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BRIEF



Veteran actor Dharmendra celebrates his birthday, in Mumbai, Friday.

Bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to liquor giant Pernod Ricard's executive Benoy Babu in a money laundering case arising out of the Delhi excise policy scam. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti noted that the accused has been in custody for more than 13 months and the trial against him has still not commenced in the case.

No proposal

New Delhi: The Railways Ministry has no plans to constitute any committee to decide train fares in the country, Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday. Based on inputs received from various channels, passenger fare rationalisation is an ongoing and continuous process, he said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha. "At present, no proposal to form a tariff committee for fixing railway fare is under consideration," the railway minister said in response to a question from DMK MP P Wilson.

Shoot out

Jamshedpur: One person was killed and a police constable sustained a bullet wound when three men on a motorcycle fired at them here on Friday, police said. Three motorcycle-borne men fired at one person identified as Sajjad in between Road No. 15/16 and tried to flee when they were intercepted by a mobile police team, a senior officer said.

Shortage

New Delhi: The Indian Navy is reeling under a shortage of 10,896 personnel including 1,777 officers, according to details provided by the defence ministry in Parliament on Friday. Responding to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt also said 9,119 posts of sailors are lying vacant in the Navy as on October 31.

Weather

High 25 Low 17

MARKET

NIFTY 20,969.40

SENSEX 69,825.60

BULLION

GOLD 62,070

SILVER 73,620

Rajnath, Munda, Sonowal, Khattar are BJP observers

Lal Khattar and Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda as central observers for the election of its legislature party leaders in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively. The legislature party leaders will become chief ministers of the three states and the meetings to elect them may take place over the weekend. There is a view within the party that its leadership may usher in fresh faces at the helm of these states.

BJP observers for Chhattisgarh....

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP general secretary Dushwant Kumar Gautam will be central observers for Chhattisgarh along with Munda. Two of three observers for Chhattisgarh are from tribal communities while Gautam comes from the Scheduled Castes.

Singh will be joined by the party's vice president Saroj Pandey and its general secretary Vinod Tawde as central observers for Rajasthan amid an intense buzz within the BJP that the leadership will bring in a new leader, ignoring the

of whom are seen as supporting Raj. Khattar will be joined by the party's OBC Morcha head K Laxman and its secretary Asha Lakra for the Madhya Pradesh legislature party meeting, while Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and BJP general secretary Dushwant Kumar Gautam will be central observers for Chhattisgarh along with Munda. In Madhya Pradesh where the BJP scored its biggest victory among the three states with a two-thirds majority.

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LS expels Mahua Moitra

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI): Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra was expelled on Friday from the Lok Sabha after the House adopted the report of its Ethics Committee that held her guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest. After a heated debate over the panel report during which Moitra was not allowed to speak, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a motion to expel the Trinamool member for "unethical conduct", which was adopted by a voice vote.



'Hanged by a kangaroo court'

TMC leader Mahua Moitra on Friday equated her expulsion from the Lok Sabha with hanging by a "kangaroo court" and alleged a parliamentary panel is being weaponised by the government to force the opposition into submission. Minutes after her expulsion as a Lok Sabha member, Moitra said she has been found guilty of breaching a code of ethics that does not exist and that there was no evidence of cash or gift given to her.

Moitra's "conduct has further been found to be unbecoming as a member of parliament for accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest which is a serious misdemeanour and highly deplorable conduct" on her part. Joshi urged the House to accept the recommendation and finding of the committee and "resolve that continuance of Mahua Moitra as member of Lok Sabha is untenable and she may be expelled from the membership of the Lok Sabha".

Trinamool Congress and other opposition members demanded that Moitra be allowed to put her views in the House, which was turned down by Speaker Om Birla citing past precedence. Birla observed that in 2005, the then Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had in a directive disallowed 10 Lok Sabha members, who were involved in a 'cash for questions' scam, to speak in the House. Joshi said in 2005 the then Leader of the House Pranab Mukherjee had moved a motion to expel 10 members on the same day the report was introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Covid vax didn't increase sudden death risk: Govt

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI): A study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has observed that COVID-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death among young adults in India, the government informed Parliament on Friday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said post hospitalisation due to COVID-19, the family history of sudden death and certain lifestyle behaviours increased the likelihood of unexplained sudden deaths. The minister was responding to a question on whether there has been any reported instance of a linkage between Covid vaccination and incidents of heart attacks in the country. Sudden deaths have been reported in some people after they contracted Covid, but sufficient evidence is not available to confirm the cause of such deaths, Mandaviya said. To ascertain the facts regarding the apprehension of a rising number of cardiac arrest cases after Covid, the ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) conducted a study titled "Factors associated with unexplained sudden deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India -- A multicentric matched case-control study" at 47 tertiary-care hospitals located across 19 states and Union territories from May to August.

Top Cong brass reviews poll defeats in Ch'garh, MP



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Rahul Gandhi and KC Venugopal Rao during a review meeting on the election results of Chhattisgarh, at party headquarters in New Delhi, Friday.

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI): Five days after the Congress lost Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, the party's top leadership on Friday held separate meetings to assess the reasons for its humiliating defeats in the two states at the hands of the BJP. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had convened the review meeting at the All India Congress Committee headquarters in Delhi where former party chief Rahul Gandhi and other senior leaders were also present. "Today, a meeting to review the election results of Chhattisgarh was held at the Congress headquarter

results of Chhattisgarh was held, where everyone expressed their views. We lost the Chhattisgarh elections, but our vote percentage has not reduced. We have gained the trust of the public," she said. "We are disappointed, but not in despair. In the coming times, we will fight the Lok Sabha elections together," she said. Among the party leaders who attended the Chhattisgarh review meet were AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal, Congress screening committee head and observer Ajay Maken, former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel, his former deputy CM T S Singh Deo and former ministers Tamradhwaj Sahu and PCC president Deepak Bajaj and other senior leaders. In the Madhya Pradesh review meeting, AICC general secretary in-charge Randeep Surjewala, PCC president Kamal Nath, former chief minister Digvijaya Singh and AICC screening committee head Jitendra Singh were present among other state leaders.

HC reserves judgment

Court to pass order on handing over basement key to DM on Dec 11



Varanasi (UP), Dec 08 (PTI): The Varanasi district court on Friday could not take up a case seeking that the key to the basement of the Gyanvapi mosque complex be handed over to the district magistrate due to mourning over the death of a lawyer and fixed December 11 to pronounce the order. The court completed the hearing on the appeal of advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi for becoming a party in the case on Monday and reserved the order for Friday. But the matter could not be taken up on Friday due to mourning over the death of a lawyer, the counsel for the

Hindu side to the dispute, Madan Mohan Yadav, said. The matter is in the court of District Judge A K Vishvesh. The authorities had barricaded and locked the basement of the mosque complex in 1993. Shailendra Kumar Pathak, the grandson of priest Somnath Vyas, who used to perform puja in the basement before its closure in 1993, filed the petition in the court of civil judge Nitesh Kumar Sinha in September, expressing apprehensions about the Muslim side's attempt to establish its influence over the courtyard and pleaded that the key be handed over to the DM.

WED IN INDIA

PM's call to rich to hold destination weddings in country

Dehradun, Dec 08 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India needs a movement like 'Wed in India' on the lines of 'Made in India' and asked affluent industrialists to hold at least one destination wedding in their families each year in Uttarakhand saying it will help the hill state emerge as a wedding destination. Addressing the inaugural session of the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at the FRI here, he said it has become fashionable among millionaire and billionaire business families to go

abroad for destination weddings. Modi had given a similar call during his last Mann Ki Baat programme to affluent business families to hold destination weddings in the country instead of going abroad. "There is an old saying that marriages are made in heaven. But then why are young couples going abroad for their wedding instead of coming to the land of gods (Devbhoomi). My prescription to the young and rich couples is that there should be a movement like 'Wed in India' on the lines of 'Made in India,'" he said.

Amid push for caste census, all 8 Brahmin candidates of Cong lose polls

Raipur, Dec 08: All eight candidates from the Brahmin community fielded by the Congress suffered defeat in the just-concluded Chhattisgarh assembly elections amid a strong pitch for a caste-based census made by the party during the campaigning. Thirteen of the 15 Congress candidates from privileged castes, including those from the Brahmin community, lost the polls, while all three party nominees from a minority social group were also trounced. According to political analysts, the Congress attempt to woo Other Backward Classes

Brahmin Cong candidates who lost...

The Congress had fielded candidates from "upper castes" in 15 of the total 90 seats this time. However, 13 of them, including eight from the Brahmin community, bit the dust. Deputy Chief Minister in the outgoing Congress government, TS Singh Deo, his cabinet colleagues Ravindra Choubey and Jai Singh Agrawal, senior MLAs Amitesh Shukla and Arun Vora were among these 13 losing candidates. Eight Congress candidates from the Brahmin community who were trounced were: Ravindra Choubey (Saja), Amitesh Shukla (Rajim), Mahant Ramsundar Das (Raipur City South), Vikas Upadhyay (Raipur City West), Arun Vora (Durg City), Pankaj Sharma (Raipur Rural), Shailesh Pandey (Bilaspur) and Shailesh Nitin Trivedi (Balodabazar). (OBC) in Chhattisgarh with a caste census and other pre-poll promises seems to have adversely affected the electoral prospects of its "upper caste" candidates and also in seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes. A majority of voters may not have liked the

bagging 54 of the 90 seats. The Congress, which won 68 assembly seats in 2018, was reduced to 35 seats, while the regional Gondwana Gantantra Party (GGP) managed to win in one segment. The Congress had fielded candidates from "upper castes" in 15 of the total 90 seats this time. However, 13 of them, including eight from the Brahmin community, bit the dust. Deputy Chief Minister in the outgoing Congress government, TS Singh Deo, his cabinet colleagues Ravindra Choubey and Jai Singh Agrawal, senior MLAs Amitesh Shukla and Arun Vora were among these 13 losing candidates.

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- सेरिब्रल एवं एंडोवेस्कुलर सर्जरी
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Durg Police initiates to control noise pollution



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: Durg Police has made an initiative to control noise pollution caused by the DJs and music systems during the festivals, processions and other functions. A meeting of local DJ operators was organised in all the police stations / chowkis and strict instructions were given to follow the guidelines of the Supreme Court, High Court, NGT and provisions of Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Act.

Cops will be using a 'noise meter' machine and on the spot action will be taken against DJ opera-

tors who violate the rules. To trace noise pollution, Durg Police will use more than 25 sound meter instruments to identify and prosecute those responsible for noise pollution.

Under the direction of Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, Badri Narayan Meena and Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg, Ram Gopal Garg, all the SHOs conducted meetings with the DJ operators of their respective police station limits. The DJ operators were given necessary information regarding the instructions issued by the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of



Bilaspur under the Noise Pollution Regulation and Control Act 2000 and the instructions issued by the NGT.

All DJ operators have been clearly instructed that there will be a ban on playing loudspeakers and DJs from 22:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs. There should be no sound of more than 60 decibels in any public place or private place.

Be it any event, the DJ or Dhumal will be operated only if there is permission from the concerned officer in-charge. Besides, permission will also be required for playing DJ or Dhumal in any programme. If the sound sys-

tem is to be installed on goods vehicles, it should be inside the vehicle's body.

They were asked not to install bright lights in vehicles with DJ Dhumal as these lights may affect the eyes. There is a provision of fine up to Rs 20000/- for violating these rules.

Playing DJ Dhumal will be completely prohibited in the silent zone, such as schools, hospitals, court premises, old age homes etc. Apart from this, other rules were explained to the DJ operators and they were made to sign a copy of the rules so that in case of violation, the DJ operators can be punished.

The operators were also asked to immediately inform the police in case of any untoward situation and taking photos and videos of anti-social elements who spoil the atmosphere.

As per the orders of Inspector General of Police, Durg Range, Badri Narayan Meena, 'Noise Meter' has been supplied to the police stations / chowkis. With the help of this machine, on-spot action can be taken against the DJ operators who disobey the rules.

The meter will measure the decibels in which the DJ is playing and give receipts. To keep track of noise pollution, Durg Police will use 24 sound meters to identify and prosecute those responsible for noise pollution. It could be recollected here that last month, Durg Police seized more than 100 pressure horns, more than 45 modified silencers and took action against more than 25 DJ operators under the Noise Act.

Cardio pulmonary resuscitation program organised at MTCN Kumhari

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Dec 08: Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) program was organized at Mother Teresa College of Nursing Kumhari to spread awareness among the people. In this program it was explained that Cardio pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a life-saving technique, which is useful in many emergency situations, where someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped.

It was informed that before starting CPR, check whether the environment is safe for humans; Is the person conscious or unconscious; If the person appears unconscious, pat or shake the person's shoulder and ask loudly, "Are you OK?"; If the person does not respond and you are with another person

who can help, have one person call 911 or a local emergency number and get an AED if one is available.

Ask another person to start CPR. If one is alone and have immediate access to a telephone, call 911 or your local emergency number before starting CPR. Get an AED if one is available. As soon as an AED is available, give one shock as directed by the device, then begin CPR.

At the end of the pro-

gram, students also asked questions related to CPR, which were answered by the nursing staff and the method of giving CPR was explained to them step by step. This program was conducted under the leadership of Kumhari Campus Director Dr Preeti Gurnani and Nursing Kumhari Principal D Chennamma Bhaskar and all the nursing staff also participated in this program.

HYU: Inter College Youth Festival to begin from Dec 16

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: Hemchand Yadav University, Durg is scheduled to organise Inter-College Youth Festival 2023 in different colleges for 14 different streams from December 16 to 22, 2023. Giving this information, Dean of Student Welfare of the University, Dr Prashant Srivastava said that these 14 genres include solo classical singing Hindustani/Karnataka style, group singing (Hindustani), solo classical dance, group folk dance/tribal dance, quiz, extemporaneous speech, Debate, Skit, On the Spot Painting, Collage, Poster Making, Rangoli, Mehndi and Sugam Sangeet.

According to Dr Srivastava, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta held a

meeting of the University officials in this regard and decided the allocation of the college and fixed the date for organizing various streams. As per the decision taken in the meeting, an impromptu speech will be organized at Kalyan Mahavidyalaya, Bhilai on December 16, 2023 from 10:30 hrs followed by a debate competition from 14:00 hrs. The topic of debate competition will be announced 01 day before the event date.

Dr Srivastava said that on December 19, a quiz competition will be organized at St Thomas College, from 11:30 hrs and a Rangoli and Mehndi competition will be organized at Khalsa College, Durg from 10:00 hrs. It is mandatory for the participants to use flower petals, wood sawdust or different types of grains in Rangoli. It is mandatory for

the participants of Mehendi competition to bring a partner with them. On December 20, Skit competition will start at Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya, Junwani at 11:00 hrs and Sugam Sangeet competition will start at 14:00 hrs. On December 21, solo classical dance will be organized at Krishna College, Khamhariya from 11:00 hrs and group folk dance/tribal dance will be organized from 14:00 hrs.

Dr Srivastava informed that on the spot painting, collage, poster making competition will be held in Government Girls College, Durg from 11:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs, from 13:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, and from 15:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs respectively. The winners securing first place in these disciplines will represent the university team in zonal level disciplines.

Anurag Basu inaugurates fine arts exhibition

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: A group exhibition of artistic creations made by national and international level artists gathered in the city for the opening of regional centre of Lalit Kala Akademi in Bhilai was inaugurated by renowned film director Anurag Basu at the auditorium in Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Centre.

Other eminent guests present were SK Mukhopadhyaya, ED (Projects) BSP and Pawan Kumar ED (P&A), BSP. Office bearers of Kala Sahitya Sanstha and art lovers were present in large number. This exhibition will be open for public free of cost every day from 12:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs till December 10, 2023.



The art exhibition was inaugurated by the chief guest and other guests with traditional lighting of the lamp. After inspecting the paintings and sculpture on display minutely, Basu praised the creativity of the artists.

Here it needs a mention that the exhibition has in

display paintings of well-known senior artists Harisena, DS Vidyarthi, Gilbert Joseph, Rohini Patankar, Mohan Baral, Vikram Apna, Harish Mandavi, Umakant Thakur, Sarika Goswami, Gunjan, Stuti, Manish Tamrakar, Dheeraj Sahu, Matparai art of Abhishek

Sapan, the art on paddy by Lalleshwari Sahu, sculptures of Uttar Kumar Sahu and Ashok Dewangan.

Apart from the paintings, a small film presented by President Awardee teacher Parasram Sahu is entertaining the public. These artists from

Khairagarh, Raipur, Bilaspur, Kodagaon and Durg Bhilai have filled not only the exhibition venue but also the main stage with their paintings, due to which the entire Kalamandir complex is filled with the aroma of various arts.

At the inaugural ceremony senior painters Shatrughan Swarnakar and Manish Tamrakar gifted Anurag Basu a portrait made by them. Also, on the special request of Anurag Basu, Mohan Baral also gifted one of his paintings.

The exhibition was efficiently coordinated by litterateurs Menaka Verma, Sonali Chakraborty, Praveen Kalmegh and Lalit Kala Academy executive board member Ankush Dewangan.

Cops hold meeting with auto drivers



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: On the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg, Ram Gopal Garg, cops conducted a meeting of auto drivers for improvement of traffic system. Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) advised auto drivers to behave nicely with common citizens and charge fixed fares.

Auto drivers were asked to make a valuable contribution in creating a better traffic system. They were asked not to park their vehicles haphazardly on the road sides. They were further instructed to wear uni-

form, do not over seat and avoid drink and drive.

In compliance with the instructions given by Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg, Ram Gopal Garg, to make the traffic system of the district simple, easy and safe, DSPs Satish Thakur and Satananand Vigharaj conducted a meeting of auto drivers in Durg Traffic Zone.

The cops said that the auto drivers play the most important role in maintaining a smooth system of the city. Any person, who arrives from any other district at the bus stand or railway station, has to seek



help from auto drivers to reach his destination.

If the auto drivers behave nicely with those people, charge a fixed fare and park the vehicles in a systematic and designated parking place, it will create a good image of the district in the mind of that passenger.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) informed that 250 auto drivers were present in the meeting. They were instructed to obey traffic rules, wear uniform, not to drive in a state of intoxication, not allow a minor to drive, do not overload, keep the vehicle documents, and park the vehicle only at the

designated parking/place, etc.

The share auto drivers were instructed to pick and drop the passengers only from the designated places. They were advised not to drive fast and carelessly. They were further asked to convey the details of the meeting to all the auto drivers who were not present.

Traffic Zone Durg in-charge Inspector Yashkaran Dhruv, Assistant Sub Inspector Ramesh Dubey, Bodhan Sahu, Madan Sahu, Kunwar Singh, Satyanarayan Pathak, Dayalu Ram, Rohit Malekar, traffic cops and 250 auto drivers were present.

