran artist Vijay Mishra has acted and has played a crucial role. After watching the film Dwivedi commented that it is a film which touches the heart. All the artists have

played a commendable role in this film.

He added, it is something great that the camera has been handled by a young local girl Arushi Bageshwar which shows girls are progressing in every field of life. Dwivedi was welcomed at the theatre by the film director Mritunjay Singh and others including known popular actor Vijay Mishra.

Aashay Mishra from Bilaspur gets featured in Forbes 30 under 30

Bilaspur, Feb 07: Forbes India has released its annual 30 under 30 list, and Aashay Mishra S/o M.K Mishra, a dynamic entrepreneur from Bilaspur, is among the influential individuals shaping the business landscape in India. Forbes India 30 Under 30, now in its tenth year, recognises and honours young people who are setting new standards in their respective fields. This year's list includes the names of 30 achievers from 21 categories, chosen by a jury after extensive review.

"I am extremely overwhelmed by the honour of being named in the Forbes 30 under 30 list. The previous years have been extremely challenging from a business standpoint, and this news comes as a silver lining for me personally.



"I'm feeling rejuvenated and ready to take on even bigger goals with my brand Preplnsta," said Aashay Mishra, Co-Founder & COO of Preplnsta. Coming from a humble background, Aashay Mishra, who completed his schooling from Delhi Public School Korba and an EEE graduate from VIT Vellore, kicked off his career as an Adobe

experience manager with Publicis Sapient, a digital consulting firm based in Bengaluru. However, Aashay left the job with the zeal to make a large difference in society. He joined forces with his friends Atulya Kaushik and Manish Agarwal to launch the Ed-tech platform Preplnsta in order to address the existing disparity in job opportunities in India. As an engineering student, Aashay had firsthand knowledge of the hustle and trauma that a student goes through while sitting through college placements. By providing access to 200+ upskilling and placement preparation courses, Aashay with the help of his team is helping lakhs of users to grab job opportunities and lower the unemployment burden in India.

Ch'garh DMF Online Portal' selected for 'Award of Excellence'

In the field of e-governance

Ch'garh bags another award at the national level

Award will be given at a ceremony to be held on March 25 in New Delhi

Raipur, Feb 07: Chhattisgarh has been selected for another award at the national level in the field of e-governance. It is noteworthy that the 'Chhattisgarh DMF Online Portal' has been selected by the Computer Society of India CSI, SIG, for the 'Award of Excellence' under the project category of e-governance. This award will be given on 25 March 2023 at a function which will be held in New Delhi. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has congratulated the Secretary, Director, Geology and Mining, NIC and DMF officials and employees of the Mineral

Resources Department for this accomplishment.

Every year, the best innovation in the field of e-governance is selected for the 'Award of Excellence' by the Computer Society of India (CSI), after reviewing the excellent works in the field of e-governance at the national level. For the year 2022, 'Chhattisgarh DMF Online Portal' has been selected for this award. Significantly, Chhattisgarh ranks second in the country in receiving contribution under DMF. So far, the state has received a contribution of more than 10 thousand crores under the DMF head. Moreover, Chhattisgarh ranks first in the country in terms of implementation of various schemes in mining-affected areas.

On the initiative of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, in order to maintain transparency in the works of the District Mineral Institute Trust and online approval of various schemes and

arrangement for realtime payment, the DMF portal has been prepared by the Department of Minerals through NIC, which has been successfully operated from the year 2020. In the portal, the work of registering various construction work agencies of DMF items and online payment is being done through their specified bank, treasury as per the plan.

According to the approval received in the State Level Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Minister Baghel, the new version of this portal, DMF 2.0 is being developed with the aim of ensuring transparency and authenticity of approval of various schemes directly and indirectly related to mining in the area and financial limits set by the Department of Minerals. Under this, provisions for geo-tagging of construction works, on-the-spot progress evaluation based on online payment, mobile app etc. have been included in the new version.

27th free yoga practice center started in Changorabhata

Raipur, Feb 07: The Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission has started the 27th free regular yoga practice center at Changorabhata, Raipur under the regular yoga practice programme. It was inaugurated by Mr. Gyanesh Sharma, Chairman of



Chhattisgarh Yoga Commission. Yoga classes will be held every morning from 6 am to 7.30 am at Ward No. 67 of Municipal Corporation, Bhakti Mata Karma Ward. Regular yoga classes will be conducted under the guidance of yoga instructor Mr. Rajendra Verma at KPS

City Garden, Changorabhata. Jal Neti Kriya was performed by Mrs. Priyanka Bisen on the inauguration. On this occasion Ward Corporator Mr. Uttam Sahu, Secretary of Yoga Commission Mr. ML Pandey and distinguished citizens were present as special guests.

Terror of land mafia increasing, no action being taken

Illegal plotting, encroachments on govt land going on openly



Tilda, Feb 07:

The journalists of the region have lodged complaint with the Chief Minister about the encroachments being made and even after this the senior officers are keeping mum. SDM, Tehsildar, Nayab Tehsildar and all other sit in the headquarters, but no action is being taken against the land-mafia! The way the land mafia of Tilda region is encroaching upon the grazing land, nazul land, day & night has started raising concern. They are having keen eyes on the costly land in nearby villages viz. Sasaholi, Kohaka, Tulsi, Bahesar, Kota, Biladi and others and here work of il-

legal plotting is going on in full swing and it is causing loss lakhs to government exchequer. On recent example was that of Kohaka where the land mafia on backing of some small leaders started the work of selling houses that too on government land. Such works is going on the land on way to ITI, opposite Vrindavan Colony, Sai Dhaam Road, and others. The work of illegal plotting on land near the road in Gram Panchayat Bahesar is going on openly.

No action being taken against land mafia:

The Tilda tehsil administration is not at all interested in taking action against identifying such land mafia involved in il-

gal plotting and due to which they have spread their tentacles all over the region. At one place the local district administration in the name of forming many teams is claiming to have made many areas free from encroachments of land mafia and which seems to be ineffective before morale of land mafia.

Officers showing negligence:

If one talks about the officers in the revenue department, then there are about more than two dozen officers, but they all are keeping inactive. Not it seems to be seen as to what step the officers take to remove the encroachment on land of Gram Suraj by the land mafia, so that it can have some visible effect.

What officer says:

Newly posted Tehsildar Jyoti Masiyare posted here said that no encroachment would be allowed in the region and if at all there is, then strict action will be taken against them.

Rohit Verma appointed President CMA Dharsiwa VS



Kharora, Feb 07: Rohit Verma of Kharora has been appointed as the President of Dharsiwa Vidhan Sabha (VS) of Chhattisgarh Media Association (CMA) by the District President Shailesh Singh Rajput. The charge of CMA for Dharsiwa VS area coming under Raipur district has been handed over to Rohit Verma of Kharora and he has also been given additional charge of Arang block. It is by using all the powers envisaged with District President CMA Shailesh Singh Rajput that this responsibility has been given to Rohit Verma. It is notable here that CMA is an association of journalists of Chhattisgarh and it works for the welfare and in the interest of the journalists, taking the local district administration together. It is the society and administration who are getting good benefit of CMA. On appointment of Rohit Verma as President Dharsiwa VS area of CMA, District Gen. Secy. Jyotish Sahu, District Secy. Chandrashekhar Yadu, VS media-in-charge Ajay Netam, Balodabazar VS gen.secy. Raju Pal, Tilda block President Prem Kosale, V-P Dharendra Jaiswal, Treasurer- Harimarkande, Secy. Jyoti Pal, Asst. Secy. Saurabh Singh Yadav, Govid Ratne, Dilip Verma, Manish Tandon, Shiva Nirmal and others extended his best wishes.

IGP inaugurates the Mission 'Secure GPM' campaign



Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 07: Under Mission 'Secure GPM', IG Badrinarayan Meena inaugurated CCTV cameras installed for surveillance in the district from Police Control Room. 61 CCTV cameras have been installed, which are being monitored from the police control room, and the recording done in the cameras will be maintained at different places, the records of the CCTV cameras will also be there in the mobiles of top police officers. Superintendent of Police in the press conference Mr. Yogesh Kumar Patel told that the GPM police has become even more alert, and now CCTVs have been installed at the square-intersections and intersections to keep an eye on everyone, preparations have been made to crack down on the criminal type of persons.

Marwahi MLA KK Dhruv, Scheduled Tribe Commission member Porte, Youth Commission member Uttam Vasudev, Madrasa Board member Shahid Raine, Pendra Nagar Panchayat Vice President Pankaj Tiwari, and all the dignitaries of Gourela Pendra attended the program. The program was conducted by Additional Superintendent of Police Mrs. Archana Jha. In the program SDM Pendra Road Mr. Pushpendra Sharma, SDOP Mr. Ashok Wadegaonkar, DSP Headquarters Mr. I Tirkey Inspector Yuvraj Tiwari, Inspector Praveen Dwivedi, Inspector Usha Sondhia, Inspector Lata Chaura Rakshit, Inspector Ramprasad Paikra Subedar Vikas Narang and other police staff of the district were present.

Dust and pollutants causing health problems



Dalli-Rajhara, Feb 07:

The construction of National Highway (NH)-930 has now become a matter of discussion among the residents of the surrounding area, because for the contractors convenience officials are keeping the road construction work on hold. Repeated complaints, by the villagers of Bitul, Jhikatola, Hitkasa, Sherpar and others have been given a deaf ear as dust rising due to the construction of the road without water sprinkling is causing health problems for the people.

Also the non-installation of any type of diversion board in the ongoing culvert construction along the highway is troubling the commuters at night and the officials concerned too are not receiving calls nor answering to complaints from the general public.

What officer says:

All the responsible officers will be ordered to pick up the calls, identify the problems and solve them.

Kuldeep Singh, District Collector, Balod.

YC, BCC workers stage dharna, demand inquiry

Against investment of public money of LIC police holders and Bank accounts holder of SBI in Adani Group



Kondagaon, Feb 07:

In protest against risky transactions and investment by government institutions against the wishes of more 29 cr policy holders of LIC and more than 45 crore bank account holders of SBI, YC and BCC workers staged one-day dharna at JaistambhChowk here on Monday. Coming down heavily against the policies of Modi-led Central government, YC and BCC workers charged that the hard-earned money of common men is being invested for institutions of industrialist Adani and strongly condemned the same.

They questioned as to why the institutions like ED, CBI, IT are keeping mum on the institutions and industrialists which are more Modi-friendly? As such industrialists like Vijay Mallya, Mehul Choukshi, Neerav Modi, Lalit Modi have cheated the Indian banks of funds worth crore and ran away and now it is the Adani group on which there are allegations of world's biggest scam and the Central government is keeping mum!

After the dharna, Congmen submitted memorandum in the name of Governor to the SDM (Revenue) Kondagaon and demanded high-level inquiry by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or by forming a joint parlia-

mentary committee. Apart from this discussions should be held on the above issue in the Parliament as well.

In this one-day dharna, state working committee member Kailash Poyam, Janpad President Shival Mandavi, MLA's rep Budhram Netam, BCC (urban) President Golcha; BCC (rural) President Bharat Dewangan, District gen. Secy. Gitesh Gadhi, Jt. Gen. Secy. Kapil Chopda, Pradesh Mahila Cong (PMC) State Secy. Tabassum Bano, PMC urban President Hema Dewanga, District media-in-charge Ritesh Patel, Shankar Khan, member Shakambhari Board Anurag Patel and others were present.

Bhupesh govt should release the royalty of the PMAY: Kiran Dev

BJP will agitate in the interest of the poor if state do not release its PMAY share: Mandavi

Jagdalpur, Feb 07:

In 48 wards of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation, the BJP Municipal Board is inviting applications from the poor at the ward-level in the name of the Chief Minister for the rights of the poor. On Saturday, under this movement, 255 beneficiaries in Abedkar Ward, Rabindranath Tagore Ward, Baliram Kashyap Ward came to BJP's 'Mor Awas Mor Adhikar Pandal' and submitted applications in the name of the Chief Minister. For all such beneficiaries who have their own land, those who live in slums or live in rented houses, BJP workers are reaching door-to-door and getting them to fill the application form in the name of the Chief Minister for their rights. The formal registration of the form is also being done. The process of filling the form is going on in all the 48 wards. BJP will force the state government through the Collector to issue the Prime Minister's Awas (PMAY) for the poor, the



state's share of the 'Mor Awas, mor Adhikar' without any delay. On this occasion, in-charge of Bilaspur division Kiran Dev said that they are working as an ATM of the Gandhi family. BJP was always with the poor and will fight for their rights from road to assembly. BJP will agitate in the interest of the poor for not releasing the state share of PMAY.

BJP city president Suresh Gupta said that Jagdalpur has Congress MLAs and Mayor in the corporation as well as Congress government in the state. Despite this, Congress MLA and Mayor are never worried about the poor. They have not done anything for the rights of the poor, neither

on the road nor in the Vidhan Sabha they have raised this issue and are fooling poor people. All the people's representatives of the Congress are involved in corruption while killing the rights of the poor with both hands. BJP workers will contact all the poor family in the 48 wards of the city, whether they have their own lease holders, live in huts or live in rented houses and motivate them to fill the form in the name of the Chief Minister. If the Chhattisgarh government does not listen to the poor, then a mass movement will be organized.

On this occasion, Yogendra Pandey, Srinivas Mishra, Ramashray Singh, Ved Prakash, Rajneesh Panigrahi, Arendra Arya, Ashutosh Pal, Sangram Singh Rana, Avinash Srivastava, Ketan Mahanandi, Anil Lakkad, Prakash Jha, Rakesh Tiwari, Shashi Nath Pathak, Rajpal Kaser, Amar Jha, and other workers including Pushpa Tiwari were present.

