



BRIEF



A medical staff conducts covid-19 test of a woman at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Disease in Bengaluru, Thursday.

Mishap

Jamnagar: A patient sustained burn injuries after the oxygen mask he was wearing caught fire in the intensive care unit of a government hospital here on Thursday, an official said. The cause for the incident was not immediately clear, said Dr Deepak Tiwari, medical superintendent of the Guru Gobind Singh Government Hospital.

Suicide

Unnao: A 32-year-old woman died after allegedly consuming poison in Bhadewara village of this district on Thursday, police said. The woman's three children, whom she had fed poison before consuming it herself, were taken seriously ill and referred to a hospital in Kanpur in a serious condition, police said. The woman is said to be mentally ill, they said.

DA hike

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday announced that her government would be giving a four per cent raise in dearness allowance (DA) to all its employees from New Year's Day. Banerjee made the announcement while speaking at the inauguration of the Kolkata Christmas Carnival 2023 at Allen Park in Park Street area of the city.

Lifer

Allibag: A court in Maharashtra's Raigad district has sentenced a 32-year-old man to life imprisonment after convicting him for raping and killing a three-year-old girl nearly three years ago. Aadesh Patil, who also faces nine more cases, was out on parole when he sexually assaulted the child from Pen taluka in the early hours of December 30, 2020, which resulted in her death, according to the prosecution.

Cylinder blast

Kolkata: At least six persons were injured after a few gas cylinders reportedly exploded inside an eatery in Kestopur area here on Thursday afternoon, police said. The incident took place at Rabindrapally market around 12.45 pm, they said. Two fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames, a senior officer of Bidhannagar Police said.

Food poisoning

Gadchiroli: In a case of suspected food poisoning, more than 100 girl students were hospitalised as they fell ill after having lunch at their residential school in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, an official said on Thursday.

Weather
High 26 Low 11

MARKET
NIFTY 21,255.05
SENSEX 70,865.10

BULLION
GOLD 62,515
SILVER 75,275

Four soldiers killed as terrorists ambush Army vehicles

■ Three injured

Poonch/Jammu, Dec 21 (PTI):

Four soldiers were killed and three injured when heavily armed terrorists ambushed two Army vehicles in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, officials said.

The vehicles, carrying the personnel to the site of a cordon-and-search operation, came under attack at a blind curve at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Bafiaz under the jurisdiction of Surankote police station around 3.45 pm, according to officials.

Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said a joint search operation was launched in the general area of Dhera Ki Gali in the Thanamandi-Surankote region of Poonch district Wednesday night based on "hard intelligence" about the presence of terrorists and an encounter ensued there. As additional forces were moving to the site, the terrorists fired upon



Ill fated army vehicle attacked by terrorists.

the Army vehicles -- a truck and a Gypsy.

The troops swiftly responded to the attack, the defence spokesperson said. In the ongoing operation, four soldiers were killed and three injured, the officials said.

The operation is in progress and further details are being ascertained, they added.

Disturbing images and videos emerging from the

site showed blood on the street, broken helmets of soldiers and shattered windcreens of the two Army vehicles.

The officials have not ruled out the possibility of the soldiers engaging in hand-to-hand combat with terrorists during the intense confrontation.

The officials said there was a possibility that terrorists had walked away with arms of the targeted

soldiers. As the operation continues, authorities are diligently working to gather more information and bring an end to the threat posed by terrorists in the region.

The ambush came weeks after a major gunfight in the Dharmasal belt of Bajimal forest area in nearby Rajouri district that left five Army personnel, including two captains, dead last month.

Birj Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh becomes new WFI President

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Brij Bhushan loyalist Sanjay Singh on Thursday became the new President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with his panel comfortably winning 13 of the 15 posts in the delayed polls, an outcome that triggered outrage among protesting wrestlers with Sakshi Malik announcing her retirement from the sport.

Sanjay, who is UP Wrestling Association Vice President and hails from Varanasi, secured 40 votes as against seven that his rival and 2010 CWG gold medalist Anita Sheoran got.



Given the tremendous interest the outgoing chief has in the sport, it is expected that RSS-affiliate Sanjay, who runs a construction business, will consult him in policy decisions. "It's a triumph for thousands of wrestlers in the country who suffered in the past 7-8 months," Sanjay Singh told reporters after his huge win.

Parl okays bill to appoint CEC amid empty Oppn

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

The Parliament on Thursday gave its nod to a Bill which seeks to establish a mechanism to appoint the chief election commissioner and election commissioners with Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal asserting that it's in line with the Supreme Court's directions.

The Lok Sabha passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023 by a voice vote after a brief discussion.

He noted that the top court had said in March

this year that till the time a law is in place, a three-member panel, headed by the prime minister and comprising the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India, will select the CEC and ECs.

Meghwal said the bill is in consonance with the SC ruling and not against it. He said the committee mentioned in the judgement was a "stop-gap" arrangement.

Before the SC ruling, the CEC and ECs were appointed by the President on the recommendation of the government.

Unaccounted cash seized

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Unaccounted cash of more than Rs 351 crore and jewellery worth Rs 2.80 crore were seized after the Income Tax department conducted searches against a distillery group based in Odisha recently, the CBDT said on Thursday. The business of the group is controlled by a family based in Ranchi in Jharkhand and one of the family members is a "politically exposed person", the Board said in a statement, without taking any name.

Naxalites set ablaze two buses in Bijapur

Bijapur, Dec 21:

Naxalites set ablaze two buses in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on Thursday, though there are no reports of injuries to anyone, a police official said.

The buses were plying between Jagdalpur and Bijapur and security forces have been rushed to take charge of the situation, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney said.

A bus was stopped near Timmapur at around 7pm and was set ablaze after passengers were made to alight, while the second incident took place near Duigida village when a

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bus was on its way to Raipur from here, he said.

Both the areas are under Basaguda police station limits. Further details are awaited, Varshney said.

As per police, Naxalites have obstructed the Bijapur-Jagdalpur highway by felling trees and placing them on the arteri-

al route. The ultras have also thrown pamphlets in the area asking people to support the bandh (shut-down) called by the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) on Friday to protest the gunning down of their cadre by security forces in the state and in Bihar.

Rahul faces EC action over 'pickpocket' jibe at PM

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission of India to take a decision as expeditiously as possible, preferably within eight weeks, on a notice it has issued to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his alleged "pickpocket" jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi made during a speech delivered last month.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation seeking action against Gandhi as well as formulation of guidelines to prevent such "malpractice" by political leaders.

A bench headed by

Acting Chief Justice Manmohan observed that although the alleged statements are "not in good taste", the Election Commission (EC) was examining the matter and has even issued a notice to Gandhi. "Considering that deadline for filing reply is over and no reply has been received, the court directs EC to decide the matter as expeditiously as possible preferably within 8 weeks," the bench, also comprising Justice Mini Pushkarna, ordered. The court noted that in the notice sent on November 23, the poll panel itself said it will take appropriate action in the matter.

'No plan to make Covid testing mandatory at airports'

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

There is no plan so far to make RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 mandatory at airports for travellers, Union health ministry sources said on Thursday, amid an uptick in coronavirus infections in India.

Even though the number of cases is rising and the JN.1 sub-variant has been detected in the country, there is no cause of immediate concern as 92 per cent of those infected are opting for home-based treatment, indicating mild illness, they said. There is also no increase in hospitalisation rates and COVID-19 is an incidental finding in people hospitalised due to other

medical conditions.

In the last two weeks, 22 people have died due to COVID-19 in the country.

India on Thursday recorded 594 fresh COVID-19 infections while the number of active cases increased to 2,669 from 2,311 the previous day, according to Union health ministry data.

The death toll has climbed to 5,33,327 with six more people -- three from Kerala, two from Karnataka and one from Punjab -- succumbing to the viral disease, the data updated at 8 am stated. As many as 21 cases of the JN.1 variant had been detected across the country till Wednesday. NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul on Wednesday said

that the scientific community in India is closely investigating the new variant as he emphasised the need for states to ramp up testing and strengthen surveillance systems.

"There is no plan so far to make RT-PCR testing for COVID-19 mandatory at airports," a source said.

In July, India had issued revised guidelines, dropping the requirement for RT-PCR based testing of a random 2 per cent of travellers entering India. In view of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases and the detection of the first case of the JN.1 variant in the country, the Centre has urged states and union territories to maintain constant vigil.

TN Minister sentenced to 3 years imprisonment

Chennai, Dec 21 (PTI):

In a disproportionate assets case, the Madras High Court on Thursday sentenced Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K Ponnudiy to three years in prison under the Prevention of Corruption Act and also slapped a fine of Rs 50 lakh on him.

Consequent to his conviction and the prison sentence awarded by the court, Ponnudiy, a senior leader of

the ruling DMK stands disqualified as a legislator and as a result ceases to be a Minister. A DMK strongman

hailing from Villupuram district in northern Tamil Nadu, he was elected to the Tamil Nadu Assembly from Tirukkoyilur Assembly constituency. Justice G Jayachandran also sentenced Ponnudiy's wife P Visalakshi to three years in jail. The judge imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh each on Ponnudiy and his wife.

K Ponnudiy

Parl passes Telecommunications Bill, 2023

■ To replace archaic laws, modernise regulatory framework

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Parliament on Thursday passed a Bill that seeks to allow the government to temporarily take control of telecom services in the interest of national security and also provide a non-auction route for the allocation of satellite spectrum.

The Telecommunications Bill, 2023, was approved by the Rajya Sabha through a voice

3 yrs jail term and Rs 50 lakh fine.....

This Bill is very comprehensive and it will bring big structural reforms as well as "remove the legacy of corruption in the telecom sector", Minister Vaishnav said. With mobile phones practically becoming an essential part of life, be it for banking or booking tickets or healthcare, there is a need to protect consumers from fraud, Vaishnav said.

vote. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday after a short debate.

It also allows the government to take possession of a telecom network

in case of a public emergency or in the interest of public safety. Besides this, it provides for stopping transmission and intercepting messages in case of a public emergency, in the interest of the public, to prevent incitement for committing offence.

The press messages of correspondents accredited to the Centre or state governments shall not be intercepted or detained unless their transmission has been prohibited under rules applicable to public emergency and public order etc, according to the Bill.

Three fresh suspensions from LS, includes Deepak Bajaj

■ Total number of MPs suspended now 146

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Three more opposition members were suspended from the Lok Sabha on Thursday, taking the total number of suspensions from the Lower House of Parliament to a record 100.

With this, the total number of MPs suspended for unruly behaviour from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha stands at an unprecedented 146 since December

14. In the Lok Sabha, while 97 MPs were suspended for the remainder of the session, three were removed from the services of the House pending a report of the House Privileges Committee. Removal from the services of the House is the official term used for suspension. The Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die (indefinitely) on Thursday, a day ahead of schedule.

On Thursday, three Congress MPs were suspended from the remainder of the Winter session for unruly behaviour.

Notorious bike lifter nabbed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: Police arrested a notorious thief and recovered two motorcycles worth Rs 1.25 lakh from his possession. He was arrested by a joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Chhawani and Khursipar.

On December 20, police received a complaint from Sewak Diwakar of Kohka regarding the theft of his Hero Splendour (CG07-AT-8776) from his shop in Khursipar. On his complaint, police lodged a complaint under section 379 of IPC against the unknown thief.

On the same day, Abdul Fayaz, a resident of Sangram Chowk Camp 01 Bhilai, lodged a report in the police station Chhawani that on December 15, his bike Passion Pro number (CG



07 AK 9102) was stolen from Karbala Mosque, near Saksharta Square. Had gone inside the mosque to offer namaz and when he came back, his bike was missing.

Considering the rising cases of vehicle thefts, Senior Superintendent of Police Ram Gopal Garg instructed his subordinates to take prompt action in the cases of vehicle theft.

Under the supervision of Additional

Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Dr Anurag Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Chhwani) Ashish Banbhori, a joint team of ACCU, Chhawani Police Station and Khursipar Police Station was constituted.

The team worked under the leadership of ACCU in-charge Inspector Naresh Patel, Inspector Santosh Mishra, Police

Station Incharge Chhawani Inspector Sonal Gwala and Police Station Incharge Khursipar Inspector Umendra Tandon.

The team maintained vigil on the suspects and a network of informers was activated. Habitual criminals released from jail were also monitored. Meanwhile, police received a tip off regarding Diwakar alias Deva Reddy, a resident of Sector 05 Bhilai.

He was looking for customers to sell a stolen motorcycle near Power House Square. Acting on this tip off, the police team swung into action and the suspect Deva Reddy was taken into custody.

During interrogation, he admitted to committing vehicle thefts. Two motorcycles were recovered from his possession. Further action is being taken from the concerned police stations.

ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Saghar Khan, Chandrashekhar Banjeer, Constable Rinku Soni, Guneet Nirmalkar, Rakesh Anna, D Prakash, Vikrant Kumar from ACCU; Head Constable Murlu Kashyap from Chhawani Police Station and ASI Nagendra Banbhori, Head Constable Vinod Singh played a vital role in arresting the accused.

560 pending cases produced before court within a week

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: Durg Police is making sustained efforts to reduce the pendency of cases. SSP Ram Gopal Garg had reviewed the pending cases during a meeting with the Police Station / Chowki in-charges and had given instructions for quick disposal of the pending cases. Acting on the orders, the cops of various police stations produced more than 560 pending cases before the Court within eight days (December 12 to 20). In 85 cases, there was lack of evidence and hence the case was closed. Challan was prepared after completing the investigation of about 360 cases.

After reviewing the pending crimes and challans in the district and con-



SSP Ram Gopal Garg

sidering the year ending, SSP Ram Gopal Garg chaired a meeting of gazetted officers and police station / chowki in-charges and gave strict instructions for quick disposal of pending crimes and producing the pending challans before the court without delay. Acting on the instructions, Abhishek Jha (A d d i t i o n a l

Superintendent of Police, City) and Anant Sahu (A d d i t i o n a l Superintendent of Police, Rural) supervised the police station / chowki in-charges and made them dispose of the pending cases and pending challans. In the month of December, challans of more than 560 pending cases were produced before the court from December 12 to 20. After investigation in about 85 cases, the case diary was closed due to non-availability of evidence. The closing of these cases was approved by the court. Similarly, after completing the investigation of about 360 cases, challans were prepared for production before the court. Efforts are being made to resolve maximum number of pending crimes

Bootleggers nabbed with illicit liquor

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: Police nabbed two bootleggers from different places and recovered illicit liquor from their possession. Supela Police also seized a scooter from them.

On the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police Ram Gopal Garg and under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha and City Superintendent of Police Vishwa Deepak Tripathi, the team of Supela Police Station is taking action against those selling illegal liquor.

Later evening on December 20, police received a tip off about a person selling liquor near Dera Basti in Farid



Nagar. Supela police immediately reached the spot and the suspect was caught. Police recovered 31 quarters of liquor from the accused Devendra Netam (24), a resident of Dera Basti Farid Nagar.

On the same day, Police

received a tip off regarding a scooterist selling liquor illegally near Gada Chowk. Supela police immediately reached the spot and trapped the suspect. 30 quarters of liquor was seized from the accused Manku Uike (29), a resident of Dera

Basti Farid Nagar. Both the accused were sent to judicial custody.

Inspector Durgesh Sharma (SHO, Supela), ASI Dinesh Singh, Head Constable Abhay Shukla and Santosh Raj played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Annual Prize Distribution ceremony organised at Bhilai Maitri College

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: The annual award ceremony of Bhilai Maitri College was held in its premises on December 20, 2023 in the distinguished presence of the President, MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran, Directors, Dr Sajitha Thambi, S Sajeev and S Sajan and Principal Dr Surekha Vinod Patil, Prof D Laxmi (HOD). The occasion was graced with the presence of Chief Guest, Dr Preeta Lal, DDCD, Hemchand Yadav University, Durg.

Program commenced with the lighting of the lamp followed by the welcome address by the Principal. The Director of



the college, Dr Sajitha Thambi addressed the gathering with an insightful speech.

Dr Shalini Verma (Asst Prof) presented report of value added course conducted in college on Chhattisgarh Darshan,

Swapna Anil (Asst Prof) intimated about the course conducted on art and culture of Chhattisgarh.

Dr Prabha Kurup (Asst Prof, IQAC Coordinator) presented report of 4 days sports event. The award

ceremony was held amidst much joy, cheer and applause as 178 beaming students received certificate and medals for being the winners of various sports events.

Participants of the value added courses conducted by the college also received the certificates by the esteemed Chief Guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest congratulated the award winners and urged them to continue the efforts for excellence.

She also expressed her heartfelt appreciation towards the holistic development. The jubilant event ended with a vote of thanks by the IQAC member, Nutan Dubey.

Job fair in Vaishali Nagar today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: On the initiative of Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen, a job fair is being organized by District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center Durg under Srijan Rojgar on December 22. The job fair will be inaugurated at 10:30 am at Khandelwal Bhawan, Vaishali Nagar, near MLA Office Lokangan.

For the unemployed youth, Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen has taken the initiative to change the venue of this job fair. Earlier it was scheduled to be held in Durg, Rikesh got this fair shifted to Vaishali Nagar. Sen said that many youth of Bhilai faced difficulty in reaching the employment fair at Durg and it took extra time for them to reach Durg with all the necessary documents.



Therefore, to fill the vacant posts available by the employers under Durg district, placement will be organized on 22nd December from 10:30 am at Khandelwal Bhawan located in Vaishali Nagar.

It needs to be mentioned here that in the placement camp, there are 121 vacancies for the employer SR Hospital Research Center Chikhli Sira Road Durg. Recruitment will be done for the posts of

Nursing Staff, Dialysis Technician, Medical Officer, Dentist, Physiotherapy, OT Technician, X-ray Technician, Ophthalmic Technician, Pathology Lab, Field Officer, Electrician, Driver, Corporate, Guard, Accountant, Pharmacist, GM Marketing, Plumber Multiple Worker, TPA Incharge, Nursing Superintendent, etc.

SR Kurre, Deputy Director of District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Durg, said that the interested applicants should submit all the original educational proofs and marksheet, identity card (Voter ID card, Aadhar card, PAN card, driving license, ration card) and employment office registration, domicile certificate, caste certificate and all the documents (photocopies).

Safety Awareness Week concludes at SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's SMS-II

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: The Valedictory Ceremony of Safety Awareness Week was organised at the Mould Repair Shop of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop- 02 (SMS-II), on December 19, 2023. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Intending to drive safety consciousness in its people, SMS-II organised the Safety Awareness Week 2023 from December 13 to December 19, 2023.

Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron), and Susanta Kumar Ghosal, CGM (SMS-II) were also present on this occasion, along with Yogesh Shastri, Binotosh Bala, Saurabh Jain, and Gaurav Singhal, General Managers

of SMS-II, and other Senior Officials and personnel of SMS-II Department.

Speaking on the importance of Safety, Chief Guest Anjani Kumar appreciated the safety measures taken by the SMS-II Collective and said that we need to be cautious of various risks at the workplace and conduct ourselves accordingly. One should be present at the workplace in an integrated manner - Both with mind and body, which shall further help the Plant scaling new heights in quality and quantity, Kumar said.

Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron), in his address, said that safety standards at SMS-II are one of the finest in the Plant and need a three-point programme to take its journey incorporating rigorous



inspection of the structure, creating a culture of behavioural safety, and being alert at the workplace. At the outset Susanta Kumar Ghosal, CGM (SMS-II) in his Welcome Address shared insights on safety and said if one acts with alertness, 100% of incidents can be avoided.

