



### BRIEF



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during 'Thirumurai Thiruvizha', a one-day divine festival, in Chennai, Saturday.

### Poll process

New Delhi: The Nagaland government has told the Supreme Court that the election process for urban local bodies in the state will be completed by April 30. In November, the Nagaland Assembly passed a bill reserving 33 per cent seats in urban local bodies for women. Urban local body elections in the state were last held in 2004. A bench of Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia took note of an affidavit filed by the Nagaland chief secretary earlier this month that said the rules will be framed within a month - before January 8.

### Party leader

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party has appointed its MP Raghav Chadha as the leader of the party in Rajya Sabha in place of Sanjay Singh, sources said. In a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, the AAP party leadership has said that in the absence of Sanjay Singh, who has "health issues", Raghav Chadha will henceforth be the party's leader in the upper house.

### Arrested

Seraikela: A man wanted in at least 27 criminal cases was arrested along with his three aides in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharswan district on Saturday, police said. Acting on a tip-off, Sagar Lohar (41) and his three aides -- Raju Lohar (40), Bablu Das (40), and Bholu Kumar (42) -- were arrested from different parts of the district, Superintendent of Police Bimal Kumar said.

### Suicide

Mumbai: A constable of the Central Industrial Security Force allegedly shot himself dead using his service weapon inside his cabin at the Jio Centre in BKC on Saturday, a Mumbai Police official said. The constable took the extreme step when he was alone in the security cabin in the morning hours, the official said, adding that some family issues might be the trigger behind the incident.

### Decouple

Kolkata: Two coaches of a Mumbai-bound train got decoupled near Uluberia station in West Bengal on Friday evening, officials said. There is no report of any injury as the train was not moving at a high speed, they said. The two coaches of the 12810 Howrah-Mumbai Mail got decoupled around 9.30 pm in Birshipur area.

Weather High 26 Low 12

## Farmer ends life over debt burden

Narayanpur, Dec 16:

A 55-year-old farmer allegedly committed suicide in a village in tribal-dominated Narayanpur district, officials said on Saturday.

His family members and locals claimed he was upset due to debt burden and poor crop yield.

Heeru Badhai of Kukdajhor village consumed pesticide at his farm on December 12 and died in the district hospital in Narayanpur the next day, a police official here said.

No suicide note was found at the spot and a probe is underway after registering of an accidental death report, he added. Yogeshwar Badhai, the de-

### What victim's son said...

Yogeshwar Badhai, the deceased's son, told PTI his family own around 9 acres of land and a loan of Rs 1.12,852 was taken from Zila Sahkari Bank (district cooperative bank) for the ongoing Kharif crop season. "A notice was received recently to clear the loan worth Rs 1.24 lakh (including the interest) and father was worried. Crop production was also not good this year, which added to his worry," he said. Other residents said the deceased was living in the village of his in-laws and had taken the loan in the name of his mother-in-law.

### BJP-Cong spar on loan waiver

Terming the incident as tragic, Chhattisgarh Congress chief Deepak Baij claimed the BJP, which won the recent Assembly polls, had promised to waive farm loans of upto Rs 2 lakh but were now backtracking on it. However, Narayanpur BJP MLA Kedar Kashyap said his party had not promised farm loan waiver in its Assembly poll manifesto. The man who has committed suicide didn't own land and investigation is underway to ascertain why he took this extreme step, Kashyap said.

ceased's son, told PTI his family own around 9 acres

of land and a loan of Rs 1.12,852 was taken from

## Four Naxalites arrested

Were involved in blast that killed BSF jawan

Kanker, Dec 16: Four Naxalites, who were allegedly involved in the December 14 blast in Partapur area of Kanker district in which a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan was killed, were arrested on Saturday, police said.

They were nabbed in a forest area in Partapur on Saturday morning, a senior police official said.

Those held were identified as Mukund Narwas (45), Jaggu Ram Anchla (45), Arjun Potai (26) and Dasrath Dugga (35). All of them were allegedly active as Jan militia members of Maoists and natives of Partapur village, he said. On Thursday, Naxalites triggered a



blast near Sadaktola village under Partapur police station limits when a joint team of BSF and District Force was out on patrolling. Head Constable Akhilesh Kumar Rai (45) of the BSF sustained injuries in the explosion and later succumbed to injuries during treatment, he said.

## PM flags off Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in 5 states

New Delhi, Dec 16 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, the five states where assembly elections were held recently.

The yatra started in other states earlier, and its launch in the five states got delayed due to the model code of conduct in place due to the elections.

Modi also interacted with beneficiaries from various states who have

Zila Sahkari Bank (district cooperative bank) for the ongoing Kharif crop season. "A notice was received recently to clear the loan worth Rs 1.24 lakh (including the interest) and father was worried. Crop production was also not good this year, which added to his worry," he said.

"My father used to express concern about the loan repayment. He was also worried about raising funds for my wedding. On the day of incident, father was alone at the farm while we had returned home to have our meals.

On finding him vomiting we rushed him to the hospital where he died the next day," Yogeshwar said.

## Dismissed RPF man's bail rejected

Was in well settled position, mind: Court

Mumbai, Dec 16 (PTI): A court here on Saturday denied bail to dismissed Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable Chetansinh Chaudhary, accused of shooting dead his senior colleague and three passengers on a moving train in July this year, by stating he was in a "well settled position and mind" at the time of crime. His bail was rejected by Additional Sessions Judge (Dindoshi Court) AZ Khan who held the offence was serious. Chaudhary not only killed his senior but also three others of a "particular community" by making them specific targets, the court said. The accused uttered words which clearly show "he was in a well settled position and mind to commit murder of people belonging to a specific community", the court said while rejecting his bail plea.

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## 21 IEDs recovered, Naxal camp busted in Bijapur

Bijapur, Dec 16: Security forces on Saturday recovered 21 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by Naxalites along an under-construction road in Bijapur district, police said.

The IEDs with pressure mechanisms were planted between Palnar and Saavnar villages where road construction is underway, a police official said.

A joint team of District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters, which are units of the state police, the Central Reserve Police Force's 85th battalion and 222nd battalion, which included bomb disposal squads, the elite CoBRA's 202nd battalion and district police had launched an operation from their newly-set up Palnar camp to trace landmines, he said. "During the operation, 21 pressure IEDs

planted along the under-construction road at separate places were recovered. A major mishap has been averted. The IEDs weigh between 3 to 5 kilograms and were placed beneath the earth near the trees in a bid to harm patrolling security personnel," he added.

In another incident in the district, security forces busted a Maoist transit camp in a forest near Pedda Korma village under Gangaloor police station limits following an encounter with Naxalites, an official said.

"We recovered explosives and other materials. The face-off took place at around 8 am when a joint team of DRG, Bastar Fighters, CRPF and its elite unit CoBRA were out on an operation acting on an inputs about presence of leaders belonging to the Naxalites' Gangaloor area committee," he said.

## Maha bureaucrat's son runs car over girlfriend, booked

HORRIFYING TRUTH

Thane, Dec 15 (PTI): A 26-year-old woman was seriously injured after her boyfriend, who is the son of a senior bureaucrat in Maharashtra, allegedly tried to mow her down with his car near a hotel in Thane city, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred on December 11 and the police registered a case against accused Ashwajit Gaikwad and two others under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 279 (rash driving), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and others at the Kasarvadavali police station. "The incident took place around 4.30 am on Monday near a hotel on Ghodbunder Road, where the woman had gone to meet Gaikwad. An argument broke out between the two. Later, when the



Accused(R) and victim

victim collected her belongings from his car and started leaving, the one who was driving the vehicle tried to mow her down, due to which she fell down and suffered serious injuries," a police official said. The victim later put out several social media posts to give information about the incident, the police said. She is undergoing treatment at a hospital at present, they said, adding that Gaikwad is

### 'Lost faith in humanity'

Victim Priya later put out several social media posts presenting her version of events. She claimed that doctors had to insert a rod in her right leg, which was severely injured. "My right leg is broken and I had to undergo surgery, had to put a rod in my right leg. I will be bedridden for a minimum 3-4 months and after that, I will have to take support to walk for another 6 months," she told the police.

the son of a senior bureaucrat. Talking to media, a senior police official denied the allegations levelled by the victim in her social media post that the police did not register the case as per her statement.

"Probe into the incident is underway and no arrest has been made so far," he said.

## COVID-19 sub-strain JN.1 detected in Kerala woman

New Delhi, Dec 16 (PTI):

A case of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 has been detected in Kerala as part of an ongoing routine surveillance activity of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a senior official from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Saturday.

The case was detected in an RT-PCR positive sample from Karakulam district of the southern state on December 8, Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General of the ICMR, said.

The sample had tested RT-PCR positive on November 18, he added.

The 79-year-old woman had mild symptoms of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and has since recovered from Covid. "There has

been an increasing trend of COVID-19 cases from the state of Kerala since the last few weeks. This has been attributed to an increase in the number of samples from ILI cases being referred for testing," Bahl said.

A majority of these cases are clinically mild and the patients are recovering on their own at their homes, without any treatment, he added.

As part of a regular exercise of the Union health ministry, a mock drill at all health facilities in the states is underway to assess their public-health and hospital-preparedness measures.

This activity, which started from December 13, is being carried out under the overall supervision of the district collectors and is likely to be completed by December 18, Bahl said.

## PM to inaugurate Kashi Tamil Sangamam today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the second edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam at his parliamentary constituency Varanasi's 'Namoo Ghat' on Sunday and flag off the Kanyakumari-Varanasi Tamil Sangamam train, according to officials here. The cultural festival will be held from December 17 to 30. The first batch of the Tamil delegation departed from Chennai on December 15. Nearly 1,400 people (seven groups of 200 each) from varied walks of life are expected to be travelling from different parts of Tamil Nadu, they said. During their stay in Kashi, as per their tour itinerary, they will also visit Prayagraj and Ayodhya, the official said.

"The seven groups of students (Ganga), teachers (Yamuna), professionals (Godavari), spiritual (Saraswati), farmers and artisans (Narmada), writers (Sindhu) and traders and businessmen (Kaveri) have been named after seven sacred rivers of India will travel from Chennai, Coimbatore and Kanyakumari to Kashi," an official statement said on Saturday.

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## Man arrested for smuggling liquor from MP

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** Police arrested a man on charges of smuggling liquor from Madhya Pradesh. 15 crates of Goa whiskey and Bolero vehicle (CG-07/AU/8717) used in the incident were seized from the possession of the accused. The second accused managed to escape. It was a joint action of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Dhamdha.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg had instructed his subordinates to run a campaign against illegal drug dealers in the district, trace the drug dealers and take action against them.

**A d d i t i o n a l** Superintendent of Police (Rural) Anant Sahu, **A d d i t i o n a l** Superintendent of Police (Crime) Anurag Jha and Police Sub-Divisional Officer (Dhamdha) Sanjay Pundhir constituted at



joint team under the leadership of ACCU I/c Inspector Naresh Patel, Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Amber Singh Bhardwaj (SHO, Dhamdha) and deployed for action in this direction. The team was continuously keeping an eye on the drug dealers and a network of informers was activated. Meanwhile, Police received a tip off regarding a Bolero vehicle carrying a huge quantity of il-



licit liquor from Madhya Pradesh.