Rikesh instructs officials to curb illegal activities

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen chaired a meeting of Excise and Revenue Department officials at Durg Circuit House on Friday. He said that officers should take action against illegal business and encroachments. The influence of real estate brokers had till now in Vaishali Nagar Assembly should be eliminated immediately. The land brokers who are involved in buying and selling land without obtaining a colonizer license will no longer be able to buy or sell even an inch of land. Rikesh further instructed the officials to immediately stop all the businesses which were being allowed under political patronage during the previous government.

MLA Rikesh Sen asked the Excise Department officials to investigate how the illegal liquor was reaching the bootleggers and ensure a total crackdown on ille-



gal trade. The MLA directed the Excise Officers to check all the licensed bars from time to time to ensure whether they are being operated as per the license rules or not. Strict action should be taken against those violating the licensing rules. While interacting with media persons after the meeting, MLA Rikesh Sen said that he chaired a joint meeting of Excise Department officials and Municipal Corporation's Additional Commissioner Ashok Dwivedi. Both the authorities will work in coordination so that the liquor shops from residential

areas of Vaishali Nagar Assembly constituency can be shifted to other places. Rikesh asked the officials to work in this direction and ensure relocation of liquor shops within maximum one month. Liquor shops should be shifted to such places which are not directly visible to the general public and commuters. After selecting such places, the shops will be shifted in coordination with both the departments. Rikesh further informed that he directed to serve notices to all bar operators to ensure that the bar operators are working as per the policy and license rules.

Immediate action will be taken against those bars which are serving liquor in violation of the rules.

A complaint has been received that the bar operators are selling bottles after taking the license to serve in the bar. They have to serve liquor inside the bar and do not have a license to sell bottles. Rikesh said that he is receiving many such complaints and accordingly he asked the officials to seal the shops of those who are doing business breaking the rules.

If any lapses are found, the bar will be sealed immediately and the Gumasta license will also be cancelled. Sen said that after holding a meeting of SDM, Tehsildar and all the Patwaris of Vaishali Nagar Assembly, he instructed them that there should not be illegal plotting anywhere in Vaishali Nagar Assembly. People from inside and outside the area can buy or sell any plot through the colonizer.

Mock Drill conducted at Oxygen Plant-II of BSP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 08: A Mock Drill for Disaster Management was carried out in SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Oxygen Plant-II on December 06, 2023. The Mock Drill Exercise on "Electrical Fire Disaster" was jointly conducted by the cooperation of CISE, Fire Brigade, Safety EnggDeptt, MMP-1 and Civil Defense. The objective of the Mock Drill was to ascertain the preparedness and response of different agencies during any such emergency.

As part of the exercise, information regarding a sudden fire due to a spark on an electrical panel and excessive smoke inside the Control room of the 2000 T Liquid Oxygen Tank was reported when a group of

four Electrical maintenance & one Lox Tank Operator were working in LOX Tank-2. The Lox Tank operator came out and called for rescue.

The incident was communicated to the Shift Manager of OP-II, who rushed to the spot immediately. The electrical personnel present at the site was alerted by the Shift Manager, and Alarm was raised without any delay. Soon after the emergency was declared, Shift

In-charge Gourav Choudhary AsstMgr (Operation), as Incident Controller immediately engaged himself and his team to communicate the nature of the emergency to Plant Control, CISE, Fire Brigade, Safety EnggDeptt, MMP-1, Civil Defence, and HOD & sen-



ior officers of OP-II simultaneously.

GM (OP-II) rushed to the spot along with Md Nadeem Khan GM (Operation), Shivam AGM,



(Mech), and MD Sahu (DSO) took control of the situation. Subsequently, AK Joshi CGM (Utilities)

also rushed to the spot and took control. One injured person was rescued by OP-II personnel.

Meanwhile, all other concerned agencies including Fire Brigade, OHS, Civil Defense, CISE, and Safety Control also reached the spot, took stock of the situation, and swung into action to assist in the entire operation. The trapped workers were rescued and two rescued workers were sent to MMP-1 for necessary medical treatment.

During the entire operation, various aspects of disaster management such as response time of different agencies, coordination between the agencies, movement of personnel and vehicles, etc. were studied.

After completion of the programme, a review meeting was conducted by AK Joshi, CGM Utilities, and PC Bag, GM,

OP-II to discuss the observations and convey regards to all agencies, who participated in the exercise.

The objective of the exercise was to ensure that any such disaster is handled in a planned manner to execute rescue operations properly and also to avoid creating panic among employees by making them familiar with the procedures to be followed.

It is noteworthy that 2000 MT Liquid Oxygen Tanks of Oxygen Plant-II have been declared as hazardous installation & Mock Drill for Disaster Management is to be held periodically in Oxygen Plant-II as per statutory rules. The last Mock Drill was held in Oxygen Plant-II on June 13, 2023.

Provide drinking water to every targeted house by March end: Collector



Meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission

Raipur, Dec 08: Collector Dr. Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure today held a meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) in the Collectorate. Aim of Jal Jeevan Mission is to supply clean drinking water to the beneficiaries, the Collector said. He instructed to complete it on priority keeping in mind that there should not be any compromise in quality. According to the Collector 1 lakh 90 thousand domestic tap connections have been approved

in the district. Of them 1 lakh 64 thousand 93 domestic connections have been provided whereas a total of 26 thousand connections are left. Instructions were given to complete this task by the end of February. Work has been completed in 212 villages and 100% work should be completed in the remaining villages by March 31, he said. Dr Bhure also instructed to carry out repair on the roads that were cut to provide domestic connections.

He instructed to make the beneficiaries aware of the proper utilization of water. Beneficiaries

should also be made aware of avoiding use of pumps in the taps, he said. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Abinash Mishra said that the officials of Public Health Engineering Department should work in coordination with the District Panchayat and inform in case of any problem.

He emphasized continuous and proper supply of drinking water in the taps. He instructed to provide as many connections as possible in schools and Anganwadis. Executive Engineer Philip Ekka and concerned officers and employees were present.



Variety of programmes including dance, drama and other mark inter-college 'Madaai' here on Friday.

'MADAAI'

INTER COLLEGE

Sixty four newly elected members attend reception

From 04 to 08 December, 2023 at legislative assembly

Raipur, Dec 08: Most of the newly elected members were present in the reception hall set up for the newly elected members of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh from 04 to 08 December 2023 in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly building. A total of 64 newly elected members who reached the Legislative Assembly were welcomed by Secretary, Legislative Assembly Dinesh

Sharma. All the forms required for Assembly related work were completed by the newly elected members in the reception room.

Information about the facilities and the work done by all the branches of the Legislative Assembly building was also provided to the newly elected members. Form is available on the Legislative Assembly's website cgvidhansabha.gov.in for the convenience of remaining newly elected members. Members can download the form from this website and submit it after filling it with required information.

Encroachments removed from 450 sq feet govt land

Anti-encroachment drive at Kalibari Chowk

Raipur, Dec 08: The team of District Administration and Municipal Corporation took action this morning to remove about 10 years old encroachment at Kalibari Chowk. The cor-



poration's encroachment demolition squad has freed about four hundred and fifty square feet of land adjacent to the government forest residential complex from old illegal encroachment. For about ten years, one Jyotiprakash had illegally occupied this land and was running a business complex by building four

permanent shops on it. Municipal Corporation Zone No. 3 Commissioner Rakesh Sharma said that a notice was also issued to the encroacher in 2017 to remove this encroachment. The occupier had refused to vacate the four hundred and fifty square feet land by claiming that it was his property. On this,

the revenue team investigated the matter under the leadership of Tehsildar and found this land to be government Nazool land. Accordingly the corporation's encroachment demolition squad demolished illegal construction in the presence of revenue officials and freed the land from encroachment.

IRCTC introduces four new packages for travel enthusiasts



To explore South India's beautiful places

Raipur, Dec 08: For Chhattisgarh's travel enthusiasts who are planning to explore natural beauty of South India the Indian Railway Catering &

Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has come up with two exciting tour packages titled 'Splendid Hill Stations of South India' and 'God's Own Country - Kerala with Kanyakumari'.

According to information received from IRCTC's Area Office



Bilaspur both the packages will last 10 nights and 11 days. 'Splendid Hill Stations of South India' will cover destinations-Kodaikanal, Coimbatore, Ooty, Coonoor and Mysore whereas Trivandrum, Aazhimala, Kanyakumari, Kumarakom, Thekkady, Munnar and Kochi will be

covered under the tour package 'God's Own Country - Kerala with Kanyakumari'. The trip under both the packages will be on the III AC/II AC Charter Coach of Train 22647 originating from Korba and tour frequency will be 24.01.24 (III AC) & 07.02.24 (II AC).

Ramleela, Fusion dance marks annual festival

At Holy Hearts Kabir Nagar

Raipur, Dec 08: Holy Hearts Kabir Nagar celebrated its 1st Annual function with great zeal and aplomb. The enthusiastic and hardworking students prepared, putting great efforts and persistent practice and gave a superhit show. Various performanc-



es like Ramleela, Fusion dance, Sambalpuri and Chhattisgarhi dance were the attractions showcasing the dancing prowess of the students. Patriotic dance and the Music band performance were highly appreciated by the audience.

Awards for academic excellence were presented to the students by the esteemed chief guest Dr.

Anoop Verma in the presence of group Chairman Acharya Surendra Pratap Singh, Academic Director Kalpana Tiwari, Principal Hemali Singh and the senior management members of Holy Hearts Educational Society. Proud parents and teachers looked ecstatic seeing the brilliant performances.

Poetry, speech and sports competition organized in Medical College

Raipur, Dec 08: A poetry, speech and sports competition was organized on Friday at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur under annual festival 'Impetus'. Students of the medical college actively took part in the competition. The program started with the inauguration of the Literary in which Dr. Trupti Nagaria (Dean), Dr. Arvind Neral (HOD Pathology Department) were present as the chief guests. All the students enthusiastically participated in speech competition named 'Vimarsh'. Dr. Manju Aggarwal from the Department of Pharmacology and Dr. Debpriya Rath from the Department of Biochemistry were present as chief guests. In the speech competition,

Vikalpa Gurung got first position, Garima Singh got second position and Shriyal Sukhdev got third position.

Dr. Rabia (Pathology), Dr. Shikha Jaiswal (Pharmacology) and Dr. Debpriya Rath (Biochemistry) were present as chief guests in the poetry competition in which Shivansh Singh bagged first position, Vishwambhar Pandey second position and Sayandeep Banerjee third position.

A great game of volleyball and basketball was seen in the outdoor sports competition. Cricket match started in the evening. In the indoor event, chess-carrom and badminton and table tennis were also organised. Students also exhibited their talent in fine arts competition.

Sikh Premier League semifinals to be played today



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Dec 08: The 15th Sikh Premier League - 2023 All India Cricket Tournament is heating up as it reaches the semifinal stage, promising thrilling action for cricket enthusiasts. Two crucial matches are scheduled at the SEC-SA Cricket Ground WRS Colony on Saturday. In the first clash, Nanded will go head-to-head with Chandigarh, while the second match features Raipur taking on Patiala.

In the quarterfinals held on Friday, Chandigarh Sikhs and Singh A Punjab emerged as winners. Harmeet Singh Hora, the guest of the match, extend-

ed his best wishes to the players.

The opening match witnessed an intense battle between Tral XI Kashmir and Chandigarh Sikhs. Tral XI Kashmir set a competitive total of 126 runs, with Devinder Singh leading the way with an impressive 65 runs. Chandigarh Sikhs chased down the target with a fantastic counter-inning, reaching 132 runs for the loss of three wickets in 15.1 overs. Ramanjeet Singh played a brilliant inning of 63 runs, while Prabhjeet Singh contributed 54 runs.

In the second encounter, Singh A Punjab faced Khalsa Cricket Club Jammu. Singh A Punjab posted a competitive total of 145 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs, with Inderpreet Singh leading the way with 39 runs. In response, Khalsa Cricket Club Jammu could only muster 135 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.

Job fair in employment office on Dec 11

Raipur, Dec 08: To provide employment opportunities to local educated unemployed youth, a job fair will be organized on December 11 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Employment Office, Old Police Headquarters Complex. Youth who have passed 12th examination and those who have done graduation, post graduation, BCA/MBA, MCA, B.Sc/M.Sc, B.Tech., ITI/ Diploma (Electrical) will be recruited on about 150 posts in this job fair starting at 11 am. After selection the employed youth will be able to get a monthly salary ranging from Rs 8 thousand to Rs 25 thousand.

SRU organized workshop on Data Journalism

And on Verification, Digital Investigation and Online Verification

Workshop promoted networking and responsible information sharing

Raipur, Dec 08: In Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University (SRU) Department of Journalism & Mass Communication organized a workshop on Data Journalism, verification, digital investigation and online verification basically focus on the misinformation and fake news in which Mr Bichitrnanda Panda, Trainer GNI India Training Network share important aspects with students in the workshop.

By sharing his views, the Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. S.K Singh asserted that misinformation and fake news corrode societal foundations, fostering mistrust



and distorting public discourse. They fuel polarization, erode credibility in institutions, and jeopardize democratic processes. Inaccurate information could harm public health, incite panic, and compromise decision-making. Addressing this issue is crucial for safeguarding the well-being and resilience of societies worldwide.

Dr. Saurabh K Sharma, the Registrar of varsity said that the pernicious impact of fake news demands urgent action. It erodes trust, distorts facts,

and harms societies. A collective effort is imperative to halt its spread, safeguarding the integrity of information and nurturing a healthier, well-informed public discourse. The speaker of the workshop Bichitrnanda Panda interacts with students and elaborate them about data journalism, verification, digital investigation, and online verification, which proved highly impactful. Students gained practical aspects and important facts in data analysis, fact-checking, and ethical digital in-

vestigations. The workshop fostered networking, promoting responsible information sharing. Participants empowered with enhanced media literacy and ready to contribute to a more informed digital landscape.

Assistant Professor Dr. Santosh Kumar also shared that disinformation poses a grave threat to society, eroding trust, and sowing discord. Misleading narratives can manipulate public opinion, influence elections, and incite violence. The spread of false information undermines democracy, disrupts social cohesion, and hampers informed decision-making, necessitating vigilant efforts to counteract its impact on the fabric of society.

The Pro-Chancellor of Shri Rawatpura Sarkar University Mr. Harsh Gautam appreciated the workshop organized by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

EPFO, Regional Office, Raipur, to organise 'Pension Adalat'

Raipur, Dec 08: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, Regional Office, Raipur, Chhattisgarh will organise 'Pension Adalat' programme for redressal of the grievances received from pensioners by the Regional P.F. Commissioner. The time schedule of the programme scheduled for December 11th 2023 is as under-

EPF Pensioner - 11.00 am to 01.00 pm at Conference Hall, 1st Floor, Bhawisyanidhi Bhawan, Pandri, Raipur. The concerned pensioners are requested to send their specific grievance before December 11, 2023 positively through postal mode super scribing "Pension Adalat" on the envelope or by present on the date.

It should also be noted that the complete PF

Account number/ PPO number and other necessary and relevant service details/particulars along with available documentary evidences in support of the grievance should explicitly be mentioned/enclosed. All the concerned are requested to avail this opportunity, informs a release issued by Dr. Sudarshan S. Bhaladhare, Regional P.F. Commissioner II

SCDRC to start e-hearing from Dec 11

Raipur, Dec 08: Consumers from far-flung areas of Chhattisgarh are going to be relieved forever from repeatedly visiting the office of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC) for hearing their cases. Actually, the Commission is going to take a new initiative from Raipur from December 11, Monday. Now the hearing of consumers' cases will be done through e-hearing, that is, consumers can fight their cases sitting at home, this will save the time and money of the consumers in travelling. State Consumer Commission Chairman and Justice Gautam Chouradia, while discussing with the mediapersons on Friday, said that from Monday they are going to start hearing of consumer related cases through e-hearing. Not only this, efforts will be made to



resolve the cases within 90 days. The cases will be resolved in a maximum of five months. He said that our main goal is to end the cases pending in the Commission from state to district level.

He has appealed to the consumers to take their cases to Lok Adalat and get them resolved through mutual settlement. If the public is aware then the judiciary will also be able to work better. He said that after Raipur, a budget has been sought from the government to start e-hearing at the district level also. E-filing has been started. On

this occasion, along with Justice, Commission member Pramod Verma and Registrar Himanshu Jain were also present.

Justice Gautam Chouradia informed that after taking charge in Chhattisgarh State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Raipur on October 21, 2022, 360 cases had come to the State Commission till November 30, 2023, whereas before that 435 cases were left. In this way, in total 795 cases, 604 have been resolved. There are 191 cases remaining. Currently only four cases before 2023 are

pending. The total of all remaining cases of 2023 is 187.

Justice Gautam Chouradia said that out of total 13979 cases, 4234 have been resolved in 19 District Consumer Disputes Commissions across the state from October 21, 2022 to November 30, 2023, while the remaining is 9745. In the District Commissions, 274 cases have been resolved in the National Lok Adalat. Award amount of Rs 5,61,12606 crore has been paid to the tax parties. A new forum will be formed in Balod and its office will be started from this month itself. Along with daily updating of cases on the website of the Commission, complaint applications, appeal proforma has been uploaded. Recruitment of the vacant chairperson and members of the District Commission will be done soon.

Armed Forces Flag Day is a festival to express gratitude to brave martyrs: Harichandan

● Governor participated in the ceremony organized on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day

Raipur, Dec 08: Governor participated in the function organized on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day. Speaking at a function organized at Raj Bhavan on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day, Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan said that our brave armed forces have served our great nation with selflessness and remarkable bravery. Flag Day is a festival to express gratitude towards brave martyrs and their family. In the programme, the Governor also felicitated brave women and mothers, bravery decoration winners, families of martyred soldiers and donors who made special contributions on the occasion of Flag Day.

During his address, Governor Harichandan expressed happiness that about 27 important welfare schemes are being implemented from the Flag Day Fund,



which will enable us to take proper care of our ex-servicemen. He also expressed happiness that the state government has made a provision of 10 percent reservation in Group C posts and 20 percent reservation in Group D posts for ex-servicemen, due to which these ex-servicemen will get proper benefits in the vacant posts of various jobs.