Rajim, Feb 07:

On the auspicious occasion of Maghi Punni, thousands of devotees took holy bath at the confluence of Pari, Sondhur and Mahanadi and devotees have started coming from every corner of the state including the region from Saturday, February 4 itself. On Sunday, devotees blessed themselves by taking an early morning dip in the Triveni Sangam.

The order of bathing continued till two o'clock in the afternoon and after bathing, the crowd of devotees reached Shri Rajeev Lochan and Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple and sought blessings for the happiness and prosperity of their family. Apart from both the temples, devotees visited Lomash Rishi Ashram, Rajim Bhaktin Mata Mandir, Mama-Bhancha Mandir, Rajarajeshwar, Dandaneswar, Bab Garib Nath Mahadev also. As Lord Shri Rajeev Lochan's birth anniversary is on the day of Maghi Purnima, therefore historically a fair has been



held in this holy land of Rajim for centuries. The birth anniversary of the Lord was celebrated with great fanfare in the temple premises with music and music and after the worship of the deity, the new red flag was offered in the urn of the temple. Arrangements made Thousands of artists coming from all over the state will give their performances in these 14 days and a laser show will be presented through light and sound. Government

stalls have been kept near the visitors' gallery, where the exhibition of government schemes has been organized. A Sant Samagam Sthal has been made near the Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Temple for the stay of saints, where the forest department will make cottage and yagya place from grass, straw, bamboo ball. The Sant Samagam will start from 14th February. To ease the devotees food resources 16 Dal Bhat centers have been opened in Gariaband district.

Students present variety of colourful cultural prog

On occasion of Annual Function of SEMS



Kharora, Feb 07:

The annual function at Sunrise English Medium School (SEMS) in Korasi was held here on Monday and in this children took part enthusiastically. The programme began with lighting of traditional lamp before photo of Goddess Saraswati and the guests were welcomed. After this the students of the School performed variety of colourful cultural programmes and this included 'Panthi Dance', 'Karma dance', 'Barhamasi dance', 'Raut Nacha', 'Sua Nacha', 'Garba dance' and others. In this young children dressed in traditional attire were the

centre of attraction. On this occasion the talented students of the School were also felicitated at the hands of chief guest Shakun Shivkumar Daharia (in-charge CG Mahila Congress) and it was chaired by MLA Dharshiwa Anita Yogendra Sharma and special guests were Akhilesh Dewangan (Janpad president-Arang) and Rajiv Gupta (President CG Private School). Sarpanchs of nearby villages, and Nagar Panchayats reps and Chairman Sunrise School Sudhir Bandhe, Principal - Bhima Singh and all teaching staff and students of the School were present in large number.

Advisory Forum of Bilaspur Smart City Limited meeting held



Bilaspur, Feb 07:

The second meeting of the Advisory Forum of Bilaspur Smart City Limited (BSCL) was held here, in which the ongoing works and schemes under the Smart City Scheme were discussed in detail. Expressing happiness over the progress of the ongoing works under the Smart City Project, the members asked to take care that they should be completed within the time limit. Apart from this, while stressing on the proper use of the Smart City Fund, after the completion of the projects, suggested to prepare resources for its maintenance. Kunal Dudawat, MD, Bilaspur Smart City Limited, in the meeting gave detailed information about the works and schemes going on under the Smart City Scheme. It is to be known that an advisory forum has been constituted by the state government for suggestions and guidance in the smart city plan, in which MPs of Bilaspur Lok Sabha constituency, MLAs of all assembly constituencies of the district, Mayor, Divisional

Commissioner, Range IG, Collector and SP, experts and social workers of various fields have been made members of this forum. The second meeting of the Advisory

Forum was held today under the chairmanship of LS MP Arun Sao, in which Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Chairman Atul Srivastava,

Mayor Ramsharan Yadav, Masturi MLA Dr. Krishnamurthy Bandhi, Collector Saurabh Kumar and other officials took part.

Indian Bank Branch: Korba (C.G.)

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
Notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Korba Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" on 15.03.2023 for recovery of Rs 22,26,391/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety One Only) as on 14/09/2022 plus interest and other expenses thereon due to the Indian Bank, Korba branch, Secured Creditor, from Borrowers- Mr. Harish Soni S/o Mollai Soni & Mrs. Sonu Soni W/o Harish Soni., Add: Flat No.4/E, Sai Kunj Society, Behind Agrasen Bhawan, Agrasen Chowk, Main Road, Korba, Chhattisgarh-495677
 The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

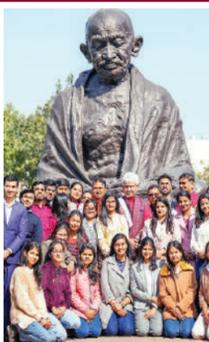
Detailed Description of the Property:-	
All that part and parcel of the residential house at Flat no.4/E, Kh No.890/53, 560/54,890/55,890/57,890/58 with built up area 650.00 Sq.Ft at Sai Kunj, Beside Agrasen Bhawan, Ward No.04, Dewangan Para, Korba - 495677 Bounded by North by: Flat No.C, South by: Flat No.G, East by: Galiara, West by: Open Space	
Encumbrances on property	Not Known
Reserve Price	Rs. 27,50,000/-
EMD Amount	Rs. 2,75,000/-
Bid incremental amount	Rs 10,000.00/-
Date and Time of E-auction	15/03/2023, Time- 11.00 AM to 05:00 PM
Property ID No.	IDIB4819HARSH

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstccomerce.com) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapop@mstccomerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibafin@mstccomerce.com.
 For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://ibapi.in> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number 18001025026 and 011-41106131.
 Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://ibapi.in> and www.mstccomerce.com.
 Date: 07.02.2023, Place : Korba Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Name Change

It is to be informed to The General Public That I Neeraj Chhabra S/o Jogendra Lal Chhabra f/o Siddarth Chhabra Resident of Shrikant Verma Marg Link Road, Mitra Vihar Colony Juna Bilaspur Have Changed my Name Niraj Chhabra S/o Jogendra Lal Chhabra f/o Siddarth Chhabra in All Government and other Document.
Niraj Chhabra
 Shrikant Verma Marg Link Road, Mitra Vihar Colony Juna Bilaspur (C.G.)

BRIEF



J & K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha poses for photographs with a group of visitors at the Gandhi Statue at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

Injured

Chaibasa: A CRPF jawan was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district on Tuesday, police said. Security forces were on an anti-Naxal operation at Hathiburu jungle in Goilker police station area when the IED planted by Maoists exploded, injuring the CRPF jawan, they said.

Condole

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday condoled the loss of lives in Turkiye and Syria after they were hit by a magnitude 7.8 earthquake and urged the global community to extend all possible help to the two countries. The earthquake, which struck on Monday, killed nearly 5,000 people and flattened thousands of buildings in Turkiye and neighbouring Syria. It was centred in Turkiye's south-eastern province of Kahramanmaraş and was felt as far away as Cairo.

Escape

New Delhi: A 19-year-old snatcher gave the police the slip while they were taking him to a prison, officials said on Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Karan, a resident of Ram Bagh, Ranjeet Nagar. He was arrested on Monday in connection with a snatching case registered at the Ranjeet Nagar police station. He was produced before a court which sent him to judicial custody, a senior police officer said.

Mishap

Surendranagar: Four persons were killed after a minivan in which they were travelling rammied into a stationary truck on a highway in Gujarat's Surendranagar district on Tuesday morning, police said. The van was badly mangled in the accident which took place at around 6 am, and it took a long time for the rescue team to extricate the bodies from the vehicle, an official from Sayla police station said.

Held

Kaushambi: Two men have been arrested for allegedly luring people to convert to Christianity on the pretext of curing them of their diseases, police said on Tuesday. Gendal and Hiralal were arrested on Monday from the Saini area for allegedly trying to convert people in Ghumai village, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said.

'PM effected transformation in Tripura'

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Tripura and the entire northeast have witnessed a "transformation" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at power in the Centre, the BJP said on Tuesday, expressing confidence that it will retain power in the poll-bound state. "The 'Look East' policy of the Congress was so hollow that it never touched the ground realities. It was Prime Minister Modi who actually brought a transformation by replacing that policy with an action-oriented 'Act East' policy. His model of 'HIRA' will ensure further prosperity in



Sarbananda Sonowal

Tripura," Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal told a press conference here. The term "HIRA" is used by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to refer to the government's thrust on highways, internet, roads and airports. Not only nationally, but

Tripura has now earned fame internationally too as its exports and strong infrastructure have put it on the path to development, Sonowal said. Attacking the Left and the Congress, which have joined hands against the ruling BJP in Tripura, the tribal leader alleged that terrorism, drugs and corruption had affected the northeastern state under their four decades of collective rule as they had neither policies nor any intention to develop the region. The BJP has not only policies and intention but also a great leader in Modi, who has worked to ensure social security and

economic uplift for the people of Tripura, he said. During the Congress rule at the Centre, the northeast was never given due significance in the national agenda as it remained backwards, Sonowal added. At the press conference, the Public Policy Research Centre, a thinktank affiliated to the BJP, released a report, claiming that the farmers' income saw a massive rise under the saffron party's rule in Tripura since 2018 and piped drinking water has reached more than 58 per cent households in the state from the earlier less than 3.5 per cent.

Shiv Sena's Thackeray faction boycotts parliament debate

● On President's address

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena on Tuesday announced its boycott of the Parliament debate on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address, claiming the government had turned down its demand for a discussion on the Adani issue and a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe in the matter. "We have decided to boycott the debate on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address in both Houses of

Parliament. We remain steadfast on our demand for a JPC probe," Vinayak Raut, a Lok Sabha member of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), told PTI. He said the government had also termed down the demand of the Thackeray faction for a separate discussion in Parliament on the Adani issue. "As a united opposition we demand the government constitute a JPC over the stock manipulation of a group, over-pricing and round-tripping in the stock market, hence the Shiv Sena has decided to boycott the motion of thanks. We demand a

JPC to get to the bottom of the truth," Sanjay Raut, Rajya Sabha member of the Thackeray faction, said. Lok Sabha member Pratap Jadhav, belonging to the Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena, participated in the debate on the Motion of Thanks in the lower house. The rival factions of the Shiv Sena are engaged in a tussle for the control of the organisation after Shinde walked out of a majority of MLAs and Lok Sabha members, bringing down the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government in June last year.

'TMC can only oust double engine govt'

Agartala, Feb 07 (PTI)

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday asserted that hers is the only party that can oust the double engine government of the BJP, and provide the people of the country with an alternative to the saffron camp. Addressing a public rally here, she claimed that democracy has taken a backseat in Tripura under the BJP rule, as "parties were not allowed to organise political meetings, and journalists lost their right to gather news". "Two years ago, our party leaders and activists were attacked, their vehicles vandalized. Some of them were illegally put be-

RELIEF MATERIAL



New Delhi: IAF's second C-17 Globemaster III heavy lift aircraft carrying NDRF teams including dog squads, search & rescue equipment, extrication tools and vehicles departs India for earthquake-hit Turkey.



WB CM Mamata Banerjee during an election campaign rally for the upcoming Tripura Legislative Assembly elections, in Agartala, Tuesday.

hind the bars. Democracy is in a bad shape in the state, and our leaders and members became subjects of torture for protesting against misdeeds," she

stated. In an oblique reference to the BJP, Banerjee also said that the party which cannot guarantee 100 days' work to people has no right to ask for vote. "The TMC is the only party which would oust the double engine government from the country and provide an alternative to people," she maintained. The TMC boss also stated that people in Tripura will "reject" the CPI(M)-Congress alliance, much like what had happened in Bengal. She gave assurance that her party, if voted to power, will introduce development schemes that are currently available in Bengal, such as Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree.

WATER TAXI SERVICE



Maharashtra Minister of Ports and Shipping Dadaji Bhuse during flag off ceremony of the vessel 'Nayan XI' at Belapur for inauguration of the water taxi service between the Gateway of India and Belapur jetty, in Navi Mumbai, Tuesday.

Hillary Clinton to visit Ellora Caves, Ghrihsheshwar temple

Aurangabad, Feb 07 (PTI)

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton will on Tuesday arrive in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district where she will visit the world-famous Ellora Caves on Wednesday, an official said. Clinton, who was on a visit to Gujarat for the last two days, will arrive here on Tuesday afternoon and head to Khultabad town for an overnight stay, he said. On Wednesday, she will visit Ghrihsheshwar temple, which is the 12th jyotirlinga in the country, and the Ellora Caves, the official said. Around 100 police personnel will be deployed for her security during the Aurangabad visit, he added. On Monday, Clinton announced a Global Climate Resilience

Fund of 50 million dollars for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt. The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education, she said. She attended a programme in Ahmedabad on Sunday to mark 50 years of SEWA as a trade union and paid homage to its founder and renowned social activist Ela Bhatt, who passed away in November last year. Clinton visited salt pan workers in the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat on Monday and learnt from them the process of salt production and hardships faced by them.

'Menace of drug trafficking a matter of concern'

Aizawl, Feb 07 (PTI)

Mizoram Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati on Tuesday said the menace of drug trafficking and drug abuse has assumed alarming proportions in the state. He said the menace is of a great concern to the state government. "To control this menace, the state Excise and Narcotics department has made all-out efforts. As a result, 4,348 persons were arrested under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition) Act, 2019 and Mizoram Excise Act, 1973 during the current financial year (upto 31.12.2022)," the governor said while addressing the budget session assembly. He said that 4,755 drug related cases were registered during the same period. He said that 'Drugs and Children Survey 2022' conducted by Mizoram Social Defence and Rehabilitation Board of



Hari Babu Kambhampati

Affairs department, was a pioneering research study, which manifested the government's endeavour to prevent and reduce drug abuse in the state. "During the past year, Mizoram Police seized huge quantities of illicit drugs and narcotic substances worth around Rs 829 crore in international market," he said. Kambhampati said that the state government has allocated Rs 920.71 lakh under its flagship programme - Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP) for upgradation of Jordan Rehabilitation

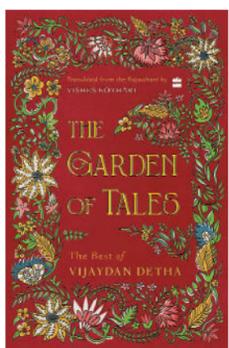
Centre, a de-addiction centre in Kolabis district near Assam border. He said that a resource centre for HIV/AIDS would be constructed in the state under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) very soon. The Mizoram Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) Prevention and Control Rules, 2022 was approved and gazetted on November 1 last year, he said. The governor said Mizoram Super Speciality Cancer Hospital and Research Centre would be constructed in Aizawl with financial support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The proposed Rs 700 crore project is under consideration by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, he said. Quoting a Forest Survey of India Report 2021, the governor said Mizoram has the highest forest cover of 84.53 per cent among Indian states.