Various competitions and programmes based on safety were held during Safety Awareness Week, including Industrial Safety Quiz, Slogan, Poster, and Poem

competition, Housekeeping Competition, a quiz on BSP Safety standards, and several awareness sessions on lifestyle diseases, Fire Safety, and Women Related issues. An awareness session on lifestyle diseases chaired by Dr N Ram, I/c (Occupational Health Centre), was also organised during the week, along with a session on Women Empowerment jointly conducted by R Ranjani, GM (Per-Medical), and

Shubshree Prashant, Consil (M&HS).

A cross-section of SMS-II employees took part in these programmes. Rajiv Shrivastava, GM (SMS-II), NK Detha, GM (SMS-II), P Anu, Mgr (WMD), and Ankit Satpathy, Mgr (SMS-III), won the prizes for Quiz on Safety Standards, while M/s Sahicon, M/s TPL, M/s Protective, and M/s Braithwaite were adjudged as the best contractors for following safety rules.

Caster Area won the prize for Best Housekeeping, while Ladle Bay and SBS were adjudged second and third in rank. Jitendra Manikpuri compered the programme, while Vote of Thanks was proposed by Yogesh Shastri, GM (SMS-II).

SPSB Inter-Steel Plant Chess Championship-2023 inaugurated at Bhilai Niwas



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant is hosting the Inter-Steel Plants (Steel Plants Sports Board-SPSB) Chess Championship-2023 from December 21 to December 23, 2023. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) inaugurated the Championship being held at Multipurpose Hall, Bhilai Niwas on December 21, 2023, in the presence of Dr Chinnoy Samajdar, Chief of Corporate Affairs (SAIL, Corporate Office, New Delhi) and Vice President (SPSB), Plant's Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SCCA) Department is organizing this 3-day Chess Championship.

Sandip Mathur, CGM (Pers), NK Banchor, President (OA & BSP Chess Club), Suraj Kumar Soni, GM (Pers-

change ideas with other individuals from our Steel Fraternity. I hope you all shall carry pleasant memories from Bhilai, said Shri Kumar. Dr Chinnoy Samajdar, Chief of Corporate Affairs (SAIL, New Delhi) and VP (SPSB), in his address said that Bhilai Steel Plant is renowned in every aspect, be it productivity and production, or Sports & Cultural activities, and has an amazing organising capacity. Chess is a game of minds and Indians have it in their blood. Sports and games are the best ways to forge people together, and with this very objective the platform of SPSB was started half a century ago, by two giants of Steel Industry SAIL and TATA Steel. We are now willing to expand SPSB to the other entities in Steel industry as well, for which an increased participation is expected from the Indian Steel Industry, Dr Samajdar said. Saheer Ram Jakhar, DGM (SCCA) introduced the dignitaries and guests with the players from the eight teams who have arrived from various steel plants, including BSP, TATA Steel Plant, DSP, IISCO, ISP, SSP, RINL, and RSP. All the participant teams shall compete in this Championship as per the rules and regulations laid down by the Chess Federation of India. NK Banchor, President (OA & BSP Chess Club) and Chairman of SPSB Inter-Steel Plant Chess Championship gave the Welcome Address, while Supriyo Sen from SCCA Department compered the Inauguration Programme.

Preparatory 'Mock-Drill' held at JLN Hospital, & Research Centre



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 21: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Pt JLN Hospital & Research Center, Sector 9, conducted a "Mock Drill" to ascertain the preparedness of emergency and health facilities at the Hospital. The Mock-drill was conducted under the guidance of Dr M Ravindranath, CMO I/c (M&HS), Dr Pramod Binayke, Dr Vineeta Dwivedi, Dr Kaushalendra

Thakur, Chief Medical Officers of Medical and Health Services Department and Dr Trinath Dash, ACO (M&HS) & Nodal Officer (Covid-19 Pandemic).

SM Shahid Ahmed, GM (M&HS), and Dr Meenakshi Dave, ACO (M&HS) were also present during the Mock-Drill Operations, along with BK Shrivastava, Sr Mgr (M&HS), Paramedical and Hospital Staff. In view of an abrupt upsurge of the new

variant of COVID-19, the treatment protocols, rapid response teams, and other critical care preparatory measures were thoroughly reviewed and updated through this Mock Drill. The Mock Drill Operation began at the Central casualty of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital & Research Center, Sector 9, and all necessary emergency tests including BP, oxygen saturation level, lung infection level, pulse, blood sugar

level, and other tests were run at the "Covid Triage" counter set up in the Casualty Emergency Department. The patient was shifted to the flu clinic and after re-examination, he was shifted to the Covid Ward, and the treatment was initiated. The Paramedical staff, nurses, and management officials from BSP's main hospital also participated in the mock drill. Similar Mock drills are conducted from time to time as per the protocols, to ascertain the preparedness and response of different agencies during any such emergency. The last Mock Drill based on COVID-19 preparedness was held in Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and Research Centre, Sector 9, on April 10,

Suman Kumar Hiradhar



Bhilai: Awadhपुरी Risali resident Suman Kumar Hiradhar left for heavenly abode at the age of 73 years on December 20. He breathed last at Baitalpur. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Nehru Nagar Christian Cemetery. He was the husband of Yatna Hiradhar and father of Swapnprisha Ram.

Ch'garh Assembly approves Rs 12,992 cr for fiscal 2023-24

'Modi ki Guarantee': Pending bonus of Rs 3716 cr to farmers on Good Governance Day

Central Chronicle News



Raipur: "I will dedicate my entire life for the betterment of people in Chhattisgarh", Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's reply on the supplementary proposal...

- Supplementary Budget of Rs 12,992 cr approved
Provision of Rs 3799 cr for PM Housing Scheme
A Rs 3800 cr for Paddy bonus
Provision of Rs 1200 cr for Mahtari Vandan Scheme
Jal Jivan Mission gets allotment of Rs 1230 cr
Krishak Jeevan Jyoti Scheme would get Rs 1123 cr
Social Security Pension Scheme gets Rs 307 cr
National Health Mission gets Rs 255 cr

the fiscal 2023-24 in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly here on Thursday. Budget worth nearly Rs 13000 crore was approved after discussion on key issues related with various welfare promised by the BJP in the election manifesto. Chief Minister

Sai stated that the bonus for the Kharif marketing years 2014-15 and 2015-16, totalling Rs 3716 crore 38 lakh 96 thousand, will be distributed to farmers across the state. The Government has promised to ensure the settlement of dues for two years to farm-

ers under 'Modi ki Guarantee'. The Agriculture Department, under Chief Minister Sai's directives, has initiated preparations to fulfil this promise. As per the Agriculture Department's instructions, farmers will receive a bonus (Dhaan Uparjan Protsahan Yojana) at the rate of Rs 300 per quintal for the support price in the aforementioned two years. The bonus disbursement programme will be organized from the state level to the development block level on December 25.

Assembly also approved budgetary provision for the construction of residential quarters for the weaker section of society under PM Housing Scheme. Govt also announced the much-talked Mahtari Vandan Scheme implementation as budgetary provisions too have been made in the 2nd Supplementary Budget here.



Annual celebration of Salem English Medium School was inaugurated by MLA Raipur (South) by releasing balloons in the air and the students performed variety of cultural programmes.

Youth nabbed with 12.20 kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.20 lakh

Raipur, Dec 21: A youth having 12.200 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.20 lakh was nabbed from near Sai Mandir in Purani Basti area here on Thursday and he was booked under section 20 B of Narcotics Act. The Purani Basti police got tip from an informer that a per-

son is standing near Sai Mandir in Purani Basti and is planning to move out. So it was based upon the details given by the informer the police went to the site and nabbed the accused. On interrogation he disclosed his name as Asgar Khan from

Lucknow. When the police conducted search of the bag in his hand, they found 'Ganja' packed in a polythene bags inside. The police seized the 12.200 Kg 'Ganja' worth Rs 1.20 lakh from his possession and filed a case under section 20 (B) of Narcotics Act. In this

action, TI Purani Basti Inspector Sudhanshu Baghel, Cyber Crime and Cyber unit Kishore Seth, Gurudayal, Upendra Yadav, R Kamal Dhangar, Bhupendra Mishra, and TI Purani Basti Jeevan Parkar played an important role.

Transporter involved in murder of Raipur businessman arrested from Odisha

In dispute of over Rs 50 lakh transaction

Raipur, Dec 21: Transporter Santosh Singh, who had given contract for murder in the case of firing of a businessman in Labhandi, Raipur, has been taken into custody from Sundergarh in Odisha. Raipur Police will interrogate the transporter by making him sit in front of the accused shooter Aman Sharma.

Odisha's transporter Santosh Singh has opened fire on hardware businessman Sandeep Kumar Jain in the firing incident in Telibandha police station area of Raipur on Wednesday. The arrested accused Aman Sharma has

informed the police about this during interrogation. The accused was to get Rs 3 lakh for completing this work. Half the amount was given in advance. Santosh Singh had also made arrangements for Aman's stay in the hotel. He had come to Raipur three days ago. Santosh Singh was asking Sandeep Kumar to give back the amount borrowed from him. He was also threatened with dire consequences if he did not give the money. On Wednesday, Aman opened fire just 200 meters away from his house. The number of people involved with the accused is being ascertained. At the same time, after the injured Sandeep regains consciousness, he will be interrogated.



The accused left the hotel at around 10 am on Wednesday. After this he booked an auto from Jaistambh Chowk and reached Labhandi Chowk. He then reached Romance Q Colony. Standing at some distance from the house of Sandeep Kumar Jain, he called Sandeep and asked him to meet. When Sandeep arrived in his Activa to meet him, he opened fire, one of which was a misfire while the other bullet hit him in the chest. Even after

being shot, Sandeep caught hold of Aman. By the time Aman freed himself from there and ran away, nearby shop owners surrounded him. After this the police was informed.

After Aman was caught, a team was immediately sent to Odisha to arrest the transporter from Odisha. However, as soon as the news spread, he absconded and switched off his number. Police are raided his hideout and arrested him.

The accused had two pistols. He was living in the city with illegal weapons for three days. At the time of the incident, he was having two pistols. As soon as people caught him, he threw one pistol away. And people snatched the pistol, he fired and gave it to the police. Police

have seized two pistols and live cartridges from him.

Congress has strongly condemned and expressed concern over the firing incident in Raipur. State Congress Communication Department, President, Sushil Anand Shukla has alleged that the firing in the capital is a threat of BJP's jungle raj. It is very unfortunate. He said that the morale of the criminals has increased in the state, the criminals have become unbridled, people are being murdered openly and bullets are being fired. ASP Raipur Lakhna Patle said, the accused is being interrogated. He has informed about money transaction. The real reason will be known after the arrest of the main accused.

Kiran Deo appointed Ch'garh BJP President'

Organisational rejig on cards ahead of LS polls

Central Chronicle News



Raipur, Dec 21: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday appointed first-time Member of Legislative Assembly from Jagdalpur constituency Kiran Singh Deo as Chhattisgarh Unit President as part of the exercise to rejig the Organization.

It is notable that the changes in BJP Organization was on cards ahead of the Lok Sabha elections as the present incumbent Arun Sao has been recently entrusted with the responsibility of Deputy Chief Minister in the Vishnu Deo Sai led BJP government in Chhattisgarh.

Kiran Deo who hails from the tribal-dominated Bastar region had earlier been the Mayor of Jagdalpur, is considered to be a surprise pick as several senior leaders like Durg Parliamentarian Vijay Baghel, Raipur Parliamentarian Sunil Soni as well as senior MLA Ajay Chandrakar

were considered to be among probable for the coveted post. Kiran Deo has strong Organizational experience which paved way for his elevation to the post of Chhattisgarh BJP President although he was also reportedly in fray for the Ministerial berth in Sai cabinet from Bastar.

With the above appointment, the fresh faces for the post of General Secretaries is also on cards in next few days.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh and other senior leaders including the MLAs have congratulated Kiran Deo for his appointment as new chief of party in Chhattisgarh.

Order issued to procure 21 quintals of paddy per acre from farmers

- Paddy to be procured at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal
Farmers are now being paid Rs 23,355 more on per acre rate
Farmers who have already sold their paddy will also receive the benefits

Raipur, Dec 21: Keeping Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to the farmers of the state, the state government has issued an order to procure 21 quintals of paddy per acre from the farmers at the support price. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has said that Chhattisgarh Government will keep all

its promises to the people. Paddy will be procured from the farmers of the state at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal. Procurement of 1 lakh 30 thousand metric tons of paddy is estimated in the state this year. About Rs 40 thousand crore will be paid to the farmers in lieu of paddy procurement at support price.

It is noteworthy that until recently, only 15 quintals of paddy was being procured from farmers at support price in the state. Newly-formed government has increased this quantity to 21 quintals. Now paddy will be procured at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal, and farmers will receive additional profit of Rs 23,355 per acre

on the sale of paddy. Previous government was paying a maximum of Rs 41,745 to the farmers on procurement of 15 quintals of paddy per acre, including the amount of input subsidy paid in four installments. Implementing Prime Minister Modi ji's guarantee in the state, the newly-formed government is all set to procure 21 quintals of paddy from farmers at the rate of Rs 3100 per quintal. As a result, farmers will receive a total payment of Rs 65,100 per acre for selling paddy, which is Rs 23,355 more than what they have been previously receiving for selling paddy.

Chief Minister has directed the officials concerned to make proper

arrangements in all the procurement centers of the state to make the process of selling paddy more convenient for the farmers. Maximum limit of procurement for Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection Department will be 21 quintals of paddy per with linking. Farmers who have already sold their paddy at support price will also be given the facility to sell paddy as per the revised upper limit of procurement. It is noteworthy that in Chhattisgarh, paddy procurement at support price has commenced from November 01 this year. 26 lakh 86 thousand farmers have registered themselves to sell paddy at support price.

BJP govt cheating in the name of 18 lakh PM housing: Baij

Raipur, Dec 21:

State Congress Committee, President, Deepak Baij has said that just as the promise of creating 2 crore jobs every year, reducing inflation in 100 days and getting Rs 15 lakh in every account proved to be a false, in the same way Modi's promise in the assembly elections is the claims made in the name of guarantee have also proved to be mere gimmicks. PM Awas Yojana was implemented in 2015 when BJP was in power both at the Center and in the state. Yesterday, a target of 18 lakh houses was set for Chhattisgarh based on the 2011 census. During the Raman government from 2015 to 2018, only 2,37,000 rural PM houses and 19,000 urban PM houses were built. From 2018 to 23, Bhpesh government built

- The claim of building 18 lakh houses by making a provision of only Rs 3799 crore for PM housing in the supplementary budget is a betrayal to the public.



more than 10 lakh PM houses. To build the remaining 7 lakh houses, the Bhpesh Baghel government made a provision of Rs 3234 crore in the last budget and the first installment for building houses for 7 lakh houseless people was deposited by the Bhpesh government in October itself. The Chief Minister and BJP should tell the list for whom 18 lakh houses are being built and their list should be made public. There is a provision of only

Rs 3799 crore for PM's residence in the supplementary budget. BJP should answer how 18 lakh houses will be built in this amount.

State Congress Committee President Deepak Baij has said that the leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party should tell what is the amount of state share for 18 lakh PM house, Rs 3799 crores have been sanctioned in the supplementary budget, not only 18 but even 5 lakh houses cannot be built. The reality is

that the state does not have the right to set targets in central schemes. Since 2011, the Modi government at the Center has been running away from the responsibility of census so that the new beneficiaries can be deliberately deprived of the benefits. The poor class has suffered the most due to the Modi government not conducting the census to cover up its failure. In order to identify the new beneficiaries and provide them housing, the Congress government started the Awas Nyay Yojana in Chhattisgarh, the first installment of which has also been released in the month of September, which the BJP government is also conspiring to close. Bharatiya Janata Party should apologize to the people of Chhattisgarh for its lies, statements and broken promises.

RKC's 'Past' team defeats 'Present' team by 3-1

In an exciting and thrilling hockey match between the above two teams

Raipur, Dec 21:

In the Past V/s Present Hockey match played at RKC on day-1, the Past team scored 3-1 goals over the Present team. The goal scorers from Past team were Raja Shri T.C. Deb of B a r a m b a (1) , SawantBahdur Singh(1) and Raja Devendra Prasad Dev of Baudh (1). The goal scorer from Present team were Nilesh Bag (1). Her Highness Rajmata Tripathwari Kumari of Kanker presented the Shri Purna Chandra Das

Hockey Cup to the Past students team. Rajkumar College (RKC), Raipur, a premier Public School of India, is known for its culture and tradition. The old boys of RKC wait for this event of Hockey match between the Past and the Present batches of RKC. Shri Purna Chandra Das Hockey Cup is awarded to the winning team. It is presented by Pratap Chandra Das and Prakash Chandra Das. The brief history about this Cup is that both the brothers of Bhadrak, Odisha were Old RKCians who loved to play Hockey and had donated this cup to the school, in the loving memory of their revered father Shri Purna Chandra Das, an amiable man. It has been a coveted



Past Students receiving Past Vs. Present Hockey Cup from Rajmata Tripathwari Kumari of Kanker

one traditionally and people eagerly look forward to this day throughout the year. It is mostly played with a spirit of comradery more than a competition. It becomes an enjoyable get-together for the old boys.

The two referees were

Tarun Yadav and Varsha Sharma. The running commentary of the Hockey match was given by three anchors. The first one was Maharajadhiraj Dr. Aditya Pratap Deo of Kanker, Life Member, General Council, Rajkumar College, Raipur;



Raja Shri Kamal Bhanj Deo of Bastar making a strategic move (Past Vs. Present Hockey match at RKC)

an Ex-RKCian and Professor of History at St. Stephen's College, Delhi. The other two student anchors were Aryansh J. Tekam, Head Boy and SakshiSirmour, Set Leader(Girl) of Bikrams. The highlight of their commentary was the fun

facts they provided about the history of the game of Hockey in the world in between their running commentaries. He quipped that the 'Hookie' and 'Hookie' has an interesting co-relation. Hockey is a field event and Hookie is linked with bunking of

playing truant! Aryansh and Sakshi also informed the gathering about the excellent performance of the Boys and Girls Hockey in Rajkumar College as they have won gold medals in IPSC.

The players of the two teams are as follows: Ananya Sinha, the Head Girl, AnishaPaikra, Set Leader (Girls) Aryans, Rajnandani Shyam (Sports Captain - Girls), Nilesh Bag (Athletics Captain), Tarsh Dev Singh, Kunal Kawasi, Jai Pratap Singh Baghel, Krishna Tigga, Karan Singh, Rajvardhan Singh, Soumya Agrawal, Ankush Singh, Kirti Manhare (Goal Keeper), Dev Shankar, Marwahi, Kamlesh Dahariya,

Singh, RiteshPatnaik, Rudranil Singh Deo, Sourav Yadavand Shourya Raj Gupta for the Present Team and some players of the Past team were Raja T.C. Deb of Baramba, Raja Kamal Bhanj Deo of Bastar, PatayetTribhuvan Chandra Deb of Baramba, Yuvraj Vijeyendra of Talcher, Raja Ranvijay Singh Judev of Jashpur, Raja Giriraj Kishore of Chhuikhadan, Raja Saheb of Rairakhol, Maharaja PC Bhanj Deo of Mayurbhanj, Raja Prata Deb of Aal, Raja Devendra Prasad Dev of Baudh, Jayant Bahadur Singh, son of Late Dr. J.B. Singh, former Principal of Rajkumar College, Raipur etc.

CM Sai inaugurates beautification work of Zero Point Chowk

Beautification of the main square and the gardens done at a cost of Rs 37.95 lakh



Raipur, Dec 21:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the beautification work of Zero Point Chowk located near Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha premise today. Under the aforementioned work, gardens near the main square have been adorned with beautiful depiction of Chhattisgarh's heritage of art and culture.