The vehicle was moving towards Dhamdha Durg via Gandai Main Road. Acting on this tip off, Police team swung into action and laid a blockade near Aman Dhaba in front of village Birjhapur on Gandai Road. As told by the informer, a white Bolero vehicle bearing registration number CG-07/AU/8717 was spotted moving at a high speed to-

wards Dhamdha.

The police team managed to intercept the vehicle near Aman Dhaba. One Ramhit Jaiswal, who was sitting on the left side of the vehicle, jumped out of the vehicle and ran away towards the bushes and escaped. Police succeeded in arresting the driver Ramchandra Rajbhar. On checking the Bolero, a total of 15 crates of Goa Whiskey were found.

When questioned, the accused stated that they were smuggling liquor from Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh to sell it in Chhattisgarh. A total of 15 crates of Goa whiskey liquor (each bottle containing 180ML of liquor), a total of 735 bulk liters of liquor worth approximately Rs 88220 and the vehicle used in the incident (Bolero CG07/AU/8717) worth approximately Rs 7,00,000 were seized.

The accused Ramchandra Rajbhar alias Chhotu (45) son of Dhaniram Rajbhar, a resident of village Ashapar, Police Station Jalalpur, district Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh was booked under the provisions mentioned in section 34 (2) of Excise Act and further action is being taken by Dhamdha Police Station.

The absconding accused is identified as Ramhit Jaiswal, a resident of behind Trimurti Temple, Shastrri Nagar, Sakharta Chowk, Police Station Vaishali Nagar, District Durg. ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Santosh Mishra, Constable G Ravi, Sanat Bharti, Chitrasen, Jagjit Singh, Balmukund from ACCU and Sub-Inspector Shriram Pandro, Head Constable Anupam Sharma, Constable Dinesh Dahriya and Prashant Sahu from Dhamdha Police Station played a vital role in arresting the accused.

## Preventive maintenance Power Supply to be affected in some areas of Township

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** The Town Electrical Engineering Dept (TEED) under SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Town Services Department chalks out an annual preventive maintenance plan each year to minimize breakdowns and enhance the reliability of the system to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the township.

As per the Annual Maintenance Plan for 2023-24, there will be a planned shutdown for preventive maintenance of the HT system during the period from December 2023 to March 2024, to carry out several maintenance jobs and take corrective action. As per the maintenance schedule, power supply will be af-

ected in the following areas of the township every day from 10:00 hrs to 13:30 hrs from December 18-23, 2023.

The power supply shall be affected in the Risali Sector, Maroda Sector, and Sector-10 on December 18th, 19th, and 20th respectively. Whereas on December 21, 2023, the power supply shall be affected in some parts of Sector-06, along with the Russian Complex and BMDC. The power supply shall be affected in the JLN Hospital, Sector-09, Bhilai on December 22-23, 2023 respectively, from 10:00 hrs to 13:30 hrs. Electrical Engineering Dept has appealed to residents to cooperate. All the residents are requested to take note of the same.

## Grand Annual Sports Day celebrations at SNGVB Sector-4

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** Sree Narayana Guru Vidya Bhavan's, Sector-4 celebrated its Annual sports closing ceremony and the Marathon "Run for Unity" on December 16, 2023 amidst, great mirth, verve and camaraderie.

The event commenced with the reception of the Chief Guest Jayant Kumar Dewangan Instructor at Juhu Badminton Academy, President VK Babu, Correspondent TU Sunil, Treasurer PS Suresh, Vice President Vinay Peetambaran, Principal E Bharati, Vice Principal Rupesh Choudhary, PTA President Santosh Nahako, Members of PTA,

Teaching & Non-teaching faculty and Students.

The programme started with garlanding of the portrait of Maa Saraswati followed by lighting of lamp and Saraswati Vandana, symbolising the auspicious beginning of the ceremony. The Guests were escorted with utmost respect and were felicitated with a Jade plant and Welcome song.

Thereafter a spectacular March drill was presented by Scout Guide, Red Cross, NCC along with Four house Rabindranath Tagore House, Sree Narayana Guru House, Rani Laxmi Bai House, Mother Teresa House synchronised performance captivated the audience.

The Principal E Bharati extended in her welcome speech and presented a brief report of the school activities and achievements, President VK Babu's address encouraged the students by describing sports as essential for a stress free and healthy life.

The Chief Guest in his addresses and exhorted that sport is important for healthy life. The primary wing students presented a group drill rendering the spectators speechless and awestruck. The most exciting part of the occasion was Tug Of War.

This entailed track event including PT with music, Relay Race and Musical Formation by



Primary and Middle Wing Students. The Run for Unity was a great achievement of the event with the aim to inculcate and promote a healthy lifestyle among people as also the virtues of resilience, endurance and sportsmanship.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of large gathering of grandparents, parents and students covering 2km distance. People of varied age groups took part in this run showcasing the student's excellence in sports and games.

In this event General Secretary Education KT Anil, Vice-president Vinay Peetambaran, C Beeju Vice President Devasam graced the occasion and flagged of the Marathon.

The best athlete of run for unity were from the

students category of class 6 to 8 Chetanya Sahu, Sameer Sahu and Yakshit Vaishnav, and girls athlete were Vaishnavi, Sonam and KP Angel and in the senior category from class 9 to 12 Akash Kumar Choudhary, Aditya Pandey and Mohith Hansadh and girls athlete T Thaniya, Bhumi and Megha Thakur were placed 1st, 2nd & 3rd position respectively.

The Best Athlete male from parents group Manoj Kumar Sahu, Vijay Shankar and Gitesh Yadav, the Best Athlete female Deepa, Bharti Sahu and Aarti Krishna and from grandparents Bhanu Salam win the trophy.

In the next episode of the event the chief guest

congratulated the winning participants in various programs and gave awards. To take this moment memorable the officials of the school honoured the guest with presenting memento. The sports flag was lowered and handed over to Principal.

The event concluded with vote of thanks expressing gratitude towards all the guests, staff members, students and all gathering for making the ceremony a grand success by Vice Principal Rupesh Choudhary.

The programme was coordinated by Pramila Naik and Rehmata Raizan Khan. The meet saw its culmination with National Anthem.

## Joint Trade Unions stage demonstration

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** After the announcement of a two-day strike, the joint trade unions of Bhilai staged a demonstration at Equipment Square on Saturday.

Irked over the pendency of wage settlement of Bhilai Steel Plant employees even after 7 years, the Joint Trade Unions staged an aggressive demonstration at Equipment Square and appealed to the workers to gear up for a strike on 29th and 30th January.

Hundreds of office bearers and representatives of INTUC, AITUC, CITU, HMS, AICCTU, LOIMU, Ispat Shramik Manch and Steel



Workers Union gathered at Equipment Square on Saturday morning and raised slogans against the dictatorial attitude of the SAIL management.

During this demonstration, the top leaders of all the unions addressed the employees. The union leaders said that SAIL management has money to give to the

officers but now it does not have money for the employees.

No decision has been taken on 39 months arrears, house rent allowance and night shift allowance of SAIL employees. SAIL management has caused huge loss to the employees by arbitrarily imposing a ceiling on gratuity.

Despite the opposition of the central union leaders, only Rs 23000 bonus was arbitrarily credited to the accounts of SAIL employees. Despite the MoU being in place, even after 2 years, the wage agreement has not been finalised and the SAIL management is no longer even holding

NJCS meetings.

The trade unions have unitedly decided to go on strike in all the units of SAIL on 29 and 30 January against the dictatorial attitude of the SAIL management. The labour movement was launched by the joint union with a demonstration at Equipment Square.

A large number of employees also participated in the demonstration. Union leaders appealed to all the employees to join the strike on 29th and 30th January. Office bearers of the joint trade unions are going to contact all the organizations and federations of the Plant and appeal to join this strike.

## Guest Lecture organised on Funding Agencies & Writing Effective Research Proposal

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** The Committee for Promotion of Research Activities [COPRA], at St Thomas College, Bhilai, organised a guest lecture on the topic Funding Agencies & Writing Effective Research Proposal. The invited resource person was Dr Babasab Raghunath Sankapal, Professor, Department of Physics, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology [VNIT], Nagpur.

Principal-in Charge, Dr James Mathews of the college accorded a warm welcome to the guest speaker. Dr Amit

Tamrakar, Head, Department of Physics



presented a brief profile of the erudite speaker.

Speaking on the topic, the resource person highlighted on the various funding agencies for the research projects at National level. Dr Sankapal also focussed on the techniques of writing research proposal effectively.

The programme enabled the researchers and staff to comprehend the trend of present day proposals. Himanshu Mandavi, Assistant Registrar, Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalaya, Durg also graced the occasion. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Sanja Popli, Convenor, COPRA.

## Bhilai Steel Plant organises SAIL Vision Workshop at Bhilai Niwas

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 16:** The first of a series of Workshops as part of the intervention of revisiting SAIL's Vision was held at Bhilai Niwas on December 14, 2023. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Human Resource Development Department jointly organised this workshop, in association with the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad.

Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (Bhilai Steel Plant) was the Chief Guest in the Inauguration Ceremony of the Workshop. ASCI, Hyderabad has been engaged by the Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) to act as a consultant for facilitating this series of Workshops at different levels at various units of SAIL. BSP is the

first among all units of SAIL to conduct this SAIL Vision Workshop.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty ED (MM), Dr AK Panda, ED (F&A), Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A), BK Giri, ED (Mines), and Dr Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS), Sanjay Dhar, CGM HRD (MTI-Ranchi), along with Dr Nirmalya Bagchi, Director (ASCI), Prof Vilas Shah, Advisor (ASCI) and Dr Karnak Roy, Asst Prof (ASCI) were present as Special Guests.

BSP's CGM I/cs, CGMs, CMOs, GMs, other Senior Officials, and faculty members from ASCI, Hyderabad were also present on this occasion. As many as 100 employees including Executives and Non-Ex. representing

BSP's departments and other units of SAIL including, SRU-Bhilai, CFP, RDCIS, CET, and CMO also took part in this SAIL Vision Workshop, facilitated by the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad.

Chief Guest Anirban Dasgupta, in his address, said that almost two decades have passed since our Organisation's last Vision Statement was framed in 2002-03, and it is apt for us now to redraft our Vision Statement. Undoubtedly, arduous challenges and changes have come up during these years, such as environmental issues and associated statutes and



guidelines, etc., and we should rephrase our vision in such a manner that it guides the organization transcend toward its goal despite these challenges.

Today the presence and participation of those young employees who

shall lead this organization in the coming twenty years, when our Nation enters 'Amritkaal' by completing a hundred years of our Independence in 2047, is specifically crucial in this redrafting initiative. We should redraft our vision statement such that

history remembers us as an excellent company in the Steel Manufacturing Industry in this century, Anirban Dasgupta said. At the outset, Nisha Soni, CGM (HRD&BE) gave the Welcome Address.

Faculties of the workshop Dr Nirmalya Bagchi, Prof Vilas Shah, and Dr Karnak Roy from ASCI, Hyderabad gave presentations on the importance of redrafting SAIL's Vision Statement, and Issues, Challenges and Outcomes associated with it. The participants were divided into teams, who brainstormed collectively and shared insights

through syndicate discussion by optimizing our time and intellect to explore avenues for redrafting and achieving the organization's vision in a more efficient, sustainable, Safety-oriented, and environment-friendly manner in the coming years. The visions and goals of other Leading Steel manufacturers and leading companies in India were also discussed on this occasion.