THE GARDEN OF TALES

Stories of Rajasthani folk writer Detha translated into English

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

A seth who lends money by mortgaging the borrower's next birth or a bride who after the marriage discovers her husband is actually a woman, stories of legendary Rajasthani folk writer Vijaydan Detha are translated into English in new book, "The Garden of Tales". The book, translated by Vishesh Kothari, draws the reader into the complex and quirky world of the common folk of Rajasthan, while bringing alive the magic of folklore and fable. It is published by Harper Perennial. "My own point of entry into Detha's world has been from the world of oral literature. . . This



world is set in timescales that are immediate and yet eternal, and in spaces that are limited to the village and the lake just outside but at the same time, cosmic. "I have translated this world with an intuition that has been guided by intimacy, fondness and

assertion. I hope these stories can help readers make sense of this world I share with Detha, and perhaps, of their own worlds," writes Kothari, whose previous translations of Detha's stories was titled, "Timeless Tales from Marwar" (2020). Born on September 1, 1926, Detha, fondly known as 'Biji' in the literary world, spent decades of his life collecting folk stories from in and around his village Borunda and retelling them. Nominated for Nobel prize for literature in 2006, he has received national and international acclaim, including Padma Shri, Rajasthan Ratna Award and Sahitya Akademi Award.

SC TO BILKIS BANO

'Will hear plea at the earliest'

● Against remission to convicts

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday assured Bilkis Bano, who was gang-raped and seven members of her family killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots, that her plea against the remission of the sentence of 11 convicts will be heard soon after the constitution of a new bench. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala assured Bano, represented through her lawyer Shobha Gupta, that the new bench will be formed at the earliest. Gupta mentioned the matter for urgent hearing and said that a new bench needs to be constituted by the Chief Justice of India as Justice Bela M Trivedi recused from hearing the plea. CJI Chandrachud said, "I will do so at the earliest.

The matter will be listed soon". Earlier, on January 24, the hearing on Bano's plea challenging the remission of sentence of 11 convicts in the gang-rape case by the Gujarat government could not be held in the top court as the judges concerned were hearing a matter related to passive euthanasia as part of a five-judge Constitution bench. On that day, the petition was listed for hearing before a bench of Justices Rastogi and CT Ravikumar. Both Justices Rastogi and Ravikumar were then busy hearing, as part of a Constitution bench headed by Justice K M Joseph, the pleas seeking modification of guidelines on the execution of a "Living Will or Advance Medical Directive" for permitting passive euthanasia. On January 4, Justice Trivedi had recused from hearing a batch of pleas challenging the remission of the sentence of 11 convicts in Bano's case.

Quake deaths pass 5,000 as Turkey, Syria seek survivors



A woman sits on the rubble as emergency rescue teams search for people under the remains of destroyed buildings in Nurdagi town on the outskirts of Osmaniye city southern Turkey, Tuesday.

Adana (Turkiye), Feb 07 (AP):

Rescuers raced Tuesday to find survivors in the rubble of thousands of buildings brought down by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake and multiple aftershocks that struck eastern Turkey and neighbouring Syria, with the discovery of more bodies raising the death toll to more than 5,000.

said more than 24,400 emergency personnel were now on the ground. But with such a wide swath of territory hit by Monday's earthquake and nearly 6,000 buildings confirmed to have collapsed in Turkiye alone, their efforts were spread thin.

could hear her mother's voice beneath the rubble of a collapsed building in the city of Antakya, the capital of Hatay province, but that her and others efforts to get into the ruins had been futile without any rescue crews and heavy equipment to help.

earthquake's epicentre, officials say as many as 1,500 buildings were destroyed and many people reported relatives being trapped under the rubble with no aid or rescue teams arriving.

In areas where teams worked, occasional cheers broke out through the night as survivors were brought out of the rubble.

The quake, which was centred in Turkiye's southeastern province of Kahramanmaras, sent residents of Damascus and Beirut rushing into the street and was felt as far away as Cairo.

Sebastien Gay, the head of mission in Syria for Doctors Without Borders, said health facilities in northern Syria were overwhelmed with medical personnel working around "around the clock to respond to the huge numbers of wounded."

In Turkey's Hatay province, thousands of people sheltered in sports centres or fair halls, while others spent the night outside, huddled in blankets around fires.

Turkey has large numbers of troops in the border region with Syria and has tasked the military to aid in the rescue efforts, including setting up tents for the homeless and a field hospital in Hatay province.

Google to launch ChatGPT competitor 'Bard': Sundar Pichai

New York, Feb 07 (PTI):



Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced that the tech giant will soon launch an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered chatbot called Bard', aimed at countering the popularity of the ChatGPT tool backed by Microsoft.

According to a blog post by Pichai, the conversational AI service will be assessed by a group of "trusted testers" before being rolled out to the public in the coming weeks.

"Bard can be an outlet for creativity, and a launchpad for curiosity," Pichai, the Indian-origin CEO of Google and parent company Alphabet, said on Monday, adding that Google's chatbot will be able to explain complex subjects like new discover-

ies from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope to a nine-year-old

Google's announcement follows wide speculation that Microsoft is about to bring the AI chatbot ChatGPT to its search engine Bing, following a multi-billion dollar investment in the firm behind it, OpenAI, the BBC reported.

ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), which was launched in November 2022, is capable of generating speeches, songs, marketing copy, news articles and student essays or

human-like text based on the input it is given.

Bard, built on Google's existing large language model LaMDA, "seeks to combine the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of our large language models", Pichai, 50, said in the blog.

AI chatbots are designed to answer questions and find information.

"Bard seeks to combine the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence, and creativity of our large language models," Pichai said in the blog post.

Pichai said he wanted Google's AI services to be "bold with innovation and responsible in our approach". However, he did not elaborate on how Bard would be prevented from

sharing harmful or abusive content.

He said that Google will initially release Bard with a "lightweight model" version of LaMDA which will require less computing power and enable the tech giant to scale to more users, allowing for more feedback.

"We're excited for this phase of testing," Pichai said, adding that Google will combine external feedback with internal testing to make sure Bard's responses meet a high bar for quality, safety and groundedness in real-world information.

"It's critical that we bring experiences rooted in these models to the world in a bold and responsible way. That's why we're committed to developing AI responsibly," he wrote in the blog.

Australian, New Zealand leaders' talk focuses on China

Canberra (Australia), Feb 07 (AP):



New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, left, listens as Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese speaks during a joint press conference in Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Australian and New Zealand prime ministers met Tuesday to talk about China's importance to their national economies, resolving to voice their disagreements with their most important trading partner that is becoming more assertive in their region.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins made Australia the destination of his first overseas trip as his government's leader since his predecessor Jacinda Ardern announced her surprise resignation in January.

The visit to Australia's Parliament House comes

two weeks after Hipkins assumed office on Jan. 25.

He used a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese to give an assurance that he was keeping New Zealand's foreign policy direction.

"Our foreign policy position hasn't changed just because there's a change of prime minister," Hipkins said. "The government foreign policy is the same as it was under Prime Minister Ardern."

A reporter put to Hipkins that Ardern had been reluctant to stand up against "bad behaviour by China" and asked if he was concerned about Chinese coercion in the South Pacific.

INFORMAL MEETING



(L to R) Sweden's Energy, Business and Industry Minister Ebba Busch, Sweden's Foreign Trade Minister Johan Forsell and Minister of Employment of Finland Tuula Haatainen pose upon arrival at the Informal meeting of competitiveness ministers at the Scandinavian XPO outside Stockholm on February 7.

Sub-Saharan Africa is 'new epicentre' of extremism: UN

Nairobi (Kenya), Feb 07 (AP):

The new global epicentre of violent Islamic extremism is sub-Saharan Africa where people are increasingly joining because of economic factors and less for religious ones, says a new report by the UN's international development agency.

A significant increase of 92 per cent of new recruits to extremist groups are joining for better livelihoods compared to the motivations of those interviewed in a previous report released in 2017, according to the UNDP report released on Tuesday.

Many Africans' lives have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandem-

ic, high inflation, and climate change, said the report.

There has been a 57 per cent decrease in the number of people joining extremist groups for religious reasons, it said.

Nearly 2,200 people were interviewed for the report in eight African countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan. More than 1,000 interviewees are former members of violent extremist groups, both voluntary and forced recruits, said the report.

At least 4,155 attacks across Africa were documented since in 2017, said the report. In these attacks, 18,417 deaths were

recorded in the continent with Somalia accounting for the largest number of fatalities.

The Somali government is currently carrying out what has been described as the most significant offensive against the al-Shabab extremist group in more than a decade.

Those interviewed were drawn from various extremist groups across the continent including Boko Haram in Nigeria, al-Shabab in Somalia, which pledges allegiance to al-Qaeda, and in West Africa Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen, or JNIM, which is allied to the Islamic State group.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has become the new glob-

Intruder breaches base of Air Force One, shot fired

Washington, Feb 07 (AP): Another intruder has breached the home of Air Force One, one of the nation's most sensitive military bases, and this time a resident opened fire on the trespasser, Joint Base Andrews said in a statement late Monday.

During the incident, which occurred at about 11:30 a.m. Monday, "a man gained unauthorised access to a JBA housing area," Joint Base Andrews said in a statement posted to Twitter. "A resident discharged a firearm, security forces arrived on scene to apprehend the intruder and law enforcement is investigating the incident."

Joint Base Andrews is home

to the fleet of blue and white presidential aircraft, including Air Force One, Marine One and the "doomsday" 747 aircraft that can serve as the nation's airborne nuclear command and control centres if needed. The Air Force said late Monday it did not have anything to add beyond the Andrews statement about Monday's intrusion. It's not the first time the base's security has been breached; in February 2021 a man got through the military checkpoint onto the installation, then through additional fenced secure areas to gain access to the flight line and climb into a C-40, which is the military's 737-equivalent aircraft used to fly government officials.

Natasha named by Johns Hopkins as the 'world's brightest' for second consecutive year

Washington, Feb 07 (PTI):



results in the verbal and quantitative sections levelled

Indian-American schoolgirl Natasha Perianayagam was named in the "world's brightest" students list for the second consecutive year by the US-based Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth, based on the results of above-grade-level tests of over 15,000 students across 76 countries.

Perianayagam, 13, is a student at Florence M Gaudineer Middle School, in New Jersey.

She also took the Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth (CTY) test in Spring 2021, when she was a Grade 5 student. Her

with the 90th percentile of advanced Grade 8 performance, which catapulted her into the honours list that year. This year, she was honoured for her exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, School and College Ability Test, or similar assessment taken as part of the CTY Talent Search, the university said in a press release on Monday.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR SIGNALING WORKS

(1) Tender Notice No.: Dy. CSTE-GSU-R-T-02-SNT-GSU-Tender-2023. Date: 04.2.2023.

Name of the work: Execution of S&T works in connection with Capacity augmentation of RVH-RSD line. Tender Value: ₹ 2,55,27,081.32. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,77,600/-. Submission of Tender: Upto 15.00 hours on 01.03.2023. Opening of Tender: 15.00 hours on 01.03.2023.

For further details/purchase of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy. CSTE/GSU/Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. CSTE/GSU/Raipur.

PR/IR/GSU/FL/218
fSouth East Central Railway @secentral

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

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

संशोधन क्रमांक - 1

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक 121444 एवं निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 03/व.ले.लि./2022-23 रुद्री, दिनांक 24.01.2023 (द्वितीय आमंत्रण) जी. नं. 98060 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

पूर्व में प्रकाशित **वर्तमान में संशोधन**

1	Bid Due Date and time : 10.02.2023, 17:30 Hours. (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted).	1	Bid Due Date and time : 13.02.2023, 17:30 Hours. (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted).
2	Bid Open Start Date and time : 13.02.2023, 11:30 Hours. (The Date of opening of Envelope - A & B online).	2	Bid Open Start Date and time : 14.02.2023, 11:30 Hours. (The Date of opening of Envelope - A & B online).