Beautification of the main square called Zero Point Chowk and the gardens on both sides has been done at a cost of Rs 37.95 lakh. On this occasion, Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, Leader of Opposition Dr. Charandas Mahant, MLA Ajay Chandrakar, Ramvihar Netam, Gomti Sai, Dayaldas Baghel, Moti Lal Sahu, Prabodh Minj, Purandar Mishra, Guru



Khushwant Saheb, Anuj Sharma, Bhavna Bohra and many MLAs, Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma were also present. The main square located at the Mowa-Vidhan Sabha Furlane Road (the main district road of the Public Works Department) was constructed about 20 years ago. The huge circumference of this 'Chowk' made

the road prone to accidents. Hence, as a safety precaution, the circumference of the round structure at the 'Chowk' was reduced and the beautification work was done as per the dignity of the assembly. The gardens located on both sides of the route were built about 16 years ago. These gardens, located on the entry route of Chhattisgarh Assembly Building, have been beau-

• Near Vidhan Sabha

tified in such a manner that the person passing through this route with have a glimpse of Chhattisgarh's culture.

The Main Square - A statue of bell metal pattern has been installed at the Chowk in such a way that it can be seen from three sides. The structure built around this chowk is of 6 meters circumference.

Garden - Statues of women and men have been installed in the gardens located on both sides of the assembly route.

Walls of the gardens have been adorned with Bell Metal artwork to promote Bastar Art. Several bell metal statues depicting Chhattisgarhi culture has also been placed in these gardens.

Youth will learn about the struggles and contributions of Pt Sharma through this book: CM

• CM release book 'Shri Krishna Janmasthan Newspaper'

Raipur, Dec 21:

Senior litterateur Acharya Ramendranath Mishra has compiled "Shri Krishna Janmasthan Newspaper", edited by Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, in form of a book.

Raipur, Dec 21: Senior litterateur Acharya Ramendranath Mishra paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai today at State Guest House 'Pahuna'. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and senior litterateur Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, Chief Minister Sai released a book titled "Shri Krishna Janmasthan Newspaper", re-edited and compiled by Acharya Shri Mishra. It is noteworthy that Pandit Sunderlal Sharma, the pioneer of social reform,



had published the handwritten newspaper "Shri Krishna Janmasthan Samachar Patr" from jail in 1922-23 during the freedom struggle. Senior historian of Chhattisgarh, Acharya Ramendranath Mishra, has compiled "Shri Krishna Janmasthan newspaper" in form of a book.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated Acharya Shri Mishra for compiling and publishing

"Shri Krishna Janmasthan Samachar Patr" of Pandit Sunderlal Lal Sharma. Paying tribute to Pandit Sunderlal Sharma on the occasion of his birth anniversary, Chief Minister said that this book is an important and historical literary work. Youngsters will get an opportunity to learn and understand the struggles and contributions of Pandit Sunderlal Sharma ji.

JCI Raipur Sanskar hosts 'Excellence Award' and oath-taking ceremony

Raipur, Dec 21: JCI Raipur Sanskar organized the Oath-Taking Ceremony on December 19, at Vrindavan Hall, Civil Lines, Raipur, at 7:00 PM. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp and recitation of Sanskrit shlokas.

During the ceremony, President JFM Ankit Chaudhary honoured active members of JCI who worked diligently throughout the year 2023, recognizing their contributions with mementoes. New members were administered the oath by JCI Zone 9 Former PAST ZONE President, ZONE IX JFS CA Amitabh Dubey, and the 2024 executive committee took their oath under



the guidance of JCI RAIPUR SANSKAR President 2024 JC Ankit Chandrakar. New members were provided with information kits about JCI to familiarize them with the organization. The prestigious Kamal Patra AWARD was conferred upon JC HGF Prachi Premani for her outstanding contribu-

tions to JCI. As the chief guest, PPP JFR Rajesh Agrawal emphasized that JCI is an organization where individuals can develop their personalities and showcase their skills. He invited the youth to join JCI and make a difference. JFS Amitabh Dubey, who served as the Oath Officer and former PAST Zone

President, ZONE IX stated that JCI has made significant progress in Raipur, and it is the responsibility of the general public and members to leverage the benefits.

Notable attendees at the event included the 2023 President JFM Ankit Chaudhary, President 2024 JC Ankit Chandrakar, Past President JCI Vijay Premani, JCI Nilesh Kumar Shah, JCI Pavan Khemani, JCI Pankaj Jadhvani, JCI Incharge JC Sandeep Thourani, JCI Amit Khare, JCI Chitrak Chopda, Prachi Jain, Neeta Khemani, Manya Gajwani, Preeti Sen, JCI Hardeep Singh Hora, JCI Tarun Premani, and distinguished citizens of Raipur.

'The Sindh Project' showcases heritage and unity

Raipur, Jan 21:

The Sindh Project, a dedicated proponent of the cultural richness of the Sindh community, recently curated a spectacular celebration in honor of Diwali. This event, brimming with traditional splendor, aimed not only to commemorate the festival of lights but also to accentuate the cultural vibrancy embedded in the Sindh legacy.

In the spirit of Diwali, the event unfolded as a dazzling cultural showcase, featuring rituals, prayers, and reflections that immersed attendees in the significance of the festival. The atmosphere was electrified with the warmth of traditional art, music, and dance, providing a captivating insight



into the artistic brilliance inherent in Sindh's heritage.

Beyond the festivities, the celebration played a pivotal role in fostering community bonds. Attendees reveled in shared joy, strengthening the communal ties that define the Sindh community. The event became a joyous

amalgamation of cultural reverence and social connection.

Culinary delights featuring Sindh's gastronomic treasures adorned the occasion. Traditional dishes, a gastronomic ode to the community's rich culinary legacy, added a delightful flavor to the celebration.

The impact of The Sindh Project's Diwali celebration extends beyond the immediate festivities. As with previous events, this initiative seeks to amplify the broader richness of the Sindh community's cultural tapestry. It stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to preserving, promoting, and sharing traditions that form the core of the Sindh legacy.

Looking ahead, the success of this Diwali celebration sets the stage for forthcoming initiatives by The Sindh Project. Cultural workshops, educational programs, and collaborative projects are envisioned to further enrich the understanding and appreciation of the Sindh community's vibrant culture.

Birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidas celebrated

Mandir-Hasaud, Dec 21: Birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidas was celebrated here and a grand Bhandara Prasad distribution by Satnam Guru Dal was done along with a Satnam procession in the presence of Guru Khushwant Saheb Arang MLA. In the procession, tour of Satnam temple Hassaud Nagar was done, in which the center of special attraction was Guru Khushwant Saheb along with 7 white flag bearers.

The main guests were Lalita Krishna Verma, District Panchayat member Dineshwari Yashwant Tandon, Devraj Jangde, Rohit Verma, Om Prakash Yadav, Balwant Yadav, Vishwadeep Baghel, Mahesh Yadav, Narsingh Agarwal, Lalit Gaikwad, Omprakash Baghel, Ram Ji Verma,



Anil Sonwani, Govind Sahu, Shobha Yadav, Diwakar Jangde, Namit Yadav, Ramsingh Nirmalkar and MD Pyare.

While in the procession, religious guru Yuvraj Guru and the elect-

ed MLA of the area, Guru Khushwant Saheb, joined the procession riding in a horse-drawn carriage, which added to the procession, the same saint community took advantage of the Guru's darshan, while

in the procession, in the tune of Panthi and Dhuma! a display of bravery was also shown through dancing and akhara.

Also on his first arrival, Guru Khushwant Saheb

and the MLA of the area were given a grand welcome by the residents of Mandir Hasaud by the Satnam Samaj and Mandir Hasaud BJP workers and Guru Khushwant was weighed with laddus and Prasad was distributed. The organizer of the program is Jai Satnam Yuva Gurudal Committee by which Bhandara and Shobha Yatra was taken out in which - President - Rajeshwar Prasad Chelak, Vice President Raju Baghel, Patron Gopi Markande, Secretary Gopi Koshale, Treasurer Rakesh Satnami, Joint Secretary Jintendra Satnami, Executive Incharge Bhuvan Satnami, Organization Incharge Aryan Joshi and all Satnami Samaj of Mandir Hasaud were present.

Corruption in Jal Jeevan Mission

• Villagers submit memorandum to Collector

Khairagarh, Dec 21:

The Jal Jeevan Mission scheme implemented to quench the thirst of villagers in every village has fallen prey to corruption. In Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district, complaints are being received continuously regarding the works of Jal Jeevan Mission, as in the name of commission fraud, corrupt officials of Public Health Engineering (PHE) are continuously carrying out low quality construction work.

In the latest case, the villagers of village Karmtara of Khairagarh block have complained to the Collector regarding the attitude of the department and the corrupt working system of the officers. As per information, there is a lot of



irregularity going on in the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district and the beneficiaries are not getting the benefits of the scheme.

The villagers of Gram Panchayat Karmtara have complained about this to Collector Gopal Verma, including BJP leaders Jaiprakash Sahu, Rekchhand Verma, who said that the situation regarding the scheme in the village is

such that the pipelines have burst, due to which water is continuously leaking from the pipes. Rural women and girls are still forced to collect water from boring, they said. During the submission of the memorandum, the villagers demanded honest monitoring of the green works being done under the Jal Jeevan Mission and action against those responsible who were negligent.

Intoxication a growing menace in the city

Kurud, Dec 21:

Intoxication, and other toxic materials has become a cause of concern for the region, as in the evening, the Lal Bahadur Shastri Sports Ground of the city is converted into a pub by the drinkers who are going to get intoxicated.

Also, after drinking, drunkards throw empty bottles, break them and go away, due to glass bottles being scattered all over the field, the players playing and practicing have to clean the bottles and glasses every day.

Due to the negligence of the administration the playground is in bad condition and due to the large ground, sports activities are organized here throughout the year by private sports institutions



and clubs, apart from this sports activities organized by the Administration and Education Department also take place here. Being a central and quiet area of the city, distinguished citizens of the city come to visit with their families in the morning and evening, but the same place becomes a den of drunkards in the

evening.

The youth of Kurud Nagar have become badly addicted to not only alcohol but also ganja and pills, as under the influence of this heavy intoxication, they not only create an atmosphere of unrest in the city, but also divide into groups and fight. Reportedly a similar incident happened recently in Kurud Nagar, where there

was a fierce fight between two groups, and both the parties filed reports against each other.

In Kurud city and area, banned drugs are also being sold openly day and night at many intersections, which is readily available to drug addicts, and after getting addicted to it, they indulge in various types of bullying, hooliganism and exploits. The citizens have opined that when such banned medicines are being sold in the city then why the drug department officials are not taking any action.

They have also opined that despite being located in the center of the city, the public representatives, administration officials and police responsible for Lal Bahadur Shastri Sports Ground do not pay any attention.

Shri Gujarati School's 'Umang 2023' concludes

• Annual Festival ignites excitement for Ayodhya's grand event

Raipur, Dec 21:

Shri Gujarati Bal Mandir, Shri Gujarati Primary School, and Shri Gujarati Higher Secondary School in Raipur concluded their joint annual festival, "Umang 2023," on an inspiring note. The festival, organized under the banner of Shri Gujarati Shikshan Sangh, witnessed the presence of esteemed officials and committee members.

Ramji Bhai Patel, Chairman of Patron Committee, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside many dignitaries ensured the event's success.



The heart of "Umang 2023" was its main theme, highlighting the consecration of the grand Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, and the nationwide excitement surrounding this historic event. All 21 presentations at the festival skillfully captured the significance of this theme, inviting everyone to witness the Shri Ram Mandir Pran Pratishtha

program on January 22, 2024, in Ayodhya.

In addition to celebrating the Shri Ram Temple's consecration, the festival featured captivating presentations, dances, and skits showcasing the rich folk cultures of various Indian states, including Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab. Students also explored episodes from the Ramayana and



Mahabharata, tackled critical issues such as girl child empowerment, women's empowerment, and the importance of education.

Shri Gujarati Higher Secondary School Principal Anis Memon delivered a warm welcome address and shared program updates. The vote of thanks was extended by Yogita Taunk, In-charge of the Primary Department.

BJP relaunches 'Sneha Yatra' to connect with Christians in Kerala

Congress calls it 'Kiss of Judas'

Kochi, Dec 21 (PTI):

With the Lok Sabha polls just months away, the BJP in Kerala on Thursday resumed its 'Sneha Yatra', an outreach programme aimed at connecting with the Christian community in the state. The saffron party ini-

tially launched the initiative during this year's Easter. In a recent state committee meeting, the party decided to resume the yatra during the Christmas season. BJP state chief K Surendran visited Cardinal George Alencherry, the former head of the prominent Syro Malabar Church, at St Thomas Mount in nearby Kakkannad in the morning and conveyed Christmas

greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also visited Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparbil of the Latin Archdiocese of Verapoly, and conveyed the wishes of the Prime Minister. Later, Surendran said in a Facebook post that it marked the beginning of 'Sneha Yatra' in the state. He also shared photos of his cordial meetings with the church heads. The Congress

in Kerala likened the 'sneha yatra' to the kiss of Judas, who betrayed Jesus Christ for thirty silver coins. However, the church authorities and the BJP leadership were yet to make clear the topics of discussion that came up during the closed-door meeting. A BJP leader said the meeting with Alencherry extended for over 45 minutes, and it was a warm and friendly meet.

Anurag Sharma plays an evil character on screen



Anurag Sharma

Mumbai, Dec 21:

In the entertainment world, actors are often celebrated for their ability to immerse themselves in diverse roles and entertain audiences with their portrayal of

characters. Acclaimed actor Anurag Sharma from COL-ORS' 'Doree' has pulled off just that as he embodies an antagonist, Anand Thakur, the evil son of a dominating matriarch in the thought-provoking social drama. The actor remarks that portraying a negative character has proven to be an enlightening experience, revealing un-

explored facets of his craft. His show 'Doree' has been garnering a lot of love from viewers as it outlines the tale of Ganga Prasad's six-year-old resilient daughter battling the regressive mindset of Kailashi Devi Thakur, the matriarch who owns the biggest handloom empire in Varanasi.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY		
AMENDMENT		
The following amendment has been carried out in the Tender Notice No. E-R-T-66-23-24, Closing Date: 04.01.2024 due to administrative reasons.		
Tender Notice No.	Tender Value & Earnest Money mentioned in Tender Notice	May be read as
E-R-T-66-23-24	Tender Value: ₹ 2,26,83,096/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,63,400/-	Tender Value: ₹ 1,85,03,975/- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,42,500/-
All other Terms and Conditions will remain same.		
PR/REG/CL/200		Divisional Engineer - II South East Central Railway, Raipur
South East Central Railway		@secrail

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance
Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division)
797-11, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)
Case No: RC/488/2019 in O.A. No. 1143/2018

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

VERSUS

M/s. SATYAM SALES

E-Auction No. 176/2023

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs.1,16,33,500.50 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Paise Only) issued by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 1143/2018 passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 10.50% p.a. with simple interest from 07-09-2018 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction - 31-01-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours

SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

Commercial Shop, bearing Municipal Shop No. 37/378, 1st Floor, Abadi, kh No. 431, P.H. No.105/A/44, Area Admeasuring 310 SqFt. Situated at Ward No. 37, Mouja- Raipur, Khas (Near Rathore Chowk), Ramsagar Para, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, RNM- Raipur-1, Tehsil & District- Raipur (C.G.) Shop in the Name of Priit Meharkure W/o Avinash Meharkure.

Upset Price : Rs.22,63,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Only)

Conditions of Sale: 1. Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No.0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mihalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@clindia.com or E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com. 2. Intending bidders are advised to go through website: <https://www.bankauctions.com> for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids. 3. Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Offices) also later on DRT will not be responsible for it. 4. 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 2,26,300.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account No. 31067074055 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT/Jabalpur with State Bank of India, Ridge Road, Branch Jabalpur (FSC Code:SBIN007208) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. 5. Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 29-01-2024 online. 6. A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-11 Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. 7. Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 20,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. 8. The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account in which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. 9. In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. 10. The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with 1% of sale amount plus Rs.10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. 31067074055 mentioned in SL. No. 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15 day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. 11. Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis" 12. The properties can be inspected on 06-01-2024 Between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours. 13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price. 14. Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason. 15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Shri Ajeet Kumar, AGM, Mobile No. 0771-2210424 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. 16. Details regarding E-Auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: <https://www.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No.0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mihalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@clindia.com or E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com. 17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Ajeet Kumar, AGM, Mobile No. 0771-2210424. 18. The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT / Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

(Vaatsalya Kumar)
Recovery Officer,
Debits Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur (M.P.)

Place: Jabalpur
Date: 14/12/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

(In Relation of Immovable Property bearing Plot No. 1010, Comprised in Online Khassa No. 15001/91 (Old Part of Khassa No. 15001/1), Comprising Area 3100 Sq. Ft. Situated Known as "Swarabhoomi Phase-II" Mauja Amasoni, Kushabhau Thakre Ward, Ward No. 26, P.H. No. 042, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.)

This is inform to General Public that the Original Sale deed duly executed by M/s Fortune Resources Pvt. Ltd. in favour of Shri Rajat Singhal S/o Shri Subhashchandra Singh Vide Book No. 1, Volume No. 74508, at Pages 355 to 377, Document No. 5080, Dated 03.02.2021 registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar, Raipur (C.G.) has been lost/ misplaced by Present Shri Rajat Singhal S/o Shri Subhashchandra Singh. Written intimation duly given in the Police Station, Civil Line, Raipur (C.G.) for Lost of above Sale deed by present Owner.

Now, Shri Rajat Singhal S/o Shri Subhashchandra Singh has applied for Loan from My Client, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (any Person Bank Corporation/ Society/ Institution/ Govt. or Non Govt. Authority etc., having an interest in the subject property or any part thereof may make their claim objections with documentary proof to the undersigned office within 07 Days from the Date of Publication, without any reference to such claim and the same, if any shall be considered as waived & My client shall be able to create mortgage on said property.

Please take Notice

Date: 21/12/2023
Place: Raipur

Ashutosh Mishra
(Advocate)

F-3, Modern Complex, Near Lalngana City Mart, Motibag Chowk, Raipur (C.G.)
Mobile No. - 94255-48998
Phone - (0771) 2888998 (0)

INDIAN BANK E-AUCTION ON 24.01.2024

Branch - Station Road, Durg (C.G.)

APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s) / Guarantor (s) / Secured Assets/ Dues/ Reserve Price/ e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date and time of E-auction - 24.01.2024 Time-11.00 AM to 4.00 PM

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) & Branch	Detailed description of the Property & Encumbrances on property	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price	EMD	Bid incremental amount	Property ID No.
1.	Borrowers - 1. M/s. KGN Industries, Vill. Bhandera, Tehsil Dondi Lohara, Dist. Balod, CG & 2. Mr. Atikuddin Khan S/o Mr. Sarfuddin Khan, Guarantor: 1. Mr. Sarfuddin Khan S/o Mr. Kamrudin Khan, Both of their Add., Vill. Gunderdehi, R.M.N. Gunderdehi, Rani Laxmi Bai Ward No. 11, Tah. Dist. Durg (old) Tah Gunderdehi, Dist. Balod, CG	Residential House Situated at Kh.No. 439/8(P), Renumbered Kh. No. 831/5, Diverted Kh. No. 439/ 21, P.H. No.105, situated at Mouza- Gunderdehi, R.M.N. Gunderdehi, Rani Laxmi Bai Ward No. 11, Tah. Dist. Durg (old), Tah. Gunderdehi, Dist. Balod, CG in the name of Mr. Sarfuddin Khan. Sale Deed No. 6623 dated 21/12/1990, Book No. A-1, Volume No. 8193, Plot No. 74 Area 4350 Sq. Ft. Surrounded By :- East: Durg-Balod Road, West: Land of Mr. Dhanraj & Mr. Govind Singh, North: Land of Sheikh Shamim & others, South: Land of Mr. Arvind Kumar. Encumbrances on Property: Not Known	53,37,332.00/- as on 10.05.2023 + Int. & Other Charges	Rs. 139.65 Lakhs	Rs. 13.97 Lakhs	10,000.00	IDIB3226 177969

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

Date: 22.12.2024, Place: Durg
Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED

Bhilai Steel Plant
Bhilai - Dist. Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, 490001

Walk-in interview for RHOs/REGISTRARS/SR. REGISTRARS In Medical Department of Bhilai Steel Plant

Resident House Officers / Registrars / Sr. Registrars are to be inducted in different specialties for its well-equipped 860-bedded Hospitals with modern facilities on the following terms & conditions, on stipendiary basis.