Governor participated in the ceremony organized on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day. In the programme, Governor Harichandan while inaugurating the Sainik Kalyan website "Flame" said that in this new application all the important information for our ex-servicemen is available. This application will make the process of registration and implementation of welfare schemes much simpler, transparent and more effective. He

urged the ex-servicemen to use new technology and keep upgrading themselves. Harichandan assured the families of ex-servicemen and martyrs that the government always stands with them. On the occasion of Flag Day, the Governor provided a grant of Rs 2 lakh to the State Sainik Welfare Board. Governor participated in the ceremony organized on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day

At the beginning of the ceremony, floral tributes were offered to the martyred soldiers and tribute was paid to them by observing two minutes of silence. Harichandan was honored by wearing a badge symbolizing the Armed Forces Flag Day. District Military Officer Captain Anurag Tiwari read out the message of President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu. At the function, the

Governor felicitated the District Collectors and District Sainik Welfare Officers of Raipur and Durg by presenting them Governor's Trophy for their excellent efforts in flag day fund collection. On this occasion, Brochure Summary-2023 of Rajya Sainik Welfare Board was also released. NCC Cadets presented powerful patriotic songs. In the program, Principal Secretary, Home Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Manoj Pingua, Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho, Secretary, Home Department, Mr. Arundev Gautam, Secretary, Home Department, Mr. Basav Raju, Director of State Sainik Welfare Board, Chhattisgarh, Brigadier Mr. Vivek Sharma, District Soldier Welfare officers and ex-servicemen and their families were present.

iNaCoMM 2023 commences with insightful sessions

Raipur, Dec 08: The 6th International and National Conference on Machines and Mechanisms (iNaCoMM 2023) kicked off on a high note at the National Institute of Technology Raipur on Thursday.

Director in-charge of NIT Raipur, Dr. AB Soni, delivered an impassioned talk, emphasizing the indispensable role of technology in daily life. Dr. C Amarnath, President of AMM and the Chief Guest of iNaCoMM-2023, provided insights into the background of the event, its inception, and its contributions to the field of mechanisms, encompassing theory, analysis, and fabrication. Dr. Amarnath welcomed industry professionals, urging them to share their mechanism-related challenges on this platform for collaborative problem-solving. The Keynote Lecture by Dr. Shailendra V Gade, Distinguished Scientist and Director General (Armament and Combat Engineering Systems DG (ACE), DRDO Pune, delved into the uses of mechanisms in small arms, heavy artillery, bat-



tle tanks, and the ejection systems of fighter planes. Dr. Gade emphasized the critical role of material scientists in developing materials for these applications.

Dr. PM Pathak, Professor at IIT Roorkee, delivered the Prof. B. M. Belgaumkar Memorial Lecture-1, discussing the work of his robotic lab and presenting insights into the "Design and de-

velopment of hyper-redundant robots for ground and aerial applications." He addressed various mechanisms for snake robots, agriculture bots, drones, and the associated challenges, encouraging an interactive session with experts and participants.

The post-lunch session commenced with an engaging plenary talk by Dr. Qingguo Li. During his

presentation, Dr. Li delved into the fascinating realm of biochemical energy harvesting from human walk throughout a gait cycle, emphasizing the innovative approach of exoskeleton design. He explored the potential applications of this technology as an energy source for animal tracking systems, envisioning its utility in wildlife monitoring or even during microgravity outer space walks.

Following this insightful talk, representatives from BSP took the stage to highlight the significant milestones achieved by the plant over the past year. They also took the opportunity to share some of the challenges they currently face with the research community, fostering an open dialogue and inviting collaborative solutions from the diverse pool of attendees.

The day featured three parallel sessions on "Machines and Mechanisms," "Robotics," and "Materials and Machine Design," with a total of 14 papers presented in each session before and after lunch.

Impetus: Annual Fest kicks off with zeal and energy

● At Pt. JNM Medical College

Raipur, Dec 08: The annual fest 'Impetus' at the esteemed Medical College JNM has once again sparked enthusiasm among its students, marking a memorable start with a chilly yet spirited marathon on the 7th of December. Despite the biting cold, the campus was alive with the fervor of participating students.

The festivities commenced with the unveiling and inauguration of the vibrant Impetus poster, setting the tone for an eventful day ahead. Prior to the marathon's commencement, a lively Pre-Zumba session was organized, aimed at energizing and preparing the participants for the forthcoming challenge.

As the marathon set the spirited tone for the fest, Dr. Vivek Patre (Professor Radiology), Dr. Ajay Halwai (Associate Professor Pharmacology), Dr. Anjan (PG FMT) added an aura of significance



and excitement to the event. With the resonating sound of the whistle, the much-awaited marathon officially commenced, signaling the beginning of a day filled with athleticism, camaraderie, and a celebration of the college spirit. The runners, adorned in their athletic gear, embarked on the designated route, showcasing not only their physical endurance but also their unwavering determination and passion for the event.

The marathon served as a testament to the students' resilience and dedication, braving the chilly weather to partake

in this annual tradition. The cheering and encouragement from the sidelines added an extra boost of motivation, fostering an atmosphere of collective support and unity.

In Boys Category, Dr. Ankit Ekka banged 1st position while Manmohan Pandey got 2nd position and Himanshu Khakha grabbed 3rd position. Among Girls, Mimansa Singh got 1st position, Archi Kange got 2nd and Leelima Channap grabbed 3rd Position. All the Participants were with Full of zeal and are

literally all are Winners.

Impetus, much more than a mere fest, embodies the essence of unity, enthusiasm, and a sense of community within the college. It serves as a platform for students to not only showcase their sporting prowess but also to forge friendships, strengthen bonds, and nurture a spirit of healthy competition. Like Every year Annual fest Impetus is organizing Calamus (Literary Events), Enigma (Sports Events), Cele (Cultural Competitions) and Advaita (Fine Arts Events).

Give priority attention to all health schemes of Central Govt: CEO

● Reviews health department

Raipur, Nov 08: While reviewing the Health Department, CEO District Panchayat took information about the delivery points and gave instructions to increase it. Instructions were given to get 10 deliveries done in PHC institutions where 6 deliveries are being made. In view of the gap related to entry, strong instructions were given to complete the entry by December 15th. CEO gave instructions to give priority attention to all the health schemes of the Central Government. Make sure to give IFA and calcium tablets to all pregnant women. While checking the causes of maternal death, he directed BMO to make efforts to reduce MMR. While reviewing the child health programme, he said that the bed occu-



pancy rate in NRC centers is low and instructions were given to increase the bed occupancy rate as the current rate is low. While reviewing the National Child Health Programme, the CEO District Panchayat said that by detecting the cases of cerebral palsy and giving instructions for line listing, early listing will help in preventing bone problems in children due to cerebral

palsy. BMO was directed to hold a review meeting of the RBSK team every Saturday. Discussing the PCPNDT Act, instructions were given to complete the inspection of the centres. Instructions were given to increase TB notification. Monitoring of sickle cell will be done by district and state level. Instructions have been given for proper monitoring of sickle cell. He instructed to work in

mental health program. CEO, District Panchayat President, while discussing Ayushman Bharat, took information about those left out. From village to every block, make cards by giving information to the people left out of Ayushman. Instructions were given to construct and complete Ayushman Chaupal. In the end, CEO District Panchayat asked to work on health on priority.

Ghazals are beautiful and potentially dangerous at the same time: Shakeel



Raipur, Dec 08: "Ghazal isharoan mein baat karti hain aur agar ghazal isharoan mein baat karna band kar degi toh, ghazal, ghazal hi nahi rahegi," said writer, poet Shakeel Jamali author of "Mauj mein Banjara" during Lafz, an event held by The Ehsaas Women of Raipur here recently.

Lafz is an initiative by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation to celebrate Urdu, Arabic and Farsi literature, with an aim to retain the rich multilingual heritage of India. The session began with a welcome note by Aanchal Garcha, founder of Budding Bookworms - co-founder of Oorja Ladies Society and Litrati and a fellow Ehsaas Woman.

Kalpana Chaudhary, educator, Director at Auromira Centre for Excellence, Nargol Beach, South Gujarat and former Director Emeritus of NH Goel World School Raipur was the conversationalist for the evening.

Shakeel Jamali is a famous published ghazal and poetry writer whose ghazals have been sung by Altaf Raja. His first book, "Dhoop Tej Hain," was published in 1999, followed by "Katore mein Chand" in Urdu in 2014 and "Mauj Mein Hain Banjara," in 2023. His book "Mausiri Ke Phool" a collection of ghazals will be out in book stores soon.

Speaking about his early years as a writer, he elaborated that his father who was also a shayar was his

inspiration and his most dedicated supporter. He revealed how his father would take him to poetic gatherings and debates only if it didn't interfere with his school and studies thereby stressing the equal importance of academic pursuits.

Speaking about "Mauj mein Banjara", Shakeel Jamali said that the book is based on his experiences and complaints to his friends of all the small and big joys and betrayals as well as circumstances of the time in which it was written.

On the topic of ghazal writing, Shakeel said ghazals are beautiful and potentially dangerous at the same time, because it is only through ghazals that you can say the worst yet truest things in the most beautiful way without any injury to yourself or insult to your listeners. He went on to explain how ghazals should be written succinctly without too many adjectives to be able to have the desired effect on its readers.

Shakeel Jamali enthralled the audience with his quick wit and profound couplets, making the event feel more like a mushaira rather than a formal conversation between writer and moderator. He recited some of his most heart touching works, some as part of the conversation others gladly upon request.

Police will also help in development: Sundarraj



● Along with operations in Naxal affected areas

Jagdalpur, Dec 08: There will be a campaign against Naxalites in Naxal affected areas and the police will also help in development work. Bastar IG Sundarraj P gave the above instructions through video conferencing in the meeting of SP, ASP, SDOP and DSP level officers of district Bastar, Kanker, Kodagaon, Sukma, Bijapur, Narayanpur, Datarawa respectively of all the seven districts.

In the meeting, he said that along with the action against Naxalites, all the officers should also cooperate in the development work being done in their area and wherever force is required for the development work, they should be made available. Apart from this, the IG reviewed the work done on law and order situation, investigation of criminal

cases, action against anti-social elements, strengthening of traffic system, VIP security and other important topics in the meeting.

In the review meeting, Kamlochan Kashyap Deputy Inspector General of Police Dantewada Range, Balaji Rao Deputy Inspector General of Police Kanker Range, Jitendra Singh Meena Deputy Inspector General of Police and Senior Superintendent of Police Bastar, Divyang Patel Superintendent of Police Kanker, Yeduvelli Akshay Kumar Superintendent of Police Kondagaon, Chavan Kiran G a n g a r a m Superintendent of Police Sukma, Anjaneya Varshney, Superintendent of Police Bijapur, Pushkar Sharma, Superintendent of Police Narayanpur, Gaurav Rampravesh Rai, Superintendent of Police Dantewada and other senior police officers of the division were present.

Sneha Niyogi wins silver in Women's Judo League

Chhattisgarh secures four medals, including a gold
3rd Khelo India Women's Judo (West Zone) League



Raipur, Dec 08: Sneha Niyogi, the talented judo player hailing from Bhillai, Durg district in Chhattisgarh, achieved remarkable success by clinching a silver medal during the 3rd Khelo India (West Zone) Women's Judo League held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, from December 03 to 06. Competing in the -78kg weight category, Sneha's achievement brought honour not only to her district but also to the entire state.

In the final match of the Women's League Judo Competition, Sneha Niyogi faced a formidable opponent

from Madhya Pradesh in the 78kg weight category. Although she narrowly missed the gold, her impressive performance earned her a well-deserved silver medal.

Sneha, a 9th-grade student at Gurunanak School in Durg, has been diligently training under the guidance of national instructor P Kishore at the Unlimited Judo Academy, Housing Board, Bhillai, for the past four years. Her dedication and hard work have paid off, as she consistently secured gold medals in various state-level competitions. In addition to

Sneha Niyogi's remarkable silver medal, other outstanding athletes also made their mark. Ranjita of Kondagaon clinched the gold medal, Hemwati of Kondagaon secured a silver medal, and Chandni of Bilaspur earned a well-deserved bronze. Together, these remarkable achievements contributed to Chhattisgarh's impressive tally of four medals, featuring a gold, two silver, and one bronze—a truly outstanding accomplishment for the state.

The Chhattisgarh State Judo Association, including President Arun Dwivedi, General Secretary S.R. Soni, Treasurer Satish Singh, and various district Judo Associations, congratulated all the medal winners on their outstanding achievements, showcasing the promising future of judo in the region, informs Anis Memon, working committee member of Chhattisgarh State Judi Sangh

Only 67 out of 179 centers are operational in Ch'garh

Raipur, Dec 08: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious plan is in bad shape in the state. People are not getting the proper benefits of the Prime Minister's Bharatiya Janaushadhi Project to provide affordable medicines. This can be gauged from the fact that there are 179 shops in the state, but

only 67 of them are operational. 23 shops have been closed, while 89 are inactive. Even in the districts where shops are operating, only 200 to 300 types of medicines are available instead of 1,300.

Patients suffering from cancer, eye, brain and other diseases are forced to return from shops in the hope

of getting medicines at 90 percent cheaper prices. Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Project was started in the year 2015. Its objective was to reduce the expenditure on medicines for the people and to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed. Both these objectives are not being fulfilled.

Caste certificates have been issued to more than 8500 school students

- In the district under the academic session 23-24
- Better achievements made through the campaign being run for providing caste certificates

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Dec 08: As per the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram, better achievements made through the campaign to provide caste certificates to school children conducted in the district. Due to which caste certificates have been issued to more than 8 and a half thousand school children so far under the academic session 23-24.

Through this campaign, caste certificates were provided to about 411 school children last month from Nov 17 to 24. This campaign is being successfully run by establishing coordination between Revenue, School Education and Panchayat for providing caste certificates to school children in the district.

On the instructions of the Collector, a target of 8875 was set this year for providing caste certificates to the school children of the district. In lieu of which 8875 forms were reimbursed and examined. Till now, the process of issuing caste certificate is being done

by uploading 8854 forms online.

In which till now 8711 school children have been provided caste certificates. Under which caste certificates were provided to 1390 school children in Bakavand development block, 1079 in Bastanar, 2217 in Bastar, 651 in Darbha, 922 in Jagdalpur, 1270 in Lohandiguda and 1182 school children in Tokapal development block.

Under the campaign to provide caste certificates to school children in the district, the forms of school children are compensated at the school level and are attached with the necessary documents and submitted to the Tehsil office.

The process of providing caste certificate is completed by uploading the said form online in the Tehsil office. In which the head teacher, Patwari, Panchayat Secretary come together and complete the work. The process of providing caste certificate is completed by the Tehsildar and BEO at the block level.

This hopeful achievement has been achieved as a result of regularly reviewing the progress of providing caste certificates to school children in the district. This is the reason that during the last academic session, caste certificates were provided to school children as per the target.

Resentment among health employees led to fall of Cong govt

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Dec 08: Patron Chhattisgarh Raja Swasthya Karamchari Sangh (CRSKS) OP Sharma and State president Alok Mishra informed that even after large number of requests to fulfill the demand as made in the Congress party's manifesto and repeated application, 'bentmalaquat' and holding conventions and conference they tried to put forth their views before the Congress government, but it was in vain.

The Bhpesh government lost in the greed of power did not even spare to cut their five days salary of their strike. Apart from



this the contractual employees who were also on strike in support of their demands were not regularised and the 27% hike made was also not released to them and due to which entire health employees of the state were annoyed over it and even the discrepancies in their salary

that of corona warriors could not be resolved. Block President Kurud Dr Ksitij Sahu informed that they were taken for ride for DA for five years and till date they have not being paid DA and arrears. Just a day before the elections, the employees of the health department

were put on 24 hrs duty and deprived them of their rights to vote and he termed it as a conspiracy and all this led to lot of resentment among them and their family members and it was the outcome which the party faced in the form of losing their government.

SAS submits memorandum to the Collector

- In the name of Guv

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Dec 08: Condemning the efforts to break the morale of tribal officers and employees, Sarva Adivasi Samaj (SAS) has submitted a memorandum to the Collector in the name of the Governor. A memorandum was submitted by the society to Deputy Collector Dilip Uike in Collectorate in the name of the Governor.

It has been said in the memorandum that it has been brought to the notice of the entire tribal society that by making absurd and baseless allegations against the officers and employees working in a sensitive district like Bijapur, the administration has taken action against Ajay Singh, a resi-



dent of Bhairamgarh, who has recently been made the District Magistrate during the elections. He is being mentally harassed which is strongly condemned by the society. Habitual criminal Ajay Singh has been continuously writing inappropriate things about tribal officers and employees in social media groups in Bijapur since he has ex-

pelled out of the district (jila Badar). Due to which the morale of officers and employees is being adversely affected.

In Bhairamgarh urban area, tribal girls are being physically exploited by luring them into doing domestic work. They are being bought and sold in their names by making them mistresses on the pretext of marriage. In

Bhairamgarh rural area, the domestic and social programs of social representatives are defamed by linking them with Naxalites and publicized by Ajay Singh.

His Excellency the Governor is requested to immediately stop this; otherwise the entire tribal community will be forced to fight a street battle on these issues, the responsi-

bility of which will be on the government administration.

Social leaders said that the position of political parties will have to be clarified on the political protection received by Ajay Singh. Is he being tolerated by any political party for his continuous verbal attacks on tribals?

During the submission of the memorandum, District President of Sarv Adivasi Samaj Kamlesh Pankra, Gujja Ram Pawar, Mangal Rana, Jagguram Telmi, Sitaram Manjhi, CS Netam, BS Bhaskar, Ramlal Karma, Naresh Gawde, Suhaga Taram, Deepa Khes, Indradevi Kunjam, Tikeshwari Vatti, Satrupa Bhaskar, Sumitra Kemro and a large number of social members from Usoor, B h a i r a m g a r h , Bhopalpatnam and Bijapur had participated.

Missing youth found lying dead near road-side

- Police investigating into the case

Central Chronicle News

Bazar-Ataria, Dec 08: The 32 yr old youth Rooplal Verma R/o Gram Joratarai who was missing since Dec 4 could not be located and after failing to find him the family members lodged missing complaint in the Chuikhadan thana.

The police started the search and on Dec 6 a body of a person was found in-between Gram Salhekala and Rano under Parpodi thana of Bemetara by the road-side. After this there was discussions as to how Rooplal might have died and some were telling it as road accident and others as conspiracy.

The family members too



suspected it to be a murder case. The passer-by when finding the body of a youth lying by the road-side informed it to the police and on checking the same, the family members confirmed him as Rooplal and put all in the family in the state of shock.

The family members informed that on Dec 4 Rooplal was missing and

they were unable to find him even after lots of search. They tried to contact him on his mobile number, but the call was not received.

On the other hand, the Parpodi thana police has completed 'panchnama' of the body and handed it over to the family members and started investigation into the case.

Devotees offer prayers, darshan to Akshat Kalash

- Brought from Shri Ram Temple Ayodhyay

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, 08 Dec: Devotees in large number were present for welcome of 'Akshat Kalash' at NH-30 of Kurud city under Dhamtari hq's on Saturday evening at 4:00 pm. After prayers and 'darshan', the 'Akshat Kalash' from ancient Shri Ram Temple of Ayodhyay was put before the religious citizens of city at Shri Ram Mandir Kurud for the people of the city and it will be 'stapith' on Dec 9. From Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Pratistha



Mahotsav Samiti, Kurud, have been invited to pay respect to it.