निविदा की अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यालय अभियंता
म.ज.प. बांध संभाग क्र. 2, रुद्री
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी
परियोजना जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-98253/3

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)

Durg, Dated: 24.01.2023

e-Procurement Tender Notice
(1st Call)

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 14-02-2023 :-

NIT No. / System No.	Name of work	P.A.C. in (Rs. in lacs.)
282/122310	B.T.Renewal work in Borsi-Dhanora-Utai Road km 1/2 to 3/6 = 2.60 km & km 6/8 to 6/2 = 2.60 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-1.DURG	140.27
283/122311	B.T.Renewal work in Borsi-Dhanora-Utai Road km 6/4 to 8/8 & 8/10 to 11/4 Total length = 5.20 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-1.DURG	140.27
284/122312	B.T.Renewal work in Central Jail App.Road Length=0.60 km, Central Jail to Police Line App.Road Length=3.20 km, Gudheli-Murmunda-Khedamara-Nankalthi-Daniya Road Length=29.50 km UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	59.40
285/122313	B.T.Renewal work in (Durg Dhamda Bemetara Road in km 15, 16 = 2.00 km, km 19, 20 = 2.00 km & km 28, 29 = 2.00 km) UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	170.27
286/122315	B.T.Renewal work in (Durg Dhamda Bemetara Road in km 30, 31 = 2.00 km, km 32, 33 = 2.00 km & km 39 = 1.00 km & Dhamda-Gandari Road km 23 Total Length= 1.00 km) UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	167.63
287/122316	B.T.Renewal work in Deokar-Ghota-Jalbandha Road km 9/2 to 10/10 & various other Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	188.09
288/122318	B.T.Renewal work in (Dhamda Gandari Road in km 2/2 to 2/4 = 400 m & various Other Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-2.DURG	167.48
289/122320	B.T.Renewal work in Bemetara-Balsamund-Chandanu road km 29/8 to 31/6 = 2.00 km & km 33/8 to 35/6 = 2.00 km & Belkhun-Jhinga-Pulpura-Gidhwa Road km 6/10(100), 7,8,9=3.10 km UNDER SUB-DN.Nawagarh	179.82
290/122415	B.T.Renewal work in Odhaya-Jata-Dadhi-Chuchungpur road km 1/6(100), 2, 3, 4, 10, 4/2 to 4/10(100) = 3.40 km & Chhipi-Bera-Martara-Khandarsa Road km 1,2,3/2=2.40 km, Nandghat-Malda-Mau-Bitkuli Road km 3.00 UNDER SUB-DN. Bemetara	158.17
291/122416	B.T.Renewal work in Maniyari-Botla road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km, Saja Approach Road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km, Kestara-Ghotwani Road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km, Karhi-Kajra Road km 1/2 to 1/10 = 1.00 km, Pipariya Approach Road km 1/2 to 2/10 = 2.00 km UNDER SUB-DN. Saja	81.56
292/122418	B.T.Renewal work in Various Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-3.DURG	121.54
293/122421	B.T.Renewal work in Various Roads UNDER SUB-DN.NO.-3.DURG	88.68
294/122422	B.T.RENEWAL WORK (UNDER ANNUAL REPAIR) GARRA-KHANDSARA ROAD (VR - 156) KM. 1/2 TO 4/8 = 3.80 KM., GARRA-KHANDSARA ROAD (VR - 156) KM. 4/10 TO 7/4 = 2.60 KM., & PENDRITARI-CHHITAPAR ROAD (VR - 75) KM. 1/2 TO 3/10 = 3.00 KM., Total L. 9.40 KM.	150.56
295/122423	BT Renewal of Kusmi Khudmudi Sittara Road (MDR) From Km. 1, 2 = 2.00 km, 3, 4 = 2.00 km Sankra Dewada Road (VR169) From Km. 1 to 3/8 (100) = 2.70 km & Under Sub Division Bemetara	158.41
296/122425	BT Renewal of Uria-Patharidih-Kandarka-Berla-Kodwa Road From Km. 11, 12 = 2.00 km, 18, 19 = 2.00 km, & Dhaba Bhimburi Road (VR170) From Km. 1 to 3/8 (100) = 2.70 km Under Sub Division Bemetara	158.41
297/122430	BT Renewal of Pahanda-Bargaon-Khudmuda Road km 10, 11 = 2.00 km & km 12, 13 = 2.00 km Under Sub Division Bemetara	115.50

Note:-

- NIT No.282,283,284,285,286,287,288,292 & 293 are under Public Works Department Durg Division Durg & NIT No.289,290,291,294,295,296 & 297 are under Public Works Department Bemetara Division Bemetara.
- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.
- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Speed Post in this office.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)
Tel. 0788-2210876

G-98262/1

कार्यालय उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

निविदा विज्ञापन क्रमांक- उमनि/वपुअ/राय/रनि/715/2023 रायपुर दिनांक 06/02/2023

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक-20/2022-23

उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक जिला रायपुर के द्वारा पुलिस लाईन परिसर में महिला हॉस्टल के उपर द्वितीय तल भवन निर्माण कार्य कराये जाने हेतु मोहबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र अधोस्वास्थ्यकर्ता के कार्यालय से आवेदन पत्र (आयकर चुकता प्रमाण पत्र सहित) के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र के मूल्य राशि रु. 750/-रु. का कोषालय/राष्ट्रीयकृत/अधिकृत बैंकों से उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक रायपुर के नाम से लेखा शीर्ष 0055 पुलिस शीर्ष 800 अन्य प्रापियों के अंतर्गत जमा कर चालान की मूल प्रति रशित आरक्षी केन्द्र रायपुर को प्रस्तुत कर प्राप्त कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. में)	मोहबंद राशि (रु. में)	निविदाकारों की श्रेणी
1	पुलिस लाईन परिसर स्थित बैरक का प्रथम तल भवन निर्माण कार्य।	20,00,000/-	15,00,000/-	ई-पंजीयन के अंतर्गत श्रेणी "द" अथवा उससे उच्च श्रेणी

- निविदा फार्म विक्रय की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 22.02.2023 समय 17.00 बजे तक।
- निविदा फार्म जमा करने का अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 24.02.2023 समय 15.00 बजे तक।
- दैनिकतल बिड खोलने का तिथि एवं समय - 24.02.2023 समय 16.00 बजे तक।
- फायनेशियल बिड खोलने का समय पृथक से अवगत कराया जावेगा।

नोट - निविदा की नियम व शर्तें टेण्डर फार्म के साथ कार्यालयीन समय में रशित आरक्षी केन्द्र कार्यालय रायपुर से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

उमनि एवं वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक
जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-98275/1

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date :- 03.02.2023

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

01. For tender detail please visit <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

02. Bid Submission Due Date - 22.02.2023

03. Concern Division - Surajpur Division

S. No.	N.I.T.No./Online System Number	Name of work	P.A.C. in lacs
1	226 1st Call D Class and Above	Renovation of Proposed Sahkari Bank Building at Devnagar Block Ramanujnagar Distt Surajpur (C.G.)	26.67

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle
Ambikapur

G-98275/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 10 No. 309

Switching to Green Mobility

Carbon emissions have been extremely hazardous to the environment and climate change globally has been a major contributor to the rising effects of global warming. The transportation industry has been one of the highest areas generating CO2 emissions and the increasing urbanisation is only worsening this effect. As we move ahead into the future, living with the consequences of this rapidly increasing pollutant is going to be extremely difficult. This is why more and more countries across the world have started to shift their focus on the decarbonization of Mobility with ecological solutions like Electric vehicles. However, when it comes to a country like India, industry leaders, the government and the end users will together need to join hands towards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching E 20 fuel (fuel blended with 20% ethanol) at select outlets of Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) in 11 States and Union Territories marks another significant milestone in the country's ethanol blending roadmap. While car manufacturers have been asked to produce E-20 compliant vehicles by 2025, retail outlets of OMC will be required to keep separate tanks for E-10 fuel for at least another ten years as existing vehicles are not E-20 complaint. The government plans to rollout E20 fuel in the entire country in a phased manner over the next two years. The country's Ethanol Blending Programme is aimed at achieving twin objectives of cutting down carbon emissions and reducing crude import bill. Total rollout of E20 fuel is projected to cut India's energy import bill by Rs 30000 crores annually provided target of 1016 crore litres of ethanol production is achieved to cater to the projected vehicle demand. Use of E 20 is estimated to reduce emission of carbon monoxide by 50% in two wheelers and by 30% in four wheelers which explain the emphasis laid by the government in achieving the targets as fast as possible. The "Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India: 2020-2025", however, cautioned that high compression ratio engines may face catastrophic failure due to engine knocking when operated with low or nil ethanol content and the vehicles which are designed for low or nil content of ethanol in gasoline will result in lower fuel economy if used with higher ethanol blends. The report estimates that when using E20, there is an estimated loss of 6-7% fuel efficiency for four wheelers which are originally designed for E0 and calibrated for E10, 3-4% for two wheelers designed for E0 and calibrated for E10 and 1-2% for four wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20. Reduction in fuel efficiency will be a cause of concern for existing owners of vehicles designed for E10 and manufacturers of such vehicles addressing which is necessary to make E20 rollout smooth. India's share in the global oil demand is projected to increase to 11% from the current level of 5% and gas demand is projected to rise 500%. While rise in energy demand will bring opportunities of investment, decarbonizing the energy sector is critical for achieving the updated targets in India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted under the Paris Agreement of reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels. The four major verticals for the strategy for the energy sector outlined by the Prime Minister are: increasing domestic exploration and production, diversifying the supply, and expanding use of biofuel, ethanol, compressed biogas and solar and de-carbonisation via electric vehicles and hydrogen. The Final Report of the Task Force on Sugarcane and Sugar Industry constituted by the NITI Aayog in 2020 estimated that with over 70 lakh tonnes of surplus sugar in the country there is large scope for diverting surplus sugarcane towards ethanol production without affecting sugar supply needed to meet domestic demand. It also highlights that one tonne of sugarcane yields 70 litres of ethanol while producing one tonne of sugar is equivalent to producing 600 litres of ethanol. Apart from using sugarcane, successful use of bamboo as feedstock in the Assam Bio Refinery will be critical to use of bamboo, which naturally grows in abundance in northeast region as alternative crop for ethanol production while simultaneously addressing the concern of depletion of water level due production of sugarcane and paddy cultivation grown using irrigation water. This will also open huge opportunities for entrepreneurship in the northeast region ethanol production and become key stakeholders in the country's EBP. Incentives to sugarcane and bamboo growers will play the crucial role in meeting the targets of ethanol production. India getting its due share from the climate finance mobilization committed by developed countries can facilitate rolling out of attractive incentives to promote raw material for ethanol production. Information furnished by the Government in the parliament shows despite their commitment in 2009 of a climate finance mobilization goal of USD 100 billion per year, by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries, the goal has not been met. India's climate actions have so far largely been financed from domestic sources, including government budgetary support as well as a mix of market mechanisms and fiscal instruments and policy interventions. Building awareness on the EBP, ethanol use efficiency vis-à-vis its importance in reducing emissions from preventing rise in global temperature and climate change mitigation will be crucial to motivate vehicle owners to upgrade to E20 compliant vehicles. Weighing on market sentiments for expensive electric vehicles and E 20 compliant vehicles and policy of incentivizing on ethanol blended fuel can create positive sentiments among vehicle owners to voluntarily transition to environment-friendly vehicles for decarbonizing their mobility solution.

Promote internet safety

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

Everyone is aware that today's adolescents live on the internet or in the virtual world. The internet is a hive of engaging activities that can occupy you for a very long time. It provides an array of opportunities, including those for completing online research, reading the news, and having fun. People may now share knowledge fast and store it all in one location thanks to the internet. The number of people using the internet also keeps growing. Globally, the number of internet users is increasing at a rate of 1.9% annually, but year-over-year growth is significantly faster in many developing economies. There will be 5.16 billion internet users globally at the start of 2023, or 64.4 percent of the world's population. The most recent statistics indicate that there were about 100 million more people online in the year that ended in January 2023 than there were in the previous year. However, current trends suggest that two-thirds of the world's population should be online by the end of 2023. It served as a vital instrument for communication throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Every year, on the second day of the second week of the second month, Safer Internet Day is observed around the world to promote internet safety. Nearly 200 nations around the world now observe it. 2005 marked the inaugural Safer Internet Day. Online privacy and security are now key concerns as more and more people use the internet. Staying secure online is referred to as online safety. It is also frequently referred to as cyber safety, e-safety, and online safety. It includes every piece of technology, from PCs and laptops to smartphones and tablets, that has internet connectivity. Being safe online includes avoiding risks and harms that could jeopardize personal information, result in dangerous contacts, or even have an adverse effect on one's mental health and wellness. People and organizations should work together for a safer internet, taking into account issues like cyberbullying, social networking, and digital identity. In order to make the internet a better and safer place for everyone, it is important that all interested parties cooperate. Therefore, the day's goal is to build a better, safer internet where everyone may utilize technology in an ethical, thoughtful, and original way.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

DEMOLITION DRIVE



Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) workers dismantle a traffic police beat box during an anti-encroachment drive following implementation of the new land policy, in Srinagar, Tuesday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Environmental damage in Bengaluru

The Bengaluru peripheral ring road project, which has been under scrutiny for over 16 years for the environmental damage it may cause, is back in the news. The Bangalore Development Authority has issued new tenders for the road's construction this year, despite the lack of an environmental clearance. According to reports, over 34000 trees are at risk of being cut down. The project is expected to have an impact on Jarakabande Kaval forest land, eight bodies of water and another 28 acres of forest land. Furthermore, the project plan has undergone numerous changes, and the extent of the damage it will cause is unknown because a detailed project report and a new environmental impact assessment have not been published or conducted, respectively. Using an incorrect Environmental impact assessment, the Bengaluru Development Authority claimed that only 300 jobs would be lost. The National Green Tribunal rejected the report based on the horticulture and forest department's submission that approximately 15,000 trees needed to be felled. As a result, Bengaluru's biodiversity and ecology are threatened! The mismanagement of the peripheral ring road project endangers birds, animals, trees, water bodies, and farmers livelihoods. As a result, the parties involved should publish the detailed project report for everyone to comment on, as well as conduct a new environmental impact assessment as soon as possible.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Tax on Cigarette may have positive outcome

Thanks to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Budget 2023-24 has seen a hike in taxes on cigarettes by 16% after persistent demand from sections of the society for a higher tax burden on tobacco products. For a long, tobacco has been one of the leading causes of death in India. As per the WHO, tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year and more than 7 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use, while around 1.2 million happen when non-smokers are exposed to smoking indirectly. Many new reports suggest that tobacco's indirect and hidden promotion is also contributing to the silent epidemic. The current tax hike on cigarettes will not only help the central government to generate more revenue but at the same time will enable curb tobacco use to a large extent. Also, catchy slogans like, [Quitters always win - winners always quit] and [Desist from running the white train in your lips] can help in the fight against cigarette smoking.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

India's G 20 Presidency: Weaving Inclusive Growth & Universal Togetherness



ALOK KUMAR



The central theme of India's G20 Presidency- वासुदेव कुटुम्बकम् (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam) affirms the value of all living beings - human, animal, plant and microorganisms and the interconnectedness on planet Earth. In the words of our honourable Prime Minister, India's G-20 presidency will strive to foster this universal togetherness and hence the motto "One Earth, One Family, One Future". The opportunity to lead the G20 comes at a phase when existential threats are escalating and there is utmost urgency to find sustainable solutions. Addressing the issues pertaining to climate change is a top priority for India's Presidency, with an emphasis on just energy transitions for the world's developing countries by supporting them through climate financing and technology. To derive meaningful and sustainable solutions for the world, it is imperative to give voice to Global South as well, highlighting their aspirations and issues, as many of these countries do not get a voice on the high table.