Discipline : General Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Orthopedics, Pathology, ENT, General Surgery, Psychiatry, Radio Diagnosis, Dental, Dermatology, Obst & Gynaec. and Ophthalmology.

S.No.	Qualification (MCI Recognized)	Stipend (Rs. per month)
1.	RHOs : BDS / MBBS (DCI/MCI Recognized)	Rs. 50,000/- pm
2.	Registrars : MBBS and Diploma (MCI Recognized)	Rs. 60,000/- pm
3.	Sr. Registrars : MBBS with PG Degree (MCI Recognized) / DNB	Rs. 70,000/- pm

Terms & Conditions:
Ages as on 30.12.2023: For RHOs - 30 Years For MS/MD/DNB and Diploma candidates - 35 year
Relaxation of age: 5 years for SC/ST candidates and 3 years for OBC candidates
Tenure period: Initially for 1 year which may be extended for another 1 year.
FOR RHO (DENTAL) TOP 5 CANDIDATES WILL BE SELECTED FOR APPEARANCE IN THE INTERVIEW BASED ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN BDS COURSE.
All those desirous of appearing for RHO Dental interview should register themselves on 26th Dec, 2023 (Tuesday), along with the attested photocopies of mark sheets of all 4 years of BDS course, Age Certificate, DCI registration certificate in the Office of the CMO lic from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Only those five candidates who will be selected will have to come with the DD of Rs. 250/- drawn in favour of SAIL BSP, payable at Bhilai (SC/ST candidates are exempted from the fees) on 26th Dec, 2023.
Interested eligible candidates may Walk-in for interview, on the date & time mentioned below, with all relevant documents (Originals + one set of photo copies), Age Certificate, Experience certificate, Caste Certificate (for SC/ST / OBC candidates) Medical Registration Certificate, two Passport size photos and a Demand Draft (non-refundable) for Rs.250/- (Rs. Two hundred fifty only) in favour of Steel Authority of India Limited, Bhilai Steel Plant (SC/ST candidates are exempted from the above fees). No TA/DA will be admissible for interview.
Date, Time, Venue of Registration: 30.12.2023, 09.00 AM to 11.00 AM, Office of the CMO lic, JLN Hospital & Research Centre, Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai.
Travel Information: Bhilai Nagar is situated on the Mumbai Howrah main line about 250 Kms. east of Nagpur. You are advised to alight at Durg Junction, which is the nearest railway station.
Advt.No. BSP-10/23-24, Dt. 21/12/2023

Registered Office: Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003
Corporate Identity Number: L27109DL1973GO006454, Website: www.sail.co.in
There's a little bit of SAIL in everybody's life

Bank of Baroda

Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006
PH: 0788 - 2261892, 2264992, E-mail: recovery.durg@bankofbaroda.com

(Publication in the Newspapers in case of return/failure of service of 60 day's Notice U/s. 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002).

The Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda has issued 60 days' Notices to under mentioned borrowers / Guarantors U/s. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by Registered AD/speed post. But these Notices were returned by the Postal authorities due to the reason of refusal to take delivery/wrong address/person left the place/city. These borrowers/guarantors have given their under mentioned movable/immovable assets by way of hypothecation / mortgage as security to secure the various credit limits granted by the Bank to the borrower(s). Due to non-payment of Bank's dues and non-fulfillment of terms and conditions of the loan, default has been committed by the borrower (s) / guarantor (s) in payment of bank loan and interest and the loan account has become NPA as per RBI guidelines. In view of the above, a 60 days Public Notice is given to the following borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to pay the bank dues as stated below alongwith interest till payment failing which the bank will be constrained to enforce its security interest without intervention of Court or Tribunal by taking recourse to one or more of the measures under Chapter - III of the Act. The borrower/guarantors are also directed by this Notice that in terms of Section 13(13) of the Act they shall not transfer by way of sale/lease or otherwise (other than in ordinary course of business) any of the secured assets charged to the bank without prior consent of the bank. The details of borrower/guarantors and secured assets is as follows, against whom the bank will start initiating action after 60 days in the event of non-payment of banks' dues by them.

Sl No	Name of the Borrower & Bank Branch & Phone No.	Name of the Borrower & Address	Name of Guarantor & Address	Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice	(NPA Date: 28.11.2023) (Notice Date: 04.12.2023)
01	Durg Branch Durg 9752410745	M/s Shrinath Electrical & Industries & its partners Above Sai Pump Sanitary Hardware 1st Floor, Ganjpara, Durg (C.G.)	1. Mr. Ajeet Kumar Prasad S/o Mr. Arvind Kumar Prasad R/o Plot No. 286, Street No. 20 (A), Ashish Nagar (West), Risali, Bhilai, DURG (C.G.) - 490 006 2. Mr. Bharat Tawri S/o Shri Rekha Chand Tawri, R/o A/401, Rishabh Green City, Infront of Mahesh Colony, Pulgaon, DURG, (C.G.) 3. Mr. Yogesh Yadav S/o Anil Kumar Yadav Address: 1: R/o Street No. 03, Near Dwivedi Complex, Vidyut Nagar, DURG (C.G.) 4. Mr. Arvind Kumar Prasad S/o Mr. Sudama Prasad, R/o Plot No. 286, Street No. 20 (A), Ashish Nagar, (West), RISALI, BHILAI (C.G.) Address 2: Flat/Plot No. 07, Block 17, Panchsheel Society, Borsi, DURG, C.G.	Rs. 25,26,179.00 + Unapplied interest + other charges	1. Hypothecation of Stock & Book Debts of M/s Shrinath Electrical & Industries 2. Equitable Mortgage of open diverted land total area 2400 Sq Ft or 0.03 Hect. Situated at Old Khassara No. 135/10 (Part) renumbered as New Kh. No. 456/11, P.H. No. 65, RIC- Durg-01, NPN Bhilai, Ward No. 61, Mouja No. 61, Mouja Risali, Street No. 20(A), Adarsh Nagar (West), Bhilai, Dist-Durg (C.G.) in the name of Guarantor Mr. Arvind Kumar Prasad S/o Mr. Sudama Prasad - Demarcation Boundaries as under: North: Land of Beena & others, South: 30 Ft Road, East: Balance Land, West: 30 Ft Road.

Date: 22.12.2023, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh
Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda

Chola

Enter a better life

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C 54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Office: Shop No- 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Telibandha, Raipur, CG 492001,
Contact No: Prakash Verma- 9981343191, Prakhhar Sharma- 9826432751

Chola

Enter a better life

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Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C 54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.
Branch Office: Shop No- 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Telibandha, Raipur, CG 492001,
Contact No: Prakash Verma- 9981343191, Prakhhar Sharma- 9826432751

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred here in after as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through <https://bankauctoins.in>.

Account No. and Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagors	1. Date 2. Demand Notice Amount 3. Total Loan Outstanding 4. Possession Date	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan Account No. X0HERRH00001772234, X0HERRH00002195173 and HE02RRH0000008588 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. Rafique Ahmad Khan, 2. Malik Johan, Both Res. At House No 36/296 Behind Nagar Nigam White House, Chotapara, Raipur, C.G. - 492001. 3. Huma Enterprises, Cholapara Raipur, C.G. - 492001., 4. Rashid Ahmed Khan, House No 36/296, Behind Nagar Nigam, Chotapara, Raipur, C.G. - 492001., 5. M/S New Rang Raj, Banjari Road Raipur, C.G. - 492001., 6. Shafique Ahmed Khan, 7. Haji Shafig Ahmed Khan, Both Add. - Behind Rang Mandir, Chotapara, Raipur - 492001.	18.08.2022 ₹ 1,40,63,285.22/- ₹ 81,83,189.83/- and ₹ 45,41,680/- Totally ₹ 2,67,88,155.05/- as on 18.08.2022 ₹ 1,37,29,925/- ₹ 84,22,540/- & ₹ 24,71,178/- Totally ₹ 2,46,23,643/- as on 16.12.2023 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 15.11.2022 Symbolic Possession	Property No.1:- Residential House bearing Part of Plot No. 16 renumbered as Plot No. 16/2, Sheet No. 10, Municipal House No. 315 (Part), Comprised in Khassa No. 376/4, 376/5, 377/5 & 377/6, Comprising Area 13,209.00 Sq. Ft. Situated at Village- Dumartalab, Pt. Ishwari Charan Shukla Ward, Ward No. 14, P.H. No. 104, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.). Boundaries:- As Per Sale Deed- NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Plot of Asgar, EAST: Plot of Shakil Bhai, WEST: House purchased by Haji Firoj Khan	₹ 3,92,00,000/- ₹ 39,20,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	27.01.2024 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each), 25.01.2024 (up to 5.30 P.M.) 15.01.2024 and 16.01.2024 (10.00 AM to 1.00 PM.)
		Property No.2:- Residential House/Abadi Land bearing Municipal House No. 13/570, Comprising Area 285.06 Sq. Ft. or 26.00 Sq. Mz. Situated at Banjari Road, Nayapara, Sadar Bazar Ward, Ward No. 39, R.I.C. Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries: As Per Map-NORTH: Owner House, SOUTH: H. No. 13/571, EAST: Banjari Road, WEST: House of Surendra Kumar Sahu,	₹ 58,00,000/- ₹ 5,80,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	

1. All Interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://www.bankauctoins.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr Muhammad Rahees 8124000030, Ms. A Closure., Mr. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Phone No. 8142000064, Email: info@bankauctoins.in.
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit- <https://bankauctoins.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Date: 21.12.2023, Place: Raipur (C.G.)
Authorised Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred here in after as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through <https://bankauctoins.in>.

Account No. and Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagors	1. Date 2. Demand Notice Amount 3. Total Loan Outstanding 4. Possession Date	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan Nos. X0HERRH00003033143 and HE02RRH0000001803 Borrower & Co-borrower 1. RAJESH KUMAR, AGRAWAL, Residing At- Karishma Apartment VIP Estate, V V Vihar Mowa Saddu Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492007. 2. POONAM AGRAWAL, 3. S AN T O S H K U M A R AGRAWAL, 4. MANJU AGRAWAL, 5. PREM CHAND AGRAWAL, 6. NEHA AGRAWAL, Residing At- Gali No 4 Karishma Apartment VIP Estate, V V Vihar Mowa Saddu Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492007. 7. AGRAWAL JI KAGULSHAN SWEETS, Residing At Shop No 5 Sahu Complex, Near Pani Tanki Mowa Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.	17.12.2021 ₹ 2,97,43,389.35/- and ₹ 60,23,445.00/- totally ₹ 3,57,66,834.35/- as on 17.12.2021 ₹ 2,56,34,959/- and ₹ 79,18,424/- totally ₹ 3,35,53,383/- as on 20.12.2023 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 23.03.2022 Symbolic Possession	PROPERTY-1 All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Shop bearing No. 06, on the Ground Floor, Comprising Area 360.00 Sq. Ft. Comprised Area in Part of Khassa No. 377/4 & 378/10, Situated at Known as "Sahu Complex" Village-Mowa, Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward, Ward No. 27, P.H. No. 109, R.I.C. Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries:- As Per Sale Deed NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Land of Prema Bai Sahu, EAST: Shop No. 7, WEST: Shop No. 5. PROPERTY- 2 All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Shop bearing No. 05, Comprising Area 360.00 Sq. Ft. Comprised in Part of Khassa No. 377/4 & 378/10, Situated at Known as "Sahu Complex" Village Mowa, Bhimrao Ambedkar Ward, Ward No. 27, P.H. No. 109, R.I.C. Raipur, Tehsil & District Raipur (C.G.) Boundaries:- NORTH: Road, SOUTH: Land of Sahu, EAST: Shop No. 6, WEST: Gate.	₹ 75,00,000/- ₹ 7,50,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/- ₹ 75,00,000/- ₹ 7,50,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	12.01.2024 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each), 10.01.2024 (up to 5.30 P.M.) 03.01.2024 and 04.01.2024 (10.00 AM to 1.00 P.M.)

1. All Interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://www.bankauctoins.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr Muhammad Rahees 8124000030, Ms. A Closure., Mr. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Phone No. 8142000064, Email: info@bankauctoins.in.
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit- <https://bankauctoins.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Date: 21.12.2023, Place: Raipur (C.G.)
Authorised Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

Residents persist through persistent rainwater woes

Kharora, Dec 21:

Despite the passage of ten days since a heavy rain showered Alda village, its streets remain submerged in water, causing considerable inconvenience for the local residents.

The persistent waterlogging has made it difficult for people to move around the village, highlighting the urgent need for improved drainage infrastructure. Villagers have been advocating for the construction of a proper drainage system for two years, but their appeals have yet to garner the attention of the Panchayat authorities.



Keshav Sharma, a resident of Alda, used to improvise a makeshift drain alongside his house, channeling rainwater into nearby fields each year. However, this time, due to the presence of paddy crops in his courtyard, the excess rainwater has accumulated on the streets, exacerbating the issue.

Sarpanch Keshar Khubi Verma declined to comment on the matter, leaving residents frustrated with the lack of action. In response, Tilda District CEO Vivek Goswami has stepped in, assuring the community that the problem will be resolved promptly.

7 Parkhanda students selected for National Netball Competition

Kurud, Dec 21:

Seven talented students from Government Higher Secondary School in Parkhanda Development Block, Kurud District, Dhamtari, are set to represent their school and community at the prestigious Netball National Sub Junior Competition in Jharkhand. Principal Heera Ram Sah proudly announced that these exceptional athletes will compete from December 21st to 24th.

The students, namely Payal Yadav, Pooja Sahu, Shushela Yadav, Chandni Sahu, Ashish Kumar, Tushar Nishad, and Damodar Nirmalkar, have earned this coveted opportunity through their dedication and hard work. This achievement not only brings glory to their school but also showcases the incredible potential of young athletes in the Parkhanda region.



The news has been met with immense joy and pride by the Parkhanda community. School Development Committee Chairman Devendra Sahu, Sarpanch Shatruhan Barle, Deputy

Sarpanch Rukhmani Sahu, and various teachers and officials joined the villagers in wishing the students a bright and successful future in their sporting endeavors.

Cooperative Chairman conducts surprise inspection



Cooperative Chairman Vipul Sahu undertook a surprise inspection of local schools and Anganwadi centers. During his visit, he not only met with the dedicated staff but also actively engaged with the students and shared a midday meal with the children.

Sahu visited primary schools in Tekapar, Kalkasa, and Gatapar, as well as Anganwadi centers, where he interacted with students and took a keen interest in assessing the education, drinking water,

and food systems in place. His encouragement and involvement in these essential aspects of a child's development left a lasting impression. In an inspiring message to the young minds, Chairman Sahu emphasized personal responsibility in shaping one's destiny. He urged everyone to focus on building a better personality and future through daily efforts, rather than blaming society or indulging excessively in entertainment.

While commending the dedicated efforts of the school and Anganwadi staff for their good arrangements, Sahu also provided constructive feedback to address any shortcomings.

Swami Atmanand School students embark on educational journey

Vocational course to boost student excellence
IIT Sukma provides insight into Telecommunication and Computers

Sukma, Dec 21:

In a bid to foster quality education and nurture the talents of male and female students, an enlightening educational tour was organized for the students of Swami Atmanand Excellent Hindi Medium, Government Higher Secondary School in Sukma, as part of the National Secondary Education Campaign.

This educational excursion, which included students from classes 9th, 10th, and 11th, centered around the vocational course in telecommunication. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the prestigious Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Sukma. At ITI Sukma, the students had the unique opportunity to delve into the world of telecommunication and computers. Principal Mahendra Banjare and the dedicated instructional staff, Sukhchandra Khunte and CM Gupta, provided valuable insights into these critical fields. They emphasized the ubiquitous nature of computer systems and information technology, highlighting their integral roles in both business and education.

The students gained a deeper understanding of the ever-expanding role of web-based information and telecommunication technology, recognizing how it has significantly enhanced efficiency in various computer-related tasks. This educational journey promises to inspire and equip these young minds with the knowledge and skills needed for a brighter future.

Guru Ghasidas' vision inspires prosperous Chhattisgarh: Yogesh Tiwari

Berla, Dec 21:

On the auspicious occasion of the 267th birth anniversary of the revered Guru Baba Ghasidas, BJP farmer leader Yogesh Tiwari graced the celebrations as the chief guest in the rural villages of Mohbhata, Karhi, Chetwa, Berla, and Lata Khudmuda within the assembly constituency. The event witnessed a vibrant procession through the village streets, with enthusiastic participation from the local community. The occasion also saw the generous distribution of snacks by members of the community.

During his address, Tiwari emphasized the enduring relevance of Guru Ghasidas' teachings in today's context.



He highlighted the Guru's staunch opposition to social hierarchies, discrimination, and untouchability that prevailed in society during his time. Guru Baba's teachings, promoting equality and inclusivity, were incorporated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar into the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. Tiwari underscored that societal and national development thrives not through division but through social harmony. The event attracted a substantial turnout, with numerous individuals and community representatives coming together to celebrate Guru Ghasidas' legacy. Prominent figures, including Ravi Gadpale, Saurabh Mishra, Neelkanth Patel, Piyush Sharma, Manoj Sinha, and Nereesh Balram Banjare, were among those present, contributing to the festive atmosphere and reinforcing the message of unity and equality.