The objective of the Workshop is to revisit/redraft the Vision Statement of SAIL reflecting its contemporary aspirations in tandem with massive changes taking place all around the world. SAIL's Current Vision is "To be a respected World class Corporation and the leader in the Indian Steel Business in Quality,

Productivity, Profitability, and Customer Satisfaction".

It is noteworthy that, in this connection, an online survey through a questionnaire was conducted in November 2023 at the SAIL level for employees at large, including, the Personnel, Executives, Senior Management, Consumers, etc. Based on responses received, SAIL's new Vision Statement is being redrafted under this initiative.

It is also noteworthy to state that the maximum number of responses have been received from Bhilai Steel Plant, from the survey being conducted under this initiative. Amulya Priyadarshi, GM (HRD) compered the programme, while Sanjay Dhar, CGM HRD (MTI-Ranchi) proposed Vote of Thanks.

## PM launches Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra



**Raipur, Dec 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in five

Sankalp Yatra started in all the districts of the state. Common people will get information

MP Sunil Soni, MLAs Brijmohan Agrawal, MLA Motilal Sahu, Purandar Mishra, Rajesh

women, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address.

He called for taking forward the resolve of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India). Those who have availed the benefits of the schemes should inform everyone about it, he said. It is necessary to follow the idea that the country will be developed in 2047, he said, adding that this resolution will be very useful in creating environment for developed country.

### Modi's guarantee will be fulfilled with people's blessings, cooperation: CM

Addressing a programme organized at Vivekanand Sarovar, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that "Modi's Guarantee" would be fulfilled in Chhattisgarh with the blessings and cooperation of the public of the state. In accordance with the promise made in Modi's guarantee, paddy will be procured at Rs 3100 per quintal and 21 quintals per acre, he said.



Also, on the occasion of Good Governance Day, 25th December, the birth-

day of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the outstanding

amount of two years' paddy bonus will be given to the farmers, he added. Sai said that under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, 180 chariots will reach every gram panchayat and camps will also be organized in those places to provide the benefits of the schemes to the beneficiaries. People will also be given information about the schemes, he said.

## FOOT BRIDGE INAUGURATED



The newly constructed foot bridge of South Eastern Central Railway, Raipur division was inaugurated at Raipur Railway station by MP Sunil Soni on Saturday. On the occasion Raipur West MLA, Rajest Munat and Raipur North, MLA Purander Mishra was also present.

### Mahant appointed CLP leader

*Baij to continue as PCC President*



**Raipur, Dec 18:** Congress MLA Charan Das Mahant has been appointed as CLP leader of Chhattisgarh. The Congress President has approved the proposal of the appointment of Mahant as CLP leader in Chhattisgarh with immediate effect. The Congress President has also approved the proposal to continue Deepak Baij as the President of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee.

states including Chhattisgarh by flagging off the Rath (chariots) through a virtual programme in Delhi. In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Rath" in Raipur. With this, Viksit Bharat

about government schemes through Sankalp Rath. The objective of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is to provide benefits of schemes to the needy in a time bound manner.

On the occasion of the inauguration of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra,

Munat, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo and other officers and staff were present. A large number of beneficiaries of various schemes were also present.

"Modi's Guarantee" is working to strengthen the power of youth and

## Yoga serves as a catalyst for adopting a balanced and serene lifestyle: Dr Hansaji



Raipur on December 16.

Dr. Hansaji emphasized that maintaining mindfulness in actions, breath, thoughts, and words is a crucial aspect of Yoga practice. This discipline, she believes, leads individuals towards personal and spiritual growth.

She added that mindfulness, in the context of Yoga, entails performing tasks with complete humbleness and calmness. Through Yoga practice, individuals engage in their activities mindfully, resulting in effective and virtuous actions. Yoga aids in balancing physical and mental health through the practice of controlled breathing and meditation. Yogic postures and Pranayama teach individuals to regulate their breath, reducing mental stress and bringing inner peace, she added. Yoga assists in ob-

servating and understanding thoughts in a tangible way. Through meditation, individuals calm their minds, paving the way for better and more positive thinking. A Yogi uses words appropriately, engaging in interactions with simplicity and dedication. Employing good thoughts and choosing words wisely propels one forward on the path of personal development, she added. Manjeet Sthapak, the center coordinator, highlighted that under the guidance of Guru Hansa Ji, more than 150 practitioners daily experience health benefits through Yoga in Shankar Nagar. The Raipur branch of The Yoga Institute, with a legacy of over 105 years, tirelessly strives to bring the teachings of its gurus to the residents of the city.

## BJP government terminates political appointments of erstwhile Cong govt

**Housing & Environment orders removal of RDA Office-bearers and Shirpur Development Authority**

Development Authority (RDA) Vice Presidents Suryamani Mishra and Shiv Singh Thakur as well as members of Board of Directors Mamta Rai, Mukesh Sahu and Chandrawati Sahu whereas the RDA President Subhash Dhuppad and few others members had previously resigned following the ouster of Congress government after legislative assembly polls.

Similarly, the state government on Saturday also ended the services of Shirpur Special Area Development Authority (SSADA) President Satish Jaggi with immediate effect.

Earlier, the state government had also ended the services of Madrasa Board Chairman Altaf Ahmed as well as Office-bearers of Chhattisgarh Sanskrit Vidyamandalam and Machua Welfare Board.

It is notable that the General Administration Department (GAD) had instructed the departments to take appropriate action on the removal of political appointments.

With the above terminations, the state government has paved way for political appointments within the BJP in next few days.

**Raipur, Dec 16:** With change of government, the state government has started terminating the services of Congress leaders who were given political appointments to various state-owned Boards and Corporations. State Government on Saturday issued termination orders of Raipur

## MLA Anuj Sharma instructs to ban illicit liquor

**Raipur, Dec 16:** Dharsiwa MLA Anuj Sharma, while holding a coordination meeting of the district officials within a fortnight in the Collectorate meeting room here today, said that development each and every village of his assembly constituency would be his foremost objective. Sharma said that sale of illicit liquor



should be banned under any circumstances. Police and Excise Department should form teams and continuously visit the villages and take strict action against illicit liquor traders, he said.

He said that he himself will soon form a team of officers and visit the villages, listen to the problems of the general public and also try to solve their problems as much as possible.

# Attention GST Taxpayers!

Please file your Annual Return in FORM GSTR -9\* and FORM GSTR-9C# for F.Y. 2022-2023

Before Due Date

December 2023

31

GSTR-9 & GSTR-9C

\*Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9

All GST taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover above Rs 2 Crore (during F.Y. 2022-2023) except the following:

01

 Input Service Distributor
 

02

 TDS Deductor
 

03

 TCS Collector

04

 Casual Taxable Person
 

05

 Non-Resident Taxable Person

#Taxpayers required to file FORM GSTR-9C

A self-certified reconciliation statement in FORM GSTR-9C needs to be filed along with Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9 by the taxpayers whose Aggregate Annual Turnover is above Rs 5 Crore (during F.Y. 2022-2023)

Late Filing of FORM GSTR-9 and FORM GSTR-9C will attract late fee

Please Scan for details on GST Annual Returns

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## 7th Convocation of HNLU on Dec 17

**110 students of BALLB (Hons) to receive degrees in person**

**Out of total 90 graduating from LLM, 57 students to receive degrees and 3 PhD Schools to be presented PhD**

**Two decades of celebrating excellence in legal education**

**Raipur, Dec 16:** Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), established in the year 2003 is a leading institution for legal education and research in the country, is pleased to announce the 7th Convocation which is scheduled to take place on December 17, 2023. The Convocation shall take place at the Mayfair Lake Resort, Nava Raipur.

Addressing the press conference the Vice Chancellor of HNLU Dr VC Vivekanandan informed that the convocation will graduate a total of 150 students of B.A.LL.B. (Hons) out of which 110 students will receive degrees in person and 40 students will receive degrees in absentia. Similarly, a total of 90 students will be graduating from the LL.M. programme out of which 57 students will receive the degree in person and 33 students will receive the degree in absentia. 3 Ph.D.



Scholars will also be receiving the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in person & 1 Ph.D. Scholar will receive the Degree in absentia.

V-C Dr Vivekanandan informed that the Justice Aniruddha Bose, Judge, Supreme Court of India, and Visitor; HNLU will be the Chief Guest and deliver the convocation address. Justice Prashanth Kumar Mishra, Judge Supreme Court of India and Arun Sao, Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh will be Guests of Honour: Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice of High Court of Chhattisgarh & Chancellor, HNLU will confer the degrees.

The event will have the participation of Justice Sanjay K Agrawal, Judge, Chhattisgarh High Court and Justice P. Sam Koshy, Judge Telangana High Court, Justice G. Raghuram, former Director of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

V-C HNLU informed that the convocation event will also have a galaxy of eminent academics, notably Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, Pro Chancellor of IILM University, Prof.

(Dr.) R. Venkata Rao, Director of India International University of Legal Education & Research, Goa, Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit Jaswal, Vice-Chancellor, SRM University, Sonapat, Prof. (Dr.) Vijender Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, MNLU Nagpur, Prof. (Dr.) Nishtha Jaswal, Vice-Chancellor, HPNLU Shimla, Prof. (Dr.) S. Shantakumar, Director, GNLU, Gandhinagar.

The event will also witness the awarding of 36 Gold Medals to 12 UG and 2 PG students for their exceptional academic achievements. These medals include prestigious ones like the Chancellor's Gold Medal, The University's Gold Medal for the best outgoing student, Chhattisgarh State Bar Council Gold Medal, The Late Kamal Narayan Sharma Gold Medal, Late Smt. Shanti Devi Agrawal Memorial Gold Medal, Shri Vidyadhar Mishra Memorial Gold Medal, Dinesh Prasad Srivastava Memorial Gold Medal, Late Shri Hamidullah Khan Ex-MLA Kabirdham Gold Medal, Late K.P. Munshi Gold Medal, Syed Wakil Ahmed Rizvi

Gold Medal, among others.

He further informed that the two Notable Milestones for HNLU Academic Progress is 1. Distinguished Jurist Professor Programme and 2. One Crore and Twenty Five Lakhs allocation for Research Centres under HNLU R-HaS 3. Establishment of IP Chair at HNLU

The Distinguished Jurist Professor Programme (DJP) has eminent Jurists of the country for Judiciary, Bar and Academia visiting HNLU for lectures and short term courses. Former Chief Justices, Justice Dipak Misra, Hon'ble Mr. Justice U U Lalit, Learned Attorney General Venkatramani, Senior Counsel and Rajya Sabha Member, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Eminent Academician Prof Upendra Baxi among others have consented to be DJP under this programme.

The University will also be releasing the HNLU Journal of Law & Social Sciences, Volume IX & HNLU Gazette (Inaugural Edition) in the convocation

## Police arrest fraudsters posing as Saudi nationals

**12 pieces of foreign currency and one Mahindra XUV500 vehicle worth Rs 10,00,000/- were recovered**

**Dhantari, Dec 16:** In a significant development, local police, supported by high-tech surveillance and a joint operation, successfully apprehended a man and a woman who had been posing as foreign citizens from Saudi Arabia. Under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur and Superintendent of Police Madhulika Singh, a dedicated team composed of cyber cell technical experts and officers from the Magarload police station, led by K.K. Bajpayee, worked tirelessly to trace



and capture the suspects.