The challenges facing the world today in the Energy sector are manifold - from access, security, affordability, to the global issue of climate change. It is important to look at these issues holistically for a sustainable energy future.

India, on its part, is deeply committed to a low carbon development strategy. India's energy generation mix is rapidly shifting towards ever increasing share of

renewable energy. Today, India is the world's third largest producer of renewable energy, with 42.25% of its installed power capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources.

We are also the 4th largest country in terms of installed capacity and one of the fastest growing renewable energy destinations in the world. India recorded amongst the fastest levels of growth (70%) globally in Renewable Capacity in 2021 with investments in renewables touching US \$ 11.3 Bn in 2021 alone. Emissions Intensity of India's GDP has also gone down by 28% from 2005 levels.

India is taking rapid strides in finding a sustainable solution to issues pertaining to climate change. This follows the Hon'ble Prime Minister's commitment at Glasgow Summit in 2021, to reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes till 2030. In the CCPI Index (Climate Change Performance Index), India has been ranked amongst the top performing large countries.

India today is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, representing the aspirations of over one billion people. It is projected that our energy demand will more than double by 2040. With this projected growth comes the responsibility of sustainably producing power, reducing carbon emissions, energy conservation and mitigating climate change. The Government launched Saubhagya - 'the scheme for universal access' aimed at

achieving universal household electrification covering every village and every district in the country. India achieved universal electricity in record time by the end of 2019, with a total of 28.6 million households electrified.

Energy efficiency has received high priority in India. At policy level, there have been several initiatives and intervention to promote conservation of energy both at individual and institution levels. Schemes such as UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All), launched in 2015, aimed at providing LED bulbs to domestic consumers with a target to replace 770 million incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs, making it the largest LED distribution program in the world. The program targets energy efficiency in lighting as it offers enormous opportunity to save energy. Another hugely successful scheme is Ujjwala - providing LPG connections to families and households. The scheme has particularly been empowering for women, reduces their drudgery, the time spent in kitchen and overall improving their health.

Under Energy Conservation Act, we also launched PAT (Program, Achieve and Trade) scheme aimed at reducing Specific Energy Consumption (SEC) i.e., energy use per unit of production for Designated Consumers (DCs) in energy intensive sectors, with an associated market mechanism to enhance the cost effectiveness through certification of excess energy saving which can be traded. The excess energy savings are converted into tradable instruments called Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) that are traded at the Power Exchanges.

Recently, the Parliament has passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The Bill promotes energy efficiency and conservation and stipulates that designated consumers can be obligated to meet a proportion of their

energy or feedstock needs from non-fossil sources. The Energy Conservation Code for buildings will now apply to large offices and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above. The Act also now includes provisions for putting in place a carbon market. Carbon credit will be used on priority within the country to meet our NDCs.

India has gradually decoupled economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions. To support these continuing initiatives, India recently launched the National Hydrogen Mission with the objective to make India the world's largest hydrogen hub.

Technology advancements and responses to climate change measures are accelerating the transformation of the world's energy sector. India pledged a 40% share of power generation from non-fossil fuel sources at COP-21 in Paris in 2015. We have achieved this goal in year 2021 way ahead of the 2030 timeline.

In the battle against climate change, India has consistently demonstrated leadership. The country's vision is to reach net zero emissions by 2070. While in the short-term the country is aiming to increase non fossil electricity generation capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

At the G20 presidency, India has planned to focus on areas that have the potential to bring about a new approach to sustainable life style. We look forward to demonstrating our belief in a human-centred approach to technology and in promoting greater knowledge sharing in priority areas such as digital public infrastructure, financial inclusion, and technology-enabled development in sectors from agriculture to education. We earnestly wish to use the G20 forum to highlight inclusive growth and development.

(Writer is Secretary Power, India government. Views are personal.)

AI-powered robot introduced to save lives on Goa beaches

Aurus, an Artificial Intelligence-based self-driving robot, and AI-based monitoring system Triton are being used to augment life-saving capabilities on Goa's beaches, a state-appointed lifeguard services agency has said. The incorporation of AI-based support follows an increase in beach-related incidents due the rising number of domestic and foreign tourists on Goa's coastline, said a spokesperson from Driшти Marine. There have been more than 1,000 rescue incidents in the past two years along the coastal belt which required assistance from the agency's life savers, he said. "Aurus is a self-driving robot" developed to assist lifeguards by patrolling ex-

tensive non-swim zones and alerting tourists during high tide. The new addition will help in increased surveillance and crowd management at the beaches, he said.

Besides, the Triton system's primary focus is to provide a completely AI-based monitoring of non-swim zones, thereby alerting tourists of the danger and notifying the nearest life-saver. Aurus is currently deployed at Miramar beach in North Goa, while Triton is deployed at Baina, Velsao, Benaulum, Galgibag in South Goa and Morjim in North Goa, an official from the agency said, adding they intend to deploy 100 Triton units and 10 Aurus units on the state's beaches this year.

Scientists split seawater to produce green hydrogen

Researchers have successfully split seawater without pre-treatment to produce green hydrogen. According to the international study, the researchers split natural seawater into oxygen and hydrogen with nearly 100 per cent efficiency, to produce green hydrogen by electrolysis. They used a non-precious and cheap catalyst in a commercial electrolyser, the study said. A typical non-precious catalyst is cobalt oxide with chromium oxide on its surface. "We used seawater as a feedstock without the need for any pre-treatment processes like reverse osmosis desalination, purification, or alkalisation," said Yao Zheng, lead researcher from University of Adelaide, Australia. "The performance of a commercial electrolyser with our catalysts running in seawater is close to the performance

of platinum/iridium catalysts running in a feedstock of highly purified deionised water," said Zheng. The team published their research in the journal Nature Energy. "Current electrolysers are operated with highly purified water electrolyte. Increased demand for hydrogen to partially or totally replace energy generated by fossil fuels will significantly increase scarcity of increasingly limited freshwater resources," said Zheng.

Seawater is an almost infinite resource and is considered a natural feedstock electrolyte. This is more practical for regions with long coastlines and abundant sunlight, the study said.

However, it is not practical for regions where seawater is scarce, the study said. Seawater electrolysis is still in early development compared with pure water electrolysis because of

electrode side reactions, and corrosion arising from the complexities of using seawater. "It is always necessary to treat impure water to a level of water purity for conventional electrolysers including desalination and deionisation, which increases the operation and maintenance cost of the processes," said Zheng.

"Our work provides a solution to directly utilise seawater without pre-treatment systems and alkali addition, which shows similar performance as that of existing metal-based mature pure water electrolyser," said Zheng.

The team will work on scaling up the system by using a larger electrolyser so that it can be used in commercial processes such as hydrogen generation for fuel cells and ammonia synthesis, the study said.

BRIEF

Urea exports



Ranchi: Fertiliser major IFFCO Ltd is eyeing nano urea exports to 25 countries and expecting that output is likely to be 30 crore bottles by December 2024, a top company official said on Tuesday. The company is currently exporting the fertiliser to five countries, he said. "We have already produced six crore bottles of 500 ml each and have sold five crore units to farmers, which is equivalent to 22 lakh tonne of solid urea or conventional urea... We are already exporting to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Suriname and Mexico," Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) Managing Director US Awasthi told PTI in an interview.

Brand Punjab



Ludhiana: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann called upon the local industrialists to showcase 'brand Punjab' before the global industry representatives who will participate in the 'Invest Punjab Summit' during February 23-24. Interacting with the industrialists during a session organised here, the chief minister said Punjabis are known world over for their hard work and entrepreneurship skills.

Farmers' income



New Delhi: The government's efforts to double the income of farmers have yielded "very positive" results, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in Parliament on Tuesday. The government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee in April 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers' Income (DFI)" and recommended strategies to achieve the same.

Energy transition has to ensure surviving present: Puri

Bengaluru, Feb 07:

India, the world's third largest oil consumer, on Tuesday said it is committed to energy transition but surviving the present and cushioning the vulnerable from price volatilities is essential before moving to clean and green energy. India has committed to net zero carbon emission by 2070 and has repeatedly emphasised that 'dirty' fuels like oil and coal, on which the economy is two-thirds dependent, will have to continue to be in use in the foreseeable future.

An immediate shift from low-priced coal and oil to expensive fuels of the future such as hydrogen will entail huge costs in a nation with low per



capita income. "Unless we survive the present, we will not be able to go into the world of clean and green energy," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said at India Energy Week here. "While affordable traditional energy resources are essential for meeting the base load requirements, new sources of energy which are cleaner, sustainable, and inno-

vative, are critical for combating the menace of climate change." Geopolitical situations last year led to a spike in prices of crude oil - raw material for petrol and diesel, and rates of natural gas - which is used to make CNG, electricity and fertilizer - shot up to record high.

Countries in Europe switched back to coal-fired power plants as gas became unaffordable to many. "We have to make sure our transition entails surviving the present and cushioning vulnerable from volatility," he said, adding the transition has to be affordable and sustainable particularly for vulnerable sections. "We are actively conscious of the need to facilitate energy transition and in the in-

terim insulate consumers."

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and roughly half of its gas requirement too comes from overseas. And the spike in global energy prices meant it had to shell out more for imports. To insulate domestic consumers, it had to cut taxes as well as ask oil companies to hold prices. "Affordable energy is a vital ingredient to achieving inclusive economic growth and energy justice," he said adding economies worldwide, particularly the emerging economies, are facing the daunting task of safeguarding energy security, affordability and accessibility which has created the cost-of-living crisis.

K Satyanarayana Raju appointed new MD & CEO - Canara Bank



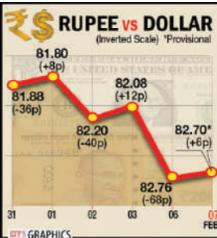
Raju Reddy, MD & CEO, Canara Bank

Raju is a Physics Graduate, Post Graduate in Business Administration (Banking and Finance) and CAIIB. He has joined erstwhile Vijaya Bank in 1988 and has risen to the level of Chief General Manager in Bank of Baroda. During his 33 years of long banking career he has headed various Branches for 12 years including Specialised Corporate Banking Branch. He was Regional head of Shimoga, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Mumbai. He was also Zonal Head of Mumbai Zone which is the Biggest Zone of the Bank. He has also headed Operations and Services Department at Head Office. He has a very rich and vast experience in all Segments of Banking including Branch Banking, Corporate Credit, Retail Credit, Agri Financing, Credit Monitoring, Credit Recovery, Compliance etc. Also his rich experience and exposure led to digital transformation of Banking products and services.

Bengaluru, Feb 07:

The Government on Feb 7 announced the appointment of K Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank. He has replaced LV Prabhakar who demitted office on 31 December 2022. The Government of India appointed K Satyanarayana Raju as MD and CEO with effect from 07.02.2023. K Satyanarayana Raju also served Canara Bank as Executive Director since 10th March 2021. K Satyanarayana

Rupee gains 6 paise to end at 82.70 against US dollar



Mumbai, Feb 07:

The rupee appreciated 6 paise to close at 82.70 against the US dollar on Tuesday, as a weak American currency against major rivals overseas boosted investor sentiments. However, muted domestic equities, unabated foreign capital outflows and rising crude prices restricted the rupee's rise, forex dealers said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 82.68 and touched an intra-day high of 82.62 and a low of 82.80 against the greenback. It finally settled at 82.70, up 6 paise over its previous close of 82.76.

BoM organizes All India Hindi Seminar

On 'Digital Banking and Languages'

New Delhi, Feb 07:

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) is a leading public sector bank of the country. An All India Hindi Seminar on 'Digital Banking and Languages' was organized by Bank for all the Banks, Financial Institutions and Insurance Companies across the country at Delhi. Anshuli Arya, IAS, Secretary, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was present as the chief guest in this seminar. A.S. Rajeev, Managing Director & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra presided over the function. K. Rajesh Kumar, General Manager, HRM and Rajbhasha, Head Office and Chitra Datar, General Manager and Zonal Head,

Coal import cannot be zero, its blending with domestic dry fuel helped plants maintain stock: Singh

New Delhi, Feb 07:



Coal imports cannot be reduced to zero as several thermal power projects in India are designed to utilise the imported dry fuel for its high calorific value and blending it with domestic coal is also needed to maintain fuel stocks, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"The power plants designed for utilizing high Gross Calorific Value (GCV) non-coking coal, and cement, sponge iron, aluminum customers are utilizing high-ranked low ash coal. The coal requirement for such category of consumers cannot be substituted by domestic coal. Thus, import of coal cannot be reduced to zero," Power Minister R K Singh said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Singh said thermal power plants have been importing coal for blending since 2009. During 2022-23 (till January 2023), Coal India Ltd despatched 485.99 million tonne (provisional) coal to the power sector as compared to 440.05 MT during the same period a year ago, registering a growth of about 10 per cent. However, he stated that with the rise in electricity demand, the increase in supply of coal to power

plants is not commensurate with the domestic coal requirement. The gap between daily coal consumption and daily arrival of domestic coal ranged from 2.65 lakh tonne to 0.5 lakh tonne between September 2022 and January 2023. If the imports for blending had not been made, coal stocks at thermal power plants would have been reduced to zero in September 2022, he pointed out. Therefore, he said, Ministry of Power advised central, state gencons and Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on January 9, 2023 to import coal through a transparent competitive procurement for blending so as to have sufficient coal stocks at their power plants for smooth operations till September 2023.