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छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता,
जल प्रबंध संभाग क्र. 02 बलौदाबाजार (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
Main Portal: <http://cgprocurement.gov.in>
WRD Portal: <http://wrdd.cgprocurement.gov.in>

निरस्तीकरण सूचना

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित (01) सिस्टम क्रमांक 148409 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 11/व.ते.लि./ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट/2023-24 दिनांक 27/09/2023, जिसका जी नंबर 05778/5 दिनांक 30.09.2023 में प्रतिभागी निविदाकार की संख्या निरंक होने के कारण (02) सिस्टम क्रमांक 148415 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 12/व.ते.लि./ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट/2023-24 दिनांक 27/09/2023, जिसका जी नंबर 05781/4 दिनांक 01.10.2023 (03) सिस्टम क्रमांक 148717 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 14/व.ते.लि./ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट/2023-24 दिनांक 29/09/2023, जिसका जी नंबर 05907/2 दिनांक 04.10.2023 को एकल निविदा होने के कारण निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल प्रबंध संभाग क्र. 2, बलौदाबाजार
कुते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी परियोजना
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

G-06453/3

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.W.D. BASTAR CIRCLE JAGDALPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice
<http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

Tender are invited for the Following Works :-
Last Date of Tender Downloading :- 26/12/2023

S. No.	NIT No./NIT Date	System Tender No. (Tender Call No.)	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in Lacs)
01	02	03	04	05
1	28/2023-24 Date 13/12/2023	150021 (First-Call)	Construction of First Floor 08 Nos Additional Rooms i/c Toilet & Electrification Work Bapu Rao Govt. Degree College Sukma, Distinct-Sukma (C.G.)	137.85

For more details on the Tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Bastar Circle
Jagdalpur

G-06433/1

स्वशासी समिति
शासकीय दंत चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक / 6633 / जीडीसी / स्व. / 2023 रायपुर, दिनांक 14-12-23

-: विज्ञापन :-

शासकीय दंत चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायपुर में अध्यक्षनरत्न छात्रों के लिये छात्रावास भवन हेतु निम्नानुसार किराये के भवन की आवश्यकता है:-

क्र.	कस विवरण	संख्या/विवरण	अनुमानित क्षेत्रफल (वर्गफीट में)
1	डबल/सिंगल बेडरूम	25 से 30	8000
2	टायलेट सुविधाएं	01 बाथरूम एवं 01 टायलेट प्रति 05 छात्र	500
3	अतिथि कक्ष	01 (टायलेट सुविधा सहित)	300
4	किचन एवं स्टोर		500
5	मनोरंजन कक्ष	01	500
6	अध्ययन कक्ष/ सामान्य कक्ष	01	300
7	मौलिक कक्ष	01	500
8	मण्डार कक्ष	01	300
	कुल		10900 वर्गफीट

1. भाड़ा क्रय नियंत्रण अधिकारी द्वारा निर्धारित मासिक किराया राशि अनुसार किराये का निर्धारण किया जावेगा।
2. उपरोक्त अधोसंरचना में आवश्यकतानुसार परिवर्तन किया जा सकता है।
3. उपरोक्त उल्लेखित विवरण अनुमानित है. बड़े/छोटे भवन स्वामी भी अपना प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।
4. इच्छुक भवन स्वामी महाविद्यालय की वेब-साइट www.govdentalcollege.raipur.in में दिये गये प्रारूप अनुसार आवश्यक जानकारी के साथ अपना प्रस्ताव व दूर बंद लिफाफे में प्रामाण्य, शासकीय दंत चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रजबहा मैदान, रायपुर (छ.ग.) कार्यालय में दिनांक 4.01.2024 तक कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत करेंगे।

प्राचार्य
शास. दंत चिकि. महाविद्यालय, रायपुर

G-06452/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(2nd CALL)

System Tender No. : 149951/NIT No. : 32/SAC/2023-24,
Chhuikhadan, Dated : 15.12.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to
01.01.2024 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Remodeling and C.C. lining of Darbantola Main Canal R.D. 0 m. to 2400 m., Barriyapat minor R.D. 0 m. to 1800 m. with construction of 08 Nos. V.R.B., 10 Nos. Fall, 01 No. minor Head and fixing of colaba pipes of Barriyapat Diversion scheme in block Chhuikhadan of District-Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 214.77 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 22.12.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)

G-06502/2

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st CALL)

System Tender No. : 149918/NIT No. : 25/SAC/2023-24,
Kawardha, Dated : 14.12.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to
04.01.2024 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : REMODELLING AND C.C. LINING OF DEVSARA MAIN CANAL FROM R.D. 0 M TO 4060 M AND DEVSARA MINOR CANAL RD 0 M TO 1380 M AND BIRANPUR MINOR CANAL 0 M TO 1955 M AND CONSTRUCTION OF 13 NOS FALL, 5 NOS V.R.B. AND 38 NOS COLLABA FIXING WORK OF DEVSARA TANK BLOCK PANDARIYA DISTRICT KABIRDHAM

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 315.04 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01/08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.12.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division, Kawardha
Disst. Kabirdham (C.G.)
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)

G-06478/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st CALL)

System Tender No. : 149919/NIT No. : 26/SAC/2023-24,
Kawardha, Dated : 14.12.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to
04.01.2024 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : REMODELING, C.C. LINING OF KRANTI MAIN CANAL FROM 0 M TO 2310 M, BIRKONA MINOR FROM RD 0 M TO 2460 M, SEMARKAPA MINOR FROM RD 0 M TO 1350 M AND CONSTRUCTION OF 14 NOS FALL, 4 NOS FALL CUM V.R.B., 3 NOS V.R.B., 1 CANAL SYPHON, 1 C.D., AND COLLABA FIXING WORK AT BLOCK PANDARIYA DISTRICT KABIRDHAM

Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 470.84 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01/08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 21.12.2023, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/ Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division, Kawardha
Disst. Kabirdham (C.G.)
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)

G-06480/1

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
HASDEO BASIN WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
BILASPUR (C.G.)

Notice No. 07/SAC/2023-24 Mungeli, Date 14/12/2023

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
(First call)

"CONSTRUCTION OF RAJIV GANDHI GARDEN
(KHUDIA UNDER MANIYARI TANK, DISTT. MUNGELI (C.G.))"

The expression of Interest is hereby invited from the leading firms/organizations of India having past experience for handling similar work in Government organization for "Construction of Rajiv Gandhi Garden Under Maniyari (Khudia) Tank, Distt. Mungeli (C.G.)"

Government of Chhattisgarh is interested to develop and beautify its adjoining areas of about 4.45 acres to further enhance its tourist importance by "Construction of Rajiv Gandhi Garden Under Maniyari (Khudia) Tank, Distt. Mungeli (C.G.)"

The EOI would be evaluated and shortlist of qualified organization would be prepared. The shortlisted organization will be supplied request for proposal (RFP) including terms of reference (TOR) and will be given adequate opportunity to submit the proposal.

The interested firms/organizations should furnish full information about their relevant activities, supported by documentary proof, describing their full time and part-time expert staff, office strength financial turnover for last 5 years.

Application:

- Interested agencies have to submit their proposal with non refundable cost of application for Rs. 5000.00 in the form of D.D. in favour of "Executive Engineer, Maniyari Water Resources Division Mungeli Code No. 0154, Distt.-Mungeli Chhattisgarh" through speed post/Registered post/A/D to the Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Basin, Water Resources Department Bilaspur (C.G.)
- Last date for submission of EOI document 04/01/2024 till 5:30 PM
- Date of opening of EOI proposal document 09/01/2024 at 3:30 PM
- Further details regarding the project can be viewed on sub portal of Water Resources Department, Chhattisgarh website <http://cgwrind.in> announcements from Date 22/12/2023
- If considered necessary, the eligible organization shall be called for making a power point presentation at short notice.
- All the right to reject any or all the responses received without assigning any reason whatsoever, is reserved.
- Expression of interest submitted personally will not be accepted.

Executive Engineer
Maniyari Water Resources Division
Mungeli Code No. 0154 (C.G.)
For, Chief Engineer

G-06496/1 Hasdeo Basin Water Resources Department, Bilaspur (C.G.)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर

ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना
Portal : <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत टेकेंदार हेतु सरल क्र. 1 से 3 हेतु दिनांक 26.12.2023 तक, सरल क्र. 4 से 5 हेतु दिनांक 28.12.2023 तक तथा सरल क्र. 6 से 7 हेतु दिनांक 04.01.2024 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	सि.आ.सू. क्र./दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1	261	शासकीय हाई स्कूल गहनद्वारिया में 5 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। पंचम आमंत्रण। रायगढ़ संभाग, रायगढ़।	37.02
2	262	शासकीय उ.मा.वि. घोरडा में 6 नग अतिरिक्त कक्ष का निर्माण कार्य। पंचम आमंत्रण। रायगढ़ संभाग, रायगढ़।	44.42
3	263	रायगढ़ उपसंभाग के अंतर्गत रा.रा. 200 से चपल से नंदेली-पेण्ड्या-चन्द्रपुर रा.रा. 216 तक कि.मी. 1 से 3, एवं 5/2-4 = 3.40 कि.मी., केलो ब्रिज बुडियाघट से बागवाडी पहुँच मार्ग कि.मी. 4 से 6 = 3.00 कि.मी., बेलरिया-बासनपाली-उडिसा सीमा मार्ग कि.मी. 1/2 से 2/2 = 1.20 कि.मी. एवं गोर-देका मार्ग कि.मी. 1/2 से 2/6 (100) = 1.50 कि.मी. में क्षमतीकरण नवीनीकरण कार्य। तृतीय आमंत्रण। रायगढ़ संभाग, रायगढ़।	146.17
4	264	जिला कोरबा विकासखण्ड पोड़ी चपरोड़ा अंतर्गत ग्राम पाली उच्चतर माध्यमिक शाला भवन का निर्माण कार्य। द्वितीय आमंत्रण। कोरबा संभाग कोरबा।	109.87
5	265	जिला रायगढ़ के कापू में तहसील कार्यालय भवन का निर्माण कार्य। द्वितीय आमंत्रण। रायगढ़ संभाग, रायगढ़।	63.98
6	266	जिला बिलासपुर के शासकीय जमुना प्रसाद वर्मा स्नातकोत्तर कला एवं वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय में अतिरिक्त कक्षा रुम निर्माण कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण। संभाग क्र. 2, बिलासपुर।	125.50
7	267	जिला मुंगेली में नयीन परियहन कार्यालय भवन का निर्माण कार्य। प्रथम आमंत्रण। मुंगेली संभाग मुंगेली	158.95

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखे जा सकते हैं।

अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर

G-06475/1

9 terrorists involved in suicide attack on security forces arrested

Peshawar, Dec 21 (PTI):

Pakistani police on Thursday arrested nine terrorists, including the mastermind and seven facilitators, involved in one of the worst terror attacks targeting security forces in recent years that killed 23 soldiers in the restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, authorities said. Six terrorists linked to Tehrik-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), a newly formed militant group that is an affiliate of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), rammed an explosive-laden truck into the security post in Dera Ismail Khan in the

South Waziristan tribal district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province on December 12, killing 23 soldiers. The nine terrorists were arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), a wing of the KPK Police. The mastermind involved in the terror attack belongs to the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan while six terrorists involved in the attack hail from Afghanistan, officials said. Hasan alias Shakir, the terrorist who carried out the suicide attack, belongs to Afghanistan and released a video before the attack. The national iden-

tity card and domicile of the other suicide bomber, Sifat Ullah Marwat, killed in the attack also established that the attacker belonged to Afghanistan, they said. The father of the suicide bomber Sifat Ullah has confirmed his son's connection with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (Taliban-led Afghan government), they added. According to the documents, five terrorists of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Gandapur group were also embroiled in this attack. US-made weapons and ammunition were recov-

ered as well from the terrorists' possession. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the army, 23 Pakistan Army soldiers were killed while all six terrorists were "effectively engaged and sent to hell." On the same day, Pakistan summoned Afghan Charg d'Affaires in Islamabad and delivered a strong demarche to the interim Taliban government in the context of the deadly attack. Pakistan later asked Afghanistan's Taliban government to hand over those involved in the deadly attack on the army post.

FOODS TO QUAKE VICTIMS



Volunteers preparing foods to quake victims at a temporary settlement in Chenjiacun village in Jishishan county in northwest China's Gansu province. Hundreds of temporary housing units were being set up in northwest China on Thursday for survivors of an earthquake, according to state media reports.

Indian national jailed in Singapore for reckless driving

Singapore, Dec 21 (PTI):

A 40-year-old Indian national in Singapore has been sentenced to 10 months in jail for recklessly driving a lorry and causing the death of an elderly woman, a media report said on Thursday. Sivalingam Suresh on Wednesday pleaded guilty to one charge of driving a lorry without due care and attention and hitting a 79-year-old Chinese-origin woman who was walking across a zebra crossing in Singapore in February this year, The Straits Times newspaper reported. He carelessly drove the vehicle and hit the woman following which she suffered a head injury and died on the same day, the court was informed. Following the sentencing, Suresh, who has a history of errant driving, will also be disqualified from holding or obtaining all classes

of driving licences for eight years after his release. Deputy Public Prosecutor Benedict Teong said Suresh failed to notice the woman as he approached a zebra crossing alongside Ngee Ann Primary School, colliding with her. There was no evidence to suggest that the possible mechanical failure of the lorry could have caused or contributed to the accident, the prosecutor said. DPP Teong asked the court to sentence Suresh to 10 to 11 months in jail and impose a driving ban of eight years. He cited Suresh's history of driving offences, which included inconsiderate driving and failure to conform to a red light. For causing death by driving a vehicle without due care and attention, Suresh could have been jailed for up to three years and fined up to 10,000 Singapore dollars.

EU countries agree on compromise for overhaul of bloc's fiscal rules

Brussels, Dec 21 (AP):

European Union finance ministers on Wednesday sealed a deal to reform the 27-nation bloc's fiscal rules after France and Germany finally adhered to a compromise. EU countries had been negotiating for months a reform of the bloc's fiscal rules limiting debt and deficits for member states, known as the Stability and Growth Pact. The rulebook, which has often proved difficult to enforce and has served as a source of tension, was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic but should be reactivated next year. "Once this agreement is formalised into a general approach, which should happen very soon, negotiations can begin with the European Parliament so that EU Member States have clarity and predictability on their fiscal policies for the years ahead," said Valdis

Dombrovskis, a European Commission executive vice president. The deal was announced a day after France and Germany reached an agreement on the compromise put forward by Spain, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU. The two economic powerhouses had long remained at odds on how to support investment when budget deficits exceeded the limits set by the EU. "(A) historic agreement," France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "After two years of intense negotiations, we have new European budget rules!" Key targets from the old Stability and Growth Pact will remain. Under current rules, countries must aim to keep their government deficit below 3% of gross domestic product, and their public debt below 60% of GDP.

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited advertisement including contact information and branch details.

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited advertisement featuring a table with columns for Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount, Description of the Immovable property, Reserve Price, EMD & Last Date of Submission of EMD, and Date and time of E-Auction.

SBI State Bank of India E-Auction Notice advertisement for the sale of immovable assets.

GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement for the sale of secured immovable assets.

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited advertisement featuring a table with columns for LAN, Branch, Borrower, Co-Borrower, Reserve Price, EMD, and Date.



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Security vs Privacy

Navigating the Telecom Bill

The introduction of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha marks a significant step in the evolution of India's telecom sector. This proposed legislation seeks to overhaul the archaic 138-year-old Telegraph Act that currently governs the telecommunications domain. However, the core of the debate surrounding this bill revolves around its ability to strike a delicate balance between national security imperatives and individual privacy rights. One of the central provisions of the bill pertains to the allocation of satellite spectrum, a move aimed at ushering in technological advancements. But the proposed legislation goes beyond that, suggesting the implementation of biometric authentication for new customers and the regulation of encryption standards for Internet communication. While these measures may seem reasonable on the surface, they raise concerns about potential message interception and the implications for personal privacy. Furthermore, the bill grants the government the authority to suspend or assume control of any telecom service or network in the event of a public emergency or matters of national security. While the suspension of Internet services has become a commonplace response, the prospect of the government temporarily taking control of a network represents a fundamental shift in dynamics. Such a significant increase in government oversight necessitates clearly defined regulatory checks to safeguard against potential abuse of power. Additionally, the legislation empowers the government to suspend or prohibit the use of telecom equipment from specific countries based on national security grounds. China is an evident point of reference in this context. However, to make a meaningful impact, India must prioritize the development of a robust indigenous ecosystem for cutting-edge technology. While the draft bill exempts companies from competitive bidding for spectrum allocation, it instead proposes a licensing approach for satellite Internet services. Foreign firms have advocated for this approach, arguing that it could expedite the deployment of satellite services more efficiently. Nevertheless, the government must transparently articulate why it believes the non-auction route is the most suitable path forward. Furthermore, concerns have arisen about potential implications for the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Some fear that certain provisions within the bill could undermine the authority's powers, potentially leading to counterproductive outcomes. It is essential to tread carefully in this regard to ensure that regulatory oversight remains effective and in line with the evolving telecommunications landscape. The inclination to resort to surveillance and Internet shutdowns as a standard operating procedure is rife with the potential for misuse and overreach. As such, the intricacies of the draft Telecom Bill warrant thorough scrutiny. Striking the right balance between safeguarding national security and respecting individual privacy is a complex endeavor, but it is a challenge that must be met with prudence and careful consideration. In this age of digital connectivity, where telecommunications play an integral role in the daily lives of citizens and the functioning of businesses, getting the framework right is paramount. The Telecommunications Bill, 2023, represents a significant opportunity to shape the future of India's telecom sector. It is imperative that the government, lawmakers, and stakeholders engage in a constructive dialogue to ensure that the final legislation aligns with the principles of democracy, security, and privacy that are so crucial to our nation's progress.

India's Unemployment Crisis

Amidst the backdrop of an increasingly optimistic outlook for the Indian economy, one pressing issue continues to cast a shadow - unemployment. The sheer scale of joblessness is so vast that even positive trends merely highlight the monumental challenges ahead. According to the National Sample Survey Office's recent report, the urban unemployment rate dropped to 6.6 percent in the July-September quarter of the current fiscal year, down from 7.2 percent in the same period last year. Additionally, the worker-population ratio, representing the percentage of employed individuals aged 15 and above, rose to 56 percent in 2022-23, up from 52.9 percent in 2021-22. However, the Periodic Labour Force Survey reveals a less sanguine picture, with the unemployment rate among graduates in India standing at 13.4 percent in 2022-23, compared to 14.9 percent the previous year. For a long time, India's demographic dividend has been hailed as its core strength. Yet, experts have sounded the alarm about its waning impact as a significant number of educated youths struggle to secure employment. Beneath the surface of these statistics lies the crisis of underemployment and the scarcity of full-time jobs. While experts estimate that India needs to generate nearly seven crore new jobs over the next decade, more realistic projections place the figure at 2.4 crore. This disparity underscores a grim reality that, unfortunately, often becomes overshadowed amidst political debates. Although he may be an easy target for criticism by the ruling dispensation, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's engagement with the issue of unemployment demands serious attention. Insufficient employment opportunities and meager earnings not only undermine India's growth narrative but also let down its youthful population. Avoiding informed debates and brainstorming sessions to catalyze a turnaround in the job market is a self-defeating approach. The statistics tell a tale of unfulfilled potential, wasted talent, and the persistent challenge of providing livelihoods to India's aspiring workforce. The demographic dividend, once India's promise of a thriving economy, now risks turning into a demographic nightmare if not adequately addressed. The decline in the urban unemployment rate and the uptick in the worker-population ratio might seem like positive developments on the surface. Still, the real picture lies in the nuances, such as the high unemployment rate among graduates. This disparity highlights the stark contrast between the aspirations of the youth and the opportunities available to them. It is evident that creating employment opportunities is not merely a matter of numbers but a complex web of economic policies, educational reforms, and industrial development. The job market must adapt to the changing landscape of work, which increasingly includes gig economy roles, remote work, and skills-based careers. The government, in collaboration with the private sector and educational institutions, needs to design comprehensive strategies that bridge the gap between employability and actual employment. Moreover, addressing the issue of underemployment is equally vital. Many individuals, while technically employed, struggle with jobs that do not match their qualifications or provide stable incomes. This underutilization of human resources is a considerable loss both to the individual and the nation's productivity. It is essential to recognize that the unemployment crisis is not just an economic challenge but also a social and political one. Joblessness can lead to disillusionment, social unrest, and political instability. Therefore, addressing this issue should transcend partisan politics, and all stakeholders must collaborate to develop effective solutions.

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 emailtoeditorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

RESCUE OPERATION

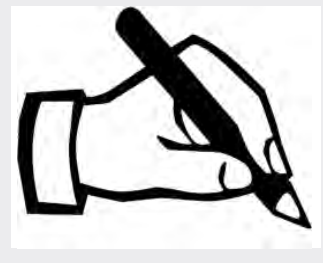


NDRF personnel distribute food and other essential materials to stranded people amid floods after heavy rainfall, in Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu.