The investigation began when a local resident, Shrawan Sahu, reported an incident where a man and a woman, pretending to be Saudi nationals, duped him around

Rs 70000 by exchanging fake dollar notes. Following the incident, a case was registered under Section 420 and 34 of the

IPC.

In a remarkable display of technological prowess, the investigative team analyzed over 500 CCTV footages from various locations spanning from Magarload village Mohandi to Dhantari, Kanker, Kondagaon, Jagdalpur, and Dantewada. Their relentless efforts led them to pin-

point the whereabouts of the elusive suspects.

The suspects, identified as Ismail Ali and Katima Ali, were located and apprehended in the Raipur district, thanks to the diligent work of the Cyber Cell Technical District Dhantari and the Magarload police station. After intense interrogation, the accused confessed to their involvement in the fraudulent activities.

In a further breakthrough, authorities recovered 12 pieces of foreign currency and a Mahindra XUV500 vehicle valued at Rs 10,00,000/- from the possession of the accused. Additionally, Rs 30,000/- in cash was seized. Similar incidents of fraud have been committed in other states of India, a crime has been registered in Katni (M.P.) also.

## 35.58 lakh MT paddy procured so far

**17.02 lakh MT paddy lifted by millers for custom milling**

**Raipur, Dec 16:** The drive to procure paddy at support price in the Kharif marketing year 2023-24 is underway from November 1, 2023. In the last one and a half month, 35 lakh 57 thousand 374 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured from 7 lakh 86 thousand 463 registered farmers of the state.

Keeping in mind the con-

venience of farmers, 2 thousand 739 paddy procurement centers have been created this year. A total of Rs 7 thousand 313.02 crore has been released by MARKFED to Apex Bank for payment to farmers in lieu of paddy procurement. Instructions have been given to strengthen all the necessary arrangements in paddy procurement centres. Food department officials have also been told to continuously inspect the paddy procurement arrangements.

The state government has set a target of procuring 130 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from the farmers of the state this year. As many as 26.86 lakh farmers of the state have registered to sell paddy in ongoing Kharif marketing year. The total registered area in this is 33.15 lakh hectares, while 2.59 lakh new farmers have registered. This year too apart from paddy procurement, continuous lifting of paddy is going on for custom milling. So far, out of total 35.57 lakh metric tonnes of paddy procured,

DO has been issued for lifting of 27.43 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, against which 17.02 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been lifted by the millers.

Food Department officials said that on December 15, 2.52 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was procured from more than 59 thousand farmers. As many as 76 thousand 463 tokens were issued for today's paddy procurement. Of them, 28 thousand 082 tokens were issued online under the 'Token Tunhar Haath' app.

## Bikrams win Hindol Inter Set Athletics Cup, 2023 in RKC



**Raipur, Dec 16:** It is heartening to note that Rajkumar College, Raipur, the premier public school of Central India, had their Annual Inter Set Athletics Competition for the year, 2023. It was organised on the Cricket field facing the Sarveshwar Das Cricket Pavilion. The Athletics session had been going on for over a month and the Final Day i.e. 14th December, 2023 was fixed for the culmination of the Athletics. Lt. Col. Avinash Singh (Veteran), Principal, Rajkumar College, declared the Competition open at 2:45pm. Three stu-

dents, who carried the Flame of Sportsman spirit and harmony to light the cauldron, were Karan Singh, Sports Captain (Boys), Rajnandani Shyam, Sports Captain (Girls) and Nilesh Bag, Athletics Captain. The Competition commenced with the march-past.

The sequence of events of the afternoon were as follows: - The 1st event was 100metres dash for Senior Division Boys Group - 1. The 2nd event was 200metres run for Senior Division Boys Group - 2. The 3rd event was 100me-

tres dash for Intermediate Division Girls Group. The 4th event was 100metres dash for Intermediate Division Boys. The 5th event was 4X100metre Relay Race for Senior Division Girls. The 6th event was 4X100metres Relay Race for Senior Division Boys.

There was an excellent exhibition of Javelin Throw by 3 students before the Prize Distribution. They were Lokesh Sidar of Intermediate Division, Vikash Singh and Tulesh Podiyami of Senior Division Boys. It was ap-



preciated by everyone present there.

The following students won the Individual Awards in various events of Athletics Competition: - 1. Best Athlete (Intermediate Division Boys): Pourush Behra, VIII (Bikrams) and Puraan Chandrakar (New Record in High Jump, 1.51metre), VIII (Ranas). 2. 1. Best Athlete (Intermediate Division Girls): Vasvikunjam, VIII and Kavya Shukla, VIII. 3. Best Athlete (Senior Boys - Class 9 & 10): Md. Farhan Ahmed, X and Naveen Khute, X. 4. Best Shotput/Javelin Thrower: Tulesh Podiyami, XI (New Record in Shotput 9.98 metre) & (New Record in Javelin 38.66 metre). 5. Sarangarh Cup for the Best All Round Athlete: Panchuram Kadi, XI (Rajputs) and Karan Singh, XII (Bikrams).

The Overall Set positions at the end of the Inter Set Athletics Competition, 2023 were as follows: - 1st Bikrams (388 points), 2nd Ranas (351 points), 3rd Rajputs (317 points) and 4th Aryans (206 points). The Hindol Athletics Cup presented by Raja Nabakishore Chandra Singh of Hindol was won by the Bikrams for the year, 2023. The Sakti Physical Training Cup presented by Raja Bahadur Leeladhar Singh of Sakti was won by the Bikrams.

The Competition was declared to be closed by the Principal at 5pm and the Prizes and trophies were distributed by him, wherein he appreciated the efforts of the students and staff for a good show of athletics. The anchors were Rashneet Kaur, XII and Dhananjay Garg, XI.

## 'Sai's work ethic and behaviour will leave a mark on everyone's heart'

**Says villagers of Bagiya**

**Sai will strengthen good governance and bring prosperity to the state**



**Raipur, Dec 16:** Jashpur, a district adorned with natural beauty that evokes a sense of peace and tranquility among the people, has now found a new identity. This district has a village called Bagiya, which is situated on the bank of the Maini River and holds special significance as the birthplace of the current Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Vishnu Deo Sai. He was raised here along with the other siblings and family members.

The residents of Bagiya village said that for the first time, Chhattisgarh has a Chief Minister from their village and Jashpur district. They believe that this development will usher in a new era of progress in the region. He will focus on good governance and bring prosperity to the state. This development has created an atmos-

phere of enthusiasm and joy not only in the village but also throughout the entire Jashpur district.

With the oath-taking ceremony of Vishnu Deo Sai, who hails from the tribal community, as the Chief Minister, not only the residents of Bagiya but also the entire Chhattisgarh, including Jashpur and Surguja divisions, have embraced a new hope for development. The simplicity and peaceful nature of Vishnu Deo Sai is well known to the people of the village. Jitranjan Sai, a 75-year-old resident of the village, shared that, observing the simplicity and behaviour of Vishnu Deo Sai, the villagers first elected him as the Panch and later as the Sarpanch. Everyone here hoped that someday he would become minister, but watching him take the

oath as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has brought immense joy to the entire village. They anticipated that he would bring prosperity and good fortune to Chhattisgarh.

Sukhlal Sidar, a neighbour of Vishnu Deo Sai, said that now the fragrance of the flowers from their village Bagiya will spread throughout Chhattisgarh. Sai is a simple and humble person, he will be liked by everyone. He has a good relationship with everyone in the village. His work ethic and behaviour will leave a mark on everyone's hearts. Under his leadership, Chhattisgarh will move towards development and prosperity, he added.

Banthu Ram Sai from Bagiya village said that whenever Mr. Sai visits the village, a grand welcome awaits him. Shaniyro Bai, the head of the self-help group operating in the village shared that Mr. Vishnu Deo Sai listens attentively to their concerns and strives to resolve issues. Devanti Bai and Sukanti Bai from the village also believe that Vishnu Deo Sai will bring prosperity to Chhattisgarh.

## Orgalife organic food startup got a grant of Rs 25 lakh from Government of India

**Raipur, Dec 16:** Orgalife products no longer need any identity in the entire country including Chhattisgarh. People are liking Orgalife's organic products all over the country. In this connection, Orgalife has been affiliated with Indira Gandhi Agriculture's Raftaar Agribusiness Incubator (RABI) and its startup has been approved for a grant of Rs 25 lakh. Giving further information, the founder of the company, Umesh Banshi said that the products of Orgalife are available all over India through Amazon, Flipkart and their website and people appreciated them a lot. The credit for this achievement goes to Umesh and IGKV-Rabi team. Giving thanks to the entire team of IGKV-Rabi and especially to Dr. Hulas Pathak (Head and CEO, IGKV-Rabi), he said that

due to the guidance of Dr. Hulas Pathak from time to time and attending classes of many experts associated with IGKV-Rabi, today Orgalife has made its unique identity. Umesh said that the foundation of a good startup is the solution which is solving the existing problem. He added that no person can start a startup alone. To make it big you need a good team and right guidance. In addition to this he committed to the hard work of making the startup successful. Your product is your foundation. It should be well designed and solve the problem you are focusing on, he added. Mr. Umesh Banshi, Founder of Orgalife further said that all the products of Orgalife meet the standards

set by the Government of India. Faculties of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University had given training to everyone. IGKV registered startups are being provided training, training service, consultancy, advanced training, conducting workshops, education and training, training in business management, provision of on-line training etc. in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya. After the complete guidance, the startup applied for the grant. Umesh Banshi has been successful in achieving this.

Umesh Banshi said that his health deteriorated in 2015, when the doctor advised him to increase his

immunity and consume more and more organic products. He searched for such products in the market, but did not get much success. That's when he decided that through Orgalife, he would take care of his health as well as the health of millions of people like him and contribute to making people healthy through organic products. Umesh said that even today he is suffering from obesity, but due to the consumption of organic food products, his immune system has improved and despite being overweight, he is able to live a normal life. He uses only organic 5 products in his food. Umesh said that today more than 300 farmers across the country have joined Orgalife and are registered for organic farming in APIDA, an institute of the Government of India.

## Annual Day of Early Programme children held

**Raipur, Dec 16:** The Annual Day function of Early Programme children of city-based NH Goel World School witnessed a captivating showcase of the timeless power of stories.

Students presented a unique, musically embellished version of "Little Red Riding Hood," skillfully intertwining themes from the kindergarten curriculum and exploring the nine emotions encapsulated in this year's Abhivyaakti theme, "Navras."

Nursery A's fitness enthusiasts kicked off the festivities with a lively Zumba dance, conveying the essential message of the importance of exercise for physical fitness. Nursery B engaged the audience's senses with a dynamic dance representing the five senses. Sr. Kindergarten C de-



livered a vibrant performance, and Jr. Kindergarten B transported everyone to a magical underwater world with their synchronized performance. Sr. Kindergarten A showcased the enchanting bond between flowers and bees in a buzzing performance. Jr. Kindergarten A immersed the audience in the animal kingdom, bringing them close to nature.

Sr. KG B delivered a thought-provoking message through their performance, evoking heartfelt emotions and even bringing tears to some. Sr. Kindergarten D set a festive Christmas mood with their foot-tapping performance. Jr. Kindergarten C touched hearts with their poignant portrayal of the purest form of love—the bond with parents.



# Rajim's district status still on discussions

Rajim, Dec 16:

Congress created many districts during its five years and BJP's last 15 years of rule, but during the Congress rule, the way people rallied to make Rajim a district and put forward their demands, if seen from that point of view, it is still in existence as a district.