Jeeves strengthens its partnership with Samsung

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Flipkart's service arm, Jeeves, today announced the opening of authorised service centers for Samsung in multiple locations across the country. The operations of these service centers in Lucknow, Gurgaon, Moradabad, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Durg, and Raipur will be managed by Jeeves, that provides end-to-end after-sales service solutions to consumers and businesses. These service centers will offer after-sales support for all Samsung products irrespective of where it was purchased. The collaboration between Jeeves and Samsung has grown over the years. From two ASCs (Authorised Service Center) in Lucknow and Gurgaon, Jeeves now man-

ages seven ASCs that provide after-sales services for the installation and repair of Samsung products that are both under warranty and out of warranty. To ensure the customers get the best service all technicians in these service centers are trained by Samsung.

In addition to recently opened service centers, Jeeves also plans to open three more ASCs for Samsung in Ahmedabad and Surat in the coming month. Speaking about the opening of the service centers, Dr. Nipun Sharma, CEO at Jeeves, Flipkart Group, said, "With its extensive experience in servicing national and international brands, Jeeves is well equipped to provide a comprehensive after-sales service to Samsung's customers."

Skoda Auto India introduces innovative anytime warranty package

Mumbai, Feb 07:

After wrapping up 2022 as its Biggest Year in terms of sales, Skoda Auto India opens 2023 with its first introduction. Not a new car, but an all-new, revolutionary, customer initiative aimed at enhancing ownership experience and customer satisfaction. Called Anytime Warranty, it is a 1-year/20,000km warranty package that can be used to enhance any existing standard or extended warranties.

Petr Solc, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said, "We began 2023 by telling you the way forward for Skoda Auto India is not going to be just about newer cars, but several innovations that provide an unparalleled ownership and maintenance

experience for our customers. Anytime Warranty is one such offering, that delivers on our promise of customer satisfaction and hassle-free ownership experience, in our path towards Accelerating Growth." Skoda Auto India already leads the Indian automotive market with a 4-year/100,000 km standard warranty when the industry standard is about 3-years/75,000kms.

In addition, Skoda offered an option to extend the 4-year standard warranty to the 5th and 6th year/150,000 km under its Peace of Mind programme. The all-new Anytime Warranty is in addition to the existing standard and extended warranties and allows customers to have an addi-

tional warranty coverage of upto 8 years/150,000 km (whichever earlier). The Anytime Warranty is designed especially for the older generations of the Kodiah (TDI), Superb, Octavia, Yeti and the Rapid for a 1-year/20,000km period. Any Skoda within 7 years of age and/or mileage less than 130,000 km is eligible for the Anytime Warranty post inspection and certification.

And all of these warranties - be it the standard, extended or the Anytime Warranty - are transferrable to the next owner. Customers who have had their existing warranty expire can also purchase the Anytime Warranty subject to the car meeting inspection standards.

Reiki Healing to boost recovery of Cancer Patients

Mumbai, Feb 07:

World Cancer Day targets misinformation to raise awareness and reduces stigma. Multiple initiatives are run on World Cancer Day to show support for those affected by cancer. When it comes to cancer treatment, most people think of radiation and chemotherapy and while treating the physical causes of cancer is an obvious part of treatment, alternative treatments that address the spiritual, Mental and emotional needs of cancer patients have begun increasingly popular at cancer treatment centers and programs. The benefits of Reiki are most effective when they accompany traditional cancer treatments. Reiki, a Japanese Healing technique and its roots are connected with India, has become a concept of curiosity for cancer patients everywhere. Studies and anecdotal evidence have shown that, Reiki can be used to encourage healing and provide other benefits also. In fact, some studies have even explored the effect of Reiki on patients who are undergoing cancer treatment concurrently. These studies have found that, although Reiki is not a substitute for other cancer treatments, but it enhance these treatments and offer a number of benefits to patients as they deal with the symptoms and stresses of cancer. Ayush Gupta who is the world's youngest Reiki Healer, Renowned Celebrity Tarot Card Reader & Numerologist, Started an initiative with his team to do absolutely free REIKI HEALING for Cancer Patients who are actually in need and cannot afford Alternate Healing Therapies. He says that "as Reiki Helped healed most difficult situations of his life."

of its scrips ending in the red. The index touched a high of 17,811.15 and a low of 17,652.55 during the session. Profit-taking in the FMCG and auto majors was weighing on the sentiment while buying in select heavyweights in banking and financials capped the fall, analysts said.

Govt trims budget for MGNREGS as PMAY, Jal Jeevan get more funds, says CEA

New Delhi, Feb 07:

Higher allocation towards PM Aawas Yojana and Jal Jeevan Mission led to a decline in the budget for rural job scheme MGNREGS for the next fiscal, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said. "One of the reasons why allocation for MGNREGS was lowered is because there is a much larger substantive increase in allocation in particularly PMAY (rural) and Jal Jeevan Yojana. "... so the expectation is that the rural workers would be able to find jobs in these projects," he said at 5-Institute Budget Seminar 2023.

The allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme has been cut by almost one-third by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The rural job scheme has been allocated Rs 60,000 crore for 2023-24, almost 32 per cent lower

than revised estimates for the last fiscal. He further said, "If they (rural workers) don't get absorbed (in PMAY or Jal Jeevan Mission) then since MGNREGS is a demand-driven programme, we can accommodate them through higher allocation in MGNREGS."

Explaining further the thinking behind allocating fewer funds for MGNREGS, Nageswaran said is India's economic growth is expected to be around 10.5-11 per cent next fiscal year in nominal terms, that will also see some of the rural workers migrating back to urban areas and finding jobs.

NEW LAUNCH

Samsung India's Raju Pullan poses for photos during the launch of Galaxy S23 mobile, in Kolkata, Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Banks to face margin pressure next fiscal: Fitch

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Banks will face margin pressure next fiscal as they increase the deposit rates to attract funds to support sustained high loan growth, and the same will fall by 10 basis points to 3.45 per cent, a global rating agency said. "We expect the domestic banking sector's average net interest margin to slightly contract by about 10 bps (basis points) in FY24 to 3.45 per cent, following a 15 bps increase in FY23 to 3.55 per cent, in a base case scenario, but remain well above that during FY17-FY22 average of 3.1 per cent," Fitch Ratings said in a report.

Sensex, Nifty decline for 2nd day on selling in FMCG, steel stocks

Mumbai, Feb 07:

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for a second straight day on Tuesday due to selling in FMCG, metal and auto shares ahead of the RBI monetary policy. The 30-share BSE barometer declined further by 220.86 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 60,286.04, as 22 of its constituents ended in the red. The index opened flat amid mixed global trends. It moved in a range of 60,655.14 to 60,063.49 in the day. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange fell by 43.10 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 17,721.50, with 31



&TV's Doosri Maa completes 100 episodes!

It is celebration time for &TV's Doosri Maa as the show completes 100 episodes! Launched in September 2022, the show narrates the story of a woman living in Uttar Pradesh with her husband, two daughters, and in-laws whose happy, peaceful family life comes to a screeching halt when she and her husband unknowingly end up adopting his illegitimate child. In a short time, the show has become the audience's favourite family drama on television. The star cast of the show Neha Joshi (Yashoda), Aayudh Bhanushali (Krishna), and Mohit Dagga (Ashok), among others, shared their excitement about achieving the 100-episode milestone. Neha Joshi essaying Yashoda, shares, "I can't believe the show has already reached the 100-episode mark. My journey with Doosri Maa has been special. I was nervous and excited at



the same time when this opportunity came to me. I was getting married because I had to relocate to Jaipur the same week. But I decided to play Yashoda because of my husband's support and belief in the show director Imtiaz Punjabi. With this success, I feel I made

the right decision. Achieving this feat would not have been possible without my co-stars and the crew behind the show. They made everything run so well. The show has offered me many opportunities to experience a wide range of emotions as an actor. I

am glad we have gotten this far; the audience has shown us so much affection. This accomplishment inspires us to keep entertaining our viewers." Watch Doosri Maa at 8:00 pm, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV!

Vijay Deverakonda ties up with Parasuram for 'Geeta Govindam'

Down but not out: that seems to be the message that Vijay Devarakonda is sending out after his failure to click in the box office with 'Liger'. He has just announced his next project with Parasuram, who previously helmed 'Geeta Govindam' which saw Vijay cast with Rashmika. "We are getting back together" shared Vijay Deverakonda while announcing his next with 'Geeta Govindam' director. The 2018 Telugu movie is among Vijay's biggest hits and firmly out him in the top bracket.



The movie is being bankrolled by ace producer 'Dil' Raju's Sri Venkateswara Creations who tweeted: "Very happy to announce that we are collaborating with block-

buster combination of Vijay Devarakonda and Parasuram." Vijay Devarakonda's last theatrical outing 'Liger' a pan-India movie directed by Puri Jagannath, was a box office disaster. The debacle was a big blow for the Tollywood actor who had captured the imagination of youngsters across the country. The announcement of his next movie with Parasuram indicates that Vijay is getting back to the drawing board to redefine his career path with movies that are story-oriented.

Wagle Ki Duniya to see senior Wagle Radhika's life in danger



Only SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey is a slice-of-life family drama that tackles the daily struggles of a middle-class man with sensitivity. The show is thought provoking and heart-warming at the same time as it brings to light societal issues faced by the common man. Wagle Ki Duniya's next few episodes focus on Rajesh Wagle's (Sumeet Raghavan) personal and professional turmoil as Radhika Wagle (Bharti Achrekar) faces a medical challenge while challenges

crop up on the professional front. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness Radhika Wagle having a heart-attack and the whole family struggling to cope in this tense situation. They will also follow Rajesh undergoing a stressful situation as a mysterious person tries to oust him from his company. With Manoj's (Vipul Deshpande) entry creating chaos for the Wagle family, this new turn in events is sure to make the lives of the Wagle's more tense and challenging.

Kangana goes after those spying on her, tells 'ghar mein ghus ke maarungi'



After hitting out at a 'well-known' actor for spying on her, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut, on Monday again took to her social media to send a public warning to the actor while she also shared that there has been no spying since she put up her last post. Taking to the story section of her Instagram, Kangana wrote a note, telling her followers that the incessant spying around by the paparazzi has stopped. She wrote: "All those who worry about me please know that since last night there are no suspicious activi-

ties around me, no one is following me, with or without cameras." She then pointed the gun again at the said actor, as she wrote: "Dekho jo bhoot baton se mante hain woh toh sirf laton se he mante hain (there's no point in having a conversation with those who understand only through muscle). Message to gang changu mangu: bachchon tumhara kisi dehati se pala nahi pada sudhar jao nahi toh ...ghar mein ghos ke marungi (You guys haven't dealt with a village blood, mend your ways or you are going to have it from me)." ties around me, no one is following me, with or without cameras."

Rakul Preet, Jackky to walk the ramp for Lakshmi Manchu's Teach for Change



Tollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh and film producer Jackky Bhagnani will headline a fashion show-cum-fundraiser for actor-producer Lakshmi Manchu's NGO, Teach for Change, which is working in the space of quality education for children from disadvantaged communities.

The annual show will be held in Hyderabad on February 19. It promises to have a robust lineup of film stars from Bollywood and the South as well as sportspersons. Funds raised from the show will be utilised for Teach for Change's campaigns throughout the year.

The stars will sashay down the ramp in designer Varun Chakkilam's outfits, a collection especially designed for the show.

Started in 2014 by Lakshmi Manchu and Chaitanya MRSK, Teach for Change has created various winning modules, ranging from a flagship volunteer programme to creating an ICT infrastructure and smart classrooms in government schools.

The organisation has so far worked with 432 government schools, transforming the lives of 42,608 students across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Speaking on the occasion, Lakshmi Manchu said: "This fundraiser is a platform that can help bridge their basic educational needs with our willingness to support their cause. I am so grateful to all my industry friends, family and colleagues who have time and again supported this cause for Teach for Change and have come together to support and celebrate."

Designer Varun Chakkilam said: "Lakshmi is a powerhouse of energy and anything she touches is always the real deal. The show is just one evening but has a ripple effect round the year. It is really humbling to be a part of something that is larger than all of us."

Thalapathy-Lokesh movie 'Leo' earns Rs 246 crore even before release

The next movie of Tamil superstar, Thalapathy Vijay, 'Leo', according to reports, has collected Rs 246 crore from digital rights, satellite, and music rights.

The movie directed by Tamil's super director Lokesh Kanagaraj (previously in the news for 'Vikram') has collected a huge amount immediately after the announcement promo of the movie is done. Kanagaraj's previous movie 'Vikram' featuring Kamal Haasan shattered collection records and, the industry buzz suggests, the movie 'Leo', in which he is uniting with Thalapathy Vijay, seems headed in the same direction. According to Tracktollywood.com, the movie has been made



at a cost of around Rs 250 crore and that it has already collected a staggering Rs 246 crore. The digital rights of the movie fetched it Rs 150 crore while its satellite rights gave Rs 80 crore and the music rights led to a collection of Rs 16 crore. The movie has Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt as the anti-hero and hence a huge money has come from Hindi dubbing rights.