Car-bike collides, youth dies on the spot

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Dec 08: A motorcycle rider near Karmatara on Durg state highway died on the spot after colliding with a speeding car. According to eye-witnesses, a youth on a motorcycle collided with a four-wheeler bringing school children from Durg to Khairagr near Gram Karmatara, before Jalbandha Police Chowki. Since the speed of the biker was high and he was without helmet, he died on the spot.

At the same time the car getting out of control

also got damaged by the road-side. The motorcycle owner is reported to be a new owner and it shows just 45 kms as its mileage and he was going from Khairagarh to Jalbandha and he has been identified as resident of Bori.

On inquiring about him from the villagers, it was known that he is Kotavar of the village and his name is Puneet Das. After the accident the police reached the site and after 'panchnama' will send the body for post-mortem tomorrow and it was kept in the mortuary.

Small eating outlets near liquor shops removed

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Dec 08: It was as per instructions by the District Collector Avneesh Sharan that small eating outlets near the liquor shops in the city were removed. A combined team of eviction drive from Nagar Nigam, Excise and police removed these small outlets near IMFL and country liquor shops in Sakari, Usalpur, Ganiyari, Takathpur, Yudanandan Nagar, Tifara Chowk, Bodari, Sirgitti, Parsada, Dagori, Bilha, Harditona and other places. In the same way road-side eating outlets near Bodari and Malhar were also removed. Collector during review in the time-limit



meeting had given instructions to remove all such small eating outlets near the liquor shops and directed them to ensure that they do not crop up again and should be removed for once and all. This particular ac-

tion by the District administration has provided relief to common men living nearby areas and passing through these places on daily basis and they all have hailed this particular action.

340 sacks of illegal paddy being transported from Orissa seized

- Strict monitoring is being maintained on illegal paddy transportation in border areas

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Dec 08: As per the instructions of the state government, paddy is being purchased at support price in the district under the Kharif marketing season 2023-24. On the instructions of Collector Vijay Dayaram, continuous investigation of paddy procurement is being done including ensuring smooth arrangements for paddy procurement in the district.

Strict monitoring is being maintained on illegal paddy transportation in the border areas of the district. As a result, about



340 sacks of illegal paddy have been seized by the investigating teams from three goods vehicles on the border of Orissa state last night. The vehicles along with the seized paddy have been handed over to Nagarnar police station and action is being taken

under the Mandi Act. Officer in-charge of the investigation team, Naib Tehsildar Lakhiram Pandey told that Collector Vijay Dayaram K. As per the instructions, the investigation team formed under the guidance of Sub Divisional Officer

Revenue Jagdalpur Nand Chaube, during the intensive investigation by keeping vigil on the border of Orissa state on the night of Dec 7, found 40 sacks from Ashok Leyland cargo vehicle number CG-KR 1751 at Chaikawada-Machkot Road railway

crossing was seized while transporting illegal paddy in Bastar district.

Similarly, at Dhanpunji check point, two Tata 709 cargo vehicles number OD 10-0158 and OD 10 P-6937 were caught transporting 150 sacks totaling 300 sacks of illegal paddy in Bastar district. All the seized paddy and vehicles have been handed over to Nagarnar police station and an FIR has been registered and action is being taken against the concerned under the Mandi Act by this action. For this action, Collector Shri Vijay has praised the officers and employees involved in the investigation team and has encouraged them to ensure all necessary arrangements for procurement of paddy at support price and to conduct a thorough investigation.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, SUNIL AGRAWAL, S/o Shri Bhanu Kumar Agrawal, resident of Shanti Residency, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) have changed my old name SUNIL AGRAWAL, S/o Shri Bhanu Kumar Agrawal, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is SUNIL KUMAR AGRAWAL, S/o Shri Bhanu Kumar Agrawal, in all Government and other documents. SUNIL KUMAR AGRAWAL Shanti Residency, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, FANESHWAR S/o. BENIRAM CHANDEL, R/o. H.No.- 1162, Ward No.- 8, Sundar Nagar, Kohka, Supela Bhalai, Teh. and Distt.- Durg (C.G.) have changed my old name FANESHWAR S/o. BENIRAM CHANDEL. So in future I should be recognized by my new name FANESHWAR KUMAR CHANDEL S/o. BENIRAM CHANDEL in all Government and other documents. Faneswar Kumar Chandel H. No.-1162, Ward No.-8, Sunder Nagar, Kohka, Supela, Bhalai, Teh. and Distt.- Durg (C.G.)

NAME CHANGE

I Joyashri Das spouse of Indra Kumar Das resident of second floor, LIG 169, near DPS School Tahsil and Dist. Durg, have changed my Name from Joya shri Das to Joyashri Das vide Affidavit dated 8 December 2023, before Shreeman Notari mahoday Durg. Joyashri Das

Public Notice: Loss of ID card

Public Notice
This is to bring the notice of the general public that one ID Card of Miss PRIYA MAHENDRA issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID card no 2350304 has been found missing and/or lost on 07 Dec 2023. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no 2350304. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and penal and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or Date: 07 Dec 2023 Place: Bhalai -sd- For ICICI Bank Limited

Collector holds meeting of nodal officers of PPC



Kawardha, Dec 08:

District Collector Janmejay Mahobe held a meeting of nodal officers and gave necessary guidelines regarding paddy procurement center and arrangements under the Kharif marketing year 2023-24. The Collector said that there is continuous untimely rain in the district; therefore instructions were given to ensure all arrangements in the paddy procurement centers.

The Collector told the nodal officers that keeping in mind the untimely rain there should be strong arrangements for the protection of paddy in all the paddy procurement centers.

To protect the paddy from rain water, keep adequate cap cover and keep the stacking of paddy completely covered, he instructed apart from instructing that for stacking of paddy drainage should be made systematically at the bottom and drains should also be constructed for drainage of water. While taking information regarding paddy lifting, he said that maximum paddy should be lifted, so that paddy procurement work can be done continuously.

During this he took information regarding the buffer limit and said that all the nodal officers have been given the responsibility for purchasing paddy and they should ensure

that in all paddy procurement centers, cap cover, gunny bags, platform, fork-distribution, verification of Dharamkanta, calibration of hygrometer instrument, denage, drain construction, paddy husk, facing, inspection of road arrangements from the main road to the procurement center. Collector also said that since Kabirdham district is the last border area of the state, there is a possibility of paddy being illegally transported from other states therefore strict vigil is being maintained to prevent illegal transportation of paddy through check posts on the border areas. It is noteworthy that in

Kabirdham district, paddy procurement is being conducted smoothly through 108 paddy production centers under 90 service cooperative societies. 103289.00 m till 06 December 2023.

Along with this 11579.00 m. Tonnes of paddy has been released to the miller. Deputy Collector and In-charge Food Officer Akanksha Nayak, Deputy Director of Agriculture Department Rakesh Sharma, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Service Society Satish Patle, Tikendra Rathore and all the nodal officers and officers and employees of the Food Department were present in the meeting.

Collector praised all the officers including women workers

- Involved in vote counting and discharging their election responsibilities
- Collector gave instructions for special monitoring in border areas during paddy procurement work



Jagdalpur, Dec 08: Collector Vijay Dayaram, while congratulating all the officers and employees for discharging their responsibilities in a better manner during the assembly elections, said that all the officers and employees performed the election related responsibilities with full dedication. The counting of votes was done in a better way by the women workers and for which special congratulations were given to all the women. He said that in the year 2024, most of the time will be spent on election work, keeping this in mind discharge all the responsibilities of the departments during the working season. Collector Vijay was addressing the time-limit

meeting in the Prerna meeting room of the district office on Tuesday.

While reviewing the status of paddy procurement, the status of cutting of DO for paddy lifting, registration of millers etc., the Collector stressed on ensuring the lifting of paddy on the basis of target. He instructed all SDMs, Tehsildars, Patwaris and nodal officers of the monitoring group to continuously inspect the procurement centres. He expressed the need for special surveillance in the border areas. Also, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, while checking the daily data of each committee of his section, should check the availability of gunny bags, the situ-

ation of cutting and procuring tokens of small, marginal and big farmers on the basis of 70-30 percent in paddy purchase.

In the meeting, the Collector gave instructions to get the pending payment of self-help groups and committees done immediately. He reviewed the status of MRF and SLRM Centre, its progress regarding CE-MART, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Kisan Credit Card with the SADOs of all the development blocks. Apart from this, progress made in the works was also reviewed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Livestock Development Department schemes, Livelihood Mission works, intensive

cataract screening, Bastar Area Development Authority item, Special Central Assistance item, District Mineral Trust Institute item and CSR item.

The Collector also gave instructions to get the pension cases of employees of various departments resolved after objections are raised from treasury, accounts and pension and also to resolve all the rights of the officers and employees who are going to retire in the coming months. On this occasion, CEO Prakash Sarve, Additional Collector CP Baghel, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Hareesh Mandavi and other district level officers were present.

Martyrs remembered on Armed Forces Flag Day



Kawardha, Dec 08: Armed Forces Flag Day was celebrated in the district and all including District Collector Janmejay Mahobe, officers and employees of the district remembered the country's warriors, brave women, and widows of soldiers, ex-servicemen, soldiers disabled in war and their families by purchasing the Armed Forces flag for the welfare of them. District Panchayat CEO, Sandeep Aggarwal, Additional Collector Inderjit Burman, Joint

Collector Dr. Monica Kaudo, Kawardha SDM Mr. P.C. Kori, Deputy Collector Akanksha Nayak and all the officers and employees also paid tribute to the martyrs. It is noteworthy that Armed Forces Flag Day is being celebrated since December 07, 1949 and is celebrated for the welfare of the dependents of soldiers martyred in the defense of the country. On this day, the income from purchase of flags is spent on the welfare of the dependents of martyred soldiers. The idea behind this was that donations would be earned by distributing small flags among the public which would benefit the dependents of the martyred soldiers. Initially though it was celebrated as Flag Day, but from 1993 it was changed to Armed Forces Flag Day.

Mahasamund athletes shine with gold and bronze medals

- 7th National Games in Goa

Mahasamund, Dec 08: The 7th National Games in Goa witnessed outstanding performances by athletes from Mahasamund district, as they clinched gold and bronze medals, bringing honour to Chhattisgarh. A 27-member team from the state participated in this prestigious event, featuring players from 28 states and 8 union territories.

Under the expert guidance of Bhopendra Prasad, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Minigolf Association, the state team secured a total of 5 medals,



including 1 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze medals. Collector Prabhat Malik extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the participants and medal-winning athletes. In the men's double event, the exceptionally talented Neelsagar Patel from Mahasamund district proudly secured the gold

medal, showcasing his exceptional skills and determination. Not to be outdone, Mahasamund district players continued to excel, with Chainkumari Nishad claiming a bronze medal in the women's team event, and Sanjeev Nayak earning another bronze in the men's single event. Acknowledging the

pivotal role of dedicated coaching, women's team coach Kalpana Swamy and men's team coach Rana Ajay Singh provided invaluable support to the state team. Hemant Khute from Pithora managed the team, with additional participation from Heena Nishad, Neelam Nishad, and Tista Khute from Mahasamund district, all contributing to Chhattisgarh's success.

The achievements of these exceptional athletes were celebrated not only by sports enthusiasts but also by Sports Officer Manoj Ghritalhare, who joined in congratulating the winning players.

Erratic weather keeping people sick



Kurud, Dec 08: The continuous change in weather is making people sick and these days, seasonal diseases are wreaking havoc in the entire block. People are suffering from viral fever including cold and cough and the number of patients has also increased in the OPD of Civil Hospital Kurud. At the same time, due to increase in patients in the wards, there is a situation of beds being full and as children and the elderly are espe-

cially vulnerable to this, most of the people are reaching OPD of Civil Hospital suffering from cold, cough, fever, body ache, joint pain. Doctors are especially advising children to be vaccinated and also with the increase in the number of patients, the demand for medicines has also increased. BMO Dr. US Navratna has advised to avoid cold and rain, while taking fresh hot food and hot water.

Rains cut down paddy yield Pandaria waiting to get rid of all problems

Rajim, Dec 08:

Cyclone Michong has put farmers of the region in trouble as this disaster is raining at a time when the farmers of the region were preparing to collect their year's capital by investing it in fields and crops.

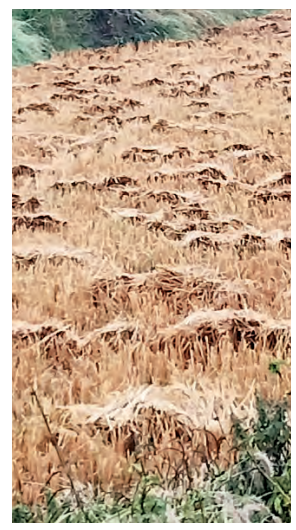
Concerned farmers say that the crop is ripe and ready, but due to water, the color of paddy will turn black and the officials will refuse to buy it at the support price in the procurement centre's and traders too will buy it at half price in the market.

Farmers told that due to wet ground the harvester machine will not be able to go to the fields and the situation will become normal only after there is sunshine for a week. Farmers Siyaram Sahu, Shriram Sahu, Trilochan Sahu, Dr. Chandrika Sahu, Chandraprakash Sahu, Shishupal Sahu, Subhash Chandra Sahu, Munna



Dhruv, Omprakash Sahu told that they had not thought that this situation would arise, as this year the crop was good, but the bad weather has caused concern.

It is important to mention that about 40% paddy harvesting is left in the area and as a good amount has to be spent in plowing the field, spraying paddy



seeds, spraying medicines, weeding, transplanting etc, the annual debt on the farmers is set to rise. Meanwhile Former MLA Amitesh Shukla has said that BJP is not worried about the farmers, the unseasonal rains have caused huge financial loss to farmers, and they should be compensated after assessing their crops.

Pandariya-Nagar, Dec 08:

With a fresh wave of hope following the change in leadership in Pandariya Nagar, residents eagerly anticipate progress and freedom from illegal activities under the guidance of the newly elected MLA, Bhavna Bohra. The recent formation of a BJP government in the state has instilled newfound confidence among the city's inhabitants, who have long awaited essential improvements and development.

Pandariya faces a myriad of challenges, including flooding in Harinala due to inadequate culverts, causing traffic disruptions during the rainy season. The absence of organized drainage systems compounds the issue, with drain water spilling onto the roads. The deteriorating bus stand, often misused for unsanitary purposes, deters passengers,

Residents await development and relief from illegal activities



despite its vital role in interstate transportation. The city's education system grapples with limited college faculty, hindering academic progress. Moreover, the chaotic operation of markets and meat-fish shops during the pandemic persists, impacting public health and cleanliness. The vegetable market continues to operate in the old market, despite significant investment in constructing a new market.

Unfortunately, the new market has become a gathering place for cattle and individuals indulging in drinking. Efforts to transition these businesses to the new market have been ongoing for an extended period. However, the lack of political will and administrative apathy have hindered the relocation process. These concerns, coupled with others, present a significant challenge to the newly elected MLA.

Another formidable task for the new leadership is curbing illegal activities and reinstating law and order. Open sale of illegal liquor, rampant betting, and gambling have marred the city's reputation for far too long. Halt to these activities is imperative for the city's development. The lack of effective measures against crime and criminals has left law enforcement in disarray, posing a critical challenge for the

new government. Challenges extend beyond the city limits into the rural areas of the block. Dilapidated roads hinder sugarcane transportation for farmers, causing traffic disruptions and economic setbacks. Basic amenities such as teacher shortages and inadequate healthcare personnel plague rural regions, emphasizing the need for swift action by the newly elected MLA and the government.

Intermittent rain adds to chilling winter in region



Kharora, Dec 08: Cyclone Michaung has ushered in a surprising shift in weather patterns across Chhattisgarh, bringing the cold that has settled over the state. Widespread rain has disrupted daily life and added to the biting cold, catching residents off guard. As a result of the cyclone's influence,

Chhattisgarh is currently experiencing an unanticipated cold spell. Alongside the persistent rain, cold winds have swept through most areas, creating a challenging environment for the local population. On Tuesday, Kharora Nagar and its surroundings witnessed not only light rain but also cold

gusts of wind, causing significant disruptions for residents.

With the onset of the cold season, people have resorted to lighting fires in various parts of the city to keep warm. It's a common sight to see individuals huddled around these fires, seeking respite from the plummeting tempera-

tures. The drizzles and rain, brought on by the shifting weather, have further reduced the mercury levels, intensifying the cold. Meteorologists have conveyed that there is a likelihood of rain in most areas until December 6, indicating that the persistent rainfall may contribute to a further drop in temperatures. Light drizzles have already been observed in many blocks, including the city center. Consequently, the district's residents can anticipate an increase in the chilly weather, with winter making an early and impactful appearance in the region this December.

Collector inspects Chhindand PPC

Korea, Dec 08:

Paddy procurement has started in the state from November 1 and District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh inspected the paddy procurement in Chhindand Paddy Procurement Centre (PPC) and gave necessary guidelines to the concerned officials.

The Collector talked to the farmers who came to sell paddy and took information from them regarding the arrangements at the procurement centre.

He weighed the paddy of the farmers who came to the procurement centre



and after taking information regarding the total paddy purchased

and lifted so far, maintenance of paddy, availability of gunny bags, regis-

tration of farmers etc., he distributed the paddy to the concerned officials keeping in view the unseasonal rains. Instructions were given to ensure proper arrangements for stacking.

He instructed the officers and employees of the cooperative society to purchase paddy in a clear and correct manner and to paste important information daily.

It is noteworthy that paddy procurement is being done through 18 committees in the district, where till now a total of 10131.2 quintals of paddy has been purchased from 216 farmers.

Palestinians try to survive war's new chapter in southern Gaza

Bloodshed, fear, hunger, desperation

Rafah (Gaza Strip), Dec 08 (AP):

The roads are so ravaged that the dead and wounded arrive by donkey cart. Desperate relatives rush bloodied and dust-covered people, many of them children, to the hospital.

Naseem Hassan, a 48-year-old Palestinian medic in the Gaza Strip's southern town of Khan Younis, said it had become impossible to walk through Nasser Hospital, with people spread out everywhere. Some patients, terrified or semiconscious, tugged at his sleeve when he squeezed through the halls. They groaned, slept and died on those blood-stained floors, he said.

His skeletal staff at the 350-bed hospital has struggled to cope with an influx of over 1,000 patients. Without fresh bandages



Palestinians wounded in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip arrive at a hospital in Khan Younis on Friday, Dec. 8.

and gauze, Doctors Without Borders said, patients' wounds have become seriously infected, in many cases septic.

"When I think about it for a moment, I start to cry," Hassan said by phone, struggling to be heard over the shouts of the doctors and nurses who remained. "It's a good thing I'm too tired to think." On December 7,

United Nations monitors said the hospital received its first delivery of supplies since November 29. The World Health Organisation delivered trauma and emergency care supplies to the area for about 4,500 patients.