In such a situation, present BJP government will be able to fulfill the pending demand of making Rajim a district and the local MLA will be successful in making Rajim a district, as this is a local issue which has been continuously arising for the last 32 years.

During the Jogi regime of Congress, former Chief Minister Ajit Kumar Jogi had supported the demand of making Rajim a district and in 2003, there was a change in power and when the BJP government came to power, Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh



also created many districts in the last 15 consecutive years. Even Rajim was removed from Raipur and added to Gariaband district but Rajim district was not created.

The general public has opined that due to not making Rajim Navapara a district, Congress MLA candidates from Abhanpur Assembly and Rajim Assembly constituencies have lost. During the election campaign, Assam Chief

Minister Hemanta Vishwa Sharma, had said on the question of Rajim district the status to the region as district will be given. Rajim assembly seat in undivided Madhya Pradesh was known as hot seat and Shyamacharan Shukla has become the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh thrice by contesting elections from here. Saint poet Pawan Diwan has been the jail minister and after formation of Chhattisgarh state,

Amitesh Shukla has been made Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development. Since then Rajim Assembly had its own status and Rajim assembly district, which has given ministers five times, has not been formed.

### Rajim King of Pilgrimage

Rajim: All the major pilgrimage sites in the country have come into existence as district headquarters, ironically, Rajim has not yet become a district.

The biggest fair of the state is held in the sands of Triveni Sangam for 15 days from Magh Purnima to Mahashivratri, in which a large number of devotees from India and abroad come to have darshan, worship and visit the fair. With the name of Dharmanagari, its fame has spread far and wide and this city is called the city of Hari and Har.

The form of Lord Vishnu is present in the form of Rajivlochan and Shivaji is present in the form of Kuleshwarnath Mahadev Jyotirlinga.

The ancient temple is famous all over the world for its architecture and art carvings. Every day, hundreds of people from all over the country keep coming and going, which orients them towards devotion and the temple of Shakti Swarupa Adishakti Maa Mahamaya is also situated here, apart from other 84 temples.

# District level Disha Committee members nominated

Khairagarh, Dec 16:

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi has nominated non-official members of the Disha Committee for the newly formed Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district. In the District Development and Monitoring Committee (Disha), Bhagwat Sharan Singh, former District Panchayat President and active BJP leader Limeshwari Sahu, along with BJP District Vice President Prem Narayan Chandrakar and former Salhewara Mandal BJP President Nizam Mandavi have been nominated as members.

Nominated members including Bhagwat Sharan Singh will participate in the meetings related to monitoring of the identified schemes of the Central Government. Let it be known that Bhagwat has been associated with social and service work for a long time, apart from this; he has worked at the



grassroots level on environmental protection and other issues, while BJP leader Limeshwari Sahu is among the active women social workers of the district and represents the most populous Sahu community in the district.

The nominated members including Bhagwat, Limeshwari have expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rural Development Ministry and MP Santosh Pandey for their nomination. In the meeting of Disha Committee, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Deendayal Yojana, Rural Skill Scheme, Pradhan Mantri

Gram Sadak Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Rural Housing Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), National Rural Drinking Water The program will cover more than 41 small and big public welfare schemes including Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. The Chairman of the District Level Disha Committee is the Lok Sabha MP of the area and the Secretaries are Collectors. The committee includes MLA, Municipal Chairman, District Panchayat Chairman and other members.

# AIDS awareness program organized in SAGES



Bijapur, Dec 16:

On the occasion of World AIDS Day Fortnight, various activities were organized by the Health Department with the students at Government Higher Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium School, Bijapur, in which mainly

the students participated through rallies and street plays.

The cause and prevention of AIDS was vigorously propagated and students participated in large numbers in the program. On behalf of the Health Department, District AIDS Nodal Officer Dr. K.

Chelapati Rao, STI Counselor Pramod Patel, Kamalumar Tati, Manish Sahu DPC from Tuberculosis Control, Narsing Ratnakar TB HIV Coordinator, Onesh Durgam, Gopinath Patra Piramal, Principal Incharge BL Sharma and others participated in the program. In the program, prizes were distributed to encourage all the participants of Essay Competition, Rangoli Competition, Quiz Competition and Street Drama, along with special gifts were given to the students who secured first, second and third positions.

# Good Morning Mahasamund: A blend of fitness and fun

Citizens encouraged to engage in diverse activities

Mahasamund, Dec 16:

In a bid to enhance the well-being of its citizens and boost their immune systems, "Good Morning Mahasamund," in collaboration with the District Administration, Sports Department, Sports Association, and various departments under the guidance of Collector Prabhat Malik, is set to enter its fourth consecutive Saturday. This community initiative aims to foster health awareness and engage residents in a range of activities.

Scheduled for Saturday, December 16th, from 7:00 am to 8:30 am at the local Mini Stadium



Mahasamund, the event promises a diverse array of traditional and sports-related activities. Attendees can choose from Yoga, Handball, Hockey, Kho Kho, Volleyball, Netball, Tug of War,

Football, Basketball, Cricket, and Karate, with sports associations, exercise instructors, and yoga and Zumba teams overseeing the sports activities. Good Morning Mahasamund encourages

maximum citizen participation, allowing individuals to engage in activities of their choice. The event anticipates cooperation from the Health Department, Police Department, Education,

Higher Education, and Municipal Council.

The Sports Officer of Sports and Youth Welfare Mahasamund has extended invitations to nearby schools, colleges, NCC cadets, NSS, Scouts and Guides, Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Hostels, Sports Association officials and players, sports enthusiasts, government officers and employees, public representatives, distinguished citizens, and various social groups to actively participate.

With high enthusiasm among the community, a significant turnout is expected at this inclusive event, where fitness and fun blend seamlessly.

# CEO instructs for successful organization of VBSY



**Korba, Dec 16:** Under the direction of Collector Saurabh Kumar, CEO District Panchayat Vishwadeep took a meeting of secretaries of all departments in connection with the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the District Panchayat Office of Development Block Podi Upora. In the meeting, the CEO gave detailed information about the activities related to the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra

(VBSY) program to all the officers and employees present and instructed them to ensure all the necessary preparations for the successful organization of the program. The CEO said that the main objectives of Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra are to deliver the benefits of the schemes to the targeted beneficiaries, especially the deprived and unsatisfied people, in a timely manner. After the cam-

paign van reaches the village, there will be a welcome programme, recorded message of the Prime Minister, pledge/pledge video for a developed India, telecast of the film and Meri Kahani Meri Jubani - successful beneficiaries of the schemes will share their experiences, he said. He gave detailed information regarding the ambitious schemes of the Government of India and gave instructions to do

wide publicity at the Gram Panchayat level and to extend the benefits of the ambitious schemes of the government to the eligible beneficiaries and under "Meri Kahani Meri Jubani" the beneficiaries will share stories and experiences about the benefits of the scheme. To narrate the experiences of the beneficiaries, 5 beneficiaries will be identified from each Gram Panchayat, a script will be prepared and the information will be entered in the online portal. Chief Executive Officer of District Podi-UPORA Mr. Khagesh Nirmalkar along with Education, Health, Veterinary Department, MNREGA and other departmental officers and employees were present in the meeting.

# Bal Bharati's triumph: A stellar performance on the national sports stage

Sipat, Dec 16:

In the recently held state-level skating competition in Raipur, Alisha Singh, a student from Class 2nd of Bal Bharati Public School, NTPC Sipat, clinched gold medals in the 500 meters, 1000 meters and road lap categories. Her outstanding achievements not only brought glory to the school but also illuminated the name of the state. Notably, Alisha Singh has been selected for the 61st National Skating Games being conducted in Chennai from Dec 15 to 25. Tanisha Sahu, a student of Class 10th added another feather to Bal Bharati's cap by securing a gold medal in the



of the school but also brought pride to the state. Diya Ahuja, another 10th grader, showcased exceptional skills in badminton, earning her a spot in the Under-17 Girls' Badminton Competition in Vadodara, Gujarat.

The principal of the school, Shalabh Nigam, expressed his joy and extended congratulations to



the students for their success and motivated them for outstanding performances in the upcoming national sports competitions.

# 13 girl students to participate in National Gymnastics



**Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Dec 16:** A total of 13 girl students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), an excellent school of GPM, will participate in the 67th National School Games held in Delhi from 18th December to 23rd December. School Principal Akshay Namdev and staff members wished all the gymnastics players and sent them

off from the school. This is the 23rd year of the students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School District, Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (GPM), who have brought laurels to the district Gaurela Pendra Marwahi by participating in technical sports like gymnastics and due to the performance, the school, district and state are becoming

### Of GGHSS

famous at the state and national level. In this series, this year also 13 girl students of this school namely Sania, Bharti, Kiran, Sushma, Aarti, Priya, Riya, Aanchal, Mona, Jaya, Nirmala, Lovely Dhaneshwari are going to play gymnastics on behalf of Chhattisgarh state. On this occasion, Principal of the school Akshay Namdev, KR Singh, Anjana Khalkho, Rakhi Rai, Rita Solanki, Preeti Kesari, Khushboo Baghel, Deepali Shriwas, Vandana Singh and others have congratulated them. District Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia and District Education Officer Jagdish Shastri have also congratulated the girl students.

# Free eye tests benefit villagers in NSS seven-day camp



Rajim, Dec 16:

As part of the seven-day special camp organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) of Government Rajiv Lochan Post Graduate College, Rajim, a free eye testing camp was conducted in the village of Koma on the fifth day. The camp offered eye examinations to villagers, students, staff of Koma Pre-Secondary School, and volunteers, with Dr. Abhishek Paul (Director AB Netralaya Raipur and Rajim) overseeing the initiative. A total of 112 individuals received the invaluable benefit of a complimentary eye check-up during the camp. In addition to eye care, the camp focused on empowering volunteers

with knowledge in various fields. During an intellectual session, Balchand Sahu, a local fish farmer, shared insights into the processes and challenges of fish farming, aiming to guide volunteers towards self-employment opportunities. Sahu elaborated on fish farming procedures, associated expenses, and addressed questions from the participants. Tameshwar Markande, the Programme Officer, encouraged volunteers to explore entrepreneurship and self-employment prospects, inspiring them to forge ahead in these fields. Moreover, volunteers were equipped with valuable self-defense skills through training provided by Khilwan Ram Sahu, a Karate Champion.

# Bodhan Sahu applauds SC's Article 370 verdict

Fingeshwar, Dec 16:

In a resounding validation of the decision to abolish Article 370, BJP leader and Vice President of Rajim Bhaktin Mata Mandir Bodhan Lal Sahu, expressed his satisfaction with the Supreme Court's unanimous verdict. A bench of five judges, led by Supreme Court Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, upheld the government's move to remove the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahu enthusiastically welcomed the Supreme Court's decision, characterizing it as a resounding response to those who have consistently opposed



the abolition of Article 370 for their own vested interests. He emphasized the need for stringent punitive measures to curb such anti-government forces. The BJP has been a vocal advocate for the repeal of Article 370, which fostered discrimination

within the nation. Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the founding figure of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, had astutely observed that "One country - two laws, two leaders - two symbols" cannot coexist harmoniously. The BJP's unwavering commitment to this cause became evident when, upon regaining a majority government at the Centre, they took the bold step to abolish Article 370 on August 5, 2019. This decisive action underscored the party's dedication to national interests, sending a clear message to its opponents that the BJP is unafraid to make tough decisions for the betterment of the nation.