Reviving India's Traditional Knowledge Systems

Bridging Past Wisdom with Future Solutions

MANOJ KUMAR K P



India's rich cultural heritage is not only a source of pride but also a reservoir of traditional knowledge systems that have stood the test of time. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports has recognized the significance of these traditional systems, urging a renewed focus on research and preservation. From Vedic mathematics to heritage conservation, these traditional knowledge systems not only bolster India's heritage but also offer pragmatic solutions to contemporary challenges in healthcare, agriculture, and sustainability. In this comprehensive article, we delve into the multifaceted world of India's traditional knowledge systems, exploring their historical significance and contemporary relevance.

India's Legacy of Scientific and Mathematical Prowess
Ancient India was the crucible of scientific and mathematical brilliance, eclipsing its contemporaneous civilizations world-wide. The intellectual acumen of this era surpassed that of its counterparts. Precise calculations of planetary distances, speculations about the velocity of light, and intricate mathematical equations were integral components of the mathematical lexicon of that epoch, meticulously chronicled in ancient texts, including the Vedas. In the contemporary scientific milieu, the veracity of numerous Vedic chants has incontrovertibly been established. However, the predicament lies in the relegation of this traditional knowledge, preserved in Sanskrit, from everyday usage. A prime example is the historical consumption of nutrient-rich millets, which persisted for centuries until vested interests coerced a shift towards gluten-laden wheat, resulting in a myriad of health maladies.

Revival of Herbal Medicinal Systems
Simultaneously, India's ancient herbal medicinal system has gained renewed recognition. The efficacy of herbal remedies is now manifest in the substantial market share of herbal toothpaste and the unprecedented success of Chyawanprash as a preeminent immunity booster. The regular consumption of giloy, papaya leaf extracts, and other herbal concoctions during the onslaught of ailments such as COVID and dengue has become common knowledge, conferring tangible benefits upon the populace.

The Global Resurgence of Yoga
In the contemporary panorama, the global cognizance of the manifold advantages of yoga is palpable. The annual celebration of World Yoga Day, culminating in Prime Minister Modi orchestrating a yoga session at the United Nations, has earned the prestigious distinction of a Guinness World Record for maximum international participation. Renowned international universities have now incorporated yoga sessions into their daily curricula. The Indian Government's establishment of a dedicated AYUSH Ministry underscores its unwavering commitment to revive indigenous medical systems. A proliferation of Ayurvedic hospitals across states and union territories, staffed by proficient AYUSH practitioners, attests to the palpable success of these endeavors.

Heritage Preservation and Architectural Marvels
A similar emphasis has been placed on the restoration of India's architectural heritage. Structures designed centuries ago ingeniously harnessed natural elements to withstand both summer and winter conditions without reliance on electricity or modern gadgets. The intricacies of ancient kitchen and toilet designs showcase the sophistication of erstwhile methodologies. Hidden within the pages of ancient texts lies an inexhaustible trove of knowledge, awaiting exploration. Notable examples, such as the Jantar Mantar in Jaipur, an assembly of 19 astronomical instruments, attest to the extraordinary advancements of that era. These ancient structures serve as living monuments

to the rich cultural and scientific heritage of India. The mythical Sanjeevani of the Ramayana finds resonance in reality through such architectural marvels.

Reviving Time-Honored Agricultural Practices
Regrettably, in the last century, a departure from established traditional systems occurred. Time-honored agricultural practices, attuned to nature and environmental preservation, were forsaken. However, the indisputable acclaim of indigenous cow milk as the healthiest option persists. Takshashila, once a preeminent seat of learning, boasted a colossal library housing myriad ancient manuscripts. Unfortunately, the passage of time has eroded this repository of knowledge. Nonetheless, with a proactive governmental approach, the tide is turning, heralding the reclamation of India's lost glory.

The report of the Parliamentary Committee constitutes a meticulously directed initiative, and with sustained efforts, the resurrection of India's prodigious heritage is within reach. It is essential to apprise the global community of the formidable knowledge repository that characterized that bygone era, as India's traditional knowledge systems hold the potential to bridge the gap between the past and the future, offering a path to holistic development and global recognition. In reviving these systems, India can continue to illuminate the world with its ancient wisdom while addressing contemporary challenges.

Paradoxically, amidst the rising hunger and poverty, India has produced more billionaires than many developed countries. Data from the World of Statistics reveals that India is home to 169 billionaires, ranking third globally, only behind the USA (735) and China (495). India, where over a billion people could not afford a healthy diet, has more billionaires than developed countries like Germany (126), Russia (105), Italy (64), Canada (63), UK (52), Australia (47) and Japan (40).

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assertion, "India happens to be a rich country inhabited by very poor people," has now transformed into a poignant observation about India as a nation of very poor people coexisting with numerous billionaires. This stark inequality calls for immediate attention and ac-

stunted growth. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for policymakers to prioritize the health and well-being of our children. As former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim rightly noted, "This is the bottom line: if you walk into the future economy with 40 percent of your workforce having been stunted as children, you are not going to be able to compete." Improving the health and nutrition of our children should be our foremost priority.

Conclusion
The report on hunger and inequality in India is a stark reminder of the pressing challenges that the country faces. It highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to address hunger, inequality, and child malnutrition. The government must prioritize food security, equitable wealth distribution, and the well-being of its citizens. Only through concerted efforts can India hope to break free from the shackles of hunger and inequality and truly fulfill its potential as a thriving, inclusive nation where every citizen has access to a healthy diet and a brighter future.

The Plight of Our Children
The report also draws attention to the dire state of child nutrition in India, with 31.7 percent of children under 5 years of age suffering from

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disruptive Protest

Opposition parties' disruptive protests in Parliament hinder the government from introducing vital Bills in this potentially final session before the 2024 General Election. These un-parliamentary tactics mock democracy, drain state funds, and waste resources. The opposition should rethink their approach, or the electorate may voice their discontent in the upcoming elections.

MK Nair, Raipur

MP Suspensions

The suspension of Opposition MPs amid chaos in Parliament raises questions about who bears responsibility for this unprecedented situation: the government, the MPs, or both? The Speaker's calls for maintaining the House's decorum went unheeded. While mass suspension may seem extreme, can the unruly conduct of MPs be ignored? The Home Minister's reluctance to make a statement in the House and the Opposition's insistence on it have turned this into a prestige issue. Perhaps it's time for both sides to reflect and come together to break the deadlock.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Pending Cases

The alarming backlog of pending cases in Indian courts can be traced to the government's lackadaisical approach in filling sanctioned judicial vacancies and adapting to the growing caseload. Mere renaming of laws with Hindi titles cannot erase our colonial legacy when the substance remains untouched. The snail-paced delivery of justice and its exorbitant costs can be attributed to either legal gaps or the indifference of those overseeing the system.

Rkesh Gupta, Korba

Parliament Security

Given the intelligence warnings of a potential attack on Parliament, security measures should have been intensified on December 13. However, a glaring deficiency in security became evident on that day. Lack of coordination among security agencies and negligence in duty performance led to a significant breach. Despite deploying specially selected staff equipped with modern gadgets, the breach occurred. A comprehensive overhaul of the security system, closely supervised by experts, is urgently required to prevent such lapses in the future.

Krishna Kumar Nair, Kollam

Silent Suffering: Hunger and Inequality in India

Sujit De

Hunger, often described as "quiet violence" by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, is a pervasive issue affecting the lives of millions in India. The recently released 2023 report on food security and nutrition by the United Nations paints a stark picture of the extent of this crisis. According to the report, a staggering 74.1 percent of Indians, equivalent to over a billion people, could not afford a healthy diet in 2021. This revelation sheds light on the pressing issue of food insecurity that plagues the nation.

A Dire State of Undernourishment

The report, compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization, a specialized agency of the UN, along with other UN agencies, estimates that India's proportion of undernourished population stood at 16.6 percent during 2020-22. This grim statistic aligns with the findings of the 2023 Global Hunger Index, where India's ranking plummeted to a dismal 111th position out of 125 countries. While the Indian government has disputed these findings, there appears to be a contradiction between its denial and its own estimate that approximately 813 million people require food assistance. Just last month, the Union cabinet ex-

tended the food assistance scheme for another five years, acknowledging the persistent need.

Population Census Delay and Its Consequences

Regarding the discrepancy between the UN's estimation of over a billion underfed Indians and the government's estimate of 813 million, Raj Shekhar, the national coordinator with the Right to Food Campaign, explained, "The 813 million estimate is based on the 2011 census - the next census is overdue by two years. Without the new census, many needy, vulnerable people won't have the ration cards that will entitle them to PMGKAY benefits." This delay in conducting the population census means that more than

100 million deserving Indians might miss out on the benefits of the five-year extension of the free rations program for the poor, highlighting the urgent need for an updated and accurate census.

Rising Billionaires Amidst Hunger

Paradoxically, amidst the rising hunger and poverty, India has produced more billionaires than many developed countries. Data from the World of Statistics reveals that India is home to 169 billionaires, ranking third globally, only behind the USA (735) and China (495). India, where over a billion people could not afford a healthy diet, has more billionaires than developed countries like Germany (126), Russia (105), Italy (64), Canada (63), UK (52), Australia (47) and Japan (40).

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assertion, "India happens to be a rich country inhabited by very poor people," has now transformed into a poignant observation about India as a nation of very poor people coexisting with numerous billionaires. This stark inequality calls for immediate attention and ac-

tion. **Rising Income Inequality and the Need for Progressive Taxation**

The 2022 World Inequality Report highlights how economic reforms in India have primarily benefited the top 1 percent of the population. It points to the fact that the deregulation and liberalization policies implemented since the mid-1980s have resulted in "one of the most extreme increases in income and wealth inequality in the world." The report recommends the introduction of a modest progressive wealth tax on multimillionaires, a measure that could generate substantial government revenue due to the concentration of wealth. In contrast to such recommendations, India has witnessed the write-off of substantial bank loans for some wealthy businessmen with little scrutiny while subsidies provided to the poor are often questioned and criticized.

The Plight of Our Children

The report also draws attention to the dire state of child nutrition in India, with 31.7 percent of children under 5 years of age suffering from

stunted growth. This alarming statistic underscores the urgent need for policymakers to prioritize the health and well-being of our children. As former World Bank President Jim Yong Kim rightly noted, "This is the bottom line: if you walk into the future economy with 40 percent of your workforce having been stunted as children, you are not going to be able to compete." Improving the health and nutrition of our children should be our foremost priority.

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The report on hunger and inequality in India is a stark reminder of the pressing challenges that the country faces. It highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to address hunger, inequality, and child malnutrition. The government must prioritize food security, equitable wealth distribution, and the well-being of its citizens. Only through concerted efforts can India hope to break free from the shackles of hunger and inequality and truly fulfill its potential as a thriving, inclusive nation where every citizen has access to a healthy diet and a brighter future.

BRIEF

Agri exports



New Delhi: India's agriculture exports this fiscal are expected to reach the last year's level of USD 53 billion despite restrictions imposed on shipments of certain key commodities, including rice, wheat and sugar, according to a senior government official. In 2022-23, the country's agri exports stood at USD 53 billion. "We expect that we would reach that level in spite of USD 4.5 billion-USD 5 billion impact due to the restrictions," Additional Secretary in the commerce ministry Rajesh Agrawal told reporters here on Thursday.

Resignation

New Delhi: Kalyani Steels on Thursday said its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Bal Mukand Maheshwar has resigned from the post. He is keen "to take his career in a different direction", Maheshwar said in his resignation letter. Maheshwar will cease to be in the services of the company, after the close of business hours on Monday, April 1, 2024, Kalyani Steels said in an exchange filing. Part of over USD 3-billion Kalyani Group, Kalyani Steels is a leading manufacturer of forging and engineering quality carbon and alloy steels using the blast furnace route.

Tolled highway

New Delhi: The government on Thursday said there are no tolled national highways in the country that have completely recovered the capital cost. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said there is no provision for closing of user fee plaza after completion of concession period/recovery of capital cost as per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008.



Retail inflation for farm workers rises to 7.37 pc in November

7.13 pc for rural labourers
New Delhi, Dec 21:

Retail inflation for farm workers rose to 7.37 per cent and that for rural labourers climbed to 7.13 per cent in November, mainly due to higher prices of certain food items. Retail inflation in October was 7.08 per cent and 6.92 per cent for farm workers and rural labourers, respectively, according to an official statement. Food inflation stood at 9.38 per cent and 9.14 per cent for agricultural and rural workers, respectively, in November compared to the respective figures of 8.42 per cent and 8.18 per cent in October 2023, and 6.19 per cent and 6.05 per cent recorded in the corresponding month of previous year (November 2022), a labour ministry statement said. According to

the statement, point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (rural labourers) stood at 7.37 per cent and 7.13 per cent in November this year as compared to 7.08 per cent and 6.92 per cent, respectively, in October 2023. The two comparable numbers were 6.87 per cent and 6.99 per cent in November last year; the ministry said. All-India Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers in November this year increased 12 points to 1,253, while the index for rural workers advanced 11 points to 1,262. The two indices were 1,241 points and 1,251 points, respectively, in October this year. Major contribution towards the rise in general index of agricultural labourers and rural labourers came from the group of food items to the

extent of 10.85 and 10.50 points, respectively, driven by a rise in prices of rice, wheat atta, pulses, onion, turmeric whole, garlic, mixed spices, etc. There has been an upward trend in the index across all the states except West Bengal (both CPI-AL and CPI-RL indices decreased) and Himachal Pradesh (CPI-AL index decreased). In case of agricultural labourers, the index increased 1 to 10 points in 11 states, rose 11 to 20 points in four states and went up more than 20 points in three states. With 1,453 points, Tamil Nadu topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh stood at the bottom with 958 points. The benchmark for rural labourers increased 1 to 10 points in 11 states, climbed 11 to 20 points in five states and jumped more than 20 points in three states.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with 1,439 points each topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh stayed at the bottom with 1,015 points. Among states, the maximum increase of 27 points in CPI-AL index was seen in Maharashtra, which was mainly driven by the increased prices of jowar, rice, wheat atta, tapioca, arhar dal, onion and sugar etc. For CPI-RL, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu saw a rise of 24 points each, mainly due to increase in prices of rice, jowar, ragi, fish fresh, onion, arhar dal, vegetables and fruits (especially brinjal, tomato and lady finger) etc. West Bengal recorded the steepest fall of 14 points in both the indices due to a drop in prices of rice, ginger, chilly green, vegetables and fruits (especially brinjal & lady finger), firewood etc, the ministry stated.

Govt entities, others taking steps to aid Green Hydrogen Mission: R K Singh

New Delhi, Dec 21:

Various government-owned entities including NTPC and GAIL are taking a number of steps to aid the ambitious National Green Hydrogen Mission by setting up projects, Parliament was informed on Thursday. In January, the Centre approved the mission with an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the mission which aims to make India the global hub for production, usage and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives, Union Minister R K Singh told the Lok Sabha in response to a question.

On the present status of adoption of green hydrogen in the country, the minister for new and renewable energy said, GAIL Ltd has started India's maiden project of blending hydrogen in city gas distribution grid. He said two per cent by volume of hydrogen is being



blended in CNG network and 5 per cent volume of hydrogen is being blended into PNG network at city gas station of Avantika Gas Limited (AGL) at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Oil India Limited has developed a 60-kW capacity hydrogen fuel cell bus. NTPC Limited has initiated blending of green hydrogen up to 8 per cent (vol/vol) in PNG Network at NTPC Kawas Township, Surat, Gujarat from January 2023. In addition, several entities have announced plans to set up production facilities for green hydrogen/green ammonia in India. Since green hydrogen

adoption in the country is at an initial stage, through demonstration projects, its impact on job creation, reduction in dependence on oil and exports has been limited so far. However, the mission aims to reach 5 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen capacity, contributing to reduction in dependence on import of fossil fuels. Achievement of mission targets is expected to reduce a cumulative Rs 1 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel imports by 2030. This is likely to leverage over Rs 8 lakh crore in total investments and create over 6 lakh jobs. Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) scheme (Mode I, tranche I) of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, Singh said, requests for proposals have been invited for selection of green hydrogen producers to set up production facilities of 4,50,000 tonnes of green hydrogen in the country.

Sitharaman approves setting up of GST Appellate Tribunal in Indore

Indore, Dec 21:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved the opening of an appellate tribunal for cases related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in Indore, the Madhya Pradesh government's Public Relations Department said on Thursday. Indore MP Shankar Lalwani had demanded an appellate tribunal for GST in Indore during discussions in the Lok Sabha, which was approved by Sitharaman, it said in a release. In a statement, Lalwani said Indore has the highest number of taxpayers in Madhya Pradesh and the opening of the GST appellate tribunal will greatly benefit hundreds of tax professionals and thousands of businessmen in the city.



The Lok Sabha member expressed hope that the GST appellate tribunal in Indore would open soon. Officials said state capital Bhopal already has an appellate tribunal. At present, businesspersons from Indore and other places in the state have to approach the GST appellate tribunal in Bhopal to challenge the decisions of commercial tax authorities in GST taxation matters, he added.

Tata Safari, Harrier first to get 5-star rating under Bharat-NCAP

New Delhi, Dec 21:

Tata Motors said its SUVs Safari and Harrier have become the first recipients of the five-star rating for adult and child occupant protection as per the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat-NCAP). Earlier in August this year, the government had launched the Bharat-NCAP, India's very own and independent safety performance evaluation protocol for automobiles. Bharat-NCAP.. is benchmarked to the best-in-class global standards and the Bharat-NCAP vehicle rating system is designed to advance road safety and vehicle safety standards beyond mandatory regulations, the company said in a statement, quoting



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. "I'm delighted that the first-ever vehicles being certified today with the highest achievable 5-star rating, are both from Tata Motors. I congratulate them on the award of this coveted certification with the highest possible ratings and for continuing to enrich their legacy of introducing the safest vehicles on Indian roads," he

Sebi to auction properties of five companies on Jan 22

New Delhi, Dec 21:

Capital markets regulator Sebi has said it will auction 13 properties of five companies, including Sunheaven Agro India and RaviKiran Realty India, along with that of promoters and directors on January 22 to recover money illegally collected from investors. The other firms whose properties will be auctioned are Just-Reliable Projects India Ltd, Orion Industries, and Rakhal Bharoti group of companies. The properties will be auctioned at a reserve price of Rs 15.08 crore, according to a public notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday said. These assets include land parcels in West Bengal and

Jharkhand. Further, Quirk Realty has been engaged by Sebi to assist in the sale of these properties. Of the 13 properties, seven are related to Rakhal Bharoti group of companies, two each of Orion Industries Ltd and Just-Reliable Projects India and one each of Sunheaven Agro India, and Ravikiran Realty. Inviting bids for the sale of the properties in the recovery proceedings against the companies and their promoters and directors, Sebi said the auction will be conducted online on January 22, 2024 from 11 am to 1 pm. The markets watchdog has asked the bidders to make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, litigations, title of the properties put on auction and claims, before submitting their bids.

COMMERCIAL COAL MINE AUCTION



Union Minister of Coal and Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi presents an award to Nigahi Opencast Project Coal Mine of Northern Coalfields Limited received by its CMD Bhola Singh during the launch of the 9th round of commercial coal mine auction and the 'Star Rating Awards for Coal and Lignite Mines' for outstanding performance, in New Delhi. Secretary, Ministry of Coal Amrit Lal Meena and Additi.

Rupee falls 9 paise to settle at 83.27 against US dollar

Mumbai, Dec 21:

The rupee fell by 9 paise to settle at 83.27 against the US dollar on Thursday as withdrawal of foreign funds amid concerns over global trade disruption through the Red Sea route dented investor sentiment. According to forex analysts, despite positive sentiment in the domestic equity markets and a weak American currency against major global currencies, the Indian unit was weighed down by the volatile crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.19 and traded between the peak of 83.18 and the lowest level of 83.28 against the dollar during intra-day deals. It settled at 83.27 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a fall of 9 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the domestic currency settled at 83.18 against the dollar.