In recent days, Israeli tanks have rumbled into southern Gaza, starting with Khan Younis. It's the opening of a grim new

chapter in a war that has already killed over 17,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and displaced what the United Nations estimates to be 1.9 million people.

The war which erupted when Hamas militants rampaged through southern Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 people and abducting more than 240 others has severely damaged or destroyed as much as 36 per cent of all the buildings across the entire enclave, according to analysis of publicly available satellite imagery from the European Earth observation programme Copernicus taken on Wednesday.

Those who took refuge in southern Gaza from the military campaign that reduced the north to rubble over the past two months now find themselves stuck in a cramped, desperate patch of ever-shrinking land as Israel expands its invasion.

MILITARY RAID



A convoy of Israeli army vehicles is seen during a military raid into Faraa refugee camp, West Bank, Friday, Dec. 8. The Palestinian Health Ministry says that five Palestinians were killed when Israeli forces raided the camp prompting fighting with local militants.

Chinese military surveillance balloon spotted in Taiwan Strait

Taipei (Taiwan), Dec 08 (AP):

Taiwan's Defence Ministry says a Chinese military surveillance balloon was spotted in the Taiwan Strait, as well as a large-scale movement of military aircraft and ships.

The ministry said the balloon passed southwest of the northern port city of Keelung on Thursday night, then continued east before disappearing, possibly into the Pacific Ocean.

However, there seemed to some uncertainty about whether the balloon was operated directly by the People's Liberation Army, the military branch of China's ruling Communist Party. The ministry referred to it both as a "PLA surveillance balloon" and as "1 PRC's balloon", using

the acronym for the People's Republic of China, China's official name. A Defence Ministry spokesperson said they had no additional information. China has long blurred the lines between military and civilian functions, including in the South China Sea, where it operates a huge maritime militia ostensibly civilian fishing boats that act under government orders to assert Beijing's territorial claims.

Taiwan has threatened to shoot down such balloons, but the ministry did not say what, if any, action was taken. It said the balloon was monitored flying at an altitude of approximately 6,400 metres (21,000 feet). It also said 26 Chinese military aircraft were detected, along with

10 Chinese navy ships, in the 24 hours before 6 am on Friday.

Of the aircraft, 15 had crossed the median line that is an unofficial divider between the sides, but which Beijing refuses to recognise. Some also entered Taiwan's self-declared air defense identification zone outside the island's airspace, which encompasses the 160 kilometer (100 mile) - wide Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's military monitored the situation with combat aircraft, navy vessels and land-based missile systems, the ministry said. The incident came just over month before Taiwan is to hold elections for president and the legislature and raises questions about possible Chinese efforts to influence the vote.

Such incursions occur regularly as a means of advertising China's threat to use force to annex the self-governing island republic it considers its own territory, wear down Taiwan's military capabilities, and impact morale among the armed forces and the public, who remain largely ambivalent to China's actions. The Chinese missions have also prompted Taiwan to up its purchases of aircraft from the United States, its chief ally, and revitalize its own defence industry, including producing submarines.

Beijing strongly protests all contacts between the island and the US, but its aggressive diplomacy has helped build strong bipartisan support for Taipei in Capitol Hill.

'2023 the best year historically for US-India ties'

Washington, Dec 08 (PTI):

The relationship between the US and India has been very productive, in particular on the trade and technology front, and 2023 can be considered the best year historically for bilateral ties, according to a former top American trade official.

Arun Kumar, an Indian-American, who served as the assistant secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and director general of the US and Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) during the Obama administration, said this during an interview with PTI here.

"Looking back on 2023, it was a very productive year for the US-India relationship, by many ac-

counts the best year historically," he said.

Currently a managing partner of Celesta, Kumar most recently served as the chairman and CEO of KPMG in India. "The relationship is on a strong upward trajectory. This is backed by numbers as well. Trade doubled over the last eight years to a level of USD 190 billion in 2022. Major commitments were made by US companies in India from Apple to Micron," he said.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, when remote working across the globe became well-accepted, there was a significant increase in the activities of global capability centres based in India, he said. Both countries seemed to have found an

unprecedented congruence of views in a move to make onshore, be it the Modi government's "Make In India" or the Biden administration's support of advanced manufacturing in America, to contend with tumult in global supply chains and China's economic rise, Kumar added.

"The optical high point in 2023 undoubtedly was the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington in June. This was surrounded by a steady drumbeat of activities advancing the relationship," he said.

On areas of alignment between the two countries, Kumar said that from a geoeconomics point of view, India and the US are in generally

good spots relative to the rest of the world.

The US growth rate has bounced back to pre-Covid levels, unlike in Europe and China where this has not happened, Kumar said, adding that India's growth rate has picked up, exceeding many estimates, and is among the fastest-growing large economies. Inflation pressures seem to be easing in both economies, he said.

Kumar said both countries today share some important points of view that result in economic alignment. COVID-19 and geopolitical tensions brought into focus for both countries the need for resilience as opposed to only efficiency or cost optimisation in supply chains.

Indian Americans perform Garba at Times Square

New York, Dec 08 (PTI):

Times Square reverberated with the beats and music of Garba' as members of the Indian-American community performed the traditional Gujarati dance at the iconic New York City destination to celebrate its inclusion in UNESCO's cultural heritage list.

Braving near-freezing temperatures late Thursday evening, members of the diaspora from around the New York tri-state area, including New Jersey, turned out in large numbers to perform Garba in the heart of Times Square.

Earlier this week, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed Garba of Gujarat' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session in Kasane, Botswana. The inclusion of Garba now



To celebrate its inclusion in UNESCO cultural heritage list

makes it India's 15th inscription on the List.

Dressed in traditional Garba finery, men and women performed the traditional Gujarati dance surrounded by the flashing Times Square billboards as New Yorkers and tourists from around the world

stopped to watch, take photos and videos and cheer the performance. Some onlookers even joined the dance, trying to match the steps and the rhythm of Garba and the 'Dhol'. Addressing the community at the Times Square celebration, Acting Consul General of India in

New York Dr Varun Jeph said it is a "momentous and historic occasion as we celebrate Garba of Gujarat" and its inclusion in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

"These celebrations are not just celebrations of Garba but these are the cele-

brations of the diverse, vibrant and celebrated traditions, heritage and culture of India," he said, adding celebrating Garba at Times Square - the "crossroads of the world" - is indeed special and unparalleled.

Jeph underlined that the celebration in Times Square highlights unity, harmony and communities coming together. "Let the rhythm of Garba resonate in our hearts and let it spread across the world," he said. Jeph noted that over the years several other cultural elements of India have been added to the UNESCO list and "we are sure that in the coming years, more and more elements will be added".

Leading diaspora organisation Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-NE (FIA) and community members came together with the Consulate General of India in New York to celebrate Garba at Times Square. A special video on Garba was also displayed prominently on a billboard in Times Square.

Washington, Dec 08 (PTI):

A 46-year-old Indian-origin motel owner in Newport city in the US state of North Carolina was shot dead by a homeless trespasser, who barricaded himself inside a room at the property before taking his own life, police said.

Satyen Naik was discovered with a gunshot wound outside the motel when police arrived on the scene on Wednesday. "Just after 10, the 911 centre received a call about an individual trespassing at the Hostess House," said Newport Police Chief Keith Lewis.

"A disturbance was heard in the background, and just following that a second call was received that an individual had been shot. Within moments officers arrived on scene," The News-Times newspaper quoted Lewis as saying.

Once Naik was safely

away from the building, emergency personnel took him to Carteret Health Care to receive medical attention.

He was later pronounced dead. "It's a family-owned business and he operated this business daily with his family," Lewis said.

Troy Kellum, the suspect, was discovered barricaded inside one of the Hostess House's rooms. "The suspect had barricaded himself in the room," said Lewis, "which prompted us to alert the Special Response Team (SRT) and request their assistance in retrieving the barricaded person from

the room."

Lewis said that Kellum, 59, was a squatter at the Hostess House and other locations in the area and was thought to be homeless. For several hours, officers and Kellum were at a standstill as the SRT team's negotiators attempted to persuade him to give up.

The SRT team is a tactical unit made up of individuals from various agencies in Carteret County.

While Kellum was barricaded in the Hostess House, Carteret County Sheriff Asa Buck said he and other officials opted to implement soft lockdowns in the area.

Indian motel manager sentenced for trafficking, forced labour in US

Washington, Dec 08 (PTI):

A 71-year-old Indian motel manager in the US state of Georgia has been sentenced to 57 months in prison for trafficking a woman for peonage and slavery, and ordered to pay over USD 40,000 in restitution to seven people, officials said. According to court documents, Shreesh Tiwari, an Indian national and legal US permanent resident, began managing the Budgetel Motel in Cartersville, Georgia, in 2020. Tiwari hired the woman to work as a maid at the motel and provided her

with a room. He was aware that the victim had previously experienced homelessness, struggled with a heroin addiction and lost custody of her young child, the Department of Justice said in a statement.

Tiwari promised the victim that he would help her regain custody of her child by providing her with pay, an apartment and an attorney, it said. However, instead of following through with his promises, Tiwari monitored the victim's interactions with motel guests and employees and forbade her from speaking to them, federal prosecu-

tors alleged. He also discouraged the victim from communicating with her family and friends, falsely claiming that they did not care about her, they added. Tiwari made sexual overtures to the victim and often threatened to evict her from the room he provided her at the motel, the prosecutors said. They said Tiwari also threatened to report the victim's drug use to law enforcement or child welfare agencies. Tiwari began to regularly "evict" the victim from her motel room and even locked her out of her room at night without warning, accord-

ing to the statement. Ultimately, he required the victim to perform sex acts with him to stay at the motel. If she did not, Tiwari removed her from the property, causing her to be homeless, it added. "Human trafficking can occur anywhere since traffickers are adept at identifying someone's vulnerabilities and often fraudulently extend hope to someone looking for an opportunity to improve their dire circumstances," Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said.

Directorate Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh
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Letter No 7261/NLM/LIS/E-PRO/DVS/Nawa Raipur Atal Nagar, Date: 07/12/2023

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender Ref. No. : 6247 / NLM / LIS / E-PRO / DVS / 2023-24 / Nawa Raipur Atal Nagar Dated : 05.10.2023

Subject :- Cancellation of the referred Tender Document.

Due to insufficient bidder participation the tender no.: 6247 / NLM / LIS / E-PRO / DVS / 2023-24 / Nawa Raipur Atal Nagar Dated : 05.10.2023 has been cancelled.

Director
Veterinary Services
Chhattisgarh

G-06242/1

कार्यालय श्रमायुक्त छत्तीसगढ़

खण्ड-03, द्वितीय तल, इंद्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर (छ.ग.)
Email ID- cgcl2012@gmail.com, Fax-0771-2443516/14

क्रमांक-29/सी. भर्ती/स्था./प्र.आ./2023/8166 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 06/12/2023

//सूचना पत्र//

श्रमायुक्त संगठन के अंतर्गत सहायक श्रम पदाधिकारी के 04 पद, श्रम निरीक्षक के 14 पद एवं श्रम उप निरीक्षक के 16 पदों (कुल 34 पद) पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु छ.ग. व्यावसायिक परीक्षा मंडल, नवा रायपुर द्वारा संयुक्त लिखित परीक्षा दिनांक 24.06.2023 को आयोजित की गयी एवं दिनांक 14.08.2023 को परीक्षा परिणाम घोषित की गयी। उक्त रिक्त कुल 34 पदों को पूर्ति किये जाने हेतु संवर्गवार मेरिट सूची अनुसार अभ्यर्थियों को मूल शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्रों एवं अन्य दस्तावेज सत्यापन/मिलान हेतु दिनांक 26.09.2023 को बुलाया गया था, जिसमें से 08 अभ्यर्थियों क्रमशः (1) श्री सागर साहू पिता-श्री दिनेश कुमार साहू, जिला-रायपुर (2) श्री प्रमोद कुमार सोनवानी पिता-श्री संतोष कुमार सोनवानी, जिला-रायपुर (3) श्री अक्षय कुमार कंवर पिता-श्री अक्ती सिंग कंवर, जिला-कोरबा (4) श्री दीपक कुजूर पिता-श्री बिहारी राम, जिला-जशपुर (5) सुश्री तनुजा नाग पिता-श्री सोमनाथ नाग, जिला दत्तेवाड़ा (6) श्री सचिन भक्त पिता-श्री चिम्मन लाल भक्त, जिला-रायपुर (7) श्री विकास सिंग राजपूत पिता-श्री शिव सिंग राजपूत, जिला-मुंगेली (8) श्री लोकचंद साहू पिता-श्री संतोष साहू जिला-कबीरघाम अनुपस्थित रहे हैं।

अतः उक्त अनुपस्थित अभ्यर्थियों को प्रकाशन तिथि से 05 कार्यालयीन दिवस के अंदर श्रमायुक्त कार्यालय, इंद्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर में उपस्थित होकर दस्तावेज सत्यापन कराना सुनिश्चित करें अन्यथा उनके स्थान पर प्रावीण्य सूची के अनुसार अन्य पात्र अभ्यर्थियों का चयन किया गया जावेगा।

(सविता मिश्रा)
अपर श्रमायुक्त (स्था.)
कार्यालय श्रमायुक्त, छ.ग.
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर

G-06194/1



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Mahua Moitra's Expulsion

Upholding Parliamentary Ethics

The expulsion of Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha following allegations of accepting bribes and unethical conduct has ignited a firestorm of controversy and debate within our parliamentary corridors. While this decision was undoubtedly a momentous one, it is imperative that we view it through the lens of upholding parliamentary ethics and maintaining the sanctity of our democratic institutions. Moitra's journey from a fiery critic of the Modi government to being accused of accepting illegal gratifications and unethical conduct is a stark reminder of the high standards of integrity and accountability expected from our elected representatives. It is our duty, as the fourth estate, to objectively analyze the events leading up to her expulsion and the implications it carries for our democracy. The allegations against Moitra were grave, to say the least. She was accused of accepting bribes, including a substantial amount of cash and luxury gifts, from businessman Darshan Hiranandani in exchange for asking questions critical of the government in Parliament. Furthermore, she admitted to sharing her parliamentary log-in credentials with Hiranandani, enabling him to post questions directly. These allegations, if proven true, not only constitute a breach of parliamentary privilege but also raise questions about the integrity of our elected representatives. The Ethics Committee of Parliament, tasked with investigating these allegations, concluded that "allegations of accepting illegal gratification (are) clearly established and undeniable." Moreover, the committee found that Moitra's actions amounted to a quid pro quo, which is unbecoming of a Member of Parliament and constitutes unethical conduct. In light of these findings, it is essential to acknowledge that the expulsion was not a hasty decision but a culmination of a thorough investigation. Moitra's defiance and refusal to cooperate with the Ethics Committee only complicated matters. Her allegations of bias and selective leaks were serious accusations that needed to be addressed transparently. However, her failure to engage constructively with the committee left little room for resolution. In a democracy, elected officials should be willing to subject themselves to scrutiny and due process when facing such allegations. The parliamentary proceedings leading to Moitra's expulsion were tumultuous, with opposition members demanding access to the report and a discussion before any action was taken. While parliamentary debates and discussions are essential components of our democratic process, it is equally important to recognize that the Ethics Committee had already conducted a comprehensive inquiry and its report was available for review. The decision to expel Moitra was not taken lightly. It was based on the Ethics Committee's findings and the principles of accountability and integrity that form the bedrock of our parliamentary democracy. Upholding these principles is not a partisan endeavor but a collective responsibility shared by all parliamentarians, regardless of their political affiliations. In the end, Moitra's expulsion serves as a reminder that no one is above the law, and elected representatives must adhere to the highest ethical standards. It also underscores the need for transparency and accountability within our parliamentary institutions. As we reflect on this incident, let it be a catalyst for a renewed commitment to the values that underpin our democracy – accountability, integrity, and the rule of law.

Puri: Bengalis' Beloved Second Home

Rathin Kumar Chanda

Puri – a name that conjures dreams of a perfect getaway for Bengalis. It's not just a tourist destination; it's a place where we find solace. Puri welcomes us with open arms, offering a serene haven within an overnight journey. It's a place we can visit at any time of the year, free from the constraints of seasons or the burden of extravagant hotel expenses. Puri is the second home for Bengalis, and at the mere mention of travel, our thoughts invariably gravitate towards this enchanting coastal town. Puri is a sanctuary for travellers seeking peace by the seashore. Here, time loses its significance, and the worries of the world fade away as the Bay of Bengal's waves wash ashore. The breathtaking sunrise and sunset at the beach present a mesmerizing spectacle of natural beauty. Each visit to Puri offers a fresh perspective, unveiling its charm through ever-changing vistas. The beauty seems endless, and as night falls, the sight of candlelit trawlers floating on the sea, engaged in their quest for the day's catch, is a sight to behold. Lifeguards are ever-vigilant, ensuring the safety of tourists who wish to immerse themselves in the sea's embrace. Another marvel awaiting travellers is the Jagannath Temple, known to Bengalis through the tales of Sri Chaitanya, who embarked on a pilgrimage to Puri to seek the divine presence of Lord Krishna in the form of Lord Jagannath. The temple's architecture and its historical significance captivate all who visit. The temple premises hold a sense of wonder, even for those who return repeatedly. The procession of Lord Jagannath's chariot, with its multitude of devotees, is a spectacle that leaves an indelible mark. Witnessing the flag-hoisting ceremony atop the temple is a unique experience. As one watches a brave soul ascend to the pinnacle of the temple with a flag in tow, it becomes a testament to human endurance and devotion. Each onlooker departs, feeling blessed to have witnessed this miraculous event. Lord Jagannath blesses countless spectators with His divine presence from the moment the temple gates open until they close, welcoming visitors from all corners of the globe. His bhog, distributed from a special place known as 'Anandabazar', is a thrilling anticipation for His devotees. The neighboring areas of Masir Bari and Pisir Bari are also worth exploring. The sea beach, however, remains the primary destination for tranquility. It offers hours of peaceful respite, where the sea unfurls its natural beauty in three acts – morning, evening, and night. The sea's waves dance to the rhythms of the sunrise, sunset, and the dark cloak that envelops it after nightfall. As Bengalis, we resonate with the spiritual pulse of Sri Chaitanya, who once graced Puri with His presence. Puri is also known by names such as Sriketra and Nilachal, signifying its deep-rooted significance in our cultural consciousness. Puri stands as not just a destination, but a cherished part of our collective identity. It's a place where Bengalis find a second home, where the soul connects with spirituality and where the heart finds tranquility. Puri, with its pristine beaches and spiritual aura, continues to be a beloved retreat for generations of Bengalis.