## CENTRAL Chronicle

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### J&K's Hope

#### A New Dawn Without Terrorism

In the annals of India's contemporary history, the region of Jammu and Kashmir has been a constant subject of scrutiny and concern. Its complex dynamics, shaped by a historical legacy, geopolitical interests, and the aspirations of its people, have made it a focal point of national discourse for decades. At the heart of this discourse has been the persistent challenge of terrorism and separatism, which has inflicted pain, loss, and uncertainty upon the region's populace. However, recent developments offer a glimmer of hope, a testament to the resilience of democracy and the determination of the Indian state to restore peace and normalcy to the region. A significant milestone on this journey was marked by the Union Home Minister's recent announcement, extending an earnest invitation to the youth of Kashmir who bear arms to lay down their weapons. This invitation, characterized by its empathy and inclusivity, underscores the government's commitment to resolve the long-standing conflict through dialogue and reconciliation. One of the critical facets of this endeavour is the unequivocal stance against individuals sympathetic to terrorists. The Union Home Minister has made it abundantly clear that there will be no tolerance for those with a track record of engaging in stone-pelting or any association with terrorism. To underscore this commitment, stern measures have been put in place, including the disqualification of individuals from securing government employment in Jammu and Kashmir if found to have such associations. Moreover, an ongoing process is underway to terminate the employment of government officials found to have links with terrorism, sending a strong message that the era of complacency is over. The fruits of these efforts are visible in the changing landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past year, the region has witnessed a substantial reduction in incidents of stone-pelting and disruptive shutdowns, marking a departure from the past. Security forces have played a pivotal role in this transformation, responding promptly and decisively to any manifestation of terrorist activity, whether major or minor. The result is an ascendant security apparatus, one that has earned the confidence of the people through its unwavering commitment to safeguarding their lives and livelihoods. The Union Home Minister's recent statement in the Rajya Sabha encapsulates the prevailing window of opportunity for misguided youth to renounce violence and embrace a mainstream existence. The government has rolled out an array of schemes, each designed to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitate the pursuit of their aspirations. These include scholarships for admission to professional colleges, financial support for e-taxi ventures, the establishment of independent MSME units, coaching classes, and skill development initiatives, all meticulously dispersed across every district. One particularly heartening development has been the success of the extensive Khelo India project, which has produced numerous medal-winning luminaries from the region. Their achievements serve as a testament to the transformative power of sports, offering an alternative path for the youth to realize their potential. Concurrently, ongoing developmental projects and a steady influx of tourists into the valley have further augmented employment prospects, rendering engagement in anti-national activities increasingly irrelevant. The government's resolute commitment to the region's transformation is mirrored in its unyielding stance against any attempts to disrupt the prevailing peace and harmony. The omnipresent watch extends to social media, with severe reprisals awaiting those who endeavor to undermine the hard-won stability. Even acts as audacious as facilitating recruitment on behalf of terrorist organizations are unequivocally classified as tantamount to terrorist activities themselves. Furthermore, the high command's control over state leadership depends on both the popularity and power of the national leadership as well as the interests of the state leaders. It is seen that when the electoral prospects of the national party look good, riding on the popular appeal of the national leaders, state leaders find a reason to surrender to the high command. The national leadership, when electorally powerful, accommodates the demands of dissident factions within state units through the distribution of various forms of political patronage. Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is unequivocally consigned to the annals of history, making way for a new era characterized by peace, progress, and promise. This transformation not only underscores the triumph over terrorism but also serves as a testament to the resilience of India's democracy and its unwavering commitment to the welfare of its people.

### Steering Away from Fossil Fuels

#### A Pledge to the Future

The culmination of the COP28 summit in Dubai brought forth a momentous deal in the battle against climate change. For the first time in its 28-year history of climate negotiations, the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change made a resounding commitment to address the proverbial elephant in the room—fossil fuels. This historic pledge outlines the transition away from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels, including oil, gas, and coal, by the year 2050. The primary aim? To curtail the rise in global temperatures, ensuring it remains within the 1.5°C threshold. However, the road to achieving this audacious goal is fraught with challenges that will test the resolve of nations to match their words with actions. The transition necessitates a comprehensive overhaul of policies, subsidies, and regulations on a global scale. The journey toward achieving net-zero emissions by the mid-century mark demands a radical transformation of how businesses are powered and how electricity is generated and consumed. Despite considerable efforts to adopt renewable and green energy sources in recent decades, an overwhelming three-fourths of the world's energy production still relies on coal, oil, and gas. To navigate this transition successfully, nations must not only embrace technological advancements such as carbon capture and renewable energy but also make substantial investments, amounting to billions of dollars. These investments should be made with justice and equity in mind, particularly for the developing world. The path toward "transitioning away" from fossil fuels must be just and balanced, ensuring that no one is left behind. While the COP28 summit witnessed a record commitment of \$12.8 billion to the Green Climate Fund by wealthy nations, the actual delivery of these promises remains to be seen. The Global South has often found itself on the receiving end of unfulfilled aid pledges, and financial shortages pose the most significant impediment to translating aspirations into reality. With 2023 already registering as the hottest year on record, the urgency of mitigating climate change cannot be overstated. The commitments made at COP28 hold the key to safeguarding our planet's future. It is now incumbent upon the international community to wholeheartedly honor the path charted at this historic summit. The transition away from fossil fuels is not merely a pledge; it is a call to action, a commitment to a sustainable and habitable future for generations to come.

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@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com](mailto:email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

### CAROL SINGING COMPETITION



College students pose for photos as they participate in a carol singing competition ahead of Christmas, in Patna, Saturday, Dec. 16.

## Disrespect for 'high command' culture, democratic values



PRIYANKA SAURABH



Today the country's democracy is facing similar challenges of leadership change, where the issues are turning into a major crisis. At the root of these challenges is the 'high command' culture, in which the top national leadership of political parties exercises tight control over lower levels, thereby eroding the autonomy of state units. How right or wrong the decisions within an organization are also depends on the methods of that organization. Today, he has become the Chief Minister after big victories in three major Hindi-speaking states of the country. According to democratic norms, the Chief Minister should be elected by the majority of the winning MLAs, but rarely in recent decades in this country has the Chief Minister been decided on this basis. The culture of high command has developed and strengthened in the two major national parties of the country, and such decisions have been taken not in the state capitals but in the national capital, and this is what is happening today. Whenever a party contests elections without the face of the Chief Minister, then after victory the general public has no role in its selection. He is selected as per the wishes of the high command and the public does not know anything about the basis on which the

decision is taken in whose favor? This is a disrespect for democratic values. This is a question whose answer must be found so that Indian democracy can be further strengthened and the high command culture can end. This culture is completely against democratic values. The beginnings of the high command culture can be traced to the early 1970s, after the 1971 national elections, and persists. So as of this till date, the high command alone takes decisions regarding all major appointments in the states and all its state units. The parties of the country have replicated the high command culture by choosing and removing Chief Ministers at will with complete control of their charismatic leaders and their political strategists. Such clear dominance of the top leadership over the lower levels of the party is also seen in other major parties of the country. Since state politics in a diverse polity like India is marked by generational rifts and power struggles among local political elites as well as high levels of internal conflicts between different factions representing a plethora of interests, there is a need for a national leadership. There is a certain level of hierarchical control. This is indispensable to keep the party united

at the state level. However, the high command culture that has now become the sine qua non of Indian politics often severely suppresses the autonomy of state-level party units of national parties, which largely operate at the will of the national party leadership. Once the national party gains power in a state, the party's high command has a disproportionately large discretion in the selection of the Chief Minister, with state MLAs having little or no say in this regard. This practice insults the constitutional mandate that gives majority party MLAs the right to choose their leader as the chief minister of the state. It has also been found that the high command is directly influencing cabinet formation and functioning of state governments in the states from the national capital, thereby eroding the autonomy of the CM and the state leadership. Even heads of state units of parties and other officials are nominated directly by the high command rather than through internal party elections. Such a tendency appears to arise from the political leadership's insecurity about facing political challenges from a popular regional leader of its party. Therefore, the wings of ambitious leaders in the states are clipped by low-profile nominated leaders and frequent leadership changes. Maintaining the status quo or regime change in states is sometimes done in the name of prioritizing experience over youth or in the guise of bringing in the "new". The second and most important factor shaping high command culture is the centralization of party finances. The high command decisively controls the party's finances, including resources emanating from the states so that the national leadership always has the upper

hand in regulating and distributing these scarce resources as per its discretion. Given that candidates are in dire need of money to contest elections, even more so as Indian elections are becoming more expensive than ever, this further strengthens the dominance of the high command. However, the high command's control over state leadership depends on both the popularity and power of the national leadership as well as the interests of the state leaders. It is seen that when the electoral prospects of the national party look good, riding on the popular appeal of the national leaders, state leaders find a reason to surrender to the high command. The national leadership, when electorally powerful, accommodates the demands of dissident factions within state units through the distribution of various forms of political patronage. Given today's situation, there is a need to understand the importance of electoral success in politics. Success in an electoral democracy is not a bad thing, and in many ways, it is an essential tool for implementing its policies. No matter how good the policies of leaders and parties are, if they are not in power, they remain like wishes and slogans. Parties must win elections to carry forward their ideology, and after every election result, the parties associated with it should introspect. The party should do an honest introspection for its survival, if not for the good of the country's democracy. Many times, honest discussion is not possible within the house, in such a situation the party should seek an analysis of its defeat from some people outside.

(Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Security breach

A significant security breach occurred on Wednesday when two people intrude into the parliament and opened yellow gas from tins, and created chaos situation, besides raising slogans against MPs. We were unable to draw conclusions from past experience. As we know exactly 22 years ago, a terrorist attack took place on a parliament. It shows the vulnerability of security protocol.

Karan Singh, Chennai

#### Shami Nominated for Arjun Award

Pacer Mohammed Shami, one of the architects of India's near successful World Cup campaign, has been nominated for this year's Arjuna Award. Really it was a great contribution from Shami for the team. Although, India couldn't become winner but conquered the hearts of all cricket fans and created a new history that opponent teams always will remain gripped by fear. Shami is great, his name and fame will be engraved on the very first layer of fan's hearts. Kudos to Shami.

Mohammad Taukir, West Champaran

#### Major security breach

An intruder who sneaked past security at the Parliament, aided by a visitor's pass allegedly provided by BJP's Mysuru MP Prathap Simha, created havoc inside the House when he jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber, released yellow gas canister and shouted slogans, before being overpowered by MPs. The incident nevertheless, exposed the chinks in the touted security build-up at the temple of democracy as it came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to the martyrs of the horrific Parliament attack which took place this day 22 years ago. Around the same time, two others, including a woman, raised slogans and released yellow smoke from canisters outside the Parliament premises. A high-level probe is on and the culprits should be given the severest punishment so that such incidents are not repeated. It is very unfortunate that such an incident happens in a place where the government of the country runs

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai

#### Yuva Nidhi Scheme

Kerala state government is all set for the launch of its fifth guarantee Yuva Nidhi from January 1, 2024. Under the scheme, the government will provide graduate unemployed youth a financial assistance of Rs 3,000 per month, while diploma holders who are unemployed will get Rs 1,500. The amount will be directly transferred into the accounts of beneficiaries until they find a job or for a period of two years, whichever is earlier. However, surely this little amount will not cover all the expenses. Therefore, govt should provide them with jobs instead of making them mentally hemiplegic by giving minuscule sum.