Amway India strengthens its premium skincare range

Introduces Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C + HA3 Daily Serum

New Delhi, Dec 21:

In its quest to provide a visibly healthy beauty to meet the diverse needs of an ever-evolving consumer, Amway India, one of the leading FMCG direct-selling companies, strengthens Artistry Skin Nutrition range with Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum. This daily 'hero serum' provides enhanced hydration for brighter, radiant skin and a visibly healthy, youthful glow. Universally safe with all skin types, the Artistry

Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum seamlessly complements the Artistry Skin Nutrition range, encompassing Artistry Skin Nutrition Anti-aging, and Balancing & Hydrating ranges. Talking about the new launch, Ajay Khanna, CMO, Amway India said, "At Amway India, we are in a constant state of evolution, driven by the dynamic needs of our consumers. We are committed to providing need-based recommendations in skincare that seamlessly aligns with our consumer's aspirations, helping them achieve their skincare goals. Harnessing our extensive expertise in skin science, we developed Artistry Skin Nutrition

Vitamin C + HA3 Daily Serum, a hero serum that embodies the fusion of nature and scientific innovation. Artistry Vitamin C + HA3 Daily is a high-performance brightening Serum that works to visibly reduce lines and wrinkles and plump the appearance of skin with hydration. Concentrated with 2X Vitamin C, 2.4X antioxidants, and tri-action Hyaluronic Acid, Artistry Skin Nutrition Vitamin C+ HA3 Daily Serum is a fresh-mix bottle that gives you a boost youthful radiance with every use. As per our consumer perception studies, 80% of users reported that it improved their skin's hydration and tone in less than a week.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds procures 100% traceable 'Randpure' Gold

Mumbai, Dec 21:

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, a leading jewellery retailer, partners with Rand Refinery, one of the world's foremost gold and silver refiners, to source 100% traceable 'RandPure' gold. Malabar Gold & Diamonds, MD - International Operations, Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, received the first shipment of 100% traceable and ethically sourced, 'RandPure' gold from Mr. Praveen Bajinath (CEO - Rand Refinery), in the presence of Mr. Dean Subramanian (CFO - Rand Refinery) and other senior officials from Malabar Gold



& Diamonds. Accredited by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA), Rand Refinery holds the unique status of being the sole referee status refiner in the southern hemisphere. They have played a pivotal role in establishing industry standards through their dedication to producing 100% traceable and certi-

fied 'RandPure' Gold. RandPure Gold, sourced entirely through ethical means, boasts fully traceable origins. Exclusively procured from Rand Refinery's Securities Exchange-listed mines, the raw materials undergo processing in a dedicated production line. Each batch of RandPure Gold bears a distinctive

'RandPure' mark and a 'Certificate of Assurance,' offering customers essential details about the raw material, including its country of origin, mining period, conflict-free nature, and more. "Sustainability and responsible business practices have formed the core of our operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Through our association with Rand Refinery and procurement of RandPure gold, we are reaffirming our commitment to responsible and ethical sourcing by opting for gold that meets the strictest industry norms", commented Malabar Group Chairman, M.P Ahamed.

7.7% H1 growth leaves 'sceptics gasping and woefully behind curve': RBI article

Mumbai, Dec 21:

GDP growth of 7.7 per cent in the first half of this fiscal has "left sceptics gasping and woefully behind the curve", an RBI article said. It also stressed the buildup in the growth momentum is likely to be sustained. The article on the state of the economy published in the Reserve Bank's December Bulletin on Wednesday also said CPI-based retail inflation is expected to ease to 4.6 per cent in the first three quarters of 2024-25 from 5.6 per cent in November. It said the pace of global growth may slow further in 2024 while disinflation

at varying pace in different geographies may pave the way for interest rate reductions. In India, the broad-based strengthening of economic activity that is underway will likely be sustained by easing input costs and corporate profitability, said the article authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra. "In a latest show of strength and poise, India left sceptics gasping and woefully behind the curve as real GDP clocked a growth of 7.7 per cent in the first half of 2023-24," it said, and added the key value of these numbers lies in what they tell about

the future. The article also said as inflation eases, a revival of topline growth will support the manufacturing expansion. Among services, construction activity remains robust, boosted by housing demand. Other categories of services are normalizing from the post-pandemic revenge spending, but underlying momentum remains resilient. The authors said the main risk to the outlook stems from the evolution of inflation in the months ahead. "The recurrence of food price spikes in November has punctured a brief respite in September and October.

RBI introduces card tokenisation facility at bank level

Mumbai, Dec 21:

The RBI on Wednesday introduced a Card-on-File (CoF) token facility at the level of banks and other institutions to provide convenience for cardholders to get tokens created and linked to their existing accounts with various e-commerce applications. At present, a CoF token can only be created through the merchant's application or webpage. For a CoF, a token is a 16-digit number unique for a combination of card, token requestor and merchant. Through tokenisation, the actual card details are replaced with token credentials that can be used only with the intended merchant.

Police apprehends culprits within 12 hours

● Stolen property worth thousands retrieved

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Dec 21: In a rapid response to a series of ongoing thefts, the Khairagarh police have taken decisive action by arresting two individuals accused of being involved in these criminal activities. The law enforcement agency, led by Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma, successfully apprehended the suspects within a mere 12-hour window. The stolen goods have been diligently recovered from the possession of the accused, offering a glimmer of hope to the victims of these thefts.

The sequence of events began on December 20th when Girwar Patel, the applicant and resident of Pipariya, filed a report at the local police station. Patel, a 48-year-old construction contractor, had been contracted to build a

house for Manik Patel in the village of Sandi, located in Turkaripara, Khairagarh. Trouble arose on the evening of December 19th when Patel, after supervising the day's construction work, secured the premises and left.

Under the cover of darkness, an unknown thief scaled the bamboo fence surrounding the under-construction house and gained unauthorized access to the property. Once inside, the thief laid claim to a significant cache of construction materials, including a cutter machine, ten slab plates, and ten setting screws, collectively valued at approximately Rs 20,000.

Additionally, the stolen loot encompassed plumbing equipment owned by Ashok Verma, a resident of Muteda village, consisting of a grinding machine, a drill machine, and a hammer, estimated at a value of Rs 7,000. In total, the stolen items and valu-



ables amounted to a staggering Rs 27,000.

In the wake of this alarming incident, Girwar Patel promptly reported the theft to the police, prompting the initiation of legal proceedings against the unknown culprit under Section 457 and 380 of the Indian Penal Code.

The gravity of the situation did not escape the attention of Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma, who issued stern directives to all police station

in-charges in the district. She ordered intensified efforts to curb the rising tide of thefts and to bring the culprits to justice.

In compliance with these directives, a dedicated team, led by Inspector Rajesh Devas and guided by Sub Inspector Shakti Singh, was formed under the direction of Superintendent of Police and Additional Superintendent of Police Neha Pandey.

As the investigation pro-

gressed, the focus zeroed in on two prime suspects: Keshav alias Raja Sarathi, a 28-year-old resident of Ward No. 8, Turkaripara, and Bhojram Patel alias Bhola, aged 18 years and 4 months, hailing from the same locality. Upon intense interrogation, both suspects confessed to their involvement in the theft. They disclosed that they had divided the stolen property among themselves and concealed it in their residence.

Under the careful supervision of law enforcement officers, Keshav and Bhojram led authorities to the hidden stash of stolen items, facilitating their swift recovery. Subsequently, the police amassed substantial evidence against the accused, ultimately leading to their arrest. They were promptly produced before the court and subsequently remanded to judicial custody, ensuring that they would face the legal consequences of their actions.

SECR champions energy conservation

Seminar and exhibition promote sustainable energy practices

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur/Raipur, Dec 21: South East Central Railway is leading the way in energy conservation as it organizes a seminar and exhibition dedicated to sustainable energy practices.

In observance of National Energy Conservation Week, the Railway's Electricity Department hosted a seminar on the theme 'Save Energy Today for a Better Tomorrow' at the South East Central Railway Headquarters on December 19. During the seminar, General Manager Alok Kumar emphasized the importance of energy conservation and balanced consumption. He stressed that energy should be directed where it is needed and unnecessary wastage should be curtailed. The event provided valuable information on equipment



and strategies for conserving energy through non-conventional sources. A concurrent exhibition showcasing energy-saving equipment was also held at the Railway Headquarters. In celebration of Energy Conservation Week, the General Manager recognized the efforts of 10 railway workers who contributed significantly to energy conservation.

South East Central Railway has been at the forefront of energy conservation efforts and boasts a 5.3 MW capacity solar plant, with plans for a 50 MW solar power plant in Bhalai nearing

completion. Solar panels have been installed in various railway facilities to harness natural energy resources effectively. Notably, over 50 lakh units of electricity have been generated from solar energy within the Railway since April of the current financial year.

Furthermore, the Railway is committed to enhancing passenger convenience and reducing its environmental impact by providing 100 percent LED lighting in stations, offices, factories, workshops, and railway colonies where operations continue around the clock.

Cold spell grips Khairagarh region

Dense fog blankets in forest areas, disrupting daily life

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Dec 21: As temperatures plummet across Khairagarh and the entire district, residents are bundling up in warm clothing and gathering around bonfires to fend off the biting cold. This frigid snap is a result of the diminishing influence of a western disturbance and the encroachment of chilly north-eastern winds.

For the past three days, the district has experienced a sharp drop in temperature, leaving the cold increasingly unbearable from sunset to sunrise. In response, people have resorted to donning layers of warm clothing and lighting bonfires at various spots to stave off the relentless cold.



Moreover, the district's forested areas, particularly the Vananchal region, have witnessed the emergence of dense fog. This fog formation begins in the evening and lingers until the morning sun breaks through. Unfortunately, the dense fog has disrupted traffic in these areas, causing inconvenience to commuters.

The Meteorological

Department has forecasted that this wintry weather pattern will persist throughout the coming week. Moreover, there is a likelihood of further declines in the minimum temperature, intensifying the cold. In anticipation of the chilly days ahead, residents are preparing to huddle around bonfires and cocoon themselves in warm clothing.

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Looking ahead, the Meteorological Department predicts that the minimum temperature could drop to as low as 10 degrees on Wednesday and Thursday, causing the cold to become even more pronounced. This dip in temperature may lead to daytime chills, prompting people to stay bundled up.

Despite the frosty conditions, the pleasant weather has inspired many to plan picnics and pilgrimages as Christmas holidays approach. Popular destinations like Chhindari Dam, Pradhan Path Barrage, Baital Rani Ghat, Chodra Dham, Karela Bhavani, and the numerous temples and scenic spots surrounding the district are becoming hotspots for holidaymakers seeking a festive escape.

VBSY brings benefits to 10 gram panchayats

● Enthusiastic participation in journey of progress

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Dec 21: The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra,' a transformative initiative aimed at bringing the benefits of Central Government welfare schemes directly to the people, has been making significant strides in the district. This journey began on December 16 from Panchayat Bazaar Ataria and Joratarai in the Khairagarh development block.

On December 19, the Yatra reached Gram Panchayat Bafra and Shergarh in the Khairagarh development block, as well as Gram Panchayat Achnakpur and Jangalpurghat in the



Chhuikhadan development block. A total of 5332 individuals actively participated in these Yatra camps across 10 gram panchayats in the district, with 2613 men and 2719 women among them.

At these program venues, various government departments set up stalls to disseminate information about public welfare

schemes. Officials from these departments provided comprehensive information to the public on how to benefit from these schemes.

The Yatra also prioritized health awareness, conducting health check-ups for 670 individuals. Additionally, 76 people were screened for TB, 45 received sickle cell tests

along with medication and counseling. Furthermore, 26 individuals registered for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, while 42 beneficiaries availed various programs such as "Meri Kahani Meri Jubani", and 16 individuals shared their experiences with "Dharti Kahe Pukar".

The Yatra also contributed to agriculture, with 60 farmers receiving soil health cards and information on promoting natural farming. In a remarkable display of commitment, 2420 people pledged to contribute to the realization of a self-reliant and developed nation. This Yatra has captured the enthusiasm and active participation of the local community, reaffirming its significance in empowering villages and transforming lives.

No leniency for traffic rule violators: Ankita Sharma

● Manish Travels bus driver held accountable for violations

Khairagarh, Dec 21: Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma has taken a resolute stance against traffic rule violations in the district, sending a clear message that no one is above the law. Late on Tuesday evening, SP was seen actively addressing the traffic system, reaffirming her commitment to maintaining order on the roads.



AL 3782 on December 19. The arrest came after the bus was found parked in an unauthorized location, causing disruptions due to passenger boarding and deboarding. The resulting traffic congestion inconvenienced the general public. The bus driver, identified as Manish Srivastava, a 53-year-old resident of Mamta Nagar,

Rajnandgaon, had stopped the bus at an unauthorized spot within the city bus stand to facilitate passenger transfers. In light of the disruption caused to traffic and the inconveniences faced by commuters, Superintendent of Police Ankita Sharma personally intervened in the matter.

Under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act 183 (1) (a), the bus driver was issued a challan amounting to Rs. 2,000 as a consequence of his actions. SP Ankita Sharma emphasized that arbitrary actions by bus operators and unnecessary traffic congestion adversely affect the common people and schoolchildren, an issue that will not be tolerated.

Connect people with vital govt schemes: Collector

● Govt initiatives extend benefits to eligible citizens

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Dec 21: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, organized by the Government of India, is making waves in Kabirdham district with a mission to connect rural communities to essential government schemes. In a meeting led by Collector Janmejay Mahobe, the significance of this initiative was underscored, marking it as a top priority for both the Central and State governments.

The primary objective of the Viksit Sankalp Yatra is to successfully engage with identified villages and inform the public about various public welfare schemes



offered by the Government of India. Additionally, the initiative aims to share success stories of beneficiaries who have reaped the rewards of these schemes. By doing so, the hope is to inspire and inform others about how they can also benefit from these government programs. Among the schemes being highlighted in these camps are Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Matritva Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission,

Jan Dhan, Jeevan Suraksha, and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. These insurance schemes have been carefully crafted to provide economic and social support to the common people during challenging times. During the meeting, the Collector emphasized the importance of setting up a Revenue Department stall during the Sankalp Yatra to provide information about their work. Furthermore, it was mandated to have a separate stall to accept applications for cases such as

undisputed transfer, undisputed partition, and demarcation. To enhance awareness about the significance and benefits of computerization and digitization of records, Sub-divisional officers, Tehsildars, Revenue Inspectors, and Patwaris are required to be present at the Gram Panchayat level.

In addition, the Collector reviewed pending land acquisition cases for approved irrigation projects and urged the Water Resources Department to expedite their resolution.

Regarding paddy procurement for the 2023-24 Kharif marketing year, the meeting outlined guidelines to protect against unseasonal rains. The statistics shared indicated that 1,81,973 tons of paddy have been purchased through 108 production centers under 90 service cooperatives in the district. In which DO of 1 lakh 54 thousand 213 tonnes has been issued, out of which 91 thousand 500 tonnes have been lifted for custom milling.

To ensure the smooth and lawful transportation and sale of paddy, the Collector instructed paddy procurement nodal officers to maintain a vigilant presence at all procurement centers. Additionally, he urged an increase in the pace of lifting in production centers and capacity expansion for stock storage.

Collector inspects Paddy Procurement Center

Efforts to maintain quality and boost paddy procurement

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Dec 21: Collector Vijay Dayaram K conducted a thorough inspection of the Puspal paddy procurement center in the Vananchal area, Jagdalpur. During the visit, he assessed various aspects of paddy procurement, including the availability of tokens for farmers, timely weighing of their produce, and the provision of gunny bags at the center.



need to expedite paddy lifting due to the volume exceeding the prescribed buffer limit, he instructed officials to arrange adequate vehicles from contracted millers for cutting DO and getting it lifted quickly. Furthermore, the

Collector emphasized the importance of safely storing the purchased paddy by stacking it and covering it with tarpaulin. He stressed the priority of small and marginal farmers in the procurement process, directing adherence to the 70-30 ratio for

small and large farmers. Additionally, farmers who have completed their paddy sales were requested to submit the "Rakba."

It was revealed that, to date, 11,143 quintals of paddy have been purchased from 201 farmers at the Puspal Paddy Procurement Center. Adequate gunny bags are available at the center, with a focus on first purchasing paddy from small farmers.

The inspection was attended by CEO District Panchayat Prakash Survey, SDM Bharat Kaushik, as well as center in-charges and nodal officers involved in paddy procurement.

IR women's team secures bronze medal

● In National Badminton Championship

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur/Raipur, Dec 21: The 85th Senior National Badminton Championship, held in Guwahati from December 18, witnessed an impressive display by the Indian Railways women's badminton team, securing a well-deserved bronze medal. Notably, two talented players from the South East Central Railway, Bilaspur, played pivotal roles in this remarkable achievement.

Diksha and K. Preeti, both employees of South East Central Railway in Raipur Railway Division,



showcased their badminton prowess, contributing significantly to the success of the Indian Railways Women's Badminton Team. Diksha serves as a Junior Clerk in

the Personnel Department, while K. Preeti holds the position of Junior Clerk in the Engineering Department. The Indian Railways and South East Central

Railway have consistently nurtured sports and athletes, evident in the outstanding accomplishments of these women players. Their stellar performance not only brings pride to the Indian Railways but also highlights the dedication of South East Central Railway in promoting sports excellence.

General Manager of South East Central Railway, along with railway officials, extended heartfelt congratulations to the winning team and players, applauding their remarkable achievement. The athletes were further encouraged to continue their exceptional performance in future competitions.

Vastrakar, Rana and openers put India on top

Mumbai, Dec 21 (PTI):

Seamer Pooja Vastrakar and off-spinner Sneha Rana showed enough craft to exploit a pitch offering variable bounce to bundle out Australia for a modest 219 in their first innings on the opening day of the one-off Test here Thursday.

In their first essay, India raced to 98 for 1 at stumps as openers Smriti Mandhana (43 not out, 49 balls, 8x4) and Shafali Verma (40, 59 balls, 8x4) added 90 runs.

But India's march to ascendancy began through Vastrakar (4/53) who teamed up with Sneha Rana (3/56) and Deepti Sharma (2/45) to snap Aussies' innings in 77.4 overs despite an even fifty by Tahlia McGrath.

However, Australia made a poor start as they lost opener Phoebe Litchfield in the first over itself after a mix-up with her partner Beth Mooney at the Wankhede Stadium. Four deliveries later, Vastrakar produced a jaffa to remove Ellyse Perry (4) and reduced Australia to 7/2 inside the first two overs. Vastrakar beat the defence of star all-rounder Perry by getting the ball move into her to disturb the stumps.

But McGrath (50 off 56 balls, 8x4s) came out firing on all cylinders to put pressure back on India, making most of the errors in line and in the field.

McGrath was severe on anything that had width, racing to her third fifty in



India's bowler Pooja Vastrakar celebrates the wicket of Australian batter Beth Mooney with team-mates.

five Tests with eight fours while also utilising two lifelines in the form of dropped catches when she was on 24 and 45. While making the bulk of runs during her 80-run stand with Mooney for the second wicket, McGrath also set herself up for a big score. But an error in judgement made her pay heavily, and it also opened the floodgates. Having got her runs fluently up until then, the Australian vice-captain chipped Rana straight to Rajeshwari

Gayakwad at midwicket who timed her jump well to collect the ball over her head. Mooney (40) batted well despite her struggles early on against spin and pace to get close to a half-century, but Vastrakar surprised the left-hander with a sharp bouncer that shot off the surface.