Amrita's world comes crashing down with this big revelation

Only SAB's family drama Dil Diyaan Gallaan brings to focus the story of a family distanced by physical and emotional differences. The show brings to light how misunderstanding, miscommunication and unspoken words lead to differences between three generations. In the upcoming episodes, the viewers will witness an emotional and vulnerable side of Amrita (Kaveri Priyam). She feels devastated when she discovers the true identity of Veer (Paras Arora) as she has always treated him to be one of her closest confidants and being betrayed by him came as a great shocker.



Amrita finally comes to know that Veer is Dr Durgarpal and he has also rejected her thesis. However, little does she know that Veer's intention wasn't to hide his real identity, however, the circumstances made him

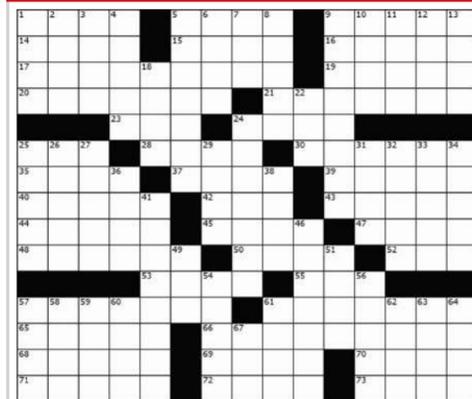
take such a tough decision. The show is heading towards an interesting phase where Veer and Amrita's lives are going to change forever due to Riya (Hema Sood)'s actions. Riya's love and admiration for Veer is not unknown and she ends up damaging Amrita and Veer's budding relationship.

What will be Amrita's reaction to Veer's betrayal? Will she forgive him or does destiny have some other plans for both of them? Kaveri Priyam, who portrays the character of Amrita, said, "The upcoming episodes on the show are very emotionally challenging for my character Amrita, and it's been a

roller coaster ride shooting for these sequences. Amrita's life has taken an entire turn after she came to India and there has been no looking back. From finding out about her real grandparents to coming face to face with Veer's truth, Amrita's life has taken unexpected twists and turns. In the short span she has uncovered and come face to face with many life changing events. I believe the upcoming episodes will show the audience a never seen before side of Amrita and it will be great to see how she finally copes with Veer's truth and deals with the new challenges coming her way."

CROSSWORD

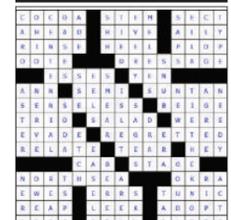
555



- ACROSS**
1. Remote
 5. Singer _____ Clapton
 9. Remove soap
 14. Festive event
 15. Deep affection
 16. Lagoon's boundary
 17. Very skinny
 19. Satan
 20. Abandon
 21. Make lively
 23. Go downhill
 24. Vicinity
 25. _____ Vegas
 28. Ilk
 30. Marked down in price (2 wds.)
 35. Get _____ trouble
 37. Musical sound
 39. Hot chocolate
 40. Postage mark
 42. _____ diem
 43. Revises copy
 44. Golfer _____ Woods
 45. Radiate

- DOWN**
47. Initial stake
 48. Panoramas
 50. Summit
 52. "In _____ We Trust"
 53. Count calories
 55. Harden
 57. Eyelash makeup
 61. Georgia's capital
 65. Broad tie
 66. Party after a wedding
 68. Musical instrument
 69. Tibetan priest
 70. Frozen
 71. Cavalry sword
 72. Flower support
 73. Loch _____ monster
 29. Thick cord
 31. Fizzy beverage
 32. Serving perfectly
 33. Game of chance
 34. Soothed
 36. Harbinger
 38. A great lake
 41. "Alien Vs. _____"
 46. Wrestling duo (2 wds.)
 49. Respectful title
 51. Seaweed
 54. English nobleman
 56. Caesar's language
 57. Atlas entries
 58. The Orient
 59. Strike-breaker
 60. Traffic barrier
 61. Peak
 62. Kind
 63. Little piggies
 64. Ampersands
 67. Break a fast

SOLUTION 554



Can Australia end India's home domination?

Nagpur, Feb 07:

Australia's blockbuster four-Test series against India will be the greatest challenge Pat Cummins has faced in his young captaincy as he looks to conquer the "final frontier" in his country's proud cricketing battles. India hold the Border-Gavaskar Trophy having won the last three Tests series between the teams, including their breakthrough triumph Down Under in 2018-19 and another on the road in 2020-2021. They have been even more imposing at home, where they have lost only two out of 42 Tests over the best part of a decade and are on a winning streak of 15 successive series wins. Cummins has gone on the record as saying that a series win in India, which Australia have achieved only four times and most recently in 2004-05, is on a par with the benchmark of Australian cricketing success - an Ashes triumph.

A triumph in India, which former captain Steve Waugh once called Australian cricket's "Final Frontier", would go a long way in bolstering Cummins' leadership credentials.

Also at stake in the four-match series, which begins in Nagpur on Thursday, are spots in the second World Test Championship title-decider in June.

The two teams could



Indian batsman Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan during a practice session.

face off again in the WTC final at The Oval and sit atop the standings with Australia only needing to avoid a 4-0 whitewash to book their spot. The tourists will be without some key names for the first test at least, however. Seasoned fast bowler Josh Hazlewood will miss the

Nagpur match with an Achilles issue, while finger injuries have ruled left-arm quick Mitchell Starc out of the opener and made all-rounder Cameron Green a doubtful starter.

India are not without injury woes with wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant missing the series

INDIA

World ranking: 2
Captain: Rohit Sharma
Coach: Rahul Dravid
Top-ranked batsman: Rohit Sharma (10)
Top-ranked bowler: Ravichandran Ashwin (4)
India squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K S Bharat (w/k), Ishan Kishan (w/k), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Suryakumar Yadav.

AUSTRALIA

World ranking: 1
Captain: Pat Cummins
Coach: Andrew McDonald
Top-ranked batsman: Marnus Labuschagne (1)
Top-ranked bowler: Pat Cummins (1)
Australia squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey (w/k), Cameron Green, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner.



HEAD-TO-HEAD
 Test series: 27
 India wins: 10
 Australia wins: 12
 Draws: 5



LAST THREE SERIES
 2020-21: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in Australia
 2018-19: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in Australia
 2016-17: India beat Australia 2-1 in four-Test series in India

after a car crash in December and paceman Jasprit Bumrah ruled out of the first two Tests due to a back injury.

Ravindra Jadeja is returning from an ankle injury to add to Rohit Sharma's headaches, although the India skipper still has plenty of spin options in his squad for what could be a turning wicket in the opener. With spin

talk dominating the build-up to the series, which also includes Tests in New Delhi, Dharamsala and Ahmedabad, the touring side left no stone unturned by practising on a scuffed up surface in Sydney before flying to India. Having decided against playing "irrelevant" warm-up matches, they gathered a bunch of local spinners for their net sessions in Alur



Australian captain Pat Cummins (L) with teammate Lance Morris during a practice session.

and hired a bowler with a delivery similar to India's Ravichandran Ashwin.

"Hopefully we get really good training facilities where the ball is likely to do what it's likely to do in the middle and we can get our practice in," former Australia skipper Steve Smith said last week.

"We're better off having our own nets and getting spinners in and bowling as much as they can." Australia have kept their own bowling options open by including four spinners and six pace bowlers in their squad.

Former Australia pace-man Ryan Harris said that

Schedule

First Test: February 9-13, Nagpur
Second Test: February 17-21, New Delhi
Third Test: March 1-5, Dharamsala
Fourth Test: March 9-13, Ahmedabad
 Play begins at 9.30am IST.

Where to watch
 Australia's tour of India will be broadcast live on Star Sports channels, it will also be streamed live on Disney Hotstar app.

they would need to be competitive in every session of every match to snatch a series victory. "Having the confidence they have and the form they're in, it can definitely help them. But it can change pretty quickly over there," he said on Tuesday. "They're not going to leave much grass on the pitches for our quicks, no doubt about that."

India's chances of making the World Test Championship final hinge on avoiding a series defeat and they will hope that New Zealand can help them out by beating third-placed Sri Lanka in their two-Test series in March.

A 3-0 triumph against Australia would be enough for Rohit's side to go through if Sri Lanka beat the Black Caps.

There's temptation to play three spinners: KL Rahul

Nagpur, Feb 07 (PTI):

India's Test vice-captain KL Rahul feels it's never easy to predict the nature of a track but there is a "temptation" to play three spinners in the first Test against Australia, beginning here on Thursday.

With less than 48 hours left for the Border Gavaskar Trophy to begin, Rahul didn't provide any definitive answers about three key slots in the team - the wicketkeeper, the third spinner and the number five in the batting order.

Asked if Shubman Gill will bat in the middle-order, Rahul said: "We still haven't decided on the final XI. It's going to be a tough decision to make. There are guys who have performed exceedingly well and there are a few spots open so there are a few discussions going on and the players are being spoken to."

"The VCA track is expected to assist spinners from day one itself but Rahul doesn't want to be a sooth-sayer when it comes to reading the 22-yard strip.

"Yes, we did see it (the



Indian batters K L Rahul and Cheteshwar Pujara with batting coach Vikram Rathour during a practice session.

pitch), but it's still too early to really know what the pitch is going to do. We need to come here on the day of the match to know how it's really going to play," he told reporters.

"We can only look at it and assume it's going to

play a certain way, but you never know with pitches. Yes, there is the temptation to play three spinners because we're playing in India. We'll take that call on the day of the game or the day before the game," the stylish right-hander said.

With skipper Rohit Sharma back in the mix, Rahul was asked if he would like to bat in the middle-order where he had started his Test career back in 2014.

"If it arises, then I'm more than happy to do that. Whatever little cricket I've played for the country, I've always done that.

"Whatever the team has asked me to do, I try and prepare that way and try and do my best for the team, and if that is something that the team wants me to do here, I'll be more than happy to do it," Rahul said, although it is unlikely that he would come down the order. So does he find it unique that there is no straightforward choice for picking the playing eleven this time around?

"I don't know if it has happened before but, yes, this time is going to be tough. Tough decision to select an eleven. All the 15 guys in the side are top quality, and that's why they're here. Anyone of them on any given day can be a match winner.

"The playing XI, we always try and make a decision based on what's best

for the team and for that particular Test match. We have done that over the last two years," that was his response to a PTI query.

Rahul didn't forget to remind the media that he is still pretty sour about the backlash that he got for dropping Kuldeep Yadav for the second Test against Bangladesh after his match-winning performance in the series opener.

"There have been questions about why a certain player has played even in Bangladesh, I remember, Kuldeep (Yadav) got the man of the match and did not play the next Test.

"Obviously, the only reason, or the only thinking, behind such decisions is which player fits the role for that particular condition. "You said, I have played for 10 years, but even if I have played for 20-30 years, and even after retirement, there is nobody who can look at the pitch and say accurately that this is how it is going to play." "It's really based on some experience and a little bit of history of that place. Even in this series, that's something we will continue to do," he said.

India U-17 women's team routs hosts Jordan 7-0 in friendly match

Zarqa (Jordan), Feb 07 (PTI):

Shilji Shaji scored four goals in the Indian U-17 women's team's 7-0 thrashing of Jordan in a friendly match here on Monday.

Shilji struck in the second, 37th, 74th and 76th minutes while Manisha Kumari (13th), Pooja (18th) and Sanjana (90+1) were the other goal-scorers at the Prince Mohammed Stadium. The Young Tigresses are preparing for the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup, which is set to take place next year. This was the first international match the newly-assembled squad played after they set camp in Chennai last month. It took Shilji all of two minutes to open the scoring for India, before Manisha Kumari doubled the lead in the 13th minute, as she nodded a corner from captain Heena Khatun. Five minutes later, Pooja produced a glorious volley that went in at the far post, after Arya Anilkumar sent in the cross. Pooja turned provider in the 37th minute when her shot from the right was saved by the opposition keeper. However, she got on the rebound and sent it in for Shilji to score her second.

Aaron Finch retires from international cricket

Melbourne, Feb 07 (PTI):

Australia's most successful T20 International batter and captain Aaron Finch, who led the country to its maiden shortest format World Cup triumph in 2021, announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old will, however, continue to play for the Renegades in the Big Bash League and would consider domestic T20 opportunities in other countries. "Our World Cup winning, longest serving men's T20I captain has called time on a remarkable career. Thanks for everything @AaronFinch5." Cricket Australia (CA) said on its official Twitter handle.

Finch's retirement from international cricket was on expected lines. He played just five Tests, the last one being in 2018, and retired from the ODIs last year after a much-publicised struggle for form as captain of the Australian team. He captained the team to their first T20 World Cup title when they defeated New Zealand in Dubai in 2021



and is one of only four male Australians to captain a World Cup winning side.

But, the Australian team under him failed to qualify for the semifinals T20 World Cup at home last year. His last international match came in the T20 showpiece when he top-scored with 63 as Australia beat Ireland by 42 runs.

"Realising that I won't be playing on until the next T20 World Cup in 2024, now is the right moment to step down and give the team time to plan and build towards that event," Finch told reporters at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"I also want to say a huge thank you to all the fans who have supported me throughout my international career."

Siraj, Shubman nominated for ICC Player of the Month Award

Dubai, Feb 07 (PTI):

India pacer Mohammed Siraj and opener Shubman Gill were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month Award for their stellar show in January.

New Zealand opener Devon Conway, who has had a fine start to the year with three hundreds and two fifties across formats, is the third contender for the award.

Following a fruitful 2022, Gill displayed his batting prowess in both the white-ball formats last month while Siraj led India's fast-bowling attack with distinction in ODIs in recent times, showcasing his brilliance consistently, especially with the new ball in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah.

Gill was handed his



maiden T20I cap in the first match against Sri Lanka in Mumbai, where he managed just seven, before another single-digit score in the second game. He made a steady 46 in the

third T20I in Rajkot. Gill then registered scores of 70, 21 and 116 in the three ODIs against the island nation, but it was his breathtaking display in the first ODI against New Zealand in Hyderabad that stole the show.