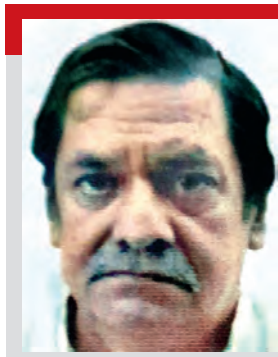
Central Chronicle invites articles, write-ups, and comments on a wide range of issues for our editorial page. Submissions should be between 800-900 words in length. In addition, we welcome letters to the editor for this page. While letters may be edited for clarity, we aim to preserve the integrity of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

ANTI-SMOG GUN IN WORK

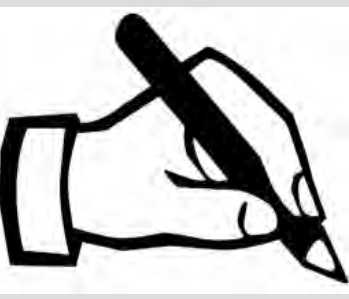


Anti-smog gun being used to sprinkle water near the India Gate amid 'very poor' air quality, in New Delhi, Friday, Dec. 8.

Urgent Need to End the North-South Political Divide



YASH PAL RALHAN



In the intricate web of Indian politics, it is not uncommon to witness heated exchanges, provocative remarks, and divisive narratives that, at times, threaten to tear the nation apart. The recent controversy surrounding the "Gomutra states" remark made by a DMK parliament member serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need to put an end to the North-South divide in Indian politics. Such divisive rhetoric not only damages the social fabric but also undermines the unity that India has cherished since its inception. The statement in question, which referred to states where the BJP had won as "Gomutra states," is not only condemnable but also dangerous. It perpetuates a divisive mindset that threatens to create an unnecessary rift between the northern and southern regions of the country. In the world's largest democracy, it is imperative that political discourse be based on respect, inclusivity, and the acknowledgment of India's rich diversity. While engaging in a parliamentary debate, Dr. DNV Senthilkumar S. made this controversial statement, as-

serting that the BJP's strength lies in winning elections, particularly in the Hindi belt states, which he derogatorily referred to as "Gomutra states." This statement not only belittles the political choices of millions of citizens but also insinuates that the BJP is incapable of making inroads in the southern states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, and Karnataka. Such sweeping generalizations only serve to deepen divisions and fuel animosity. However, it is encouraging to note that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin promptly reprimanded his MP and demanded an apology. The swift action taken by the Chief Minister sends a powerful message that divisive rhetoric has no place in responsible political discourse. Other leaders, such as MDMK leader Vaiko and Samajwadi Party MP S T Hassan, should also reflect on the consequences of endorsing such statements. In a diverse country like India, it is crucial for leaders to promote harmony and unity rather than engaging in divisive rhetoric. The Congress, too, has a role to play in mitigating the

North-South divide. The recent electoral results have sparked conversations about this divide, with some suggesting that the Congress has a strong presence only in the northern states, while the BJP is gaining ground in the south. However, it is essential to remember that India's political landscape is dynamic, and these assertions oversimplify the complex reality. India's strength has always been its unity in diversity. The Congress, as a flag-bearer of the national movement that led to the country's independence, should understand that promoting regional divisions is not in line with the values of inclusivity and unity that India's freedom fighters stood for. Regional affiliations should never be used as a basis for political attacks, as it only weakens the fabric of our democracy. Moreover, electoral reversals should not be a reason to exacerbate these divisions. As seen in the case of Rahul Gandhi contesting from Kerala, political leaders should be free to choose their constituencies without facing unwarranted criticism. While demographic realities may vary across regions, it is essential to maintain the principles of a secular democratic republic, where every citizen's rights and choices are respected. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's previous comments about Rahul Gandhi's choice of constituency highlighted the issue of regionalism. Although the demographic composition of Wayanad may differ from other parts of the country, it is crucial to uphold the values of inclusivity and

diversity that underpin India's democracy. Leaders should refrain from sharing content that promotes regionalism or partisan agendas, as it can have detrimental effects on our national unity. In this context, it is incumbent upon the Congress, as a leading political party, to distance itself from divisive campaigns. Encouraging allies, including the DMK, to refrain from divisive politics is essential. Divisiveness may yield temporary gains, but in the long run, it leads to misery, violence, and destruction. The democratic way is far more sophisticated and conducive to the nation's well-being. Every political party must avoid engaging in low-level politics solely for short-term electoral gains. These tactics not only weaken the democratic structure of the country but also erode the trust and harmony among citizens. India's strength lies in its diversity, and it is the responsibility of political leaders to nurture and protect this diversity by fostering unity and understanding among all regions. In conclusion, the recent controversy surrounding the "Gomutra states" remark should serve as a wake-up call for Indian politics. The North-South divide is a divisive narrative that must be put to rest. It is essential for political leaders, regardless of their affiliations, to prioritize national unity, inclusivity, and respect for diversity over divisive rhetoric. Only by working together and respecting the principles on which India was founded can we build a stronger, more united nation for all its citizens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need to Peace

The aim of United Nations' formation was to maintain peace in the world after World War I. But due to its failure in World War II, it was disbanded. Currently, the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas war have been going on for several months. The supported countries are trying their tactics to take over. There is a fear that this war will take the form of a world war. The horrors of war are always execrable. Other countries may have to suffer its impact in the form of higher prices. Scenes of war were shown on television channels as news. It is normal for the common people to feel upset and anxious after seeing the war situation. Therefore, it is in humanity's interest to stop the war. To stop the devastation caused by war, an initiative must be taken to organize a meeting for the purpose of world peace. At the international level, states' treaties seem to have gotten out of control. No country took the initiative to stop the war. Now everyone is watching the war scene.

N Ashraf, Mumbai

Revanth Reddy Sworn in as CM

Anumula Revanth Reddy was sworn in as Telangana's Chief Minister (CM), marking a historic moment as the first Congress CM in the state. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan administered the oath to CM Revanth Reddy and eleven other ministers. Prominent Congress leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, attended the ceremony. People hope the new CM fulfills his election promises efficiently and without corruption. However, the challenge lies in balancing freebies with funding for development projects, similar to Karnataka's financial struggles in fulfilling guarantees.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Plateau in pligh

"Asian water tower" or geographically better known as Tibetan plateau have been playing pivotal role regarding the evolution of numerous kingdoms and later republics in the south Asian zone for last one thousand years. Whether it is Delhi sultanate or Le dynasty of Vietnam, it had shaped the socio economic conditions of the then kingdoms. But since the advent of industrial revolution in this area, the entire ecological balance due to various anthropogenic activities have been compromised including water bodies like rivers. Climate change has paralleled with rapid decreasing of glacier covers in the Tibetan plateau, a potential threat to the total water scarcity by the end of this century. Thus to mitigate such hydrological extremes and societal upheavals, mitigating steps area to be taken through sustainable economic activities.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur

What A Hypocrisy Indeed!

Kajal Chatterjee

2021 Assembly election had indeed been won by TMC by means of "rigging"! But when BJP wins "77 seats from zero" in that very Assembly election, indeed "free and fair" polling happened in those constituencies. And of course the results of 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls plus that of the Assembly polls in 2022 Uttar Pradesh or Gujarat were nothing but "win of democracy". "Rigging" happens only in those states / constituencies where opposition force emerge triumphant. Bengal has been urged to vote massively in favour of BJP so that the Prime minister can boast that the third term has been won "just because of Bengal"! Well even if it happens, what would West Bengal gain. Even after an

unprecedented tally of 18 BJP MPs from Bengal (18) after 2019 general polls, did a single Bengali get an entry into Union Cabinet. What about the monetary deprivation towards Bengal revolving around social schemes for years though there exist no problem in garnering revenue from "Kangal Bangal". Indeed Bengal's name has been "tarnished in the country over corruption by Mamata Banerjee". I wonder how the name of BJP - governed states don't get nationally tarnished as a result of exam scam, Ventilator scam at the height of second wave of pandemic or regular exam paper leaks! Or due to regular drug hauls from the ports of "Role model of Indian development". So TMC leaders of Bengal have looted money through cattle/coal smuggling. I won-

der why the vigilant agencies can't set foot upon the soil of Gujarat Uttar Pradesh Haryana or Assam. Why doesn't a single BJP leader get nabbed! Are all BJP leaders of Centre/states resemble "paragons of virtue". And how can "black" leaders of Opposition ranks automatically turn "pristine white" as soon as they enter "saffron washing machine". As for "infiltration" in West Bengal, it needs to be asked who man the Indo - Bangladesh international border. West Bengal police under TMC or Central units under BJP-led Centre. As far as "development" is concerned, at least West Bengal doesn't require to build a high and long wall overnight on the visit of any foreign dignitary. Why did "Trump Wall" get erected in such an emergency fashion! To hide

the "unique development" of Ahmedabad. And for the sake of argument even if it is accepted that West Bengal is indeed a very "undeveloped" State, then it needs to be asked who is responsible for it. Is West Bengal an independent country of its own. Rather it is a part of India with all powers vested in the Centre. So still if Bengal gets treated as "undeveloped", then 100% fault lies with the mandarins of "New India". So whenever one finger gets pointed towards Bengal for "infiltration" and "undevelopment", 3 fingers promptly get pointed towards the character assassins of Bengal themselves. As for the question whether Ram temple should have got constructed or not, the answer is "Absolutely No" as it is being constructed

right at that very site where a mosque had stood for centuries prior to its unlawful barbaric demolition by brute communal mob! And that particular "movement" in the name of the temple after an epic hero has given rise to deluge of communalism and hatred which is simply seeing no end. As for "end of terrorism" since 2014, it needs to be asked exactly in which period of time or under which particular regime did Uri Pathankot Gurdaspur and most importantly Pulwama happen! And if now it is "reign of peace" all around, then why Assembly polls are not happening in Jammu & Kashmir and why is it not being reinstated into a state. It is very easy to hurl abuses at others, but very hard to indulge in a bit of introspection, isn't it.

BRIEF

Expansion drive



Kolkata: In a bid to capitalise on the anticipated growth in cement demand in East and Northeast India, Star Cement is fast-tracking its expansion plans in both greenfield and brownfield projects, so that the total capacity reaches 9.7 million tonnes per year by 2025-26, an official said on Friday. The largest player in the Northeast at present, Star Cement's current installed capacity is 5.5 million tonnes. "By the end of 2023, our capacity will be 7.7 million tonnes, and by 2025-26, it will reach 9.7 million tonnes," said Star Cement CEO Vineet Kumar Tiwari told PTI.

Dedicated helpline

Chennai: Insurance provider SBI General has launched an emergency helpline service to serve flood-affected customers due to Cyclone Michaung in Tamil Nadu, the company said on Friday. A dedicated team from SBI General Insurance has been set up to manage queries and process claims in fast-track mode. Customers seeking the service of SBI General Insurance can contact the toll-free number 1800 102 1111 or can send a short message service (SMS) to 561612.

Carbon emissions



Dubai: Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) is set to achieve its mid-term target of 50 per cent carbon emissions reduction well before the target year of 2035, a company official said. JSL Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal said the company is investing Rs 700 crore in various sustainability projects aimed at reducing 1.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year. Marking its presence at the United Nations Confederation of Parties climate summit (COP28) for the first time, the company showcased its decarbonisation initiatives at a side event organised by the Indian steel ministry at the India Pavilion here.

RBI keeps interest rates unchanged, raises GDP growth forecast to 7 pc

Mumbai, Dec 08:



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das with Deputy Governors Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, Swaminathan Janakiraman and T Rabi Shankar arrives to address a press conference on monetary policy statement, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai, Friday, Dec. 8.

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday expectedly left its key lending rates unchanged for the fifth consecutive time and predicted faster growth in the world's fastest-growing major economy amid an uncertain outlook on inflation ahead of elections.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee, consisting of three RBI and an equal number of external members, voted unanimously to keep the benchmark repo rate at 6.5 per cent. All but one of the panel members voted to keep the policy stance at "withdrawal of accommodation" in signs that rates may remain higher for longer. The central bank raised its forecast for economic growth to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent, maintaining India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, after a stronger-than-expected 7.6 per cent growth in the

July-September quarter. "Growth has been resilient and robust, surprising everyone," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said announcing the MPC decisions. The encouraging signs, including an expanding manufacturing PMI and healthy growth in eight core industries, underline confidence in sustained robust growth. On inflation, he said while

there has been broad-based easing in core inflation, the "near-term outlook, however, is masked by risks to food inflation, which might lead to an inflation uptick in November and December". "This needs to be watched for second-round effects, if any," he said, projecting consumer inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, unchanged from its

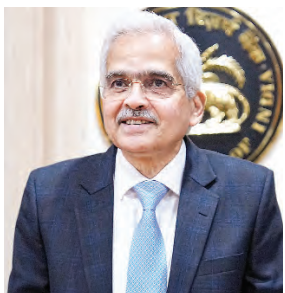
previous projection. Going ahead, the inflation outlook would be considerably influenced by uncertain food prices, with elevated global sugar prices being a matter of concern. The RBI has raised the repo rate by a total of 250 basis points (bps) since May 2022 in efforts to cool surging inflation, which dropped to 4.87 per cent in October but is expected to

remain above the 4 per cent medium-term target for some time. The governor also highlighted that "over-tightening" can also pose growth risks to the economy, and emphasised that it is not a signal that the policy stance was moving towards neutral. Inflation remains above 4 per cent and "monetary policy must continue to be actively disinflationary to ensure fuller transmission and anchoring of inflation expectations," he said.

The RBI's stance echoes the global trend of central banks signalling an enduring period of higher rates, further emphasising the need for a cautious yet progressive approach in navigating the financial landscape. Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist and Head Research, at Acuite Ratings & Research said the intensity of hawkishness in the policy statement has clearly subsided and a balance has been brought in.

No plans to loosen rates, inflation top priority: Shaktikanta Das

Mumbai, Dec 08:



Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said there is no plan to loosen interest rates as inflation continues to be the top priority for the central bank. Speaking to reporters at the central bank headquarters here, Das clarified that the inclusion of "over tightening" in his statement while announcing the fifth consecutive status quo in rates, should not be construed as anything else.

A "loosening" in rates is not on the table, Das added. Making it clear that inflation is the top priority for the central bank, Das said a few months of satisfactory data -- the headline number dropped to 4.87

per cent in October -- should not lead to any complacency and added that we have a long way to cover on inflation management. Deputy Governor Michael Patra said looking at the economic growth in the first half and the high-frequency data for October and November, the upward revision in FY24 GDP growth rate at 7 per cent is a "conservative estimate".

GDP growth of 7 pc in FY24 a 'conservative estimate': RBI DG Michael Patra

Mumbai, Dec 08:



Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Patra on Friday termed the revised 7 per cent growth expectation of the RBI as a "conservative estimate". Speaking to reporters after the announcement of the bi-monthly policy review, Patra said the real GDP growth in the first half of the fiscal year has beat all estimates, including the RBI's. Patra said if one were to add the RBI's estimates for the second half, the GDP growth for FY24 will come at 6.9 per cent. But, the high frequency data for October and November points to robust economic activity. "So at the current time, 7 (per cent) is like a conser-

vative estimate," the Deputy Governor in charge of the important monetary policy department said. Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank sharply revised up its GDP estimate for FY24 to 7 per cent from the earlier expectation of 6.5 per cent. Many watchers were expecting the RBI to do the

revision, but the 0.50 per cent push was not expected by any analyst. On growth, Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the demand for two-wheelers is high as seen in over 20 per cent growth during the festive season and also added that fast moving consumer goods companies are also reporting a turnaround in rural demand.

He added that private capex is also showing signs of revival, particularly in sectors like petroleum, steel cement and chemicals, and pointed out that capacity utilization has reached a threshold at 74 per cent. "It has reached a point where we can expect private investment also to start picking," he said.

RBI retains FY24 retail inflation forecast at 5.4 pc; food prices situation uncertain

Mumbai, Dec 08:

The Reserve Bank on Friday retained the retail inflation projection for the current fiscal at 5.4 per cent but said inflation may see an uptick in November and December due to pressure on food prices. "Going ahead, the inflation outlook would be considerably influenced by uncertain food prices.

High-frequency food price indicators point to an increase in prices of key vegetables, which may push CPI inflation higher in the near term," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. Retail or consumer price index-based CPI inflation moderated to 4.9 per cent in October from 7.4 per cent in July. The ongoing rabi sowing progress for key crops like wheat, spices and pulses needs to be closely monitored, Das said, adding elevated global sugar prices is also a matter of concern.

The RBI, in its bi-monthly policy statement, on Friday retained benchmark interest rates at 6.5 per cent for the fifth time

in a row. The repo rate was last hiked in February. "Monetary policy must continue to be actively disinflationary to ensure fuller transmission and anchoring of inflation expectations," the monetary policy statement said. The moderation in October inflation was observed in all components of CPI.

There has been broad-based easing in core inflation, indicative of successful disinflation through monetary policy actions, the statement added. On the positive side, global commodity prices, particularly, agricultural commodity prices, have softened, except rice. For highly import-dependent food items like edible oils, international prices continue to remain soft. Domestic milk prices are stabilising. Pro-active supply side interventions by the government are also containing domestic food price pressures, the RBI said, adding crude oil has softened considerably, though it may remain volatile.

UPI payment limit to hospitals, educational institutes raised to Rs 5 lakh: RBI

Mumbai, Dec 08:

In a major decision, the RBI on Friday announced to raise the UPI payment limit to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh presently and hiked the cap for e-mandates for recurring payments to Rs 1 lakh. Unveiling the December bi-monthly monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said the limit for various categories of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions has been reviewed from time to time.

"It is now proposed to enhance the UPI transaction limit for payment to hospitals and educational institutions from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5

lakh per transaction," he said. The enhanced limit will help consumers make UPI payments of higher amounts for education and healthcare purposes. He further said that e-mandates for making payments of a recurring nature have become popular among customers. Under the e-mandate framework, an additional factor of authentication (AFA) is required for recurring transactions exceeding Rs 15,000 currently. "It is now proposed to enhance this limit to Rs 1 lakh per transaction for recurring payments of mutual fund subscriptions, insurance premium subscriptions and credit card repayments," the governor said.

Ready to introduce same-day settlement of trades by March 2024: Sebi chief

New Delhi, Dec 08:



Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch on Friday said the capital markets regulator is ready to introduce same-day settlement of trades on the stock exchanges by March 2024. Speaking at the Global Economic Policy Forum 2023 organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Buch said, "We are ready to introduce T+0 (T plus zero) settlement trade by the end of the current fiscal".

The regulator, which has already reduced the settlement timelines to as short as one day after the transaction, is now look-

ing to shorten the same further. The Sebi chief talked about the T+1 regime that has been implemented in the market. Earlier this year, the country's stock markets transitioned from T+2 to T+1 settlement, settling trades on the following business day. "It takes two things to make this happen. First is technology and second is

co-creation. We are now moving to T+0 which will happen before the end of this financial year and one year from there we will have instantaneous settlement, which is optional. When we do this, risk in the system comes down," Buch said here.