MT.Farooqi, Chennai

## Rushing Criminal Law Reforms: A Call for Thoughtful Deliberation



Yash Pal Raihan

In recent times, the government has undertaken a swift process of introducing and withdrawing Criminal Law Bills, each time presenting newer versions. The urgency to revamp India's colonial-era criminal justice system is undeniable, but such a monumental task should not be executed without extensive delib-

eration and discussion in a democratic nation. After introducing the new laws in parliament, they were referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Now, with the committee's report in hand, it is essential to assess the final shape of these proposed changes. The government's intent to expedite the Bills replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Indian Evidence Act is commendable as it marks a step towards shedding the last remnants of colonial thinking. However, amidst the rhetoric surrounding these Bills, there are concerns among a significant section of legal experts. A close examination of the Standing Committee reports suggests that this legislative process should have been more consultative, given that the proposed laws, in their current form, seem to reiterate provisions from the old statutes, raising questions about the true departure from the colonial past. One particularly worrisome as-

pect of the proposed laws is the expansion of police powers. The Bills have increased the maximum limit of police custody to 60 or 90 days, depending on the nature of the offense, a move that raises concerns about the safety of individuals in police custody and the potential for coerced and fabricated evidence due to prolonged detention. There are other contentious issues. While the government announced the repeal of three provisions in the IPC, including sedition and the criminalization of homosexuality and adultery, a closer look at the new laws reveals that the offense of sedition has merely undergone a name change. Additionally, the definition of some offenses is too broad and vague for effective enforcement. Undoubtedly, laws need to evolve with time, especially given that these old statutes have been in place for over a century and impact both the general public and the field of criminal jurisprudence. However, this overhaul should not

be rushed. The proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Second) Bill expands the definition of a terrorist act to include threats to economic security and monetary stability, broadening the law's scope to cover offenses against the state. It is crucial to dispel the impression that these bills are being hastily passed without thorough discussion. Informed debates outlining the nuances of the Bills are in the public's interest, particularly in a country known for its vibrant democracy. Drawing lessons from recent events, such as the farmer's agitation, where the government had to repeal three Bills passed without proper consultation, it is evident that the concerns of the public must be addressed. While the Bills aimed at uncluttering the criminal justice system are commendable, they must also address concerns related to the expansive powers granted to the police. The new criminal law code introduces critical changes by bringing terrorism, corruption, and or-

ganized crime under the umbrella of ordinary criminal law. These aspects were previously governed by stringent special legislation, and this shift has significant implications, including the reversal of the burden of proof on the accused to restrict bail. While the Bills underwent review by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, concerns were raised about the rushed nature of the review and the choice of domain experts consulted. The Standing Committee reports indicate that it met with over 19 experts, but the revised versions of the Bills appear largely unchanged from the initial proposals. In conclusion, the reform of criminal laws is a complex and important undertaking that demands thoughtful consideration, broad consultation, and meticulous examination of details. Rushing through such critical changes may lead to unintended consequences and undermine the principles of justice that India's legal system is built upon.





## Bankers honoured for outstanding public service

### Collector recognizes excellence in public welfare

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Dec 16:** In a heartwarming gesture of recognition, District Collector Gopal Verma honoured dedicated bankers at the Collectorate premises for their exceptional contributions to public welfare and public interest.

The event took place during a review meeting organized by the National Rural Livelihood Mission Bihan, bringing together district bankers, NRLM staff, and Bihan cadre.

Collector Gopal Verma presented certificates to the selected bankers, acknowledging their outstanding work in the



community. Emphasizing the importance of public welfare, Verma urged bankers to prioritize projects that benefit the public and serve the greater good.

Additionally, a one-day bankers' workshop conducted by NIRD NRP, led by N.K. Singh, highlighted the significance of self-

help groups and responsible lending practices.

The workshop provided valuable insights into the "five sutras" of lending and discussed the necessary preparations and documentation when providing loans to groups. Participants also gained insights into RBI guidelines, which in-

clude information about loans without security up to Rs 10 lakh.

In a separate recognition ceremony, Collector Gopal Verma presented citations to banks, employees, and cadre who excelled in finance and bank linkage of self-help groups during the financial year 2022-23.

The event was attended by various esteemed guests, including DRDA's APO Prakash Chandra Taram, LDM Gajendra Dhakite, Ashok Chauhan, Vaibhav Jain, as well as all 28 branch managers of KCG Dinanath Lilhare, Naresh Komre, ADEO, AC, and other dedicated cadres.

## Justice Bhaduri takes cognizance of incident of brutal corporal punishment

### At Kondagaon

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Dec 16:** Taking cognizance of the incident reported in newspapers and Television on 09th December 2023 about brutal corporal punishment of children by Teachers, wherein 25 school children were made to suffer burn injuries with hot oil at Kerwahi Middle School, under Makdi Block, District Kondagaon, Executive Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority Justice Goutam Bhaduri has directed to undertake necessary action in

this regard through Member Secretary CGSLSA Anand Prakash Wariyal.

Pursuant to such directions of Justice Goutam Bhaduri, CGSLSA has imparted necessary instructions to Chairman DLSA/ District Judge Kondagaon to extend necessary legal aid to such children and also to undertake necessary steps for compensating them under existing Government Schemes by coordinating with Administrative Officials within the District.

It has been further instructed that if prima facie



allegations are established, necessary legal assistance may also be provided to such children for taking legal recourse against such errant School Officials and staff as per law. Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority has further imparted directions to all DLSAs to organize awareness campaign within Schools and Educational Institutions through PLVs, NGOs including Judges from District Judiciary and also sensitize School Teachers with penal laws of Corporal Punishment so that such incidents can be prevented in

future.

It is also pertinent to mention that previously also on the incident of cruelty against child reported in newspapers wherein, a child was thrashed brutally by Program Manager in Adoption Centre at Kanker, Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman CGSLSA had taken cognizance and instructed for taking necessary action to DLSA by co coordinating with District Administration. Further instructions were also issued to all Secretaries of DLSAs to visit Children Homes, Adoption Centers, etc. every month to prevent such incidents in future.

## Saint Guru Ghasidas Baba's grand celebration enthralls masses

### Colorful procession and dance performances enthrall Kurud

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Dec 16:** Kurud city witnessed a spectacular celebration as a grand procession in honour of Saint Guru Ghasidas Baba filled the streets with joy and unity.

The procession, featuring Panthi Dance, dance and art performances by both boys and girls groups, flag bearers of Satnam Sandesh, Akhara demonstrations, and vibrant DJ tunes, captivated the hearts of the community.

The vibrant procession wound its way through Chandi Mandir, Thana Road, Purana Bazar Chowk, Sarojini Chowk,

Kargil Chowk, Sanjay Nagar, and concluded at Satnam Bhawan on Depot Road.

As the procession moved through the city, residents from various backgrounds, including Malak Ram Sahu, State Vice President of Sahu Sangh, Jyoti Chandrakar, former Nagar Panchayat President, and other dignitaries, welcomed it with flower showers at different locations. The lively atmosphere was filled with the spirit of unity and cultural diversity.

This grand celebration of Satnam Sandesh procession, featured Panthi dance performances that celebrated the teachings of Guru

Ghasidas Baba. Participants danced to the tunes of Guru Ghasidas Baba's songs, spreading his message of unity and equality to all.

The event, organized by the Youth Cell Satnam Samaj Kurud on the occasion of Guru Ghasidas Baba's birth anniversary, brought together indigenous people from various parts of the city, creating a vibrant and harmonious atmosphere. Prominent figures, including DS Banjara, Dr. US Navratan, and many others, joined the Satnam Sandesh Yatra, further emphasizing the importance of unity and cultural diversity in the community.

## CMHO conducts surprise inspection at district hospital



Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Dec 16:** In alignment with the Collector's directives, continuous efforts are underway to enhance healthcare services in the district. Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr. Devendra Paikra conducted a comprehensive inspection of all Outpatient Departments (OPDs), Ayush clinics, and the 100-bed Mother and Child care at the district hospital. During the visit, Dr. Paikra instructed the Residential Medical Officer in-charge to issue show cause notices to absent doctors and staff, ensuring accountability for their absence. The CMHO meticulously examined various hospital rooms, including the dental room, ENT room, operation theater and others, addressing identified deficiencies and providing necessary guidance for improvements. Additionally, he visited the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) room, where patients undergo screenings for blood pressure, sugar levels, and electrocardiograms (ECG), underscoring the importance of comprehensive healthcare services.

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## Anwari farmers continue sacred 'badhona' tradition

Central Chronicle News

**Anwari, Dec 16:** In the village of Anwari, the timeless tradition of "badhona" lives on, as local farmers maintain their reverence for Anna Mata, the goddess of food. Even today, after the bountiful rice harvest, farmers in Anwari set aside a small portion of their crop in a secluded corner of their fields.

This reserved area also becomes the sanctuary for their agricultural tools, a sacred space where they prepare for a formal ceremony, laden with rituals and prayers, dedicated to Anna Mata.

The "badhona" ceremony includes the devout offering of special items, such as "murra" (puffed rice), "micchar", and co-



comuts, as sacred prasad. Thaneswar Sahu, along with fellow farmers like Ishwar Sahu, Neeraj Sahu, and Daageshwar Sahu, continued this

cherished tradition, ensuring a spiritual connection with their agricultural roots and the nourishing spirit of Anna Mata.

## Grand welcome for sacred Akshat Kalash



Central Chronicle News

**Pandaria, Dec 16:** The city of Pandariya came alive with joy as the Akshat Kalash from Kawardha made its auspicious arrival at Gandhi Chowk on Friday evening around 5 pm. The city's residents gathered to worship the sacred Akshat Kalash, marking the beginning of a festive celebration.

The Akshat Kalash Yatra continued its journey to the Hanuman Temple, passing through the Mahamaya Temple with the accompaniment of melodious musical instruments. The pristine Kalash was placed at the Hanuman temple near the city's grand bridge.

The arrival of the Akshat Kalash has ignited a spirit of togetherness and devotion, inviting everyone to partake in the upcoming festivities and cultural ex-

change with Ayodhya. Invitations to visit Ayodhya will be distributed to all the villages across 35 mandals of the block starting from December 22.

The city is set to celebrate the Jai Kalash festival, with continuous chants of "Shri Ram" echoing in the air. The warm welcome rally was attended by a large number of enthusiastic men and women from the city.

## Bhavana Bohra urges officials to address key issues

- Instructions to start Harinala construction work soon
- Directed to start Sutiyaapat Canal expansion work soon

Central Chronicle News

**Pandaria, Dec 16:** Newly elected MLA Bhavana Bohra convened a meeting with administrative officials, department heads, and law enforcement in Kawardha, addressing several pressing issues and instructing immediate action.

The meeting tackled crucial concerns, including the prompt commencement of the Harinala construction project, the long-awaited Sutiyaapat canal expansion, and urgent resolutions for education, healthcare, and public welfare.

During the meeting, Bhavna Bohra addressed the long-standing public de-



mand for the construction of Harinala in Pandariya. Recognizing the challenges faced by the community, she urged officials to expedite the Harinala construction project.

Additionally, Bohra emphasized the importance of timely Mahatari Express service, enhanced night police patrolling in remote areas like Kukdur and Jungle, and the establishment of well-equipped facilities in the region, including an ideal hospital and school.