The 23-year-old struck 208 off 149 balls in an incredible knock on a day when none of his teammates crossed 28.

Gill got to 200 with three consecutive sixes off Lockie Ferguson, and with it, became the youngest player to the milestone in ODIs. He backed that up with scores of 40 not out and 112 in his next two outings to close out the series with an aggregate of 360, the joint-highest for anyone in a three-match ODI series, equalling Babar Azam's record against the West Indies in 2016-17.

Sania-Bethanie crash out in first round of Abu Dhabi Open

Abu Dhabi, Feb 07 (PTI):



Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her American partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands suffered a straight-set defeat against the pair of Kirsten Flipkens and Laura Siegemund in the first round of the Abu Dhabi Open here.

The Sania-Bethanie duo lost 3-6 4-6 to their Belgian-German opponents in the match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes Monday night to make an early exit from the tournament.

Sania, a six-time Grand Slam winner, is set to retire from professional tennis after playing in the Dubai Tennis Championships beginning February 19.

Last month, Sania and Rohan Bopanna had finished runners-up in the mixed doubles in the Australian Open in Melbourne as they lost to Brazilians Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos in the final. That match was the last time Sania featured in a Grand Slam.

WPL auction: 409 players to go under the hammer

Mumbai, Feb 07:

A total of 409 players from 15 countries will go under the hammer at the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on February 13 in Mumbai. The BCCI said it had received a whopping 1525 registrations, out of which 246 Indians and 163 overseas players made the final list.

As many as 24 players - 14 overseas and 10 Indians - have listed themselves at the highest base price of INR 50 lakh (USD 60,400 approx.), including Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Alyssa Healy, Ellyse Perry, Sophie Ecclestone, Sophie Devine and Deandra Dottin. All of the victorious India Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup squad have registered for the auction. Apart from India, the final list includes players from Australia, England, New

Players with INR 50 lakh base price

India - Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Renuka Singh, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Pooja Vastrakar, Richa Ghosh, Sneha Rana, Meghna Singh
Australia - Ashleigh Gardner, Ellyse Perry, Meg Lanning, Alyssa Healy, Jess Jonassen, Darcie Brown
England - Sophie Ecclestone, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danni Wyatt, Katherine Sciver-Brunt
New Zealand - Sophie Devine
South Africa - Sinalo Jaftha
West Indies - Deandra Dottin
Zimbabwe - Lorny Phiri

Zealand, South Africa, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ireland, Zimbabwe, and also eight Associate players from UAE, Hong Kong, Thailand, Netherlands and USA. The five franchises will have a purse of INR 12 crore (USD 14.6 million approx.) each to spend on forming their teams. With each squad comprising between 15 and 18 players, a maximum of 90 players can be bought at the auction which starts at 2.30 pm IST. Each

squad can contain up to six overseas players. On January 25, the BCCI had unveiled the owners of Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore, and the Adani Group and Capri global as the five successful bidders for teams in the WPL. The inaugural season of the WPL will be played from March 4 to 26, with all 22 matches held at the Brabourne Stadium and the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai.

SC dismisses plea to restrain Gowri from taking oath

■ As HC judge

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking to restrain lawyer Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri from taking oath as an additional judge of the Madras High Court, saying a "consultative process" had taken place before her name was recommended by the collegium for the appointment. The apex court said Gowri has been appointed as an additional judge and if she is not true to the oath or does not discharge her duties in accordance with the oath, the collegium is entitled to take a view of that, while pointing out that there have been instances where peo-



ple have not been made permanent judges. Minutes before the top court dismissed two pleas against Gowri's appointment, she was administered the oath of office as an additional judge by Madras High Court's Acting Chief Justice T. Ravindra Kumar at around 10:48 am. "We are not entertaining the writ petition. Reasons will follow," said a special bench of Justices

Sanjiv Khanna and B R Gavai, which assembled at 10:25 am to hear the plea, five minutes before the scheduled time of the court. The two pleas, including one moved by three Madras High Court lawyers, opposed Gowri's appointment as an additional judge. The bench told senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, who appeared in the matter for the petitioners, that there

'Will realise the dreams of Constitution makers'

Gowri, in her address, after being sworn in as additional judge by Acting Chief Justice, T Raja asserted that she would dispense justice in realising the dreams of the makers of the Constitution. She was administered the oath of office at around 10:45 AM while the top court was hearing arguments on why Gowri should not be elevated. While the Supreme Court refused to entertain the plea seeking to restrain Gowri from taking oath as additional judge, sources close to the petitioners said that the apex court's ruling signalled the end of the matter and there appeared to be no scope to take the legal fight forward.

have been cases where people with political backgrounds have taken oath as judges of the Supreme Court and high courts.

"Mr Ramachandran, there have been cases where people with political backgrounds have taken oath over here also, as judges of the Supreme Court and high courts," it said. "You have placed certain utterances of 2018 etc. on record. We have seen it. The fact of the matter is,

all these must have been placed before the collegium," the bench observed. It said when the collegium takes a decision, it also takes the opinion of the consultee judges, who are from that particular high court, and the petitioners cannot assume that those judges were not aware of all these things.

"In any case, the candidate is being appointed as an additional judge. If the candidate is not true to the

oath and if it is found that he or she has not discharged duties as per the oath, is the collegium not entitled to take a view of that? And there have been instances where people have not been confirmed," the bench said during the hearing that went on for about 25 minutes. The bench told Ramachandran that there is a difference between eligibility and suitability. It said as far as suitability or merits are concerned, normally, even according to apex court judgments, courts should not go ahead, otherwise the whole process of appointment will become "unworkable". Ramachandran referred to Article 217 of the Constitution, which deals with the appointment and conditions of the office of a high court judge.

'Telangana saw over 10,000 cases of cyber crime in 2021'

Hyderabad, Feb. 07 (PTI): Cyber crimes in Telangana have doubled to 10,303 cases in 2021 from 5,025 cases in 2020 with Cyberabad topping the chart with 4,412 felonies, according to a report. Revealing data, the Telangana Socio Economic Outlook 2023 said, "As many as 10,303 cases of cyber crime were registered in 2021 as against 5,025 cases in 2020, an increase of 105.03 per cent. The highest number of cases were reported from the police commissionerates of Cyberabad (4,412) followed by Hyderabad (3,303) and Rachakonda (1,548), it said. Cyber crime is a rapidly evolving transnational crime committed across borders and affects individuals and societies globally, said the report. It said the

Telangana government is trying to use technical assistance in capacity-building, prevention, creating awareness, increasing cooperation, collecting data, researching and analysing cybercrime, the report said. The Telangana Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (T4C) was set up in 2021 to provide round-the-clock assistance to victims of cyber fraud. The T4C has a 24x7 call centre that helps coordinate with district police in the registration, investigation and detection of cyber crime, it said. T4C has successfully prevented almost Rs 30 crore of public money from reaching the hands of cyber fraudsters. The State has also created Telangana Cyber Security Policy 2016 to address cyber security issues.

'Glamour of conflict' attracts youth to armed movements: Singh

Amingaon (Assam), Feb 07 (PTI): 'Glamour of conflict' attracts the youth to armed movements, which is also fuelled by various other socio-economic factors like 'widespread unemployment', Union Minister VK Singh said here on Tuesday.

Force against conflict can be used for a positive outcome but the whole process of reconciliation involves several steps like equal opportunity and transparent process, Singh, a former Army chief said. Speaking in the same vein on youth caught in conflicts, Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya stressed on the need to include the voice of the youth while discussing peace as this section of the populace is 'disproportionately affected' in times of conflict.



VK Singh

tion's strength," Singh said. Social economic conditions create haves and have-nots. Dissatisfaction in minds lead to conflicts, he added.

Dissidence leads to conflicts and 'widespread unemployment' widens the conflict, with various factors like 'external support' and 'internal political conflicts' fuelling it further, he said. The perpetrators of conflicts create a fear psychosis so that people are made to join them even if they were not willing themselves, he claimed.

"Glamour of conflict unfortunately attracts the youth. Youth is the most impressionable age and they will matter how a nation is run in the future," the Union MoS for Road Transport and Civil Aviation said.

They were speaking at a panel discussion on 'Peace Building and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War' at the Youth 20 inception meeting here. "Diversity of a nation contributes to differing perceptions. It can create disharmony if not managed properly, otherwise it becomes the na-

9-year-old girl suffers seizures after application of 'mehndi' on hand

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI): Doctors at a leading private hospital here on Tuesday said they have reported an "unusual" case of a nine-year-old girl who suffered epileptic seizures triggered by the smell of "mehndi" applied on her hand. The case study has been published in the January 2023 edition of the Clinical Neurophysiology, the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital said in a statement.

The department of neurology at the hospital recently reported "an unusual case" of a nine-year-old girl who was suffering epileptic seizures after application of "mehndi", it said. When she had suffered her first convulsion after application of "mehndi", she had "abrupt loss of consciousness, leading to fall and convulsions for 20 seconds", doctors at the hospital said.



An artist gives final touches to a painting as a tribute to victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, in Mumbai, Tuesday.

'India can be superpower in defence manufacturing'

Pune, Feb 07 (PTI):

Lauding the private sector contribution in defence manufacturing, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday said India has the potential to emerge as a superpower in making military equipment and has displayed wherewithal to develop big and complex platforms. Referring to the inauguration of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's new helicopter factory — India's largest chopper manufacturing unit — in Tumakuru district of Karnataka on Monday, General Chauhan said post-independence, it was the country's dream to become self-reliant in defence manufacturing.

He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSMEs) Defence Expo 2023, organised by NIBE Defence and Aerospace Ltd in Chakan on Pune city fringes.

"When we imagine a powerful India, our major focus goes towards the Armed Forces and we feel proud about their achievements. According to me, a big defence ecosystem is standing behind the Armed Forces, which is making the country powerful and this defence ecosystem works in tandem with the Armed Forces," General Chauhan said. The people in this ecosystem do not wear uniforms and do not come under the Army, Navy or Air Force Acts, but they have a strong desire to do something for the nation and they are always inspired by that desire, said the CDS. "I feel that to make the country more



CDS General Chauhan

powerful, the silent majority has a big role to play and we should recognise this contribution. Which is why I have come here to give recognition to this silent majority and say that all you people are with us in the process of making the country pow-

erful," General Chauhan said. Post-independence, it was the country's dream to become self-reliant and independent in the defence sector, and ordnance factories and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) have played a major role in realising that goal, he said.

Sometime ago, the defence sector was thrown open to private players and emphasis was given to the Make-in-India initiative (aimed at country becoming a manufacturing powerhouse), he said.

"I firmly believe these two attempts of the government will unleash the power of the youth and entrepreneurs of India. NIBE Defence is a fine example of this entrepreneurship," General Chauhan said. Considering the contribution of the private sector; it

can be seen that India can emerge as a superpower in defence manufacturing, he said. The CDS further said there was a need for a "whole-of-nation approach, instead of the whole-of-government approach", in the field of defence manufacturing. For that, all stakeholders like Armed Forces, DPSUs, DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), private industries, MSMEs and individual innovators have worked together, he said.

"Until now, there was a mindset that India cannot develop big and complex platforms. However yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the HAL helicopter factory in Karnataka's Tumakuru. This will encourage tier-2 and tier-3 industries and generate employment," he said.

NCERT gets ETS on board for establishing first national assessment regulator

New Delhi, Feb 07 (PTI):

The NCERT has partnered with the Educational Testing Service (ETS) which conducts TOEFL and GRE tests, for setting up India's first national assessment regulator - PARAKH.

The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) notified "PARAKH" last month. The Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) will work on setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards in the country. The regulator will set up assessment guidelines for all boards to help remove dis-

parities in scores of students enrolled with different state boards, a reform outlined in the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. "NCERT on behalf of Ministry of Education, is in the process of setting up PARAKH, as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is delighted to have ETS as the technical partner in this endeavour," said Indrani Bhaduri, Professor and Head of the Educational Survey Division, NCERT.

"Their understanding of global best practices in curriculum and assessment will be a great asset in standardising these aspects across the various school boards in the country thereby paving the path towards quality,

consistency and uniformity in the teaching-learning and assessment practices. "We at NCERT are enthused to partner with ETS and deploy their considerable expertise in educational research in learning assessments and intend to capitalise the same for the betterment of all aspects of school education, benefiting the learners, teachers and educational delivery system in this country," she said.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE



Bulldozer being used to demolish illegal structures during an anti-encroachment drive in Dehradun, Tuesday.

Keen tussle on cards as AIADMK files papers

Chennai, Feb 07 (PTI): The opposition AIADMK candidate K S Thennarasu filed his nomination papers for the Erode East Assembly bypoll on the last day for filing of nominations on Tuesday after the O Panneerselvam faction opted out of the race.

The former legislator's entry into poll fray is likely to make the contest a keen tussle between the AIADMK and former Union Minister E V K S Elangovan (Congress), though Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) and Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) candidates, too, have submitted their papers, signifying their preparedness to lock horns with the DMK-backed Congress candidate. About 75 candidates have filed the papers seeking to contest the February

ERODE BYPOLL

27 byelection. They will be taken up for scrutiny on Wednesday. The last day for withdrawal of nominations is February 10. Former Chief Minister Panneerselvam's announcement to withdraw his nominee Senthil Murugan to prevent the Election Commission from freezing the party's Two Leaves symbol and to ensure the party's victory at the hustings, had strengthened the hands of another former Chief Minister K Palaniswami, who is the interim general secretary of the party. Presidium Chairman Tamilagan Hussain, who belongs to the Palaniswami faction, rushed to the national capital on Monday to convince the ECI on the collective decision of the general council in selecting a candidate and to retain the party sym-

bol. The ECI authorised Hussain to sign the forms meant to nominate the official candidate. Following this, the former lawmaker filed the nomination before the returning officer and Corporation Commissioner K Sivakumar in Erode today.



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