"The two reasons why we have been able to bring T+1 to the people are stellar technology - the technology and market stack in India are unparalleled and have been acknowledged as one of the best in the world. Second being the co-creation with the institution and creating a methodology of regulations with them," she said.

Infrastructure development picks pace under Modi govt, says Scindia

New Delhi, Dec 08:



India has made immense progress in infrastructure development under the Modi government and figures among the top five in various sectors and areas, Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia said on Friday. While the previous UPA regime ignored the development of the country, India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been consistently growing across the sectors, Scindia told reporters here. A Rs 10 lakh crore budget for infrastructure by the

present government shows its seriousness for the development of the country. Area-wise, India might be the seventh largest country in the world, but today "we remain among the top five in various sectors and areas," Scindia said at the

conference on 'overall development in the infrastructure in India'. In the roads and highways sector, the minister said that the highway construction has grown to 37 km per day from just 12 km per day before 2014. The government aims to scale it up to 60 km per day during the Amritkaal period by 2047. The network of highways touched 1.45 lakh kilometres under the regime of the present government as compared to 90 lakh km of highways the country had before 2014, the minister for Steel and Civil Aviation said. "We have the second

largest network of roads and highways in the world," he said. The waiting time at the toll gates reduced significantly to 47 seconds from 734 seconds earlier, he added. The high-speed corridor was of only 350 km and the government increased its length by 9 times to 30,100 km. The government gave special focus to Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern states, including Manipur, for the development of road and railway projects, he said, adding that unlike the previous government which ignored the development in these regions.

Licious launches festive specials

Mumbai, Dec 08:

It's not December anymore, but Decemmmber as you indulge in yummy exotic meats, festive specials and red hot deals by Licious 'Its that time of the year when there's festivity in the air and holiday cheer surrounds you. Indeed, December isn't another month - it's a feeling. But this year is different, as it isn't just December anymore, it's now Licious Decemmmber - beckoning you to embrace the merriment and indulge in meaty celebrations every day. So why wait when you can celebrate! From a wide range of Season's Specials to Treats, there are delectable offerings to get this Decemmmber started. Just when you thought it

couldn't get any better, there are Red Hot Festive Deals that make this proposition even meatier! Ammmmonth long celebration, there is something for everyone to go yummm in this LiciousDecemmmber; in the Licious App or Website to order your favourites now.

Talking about Licious' takeover of the month and making it a delectable Licious Decemmmber, Santosh Hegde, Vice President, Brand - Licious, said, "Who ever thought that year-end celebrations should only start by the last week of December, hasn't gotten a taste of 'Licious Decemmmber' yet. That's right, it isn't just 'December' anymore, but 'Licious Decemmmber', as you rel-

ish the many delicacies offered by Licious all through this month. With yummy delicacies across raw & fresh as well as ready to cook categories, the sheer sound of indulgence & bliss is bound to make you go 'Decemmmber' with Licious! So don't wait, just celebrate with your loved family & friends - and make it the most flavourful month of the year!" The 'Season's Specials' is surely special, with a range of exotic and festive products comprising roasts, grills and more. With offerings as Whole Roast Chicken, Atlantic Salmon, Mud Crab, Tiger Prawns, etc. the Specials' range is bound to add zing to your dinner gatherings and meals with friends & family.

Stock markets hit new peaks as RBI upgrades growth forecast

Mumbai, Dec 08:



Benchmark Sensex and Nifty rebounded to close at their new lifetime highs on Friday after the Reserve Bank raised the growth forecast for the current fiscal and kept policy rates unchanged, triggering heavy buying in banking and other rate-sensitive stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 303.91 points, or 0.44 per cent, to hit its new peak of 69,825.60. The index touched the highest intra-day level of 69,893.80. The broader index Nifty also climbed 68.25 points or 0.33 per cent to reach a fresh record high of 20,969.40. Among major Sensex

movers, HCL Tech logged the biggest gain of 2.69 per cent, followed by JSW Steel (2.44 per cent) and Infosys (1.67 per cent). Other gainers included HDFC Bank, Titan, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank. In contrast, ITC fell the most by 1.95 per cent, Mahindra & Mahindra by 1.48 per cent and Bajaj Finance by 1.18 per cent.

People voted for stability: PM Modi tells biz leaders at investors' summit

Dehradun, Dec 08:



As he pitched Uttarakhand as a prime destination for investment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said people have voted for stable and strong governments in recent elections. "An aspirational India does not want instability. Today, it wants a stable government," Modi said, referring to the recent assembly elections in which his BJP won Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

He was addressing business leaders after inaugurating a two-day Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit at the

You will see policy-driven governance.

"You will see a strong resolve of the people of the country for political stability," he said. He said these trends were seen during the recent elections and one in Uttarakhand last year. People voted for good governance. "They voted on the basis of the track record of governance," Modi said. Modi also said India is set to become the world's third-largest economy in the next few years, during his third term. "For Indian companies, for India's investors, it is the ideal time. India is all set to become the world's third-biggest economy in a few years.

Use of DMF will be investigated, action by bulldozer soon: Chaitram

If the public is facing from railing, they can lodge complain

Central Chronicle News

Dantewada, Dec 08: After the action by bulldozer in other cities of Chhattisgarh, its effect can be seen in city of 'Maiji' i.e Dantewada and even those trying to misutilise the DMF funds would not be spared.

Investigations into the works carried out under DMF funds in the last five years of Congress rule will be done and those found guilty will face action, says the newly elected MLA Chaitram Atami here on Wednesday.

This particular statement by Atami has led to ripples in the administrative circle and for the officers who have taken the development works under DMF lightly, this can prove to be a nightmare. After being elected as the MLA, Chaitram

Atami offered prayers to Goddess Danteshwari. Prior to reaching the temple from BJP's office, he was weighted against 'laddos' by BJYM workers at Teknar Chowk.

The most interesting thing here was that here the BJP workers had parked a bulldozer here. After this MLA reached the temple and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all from Goddess Danteshwari. During this the VS in-charge Dantewada Srinivas Muddi was also present.

People have showered their blessings:

After oblations to Goddess Danteshwari, Atami speaking to media persons said that he passes under DMF lightly, this can prove to be a nightmare. After being elected as the MLA, Chaitram



He said that it is people's blessing that he got elected as their leader and would try his level best to meet upto their expectations. To a question on action by bulldozer, he said that the place where it is needed the bulldozer will be run.

Railings near road to be removed:

MLA Chaitram Atami said that the railings by the road-side are posing problems to the people and therefore the first bulldozer action will be taken there. He said that if any person is facing problem from this railing, then he should first complaint it to the MLA directly. **DMF to be investigated:**

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Dec 08: The Chhattisgarh Mahila Cell of the Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Ekta Parishad (ABBEP) made a heartwarming impact on December 3rd, demonstrating the power of compassion and community spirit.

Led by District President Jyoti Sharma, State President Anju Pandey, State Convener Yamini Sharma, and State Secretary Savitri Mishra, along with the enthusiastic participation of their fellow "Maatreshaktiyon," the initiative brought warmth and essential supplies to those in need.

The team distributed weather-friendly clothing, fruits, biscuits, chips, and other essential materials to elderly individuals, extending a hand of support to combat the winter chill.



Their efforts didn't stop there, as they also provided nourishing food items and suitable clothing to the parents and children of "Bal Jeevan Jyoti" Deaf and Dumb Ashram, leaving them deeply touched by the kindness they received.

The event commenced with the recitation of the "Saat Sankalp Sootra," symbolizing the unity and

determination that made this initiative possible. This heartwarming endeavour showcased the power of collective action and the profound impact it can have on the community.

The emotional connection among the participating sisters amplified the success of their charitable work, reminding everyone that compassion knows no bounds.

Social media backs Ajay Chandrakar as probable CM

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Dec 08: BJP veteran Ajay Chandrakar, is back on social media, but this time for a different cause, as many media platforms are backing him as a probable CM candidate. After being elected MLA brilliantly five times and curious about the news of formation of the new government, Ajay Chandrakar's supporters, BJP leaders and other intellectuals are constantly talking about Ajay Chandrakar being made the CM, and regarding the same discussions and various types of posts are being posted on social media.

Elected to Madhya Pradesh Assembly for the

first time in 1998 as a youth leader of Kurud Nagar, Chandrakar state representative and former district general secretary of BJP has been from Dhamtari district. He has been the BJP whip of the BJP Legislative Party and has been a member of BJP Working Committee and became Vice President of Bharatiya Janata Party Chhattisgarh since July 2010.

Also in the year 2000, he was a member of Committee related to Government Undertakings, Estimates



Ajay Chandrakar

Committee, Member Facility and Honor Committee, Library Committee, Delegated Committee, Public Undertakings Committee, Question and Reference Committee of Chhattisgarh Assembly. From 2003 to 2008, he was the Minister of Government of Chhattisgarh, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Higher Education, Technical Education, Manpower Planning, Science and Technology, School

Education, Parliamentary Affairs and from July 2011 to March 31, 2013, he was the Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Finance Commission and in 2013, he was the Minister of Chhattisgarh Government, Panchayat and Rural Development, Culture, Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs, other than many maiden and experienced fronts and departments handled by him. By enumerating all these qualities of the Kurud MLA, his supporters and workers and intellectuals including BJP leaders are presenting their arguments for his becoming the CM and are highlighting his skill and policy.

Suresh Banjare to be honoured with Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar fellowship award

Kharora/New Delhi, Dec 08: Engineer Suresh Kumar Banjare, a distinguished figure from Chhattisgarh renowned for his electrical engineering skills and artistic talents, is on the verge of receiving the prestigious "Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Fellowship Award 2023." This esteemed honour, presented by the Bharatiya Dalit Sahitya Academy, will be conferred upon him at the 39th National Dalit Literary Conference scheduled for December 10 in New Delhi.

Engineer Suresh Kumar Banjare's remarkable combination of technical expertise and artistic creativity has garnered widespread recognition and

adoration. His contributions as a poet and singer, accessible on YouTube, have deeply touched the hearts of countless individuals. His warm and humble personality, coupled with his exceptional talent, has endeared him to his fellow citizens.

The award ceremony, organized by the Indian Dalit Sahitya Academy, is slated to take place at the serene Panchsheel Ashram in Jharanda Village, New Delhi. Distinguished dignitaries, including Dr. Sohanlal Sumanakshar, National President of the



Suresh-Banjare

Indian Dalit Sahitya Academy, and Chhattisgarh State President G.R. Banjare Jwala, will grace the event with their presence. The renowned litterateur, Jitendra Nirmalkar, will also attend to acknowledge

Engineer Suresh Kumar Banjare's exceptional contributions to the world of literature.

This latest recognition builds upon Engineer Banjare's previous achievements. On November 26, the Indian Dalit Sahitya Academy Chhattisgarh State Unit hosted the state-

level regional awareness and honour ceremony 2023 at Gondwana Bhawan in Dhamtari, coinciding with the Indian Constitution's establishment day. During this significant event, Engineer Suresh Kumar Banjare was bestowed with the 'Honorary Degree Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samata Award 2023.'

The entire state unites in congratulating Engineer Suresh Kumar Banjare for his remarkable accomplishments and extends heartfelt wishes for a bright and prosperous future. He acknowledges the pivotal role played by senior litterateur Jitendra Nirmalkar in guiding him to this illustrious platform.

Rakesh Pandey congratulates BJP candidates and workers

On historic victory in Chhattisgarh

Central Chronicle News

Berla, Dec 08: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a resounding victory in the Chhattisgarh assembly elections. Rakesh Pandey, the co-charge of the BJP's Saja Assembly Media Department, extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the candidates and dedicated party workers for their remarkable achievement.

Pandey expressed his jubilation at the BJP's success in securing a majority in Chhattisgarh. He conveyed his best wishes not only to the victorious candidates but also to



Rakesh Pandey

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who played a pivotal role in leading the party to this triumph.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and State President Arun Sao, the BJP

clinched an impressive victory in the assembly elections. Pandey emphasized that Modi's unwavering determination and tireless efforts had been instrumental in the party's historic win, leading to the ousting of the Congress government in Chhattisgarh.

Furthermore, Pandey highlighted the public's confidence in Prime Minister Modi's welfare schemes and progressive governance as a significant factor contributing to this monumental victory. He took the opportunity to congratulate and extend best wishes to both senior candidates elected to the Assembly from Chhattisgarh and those who secured their positions for the first time.

Annual sports competition organized in Rajiv Lochan College

College faculty and staff rally to organize exciting events

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Dec 08: The Government Rajiv Lochan Postgraduate College in the city roared to life as it hosted a thrilling three-day annual sports competition. The event saw students passionately participating in a variety of sports, including Shot Put, Discuss Throw, Javelin Throw, Long Jump, 100m and 200m races, Badminton, Tug of War, Table Tennis, and Cricket.

The event commenced with a ceremonial inauguration by Professor ML Verma, the head of the institution, who initiated proceedings with the worship of Goddess Saraswati. In a solemn ceremony, Professor Verma administered an oath to the college students, emphasizing the



profound significance of sports in life. He highlighted that sports not only maintain physical health but also have a positive impact on mental well-being.

Dr. KR Matawale, Assistant Professor, further emphasized the role of sports in personality development, boosting confidence, and maintaining a

healthy balance in life. Akash Baghmare, the Sports In-charge, drew parallels between the human body and sports, comparing them to the engine of a car, emphasizing the importance of regular exercise and a healthy diet.

The sports extravaganza kicked off with Professor ML Verma himself inau-

gurating the games by launching a javelin. Over the three days, a variety of competitions were held, including Shot Put, Discuss Throw, Tug of War, Badminton, Table Tennis, Kabaddi, and Cricket, with students participating wholeheartedly.

The success of the event was made possible by the

dedication of the college's faculty and staff, including Prof. Ghanshyam Yadu, Dr. Govardhan Yadu, Dr. Samiksha Chandrakar, Dr. Rajesh Baghel, Prof. Bhanu Pratap Nayak, Prof. Shweta Khare, Prof. Manisha Bhoi, Prof. Mukesh Kurre, Dr. Devendra Dewangan, Prof. Tameshwar Markande, Dr. Grishma Singh, Pradeep Tandon, Khoman Sahu, Prof. Alok Hirwani, Chandrakala Joshi, Neha Soni, Vani Chandrakar, Sonam Chandrakar, Suman Sahu, Deepti Sahu, Tarun Sahu, Ashwani Sahu, Dahurram Sonkar, Rahul Sonkar, Khub Lal Sahu, Topchand, Khoman Sonkar, Humendas Manikpuri, Jayasahu, Soni, and many more who played pivotal roles in its success.

Armed Forces Flag Day celebrated with honour & gratitude

Ex-servicemen recognized for their dedication and sacrifice

Central Chronicle News

Manendragarh, Dec 08: In a heartfelt tribute to the bravery, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of the Indian Army, the Collector of Manendragarh celebrated Armed Forces Flag Day on December 7. This special occasion, dedicated to the memory of our valiant martyrs, was marked by a ceremonial flag presentation by District Military Welfare Officer Commander Ranjit Singh Bisht to Deputy Collector



Praveen Kumar Bhagat and other officials, employees, and citizens.

Ashok Costa, during the event, made a passionate appeal to all citizens, urging them to contribute generously to support the rehabilitation and welfare

schemes for the families of martyred soldiers, ex-servicemen, and active-duty soldiers. He emphasized the importance of protecting the sovereignty and integrity of the nation through their contributions.

Deputy Collector Praveen Bhagat echoed this sentiment, urging citizens to wholeheartedly embrace this noble cause and extend their generous support. Commander Ranjit Singh Bisht provided insights into the significance of Armed Forces Flag Day, emphasizing that it is the collective responsibility of every citizen to care for the families and dependents of those who have sacrificed their lives for the nation.

The event also witnessed the honouring of ex-servicemen, including Hero Chintamani, who served actively in the India-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971. His commendable 20 years of service in challenging conditions earned him the state government's honorarium of Rs 30,000 for his dedication and long life.

Naib Subedar Girish Chandra Sarkar, who served during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 and completed 26 years of service, was also recognized for his valuable military contributions.

Deputy Collector Praveen Bhagat expressed gratitude to the Sainik Welfare Board, while Ashok Costa extended his thanks to all attendees, including the chief guest, officers, ex-servicemen, and their families, on this auspicious occasion celebrating the Armed Forces Flag Day.

Armed Forces Flag Day honours martyrs and warriors

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Dec 08: On December 7, the nation observed Armed Forces Flag Day, a day dedicated to honouring the sacrifices of martyrs and the valor of warriors who defend our borders. The District Sainik Welfare Board office in Bilaspur also joined in the celebration of this significant day.

ADM RA Kuruvanshi, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of showing respect and unity towards the country's armed forces. He reminded everyone that soldiers tirelessly guard our borders, allowing us to enjoy peaceful nights. Armed Forces Flag Day serves as a solemn reminder of our duty towards the welfare of Indian Armed Forces personnel and the memory of martyrs. Subedar Major Shivendra Pandey, the Welfare Coordinator of the District



Sainik Welfare Office, provided detailed insights into the significance of Armed Forces Flag Day. He highlighted how this day pays tribute to the fearless warriors who selflessly faced enemies, often risking their lives.

It is a day designated by the Government of India to support the rehabilitation and welfare of ex-servicemen. Pandey urged the citizens of Bilaspur to express their respect and goodwill towards the military community by

contributing financially. These funds are utilized in various welfare schemes aimed at benefiting ex-servicemen, widows, and their children. The event witnessed the presence of more than 50 soldiers and their families, including Colonel James Lal, Colonel Rakesh Singh Bisen, Colonel VK Shukul, Captain BK Sharma, Lieutenant Ravindra Gopal, Captain Devendra Dixit, and their families, who joined in commemorating this important day.

India women faces stern challenge against dominant England in 2nd T20I

Mumbai, Dec 08 (PTI):

Eyeing to keep the three-match series alive, India will look for an improved show, especially in the bowling and fielding departments, when they take on a rampaging England in the second women's T20I here on Saturday.

England extended their dominant run against India with a comprehensive 38-run win which gave them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. It also was England's 21st victory in 28 T20Is against India and eighth in 10 matches in the country.

India failed to read the conditions adequately and also made glaring errors in the first game which turned out to be a one-sided affair.

On a flat pitch not offering much to the bowlers especially in the first innings, India used four different spinners including the rookie Kanika Ahuja and England took them apart, scoring 121 runs from a collective 12 overs



for three wickets.

India handed debuts to two left-arm spinners Shreyanka Patil (2/44) and Saika Ishaque (1/38) but both were wayward and expensive in their respective four-over spells.

Senior spinner Deepti Sharma (0/28) was not even trusted with completing her quota of overs.

Indian spinners bowled short as well as full tosses at times for England batters to dominate, whereas

their fielders did not support them enough. Both Danni Wyatt and Nat Sciver-Brunt were given lifelines which proved to be costly for the home team.