She encouraged departmental officials to collaborate effectively to ensure tangible and positive out-

comes for the people on the ground.

During the gathering, Bohra emphasized the need to curtail illegal activities such as liquor sales, gambling, and betting, and ordered strict enforcement against those involved. She directed authorities to crack down on drug-related activities and illegal businesses, thereby enhancing law and order across the entire assembly area.

Bohra also emphasized the importance of fostering better coordination between the public and law enforcement agencies to facilitate efficient complaint resolu-

### Pushes for key infrastructure projects

MLA Bhavana Bohra has called upon department officials to expedite the Sutiyaapat Canal expansion and secure approval for the Padkipar-Baroda Reservoir project. She has directed officials to investigate the reasons behind the previous government's ban on the project and remove any obstacles. The much-awaited projects will address long-standing demands and contribute to the region's development. Bohra emphasizes the importance of streamlining law and order, ensuring public safety, and promptly addressing community needs.

tion and to dispel any misconceptions.

In addition to these critical discussions, Bohra focused on revitalizing the education and healthcare sectors, urging authorities to identify and repair dilapidated school buildings, establish model schools, ensure teacher attendance, and improve healthcare facilities, including doctor and nurse availability, cleanliness, and equipment in hospitals and health centers.

For enhanced public convenience, Bohra reviewed public works projects, instructed action against

stalled and delayed road-works, and called for a report on the condition of roads in disrepair.

Notably, she addressed the slow progress and sub-standard quality of the National Highway 130A construction from Pondi to Pandarai and Pandariya, highlighting the public's hardships due to delays and low-quality construction materials.

A thorough investigation will be conducted to rectify the situation promptly, ensuring better connectivity and infrastructure for the residents of Pandariya and surrounding areas.

## Persistent sand mining scams raise concerns

### Collusion between officials and sand mafia

Central Chronicle News

**Fingshwar, Dec 16:** Despite raids on the Bidora-Khuda sand mine, illegal sand excavation persists, with the use of chain mounting machines running rampant. The sand mafia's influence and collusion with officials remain so entrenched that, following public revelations of villagers' actions and illegal mining on December 8th, authorities conducted a raid at the Parsadakala sand ghat adjacent to Bidora-Khuda, seizing a hidden chain mounting machine in the forest. However, the sand mafia's audacity led them to resume mining and

transportation using chain mounting machines at the same location on Sunday, December 10th, accompanied by threats to villagers and regular communication with transporters via WhatsApp.

The sand mafia charges Rs 2200 for 10 wheelbarrows, Rs 2700 for 12 wheelbarrows, Rs 3200 for 14 wheelbarrows, and Rs 3700 for 16 wheelbarrows, with royalty for 10 cubic meters set at Rs 2000 and Rs 2500 for 12 cubic meters.

Villagers report that, by colluding with departmental and revenue officers, the sand mafia illegally profits in the lakhs of rupees through unrestrained sand excavation. Complaints and irregularities become public knowledge, leading to minor superficial actions followed by a return to regu-



lar illegal mining and transportation practices.

Parsadakala villagers assert that the sand mafia enjoys official support for its illegal mining operations, stealing thousands of rupees in royalties from the administration while contributing to environmental

degradation and posing road safety hazards.

It is reported that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has banned mining by revoking the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for all mines, allowing only stock transportation. However, illegal min-

ing persists day and night in various locations, including Bidora, Khuda, Pitaiband, Chaubebadha, and Pusaud Hatkhaj.

Despite the administration setting the price for sand loading and royalty at Rs 980, sand ghats charge loading fees ranging from Rs 2500 to 3000. The royalty value for sand is Rs 650, with an additional Rs 2000 levied from vehicle owners. Royalty slips are not being provided.

The Mineral Department's lapses have contributed to the ongoing illegal sand mining and transportation activities in the district. Villagers demand strict adherence to mining and transportation regulations in local sand mines to alleviate persistent issues related to illegal activities.

## Sukma shines with 3 gold medals in Quan Ki-Do Championship

Central Chronicle News

**Sukma, Dec 16:** Sukma district, Chhattisgarh, achieved a historic milestone at the State Quan Ki-Do Championship 2023 held from December 9 to 10 at Gandhi Stadium Khelo India Hall, Ambikapur. In this prestigious two-day competition, talented players from Sukma showcased their skills and enthusiasm, securing an impressive tally of 3 gold medals and one bronze medal.

The gold medalists, namely Vimal Doodhi from Holi Camilli School, Chhindigarh, Nikhil Sahu from Swami Aatmand English Medium School, Sukma, and Srishti Verma from Kendriya Vidyalaya,



have not only made their district proud but also earned the opportunity to represent Sukma at the Banaras National Championship in February 2024. Coach Deepak Kumar emphasized the importance of Quan Ki-Do as a self-defense discipline and encouraged interested indi-

viduals to contact IMST School Sukma for Taekwondo training. The victorious players highlighted the physical and mental benefits of Taekwondo, expressing their commitment to bringing further glory to their district through their dedication to this martial art.



## 'Development of small cities key to developed India resolve'

New Delhi, Dec 16 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that his guarantee begins from where hope from everyone else ends and asserted that development of smaller cities is at the centre of his resolve to make India a developed country.

Addressing the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra through video conferencing, the prime minister said, "With resolve of a developed India, 'Modi's guarantee vehicle' is reaching every corner of country."

In one month, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has reached thousands of villages and cities and most of them are small towns, he added. Modi said his government is trying to ease troubles of everyone like a family member.

"This is our government that has helped the poor, farmers, small businessmen and various other sections of society. Modi's guarantee begins after hope from everyone else ends," he said. The prime minister said that for a long time after independ-



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi takes a selfie with the cutout of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', in Hubballi, Saturday.

ence, benefits of development were limited to a few big cities, but his government is focussing on development of smaller cities and that would strengthen the foundation for a developed India. He also urged everyone to avail the benefits of various government schemes. "Even though Modi has flagged off the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra, the truth is that today the countrymen have taken command of that yatra. At a place where the journey halts, people from other villages or cities start leading the journey," he said.

Modi also flagged off the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram, the five states where assembly elections were held recently. The yatra was launched for other states earlier, but the launch for the five states got delayed due to the model code of conduct in place due to the elections. He also interacted with beneficiaries from various states who have availed various government schemes.

Interacting with one such beneficiary, he said

'atmanirbhar' women of the country are not just sustaining themselves, but also becoming a boon for others.

Modi said his government is working relentlessly for such committed and hard-working people.

Earlier during the event, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that everyone's work now gets done expeditiously as the people of the country have become 'Modiji's VIP. Modi, who has given a call to make India a developed nation by 2047, interacted with the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via video conferencing. Thousands of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra beneficiaries from across the country joined the event. The programme was also joined by a large number of Union Ministers, MPs, MLAs and local level representatives. The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is being undertaken across the country with the aim to attain saturation of flagship government schemes by ensuring their benefits reach all the targeted beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

## RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees take part in the Sri Sri Gaur Nitai Rath Yatra organised by the Jagannath Rath Yatra Committee, in Amritsar, Saturday.

## Vedanta Aluminium announces energy efficiency breakthrough via patented potlining technology

New Delhi, Dec 16:

On National Energy Conservation Day, Vedanta Aluminium, the largest aluminium producer in India, announces a significant new breakthrough in the lining design of the 'pots' at its aluminium smelters. These smelters house several potlines, which are long buildings within the smelter that contain a series of 'pots', or large electrolytic cells, within which aluminium production via smelting is carried out. The 'Vedanta Lining Design' is a patented, energy-efficient technique that provides the dual advantages of increased energy efficiency and enhanced lifespan of the smelting pots, reducing energy consumption by 200 to 250 KWh per tonne of aluminium produced.

The innovation has also been recognised by the Ministry of Power's Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), as part of its National Energy

Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA) 2023, in the presence of the President of India, Mrs Droupadi Murmu. On the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, this prestigious recognition comes as a strong reaffirmation of the company's commitment to championing energy efficiency and conservation through transformative innovations within the global aluminium industry. Its initiatives in this regard also closely align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals of Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure (SDG9), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG12) and Climate Action (SDG13).

The new lining technique was designed using numerical computational modelling techniques that simulate electrical and thermal behaviour within the smelting pots. After a successful year-long trial, the design is now ready to be deployed across its

smelters, including Vedanta Jharsuguda in Odisha, one of the largest aluminium smelters in the world, and at BALCO, India's iconic aluminium smelter based in Korba, Chhattisgarh. It is projected to reduce GHG emissions by up to 3.86 lakh tCO<sub>2</sub>e (tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) generated per annum on complete deployment at its largest smelter in Jharsuguda alone.

Vedanta Aluminium has also launched its second annual Climate Action Report, aligned with the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The TCFD framework comprises a set of guidelines to help companies disclose climate-related financial risks and opportunities to their stakeholders. The detailed report transparently outlines the comprehensive approach undertaken by Vedanta Aluminium to achieving its sustainability targets in the short, medium, and long term.

## 'Sometimes even judges make mistakes'



Justice B P Deshpande

Panaji, Dec 16 (PTI):

Each legal case is distinct and one cannot compare it with other present or past matters, said Justice Bharat P Deshpande of High Court of Bombay at Goa on Saturday, underscoring that sometimes even judges make mistakes.

Addressing the lecture series 'GRK-Judiciary Talks' at G R Kare College of Law, Margao, Justice Deshpande said there are a lot of judgments on each topic.

"My experience as a sessions judge and also as a high court judge is that each and every case is having something different in it.

You cannot compare each case or earlier cases with the present cases," he said.

While applying the "law laid down by the Supreme Court and high courts", one should not just go and find out what the ratio is but ascertain what the facts are, he told the students at the event.

"So we have to have that balancing act. Sometimes it is very difficult, sometimes you have to find out something which is not there in earlier cases and come to the conclusion," he said.

Justice Deshpande further said, "We, as judges, won't claim that we are right always. We also commit mistakes (sometimes). But the fact is that there should be frankness in accepting that there is a mistake."

Nobody in this world is perfect in all aspects, he said.

"Everybody commits mistakes at one or other

point of time. The best thing is that you have to accept your mistakes, try to correct them and go forward. That is the part of life which we try to inculcate in our society itself," he said.

Justice Deshpande urged the students to visit courts to gain practical experience besides getting theoretical knowledge in classrooms.

He told the law students to use their degree as a tool to give service to society and people in need of legal aid.

Justice Deshpande

said that theoretical knowledge was necessary but gaining experience was important. "Visit courts, especially the trial courts. That knowledge

will give you first-hand experience for your career in future," he said.

The judge also asked students not to be a "slave" of technology.

## 11th anniv of Nirbhaya: 'Nothing has changed'

Ballia (UP), Dec 16 (PTI):

Eleven years since the gut-wrenching Nirbhaya rape incident, the father of the victim said a lot has changed, but a lot has also remained the same when

it comes to the police and prosecution system.

He said that the Narendra Modi government may have taken the country to historic highs, but till now it has not been able to do anything spe-

cial when it comes to women's safety and stopping cruelty against them.

On the night of December 16, 2012, a 23-year-old physiotherapy trainee (name changed to

Nirbhaya) was raped and mutilated by six men inside a moving bus in South Delhi and thrown outside. She died on December 29 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.

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