The only bright spot in India's bowling was seamer Renuka Singh Thakur, who had left England reeling at 2 for 2 in the opening over of the match.

But India not only allowed England to stage a comeback, the hosts, com-

ing off a two-month break, also could not force their way back into the game at any stage.

While Indian tweekers cut a sorry figure, England's spin pair of Sophie Ecclestone (4-0-15-3) and Sarah Glenn (1/25) exposed India's batters with probing line and lengths that just did not allow them to free their arms.

India's batters could not make a dent chasing 198 even though opening batter Shafali Verma scored a quality half-century (52) and Harmanpreet Kaur (26) was looking promising with the bat.

India have never beaten England in a T20 series since their win in the inaugural edition in 2006, when the two teams began playing against each other in the shortest format.

If India have to avert a series loss, they will have to conjure something special to make a comeback and win the next two games.

Time: 7:00pm IST.

Anantjeet, Raiza unstoppable in shooting trials

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI):



Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist Anantjeet Singh Naruka was unchallengeable in the men's skeet national selection trials 1, while Raiza Dhillon overcame national champion Ganemat Sekhon in women's skeet at the Karni Singh range here on Friday.

Rajasthan's Naruka and Haryana's Raiza, both shot down 58 clay targets in the 60-shot final to register victories. National champion Naruka, following his exploits in Hangzhou, shot 24 early in the morning in the final qualification round to finish on top in the 40-strong field with a score of 121 out of a possible 125.

He missed a target on his very first station in the six-man final, but only one more after that, to leave behind Sheeraz Sheikh comfortably in second place. Sheeraz shot 56, while Gurjaot Khangura was third with 45-hits in the

first 50 targets. Sheeraz, on a comeback trail, also kept his poise throughout the day, coming second in a four-man shoot-off for two final qualification spots. Gurjaot won the shoot-off to take the other spot.

In women's skeet, Raiza was in sublime form throughout the three-day competition and shot

three rounds of perfect 25s to top the qualifiers with a score of 122. She would have broken Ganemat's current national record by two had the scores of the trials been considered.

Indian No. 1 Ganemat shot a perfect 25 on the day to get into the finals in second place with a score of 120. There was no stopping

Raiza, however, as she shot down 58 targets as against Ganemat's 54 in the finals, to win. Rajasthan shooter Maheshwari Chauhan finished third with a score of 43. The skeet finals concluded the first shotgun national selection trials and the second is due to take place in Bhopal from December 15-21.

Phillips helps New Zealand hit back on Day 3

Mirpur, Dec 08 (AP): Glenn Phillips played an attacking knock as New Zealand hit back strongly on Day 3 of the rain-affected second cricket test against Bangladesh on Friday to leave the game evenly poised.

Phillips struck a 72-ball 87 to help New Zealand put up 180 in its first innings and take an 8-run lead, and then New Zealand's bowlers left Bangladesh on 38-2 before play was called off due to bad light.

Bangladesh was dismissed for 172 in its first innings.

After the entire second day and the first session of the third day were washed out, Phillips led the charge with one-day style batting as New Zealand resumed at 55-5. Phillips hit nine fours and four sixes in his innings and was particularly harsh on Mehidy Hasan, hitting three fours and one six in his first three overs to keep the



New Zealand's Glenn Phillips (2L) plays a shot as Bangladesh's wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan (2R) and his teammates watch the ball.

runs flowing. Phillips formed two crucial partnerships 49 with Mitchell for the sixth wicket and 55 with Kyle Jamieson for the eighth to help New Zealand earn the lead. Mitchell

was struggling against the spinners and eventually was caught out by Mehidy at long-on for 18 off offspinner Nayeem Hasan's first over. In his next over Nayeem, who took 2-21,

dismissed Mitchell Santner for 1 to leave New Zealand at 97-7 but Phillips got the support of Jamieson to keep Bangladesh at bay. Shoriful (2-15) broke through with the wicket of

Jamieson, who made 20 with three boundaries. Skipper Tim Southee hit a four and a six for his 14 as New Zealand went past Bangladesh's total.

With Phillips attacking relentlessly on a tough wicket, New Zealand appeared set to take a substantial lead. But his knock came to an end when he edged a delivery of Shoriful behind. Tajjul (3-64) removed Southee in the next over, to limit the lead to single digits.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel (1-13) helped New Zealand get off to a good start when he spun one to dismiss opener Mahmudul Hasan. Zakir Hasan and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto hit boundaries at regular interval to keep the scoreboard moving. But Southee dismissed Shanto, who chipped one straight to mid-off where Kane Williamson grabbed the easy catch before bad light halted the game.

Everyone's entitled to their opinions: Warner to Johnson

Melbourne, Dec 08 (PTI):

Veteran opener David Warner on Friday ignored former Australia pacer Mitchell Johnson's scathing attack on him for setting his own retirement date, saying that "everyone's entitled to their opinions". In a newspaper column, Johnson had questioned whether Warner had been in strong enough form to set his own retirement date. Johnson had also opened up old wounds by referencing Warner's role in the ball-tampering saga in South Africa.

The 37-year-old Warner had expressed his desire



for a Sydney farewell after the third and final Test against Pakistan starting from January 3, 2024. The three-match Test series starts in Perth on December 14. Warner, who

has scored 8,487 runs from 109 Tests since making his debut in 2011, refused to be drawn into the controversy, saying his former teammate is entitled to his opinions, however scathing.

"It wouldn't be a summer without a headline, would it?" he asked at the launch of Fox Cricket's summer coverage in Parramatta on Friday, according to cricket.com.au.

"It is what it is. Everyone's entitled to their own opinions," the explosive opening batter said in his first comments after Johnson's scathing attack on him.

Veda Krishnamurthy desperate to revive cricket career through WPL

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI):

Tragedies and snubs are nothing new for Veda Krishnamurthy as she has seen it all in the last three years, but the out-of-favour India cricketer is desperate to make a fresh start and has pinned her hopes on the upcoming WPL to regain her spot in the national women's side.

Having got a snub in the inaugural Women's Premier League auction earlier this year, a leaner and much fitter Veda is now hoping to earn a WPL contract on Saturday, an opportunity which can open the national team's door for her.

"I feel that the ability and experience I have will not take much time for me

to get into a system and adjust again. It is all about going there and showcasing whatever I can," Veda told PTI in an exclusive interview. "Definitely, it's (WPL) a great platform for players, especially who are on the same boat like me. I haven't played international cricket for the last three years, so this is a platform where you want to do well, and if you are able to go and perform in situations and platforms like this it opens up the door for the Indian team as well.

"We have seen that happen in men's cricket. So that is something which I will have in my mind."

Veda, who has played 48 ODIs scoring 829 runs with a best score of 71, was an integral part of the



Indian team that finished runner-up in the 2017 Women's ODI World Cup final, losing to hosts England by just nine runs

at Lord's. Veda was also part of India's squad for the 2018 and 2020 ICC Women's World Twenty20 tournaments in the West Indies and Australia respectively. But twin personal tragedies halted her career in 2021 when she lost her mother and elder sister to COVID in a span of two weeks, and it took her a long time and effort to come out of that.

"Very difficult, honestly, because suddenly when you have been shaken you don't know what to do. There was a lot of mental health issues I faced because I didn't know how to live with the grief. There was a lot of anxiety, depression. I was not sleeping well. You want to come out

of it but it's not that easy. I used to be awake till 5-6 in the morning, I used to be scared of closing my eyes," she said.

"It took me close to one-and-a-half years to get back to normal without any medicine. It still kind of comes back and haunts you, but you need to keep that side and focus of the physical aspect. It feels good to be back in shape," added the right-handed batter, who featured in 76 T20s for India scoring 875 runs. Once she managed to defeat her inner demons, Veda concentrated on reviving her career to be in shape for the WPL auction slated for Saturday and all she wants is an opportunity to showcase her mettle.

SA return just a process at moment: Du Plessis

Bengaluru, Dec 08 (PTI): While a return to South African national team remains an enticing proposition for him, former captain Faf du Plessis wants to regain his peak fitness and game-touch before seriously nourishing such ambitions.

Recently, Proteas coach Rob Walter had indicated that doors to the national team are open for senior pros like Du Plessis, Quinton de Kock and Rilee Rossouw.

But for that, Du Plessis wanted to reach his highest point of fitness after an elbow surgery that he underwent in September during the Caribbean Premier League (CPL 2023).

"I wouldn't say the process is not on (his SA comeback). I mean, international cricket is still the



pinnacle. You still feel like that's where cricket comes with the most pressure and that's what makes you really feel alive as a sportsman," Du Plessis told PTI.

"But now, it's just about getting back into cricket after my operation, and a long layoff with my arm.

So yeah, just taking the pressure off and just really enjoying playing some cricket again, and allowing my arm to get back to where it needs to get to," he said. "It (SA return) is just the process at the moment. South Africa has come out and said that there will be some T20 contracts coming out in March. So, then it's up to the players to perform and do well (in leagues and other international matches) to make sure that they are eligible for selection."

In fact, Du Plessis has been one of the early-moving freelance cricketers hopping across T20 leagues, and he opined that the governing bodies will have to find a way to make international cricket co-exist with franchise cricket.

Bangar back at Punjab Kings as head of cricket development



Chandigarh, Dec 08 (PTI): Punjab Kings on Friday appointed former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar as its head of cricket development for the upcoming IPL season.

The former India all-rounder was the franchise's assistant coach when it finished runners-up in 2014. In the next two seasons, he served as the head coach when the side

finished at the bottom of the table.

"It's my privilege to be with the Punjab Kings again," Bangar stated in a media release.

Bangar will work in tandem with the team's head coach Trevor Bayliss as the duo will form the think tank for the IPL auction, slated to be held in Dubai on December 19.

"We have a good core group of players as evidenced by the fact that we have the lowest number of player releases this year. The challenge is to give the squad the best support possible during and after the season to make the team stronger and deliver success," Bangar said.

No coach can create an artist like Mohammed Shami: Mhambrey

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI):

Mohammed Shami possesses a rare ability of landing the ball in an upright seam position every single time and no coach in the world can create such a fast bowling "artist", gushed India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey.

Shami, who finished on top of the bowling charts with 24 wickets from seven matches in the ODI World Cup, has been India's go-to bowler in ODIs and Tests. Mhambrey, one of the quietest back-room workers in the current Indian set-up, doesn't want to take any credit for Shami's success. Will India get another talent like Mohammed



Shami? "Well, if I tell you that coaches could create a bowler like Shami, then I would be lying. If a bowler can land it on upright seam every time then every other bowler in the world will be Shami," Mhambrey told PTI in an exclusive interview before

leaving for the tour of South Africa.

"It is a skill that Shami has acquired with tremendous hardwork and developed himself into the bowler that he is.

"Bowling ball after ball on the seam and with that perfect wrist position and getting it to move either ways is a rare skill set. A lot of bowlers, even if they land deliveries on the seam, will see the ball straightening up after pitching," Mhambrey said. The former India pacer also spoke about another brilliant operator Jasprit Bumrah in the same vein. "Even Bumrah with his unusual action gets the ball to move in or away with same action.

ODISHS I-T RAIDS

Rs 200 crore in cash recovered as counting on

Bhubaneswar, Dec 08 (PTI)

“Unaccounted” cash amounting to around Rs 250 crore is expected to be recovered through searches being conducted by the income-tax department against an Odisha-based distillery group and entities linked to it, official sources said on Friday.

The raids launched against Boudh Distillery Private Limited on Wednesday are still continuing and cash amounting to more than Rs 200 crore has so far been recovered. The total recovery could be around Rs 250 crore, the sources said. Three dozen



Cash seized by the Income Tax department after raids against an Odisha-based distillery group and linked entities.

counting machines have been deployed by the tax department. Since the machines are of a limited ca-

capacity, the counting is progressing at a slow pace, the sources added. Premises linked to the Congress's Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand, Dhiraj Prasad Sahu, were also covered during the searches, the sources said. An e-mail sent by PTI to the distillery group on Thursday elicited no response. Officials said cash amounting to Rs 200 crore, stashed in almshouses, was recovered from a premises of the distillery group in Balangir district, while the remaining amount was found from other locations, such as Sambalpur and Sundargarh in Odisha,

Bokaro and Ranchi in Jharkhand and Kolkata.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tagged a news report about the I-T department recovering Rs 200 crore in cash from various locations of a business group allegedly linked to Sahu, as he attacked the opposition party. “Countrymen should look at these piles of currency notes and then hear the addresses of its (Congress) leaders on honesty. Every penny looted from people will have to be returned. This is Modi's guarantee,” he said in a post with several emojis.

RIVER RAFTING



Tourists participate in river rafting, in Manali, Friday.

'States should be given power to appoint governors'

New Delhi, Dec 08 (PTI)

There is a need to amend the Constitution to empower the states to appoint governors in order to respect the “will of the people”, CPI(M) MP V Sivadasan said in the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Sivadasan, whose party's government in Kerala is locked in a bitter war of words with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, asked the members to support the passage of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (amendment of Article 153 and substitution of articles 155 and 156) to end



V Sivadasan

“colonial-era indulgences”.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader introduced the bill in the House on December 9 last year. Commencing the discussion on the bill on Friday, Sivadasan alleged

that governors are acting as a tool of the Union government.

“It is a very important bill. It is in the public interest that the governor's position needs to be filled not by the president, under the advice of the Union government. The governor should be appointed by the state itself, the will of the state has to be respected,” he added.

The Left leader noted that federalism is part of the basic structure of the nation as well as the Constitution. He accused the BJP-led Centre of working round the clock to diminish the power of states.

IIM Kozhikode shine in Int'l rankings

Kozhikode, Dec 08:

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) has solidified its position as a global leader in management education with impressive rankings in the prestigious Financial Times (FT) and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings for 2023. Financial Times Masters in Management Ranking 2023: IIM Kozhikode's flagship MBA program made its debut on the global stage by securing the 77th position in the Financial Times Masters in Management Ranking 2023. This achievement places IIM Kozhikode among the top

100 B-schools worldwide. In addition, the institution ranks 10th among Asian B-schools and 4th among all Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) for its full-time MBA programme. The FT rankings consider various criteria, including average graduate salaries, salary percentage increase, value for money, career progress, diversity, and more.

Expressing his delight over these accomplishments, Prof. Debashis Chatterjee, Director of IIM Kozhikode, said, “IIM Kozhikode's inclusion among top-100 b-schools in the globally prestigious FT



Prof. Debashis Chatterjee

Rankings and our entry into Top 3 B-Schools of India in NIRF 2023, reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence in education, pioneering contributions in the digital age, and dedication of

our faculty, staff, students, and partners. We're driven by a holistic approach to learning, embracing diversity, promoting research, and fostering thought leadership. Management is India's greatest soft-power and our goal is to continue breaking new grounds globally and create distinct identities for Indian B-Schools, all the while globalizing Indian Thought.”

Diverse Cohort and Academic Recognition
IIM Kozhikode is a pioneer in diversity and was the first IIM to have an MBA batch with more than 50% women candidates, back in 2013 when the historic per-

centage of women in B-Schools was around 8-10%. In 2023, IIM Kozhikode welcomed a diverse cohort of students, with 45% women candidates and 58% non-engineering students, constituting the largest cohort of 601 students.

Additionally, the institute admitted 12 international students from six countries into its programs. This year's academic diversity is remarkable, with 58% of students coming from non-engineering backgrounds, representing a wide array of disciplines such as Sciences, Humanities, Arts, Commerce, Medical (MBBS), and Chartered Accountancy.

'Expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra from LS betrayal of Parl democracy'



Mamata Banerjee

Darjeeling (WB), Dec 08 (PTI)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee denounced the expulsion of Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra from the Lok Sabha on Friday in connection with the “cash-for-query” case and termed the move as a “betrayal” of India's parliamentary democracy. Moitra was expelled after the House adopted the report of its Ethics Committee that held her guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to advance his interests. “It is a disgrace to

parliamentary democracy. We condemn the expulsion of Mahua Moitra; the party stands firmly with her. Unable to defeat us in elections, the BJP has resorted to vendetta politics. Today marks a sad day and a betrayal of Indian parliamentary democracy,” Banerjee said during a press conference.

The TMC chief accused the BJP of preventing Moitra from presenting her defence.

Banerjee highlighted the submission of a nearly 500-page report to Parliament, followed by a mere 30-minute window for all parties to discuss the matter and subsequently expel Moitra.

“I fail to comprehend how members can thoroughly review 500 pages within 30 minutes. How can all speakers reach a decision? I condemn the way democracy has been undermined. Despite having a two-thirds majority in the assembly, we refrain from expelling anyone arbitrarily,” she remarked. Expressing disappoint-

ment that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not intervene, Banerjee said, “This is unfortunate and unacceptable.”

Moitra will emerge victorious in the next battle, and the people will deliver a resounding response and justice. They will face defeat in the upcoming election; I am fully convinced of this,” Banerjee extended gratitude to the INDIA alliance leaders for supporting Moitra, stating, “I commend the INDIA alliance for standing united and resisting the BJP.”

The Ethics Committee report found Moitra guilty of “unethical conduct” and contempt of the House by sharing her Lok Sabha credentials — User ID and Password of Lok Sabha Member's Portal — with unauthorised persons which had an irrepressible impact on national security.

Following a heated debate, during which Moitra was denied the opportunity to speak, Parliamentary Affairs

Minister Pralhad Joshi proposed a motion for Moitra's expulsion for “unethical conduct,” which was subsequently approved by a voice vote.

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Judges not expected to preach: SC

Criticises Calcutta HC order on adolescent girls

New Delhi, Dec 8 (PTI): Judges are not expected to express their personal views or preach, the Supreme Court remarked on Friday, strongly criticising a Calcutta High Court judgement which advised young girls to “control sexual urges” and adolescent boys to train themselves to respect women. Terming the High Court observations as “highly objectionable and unwarranted”, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra said the observations are completely in violation of the rights of adolescents under Article 21 of the Constitution. In its October 18 judgement, a division bench of Justices Chitta Ranjan Dash and Partha Sarathi Sen of the Calcutta High Court said that adolescent girls should “control sexual urges” and “not give into two minutes of pleas-

ure”. The apex court said the issue before the High Court was legality and validity of order and judgement dated September 19/20, 2022 by which a man was convicted for offences under sections 363 (kidnapping) and 366 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage) as well as Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

“As per the order of the CJJ, suo motu writ petition has been initiated mainly due to sweeping observations/findings recorded by the division bench of the High Court.

“In an appeal against conviction, the High Court was called upon to decide only the merits of the appeal and nothing else. Prima facie, we are of the view that in such a case, the Hon'ble judges are not expected to either express their personal views or preach.

“After having carefully perused the judgement, we find that many

parts thereof, including paragraph 30.3, are highly objectionable and completely unwarranted. Prima facie, the said observations are completely in violation of rights of adolescents under Article 21 of the Constitution,” the bench said.

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