The resultant edge lobbed towards Rana at first slip after deflecting off the gloves of Yastika Bhatia. Having lost a chunk of batting to reach 103/4 at lunch, both Alyssa

Healy (38) and Annabel Sutherland (16) showed impressive footwork during their 40-run association which ended abruptly.

Australia skipper Healy could not do much when a delivery from Deepti kept very low to crash onto her stumps, after which Vastrakar pinned Sutherland in front of the wicket for her third scalp.

Ashleigh Gardner (11) was Vastrakar's fourth victim as she meekly played one outside the off stump to be caught behind. But

Australia's tail produced a good fightback to take them past 200.

A stubborn 30-run association between Jess Jonassen (19) and Kim Garth (28 not out) did frustrate India, who were made to work hard for the breakthrough on either side of the tea break.

Jonassen and Garth took their time collecting runs as their partnership came off 93 balls, while Lauren Cheatle (6) also hung around to ensure Australia put a reasonable

total on the board. But when India batted, there were no such struggles.

Mandhana and Verma were also assisted by the waywardness of Australian bowlers, who dished out a lot of deliveries ripened either to drive, cut or pull as the Indians plundered their runs at nearly six an over.

Their alliance ended when Jonassen trapped Verma in front of the wicket but by then India had shaved off Australia's lead to a good extent.

Top seeds Lakshya Sen, Aakarshi Kashyap march on



Guwahati, Dec 21 (PTI):

Commonwealth Games gold medallist and top seed Lakshya Sen and top-billed Aakarshi Kashyap reached the men's and women's singles third round respectively in the 85th Senior National Badminton Championships here on Thursday.

Sen warded off T Sidarth 21-8, 21-5, while Aakarshi was made to sweat by Rituparna Das before emerging a 21-18, 21-11 winner in 32 minutes.

Sen and Sidarth were cautious in the first game as the players fought for each point until they reached a tie at 5-5. He then accelerated to secure the first game at 21-8.

The ace shuttler totally dominated the second game to win it 21-5 and wrapped the match in just 25 minutes.

Later, BWF 2023 World Junior Championships bronze medallist Ayush Shetty faced a tough challenge from Neer Nehwal but emerged victorious 23-25, 21-18, 21-12.

He will face seventh-seeded Alap Mishra in the next round.

Second-seeded Ashmita Chaliha defeated Suzen Burhaghain 21-13, 21-10 to set up a face-off with Delhi's Rishika Nandi.

Unnati Hooda, the 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters champion, triumphed over Manisha Rani Tirkey of Jharkhand 21-11, 21-17, setting up a third-round clash with Tanvi Sharma.

Sharma, the silver medallist in Badminton Asia's U17 and U15 Junior Championships in 2023, faced a tough time against Shreya Lele, ultimately securing a 21-18, 22-24, 21-13 victory in 56 minutes.

Defending champion and former Junior world No. 1 Anupama Upadhyaya defeated Taneesha Singh 21-5, 21-12.

In the mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto cruised to a 21-5, 21-14 win over Abdul Rahman Syed and Mamaikya Lanka.

The duo is set to face Chayanit Joshi and Kavya Gupta in the next round.

Saweety Boora aims to defend her crown at Nationals



Greater Noida, Dec 21 (PTI):

All eyes will be on Saweety Boora as the reigning world champion will look to defend her 81kg title in the Women's National Championship which begins here on Thursday.

The competition will feature over 300 boxers from 35 units competing across 12 weight categories for top honours.

Hailing from Haryana, Saweety, who claimed sil-

ver at the 2014 World Championships in the light heavyweight category, has also bagged gold (2022), silver (2015), and bronze (2021) at the Asian Championships.

The seventh edition of the elite women's nationals will see the likes of Tokyo Olympian Pooja Rani in the 75kg category and Haryana's Manisha Moun, the 2022 world championship bronze medallist in the 60kg category, in action.

She will face stiff competition from Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine of Services Sports Control Board (SSCB).

Additionally, two Youth World Champions -- Arundhati (SSCB) and Ankushita Boro (Assam) -- will vie for top honours in the 66kg category.

Olympic medallist Sakshi quits wrestling after Brij Bhushan loyalist becomes WFI chief

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Rio Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik on Thursday announced her retirement from the sport, protesting against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh winning the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election for the top job, here.

Sanjay, a close associate of outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan became the new WFI president with his panel winning 13 of the 15 posts in the elections here on Thursday.

"We fought for our heart but if a man like Brij Bhushan, his business partner and a close aide is elected as the president of WFI, I quit wrestling," said a teary-



Wrestler Sakshi Malik during a press conference after Sanjay Singh, an associate of BJP MP and former chief of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, became the new President of WFI, in New Delhi, Thursday, Dec. 21. Malik on Thursday announced retirement from wrestling; said she won't compete under presidency of Brij Bhushan's aide.

eyed Sakshi, and kept her shoes on the table in a dramatic announcement. "We wanted a female president

but that did not happen," the 31-year-old, who is also a CWG gold medallist, added. Ahead of the elec-

tions, Olympic medal winning grapplers Bajrang Punia and Sakshi had repeatedly requested Sports Minister Anurag Thakur to stop anyone associated with Brij Bhushan from contesting the WFI polls.

Consequently, neither Brij Bhushan's son Prateek nor son-in-law Vishal Singh entered the fray.

Bajrang and Vinesh Phogat, who addressed media after elections, did not say whether they will retire from the sport.

"It's unfortunate that government did not stand by its word that no Brij Bhushan loyalist will contest WFI election," Bajrang said. "Upcoming women wrestlers will also face exploitation," Vinesh added.

FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award means I'm on the right path: Savita

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Indian women's hockey team captain Savita Punia on Thursday said her third consecutive FIH Goalkeeper of the Year Award is a testament to her progress on the right path. Savita won the recognition for the third successive time on Tuesday.

"This acknowledgment serves as positive encouragement for me, confirming that I am on the right path," Savita said in a Hockey India release.

"While the team has maintained good form this year, as we approach 2024, my goal is to sustain peak performance and provide the team with the best opportunity to qualify for the Olympics at the FIH



Hockey Olympic Qualifiers in Ranchi next month," she added.

Seven newcomers in 15-man West Indies squad

To play two test matches in Australia

St. John's, Dec 21 (AP):

Seven uncapped players will travel to Australia among a 15-man West Indies cricket squad to play two test matches Down Under in January.

Cricket West Indies said Wednesday that the team will again be led by Kraigg Brathwaite, with fast bowler Alzarri Joseph named as the new vice-captain. The uncapped players are batter Zachary McCaskie, wicketkeeper Tevin Imlach; all-rounders Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge and Kevin Sinclair and fast bowlers Akeem Jordan and Shamar Joseph. Team officials said Jayden Seales was unavailable for selection due to a shoulder injury and that Jason Holder and Kyle Mayers were not available because they wanted to explore Twenty20 league opportunities in January.

"The squad has been affected by the unavailability of some key players," said lead selector Desmond Haynes.

Stokes and Archer will have T20 World Cup places kept open: England coach Mott



Tarouba, Dec 21 (PTI):

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes' match-winning prowess and Jofra Archer's "box-office pace" are a must for England in the 2024 T20 World Cup and the two injured players will have places kept open in the team for them, said white-ball coach Matthew Mott.

Stokes is recovering from a knee operation he underwent in November and hopes to be fit to captain England in the Test series in India in January-March next year. While fast bowler Archer has not featured for England since March because of an elbow in-

jury. The duo is expected to make the T20 World Cup squad for the showpiece event starting in June, fitness permitting.

"I think that's a given," Mott said when asked whether Stokes and Archer will be in the mix for World Cup selection.

"Ben, aside from his incredible match-winning ability in every department, gives us that ability to have a seam bowler in your top six that gives you so many options with your team balance...It makes selection a hell of a lot easier. So that's a given," he said ahead of the fifth and final T20I against West Indies here.

Gillespie backs Starc's IPL deal but questions Cummins massive price tag

Sydney, Dec 21 (PTI):

Former Australia pacer Jason Gillespie has questioned Pat Cummins' massive IPL price tag, saying T20 cricket is not the quick's best format but backed Mitchell Starc's jaw-dropping Rs 24.75 crore deal.

Cummins attracted the second highest paycheck in the auction in Dubai on Tuesday after an intense bidding war between Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Chennai Super Kings, and Sunrisers Hyderabad, who shelled out a whopping Rs 20.50 crore for the Australian captain. "Pat's obviously a quality bowler and a quality leader; we've seen that. I just don't think T20 is his best format," Gillespie told SEN Radio.

"I think he's a Test bowler, personally. I think Test cricket is his absolute bread and butter." It was not the first time that Cummins, who has 55 wickets in 50 T20I matches at an average of 24.54 and economy of 7.37 in T20Is, attracted huge sums at the IPL auction. Ahead of the 2020 edition,



KKR had paid Rs 15.5 crore for his services. "He's a good T20 bowler, make no mistake. But that's massive overs for me," Gillespie added. A little over an hour after Cummins landed his deal, Starc surpassed his captain to become the costliest player in the IPL history as Kolkata Knight Riders spent a mind-boggling Rs 24.75 crores for the left-armers' services.

Starc, who has usually prioritised international duty over playing in the IPL, has played only two seasons of the cash-rich league, taking 34 wickets in 27 games at an average of 20.38.

Mbappe scores twice on 25th birthday as PSG beats Metz 3-1

Paris, Dec 21 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe celebrated his 25th birthday with two goals as Paris Saint-Germain beat lowly Metz 3-1 to head into the winter break with a five-point lead in the French league.

The France star got a birthday bonus when his 16-year-old brother Ethan Mbappe made his debut by coming on as a stoppage-time substitute on Wednesday.

Kylian Mbappe extended his league-leading tally to 18 goals. He has 21 goals overall this season, and since joining PSG from Monaco in 2017 he has netted a club record 233 goals in 282 appearances.

Mbappe's contract expires at the end of the season and he has yet to say whether he will sign an extension or leave on a free transfer, possibly to long-time suitor Real Madrid.

Portugal midfielder Vitinha guided in a cross from the left to put PSG ahead in the 49th minute following a drab first half and then provided the pass for Mbappe's trademark curling shot from the left



of the penalty area into the top right corner in the 60th. Although the shot was struck firmly and accurately, veteran goalkeeper Alexandre Okidja was too far off his line and also jumped too early, allowing the ball to sail over him.

After defender Matthieu Udol headed a goal back in the 72nd following poor PSG marking on a corner, Mbappe profited from a de-

fensive error to round Okidja in the 83rd and tap in for 3-1.

Second-place Nice stayed five points behind PSG with a 2-0 home win over seventh-place Lens, which had not lost in the previous 11 league games dating back to the previous defeat on Sept. 16. Nigeria striker Terem Moffi scored both goals late in the second half.

'All schemes run by previous govt to continue in MP'

House adjourned sine die

Bhopal, Dec 21 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday said that all schemes that were being run by the previous government will continue in the state, a day after women-centric Ladli Behna programme did not find mention in the governor's address to the newly constituted assembly.

The four-day-long first session of MP's 16th assembly concluded on Thursday and it was adjourned sine die (indefinitely). "All schemes from Ladli Laxmi to others being run by the previous government will continue and funds will be transferred to beneficiaries' accounts on the due date," Yadav said in reply to the thanksgiving motion moved by the senior BJP MLA Kailash Vijayvargiya after the Governor Mangubhai



Mohan Yadav

Patel's address to the house on Wednesday.

However, when leader of opposition Umang Singh specifically asked about Ladli Behna Yojana, Yadav said all schemes would continue.

Former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's flagship scheme Ladli Behna provides Rs 1,250 per month financial assistance to eligible women

and in the run-up to the November 17 assembly polls, the ruling BJP had promised to raise the amount to Rs 3,000 in a gradual manner. Addressing the first session of the newly constituted assembly, Patel on Wednesday listed various central and state welfare schemes, but did not mention Ladli Behna Yojana. Citing the governor's ad-

dress, Congress members, including senior MLA Ramniwas Rawat and former minister Jaivardhan Singh, on Thursday demanded that CM Yadav clarify the status of the Ladli Behna scheme. All schemes will continue, said CM Yadav. Referring to the implementation of the Supreme Court order on fixing decibel levels for loudspeakers installed at religious places, Yadav said his government has just implemented the directives of the apex court which the erstwhile Congress government had "failed to do so". Hours after being appointed as the CM, Yadav last week issued a directive prohibiting the use of loudspeakers at religious places beyond permissible decibel levels. After completing the listed business of the day, Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar adjourned the house sine die.

TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION



CM Yogi Adityanath inspects the construction work of Sri Ram temple, in Ayodhya district, Thursday.

'TN has most number of black spots in NH network'

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

The government has identified 5,803 black spots in the entire National Highways network in the country, with Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Karnataka having the biggest share of such highly dangerous stretches, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said state/UT-wise details of the accidents/fatalities at these black spots based on the data for 2018-2020 received from states.

Stretches of NH of about 500 metres where at least five road acci-



Nitin Gadkari

dents have taken place during the three years, resulting in 10 fatalities, are designated as accident black spots.

According to Gadkari, among all states, Tamil Nadu has the maximum of 748 black spots, followed by West Bengal (701), and Telangana (485). "National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has spent an amount of Rs 15,702.80 crore for repair and maintenance, including measures taken for improvement of above said black spots on NHs entrusted to NHAI during the last five financial years 2018-19 to 2022-23," Gadkari added.

Replying to a separate question, Gadkari said NHAI has recently taken up review of 39 tunnels in 26 projects on 14 NHs in which review of 17 tunnel projects have been completed and that of five tunnel projects is scheduled to be completed by December. The construction work of four tunnel projects has not yet commenced, he added.

NCB busts Int'l racket, seizes amphetamine and tablets worth Rs 3 cr

• Three held

Mumbai, Dec 21 (PTI): The Narcotics Control Bureau busted an international racket involving illegal trafficking of pharma drugs from India to Australia and has arrested three persons with amphetamine and other items worth Rs 3 crore, an official said on Thursday.

Acting on a tip off on Tuesday that a consignment of drugs was being sent to Australia, a DRI team visited a courier firm and zeroed in on a parcel containing a steel table, he said. "While examining the table, drug packets were found concealed inside specially designed cavities. These packets contained a

white powder which turned out to be 9.877 kilograms of amphetamine. We have also seized 2.548 kilograms of Zolpidem Tartrate tablets and 6.545 kilograms of Tramadol tablets, all cumulatively worth Rs 3 crore," he said.

A probe led to the arrest of one V Singh on Wednesday, while his interrogation resulted in the nabbing of his associates G Mishra and P Sharma from Mumbai. "A huge consignment of illicitly diverted pharmaceutical drugs was found from their premises. This was ready to be dispatched to foreign destinations. We seized 9,800 Zolpidem Tartrate tablets and 18,700 Tramadol tablets in this follow-up action," he said.

'BJP confident of winning over 50 seats in J-K'

Will not enter into pre-poll alliance

Srinagar, Dec 21 (PTI):

The BJP will not enter into a pre-poll alliance for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir as the party is confident of winning over 50 seats and forming the government on its own, senior leader Ashok Koul said on Thursday.

"After the elections take place, if an alliance is needed, it will happen. But, as of now, the BJP has decided that we will cross 50 seats and the support the BJP is getting in Kashmir, we are confident that we will cross 50 seats," Koul, the BJP's general secretary, organisation, Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters here. When asked some political parties in Jammu and Kashmir are claiming the BJP



Ashok Koul

is afraid of facing the elections in the Union Territory, Koul said his party is ready for the polls. "It is not like that. The Supreme Court (SC) has said about the elections and so, I want to tell the parties to start preparations as

the assembly elections are to take place before September (next year). The BJP is ready for the polls," he added.

When asked that the Supreme Court's ruling on the issue of Article 370 is not acceptable to some parties in the valley, the BJP leader said his party's stand is that everyone should accept the apex court's verdict.

"I do not have an answer to that. The SC is the highest court in democratic India. We have said it before as well that whatever decision the SC takes, everyone should accept that. If someone has anything to say about it, they know it, but the stand of the BJP is that everyone should accept the SC's verdict," he said.

COVID PRECAUTIONS



School students wearing masks in precaution against COVID visit the Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, Thursday.

'Cong learnt valuable lessons from its assly polls' performance'

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said his party has learnt valuable lessons from the recent assembly polls and urged party workers to focus on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections now.

Addressing party leaders at a crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at the AICC headquarters here, Kharge said the Congress is committed to not repeating the same mistakes.

He also said several Congress leaders want Rahul Gandhi to undertake another Bharat Jodo



Mallikarjun Kharge

Yatra from east to west but the final decision is up to him and the CWC, the Congress' highest decision-making body.

This is the first CWC meeting after the Congress' recent poll debacle. The assembly elec-

tion were held in five states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram. The Congress won only in Telangana. While the BJP swept Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, the Zoram

People's Movement won in Mizoram. Noting that the outcomes of the elections in the five states, barring Telangana, were "disappointing", Kharge said the Congress has conducted a preliminary analysis of the results and identified the reasons behind its performance. "Despite the results, there are some positive indicators, such as the vote share in these states, that give us definite hope that given due attention, we can certainly turn things around. "We have learnt valuable lessons from the mistakes we have made and are committed to not repeating them," he said.



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CISF to provide comprehensive security to Parl complex

New Delhi, Dec 21 (PTI):

The government has decided to hand over "comprehensive" security of the Parliament building complex to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in the wake of the recent breach of the safety ring, official sources said Thursday.

The CISF will render access control to the new and old Parliament complex in an airport security-like fashion where body frisking of persons will be done through hand-held detectors and their belongings will be checked through X-ray machines, with a provision to even scan shoes, heavy jackets and belts by putting them on a tray and passing

them through the scanner, the sources said.

Earlier, frisking of visitors to Parliament complex was done by Delhi Police personnel.

In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on December 13, two persons jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans before being overpowered by the MPs. One of the accused had hidden a canister in his shoes. The sources told PTI that the Union home ministry on Wednesday directed for a survey of the Parliament building com-

plex so that a "regular deployment of the CISF security and fire wing on a comprehensive pattern" could be done.

This was done after an "in principle" approval was accorded by the ministry of home affairs (MHA) to hand over the overall security of the Parliament building to the CISF.

Members of the Parliament watch and ward security will also be sent in batches to train for human and goods frisking at a CISF centre, they said.

Experts drawn from the government building security (GBS) unit of the CISF, that guards central government ministries, and fire combat and response officers of the

force along with officials from the current Parliament security team will undertake the survey beginning later this week.

The survey will draw the exact number of CISF personnel required for this new task and also clearly define the role of what each security agency engaged in Parliament security will do, they said.

Both the new and the old Parliament complex and their allied buildings will be brought under a comprehensive security cover of the CISF which will also have the existing elements of Parliament Security Service (PSS), the Delhi Police and the Parliament Duty Group (PDG) of the CRPF, the sources said.

'Paag', 'paan' and 'makhana' for Lord Ram in Ayodhya to come from Mithila

Ayodhya (UP), Dec 21 (PTI): The Patna Mahavir Mandir authorities are preparing to carry 'paag' (headgear), 'paan' (betel leaves) and 'makhana' (fox nuts) from Mithila in Bihar for Lord Ram for the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

According to the scriptures, Lord Ram's wife Sita was from Mithila, known for its 'paan' and superior quality 'makhana'. "Lord Ram is the son-in-law of Mithila. We will be honoured to send him 'paag', 'paan' and 'makhana' as offering during the consecration ceremony," Kishore Kunal, the secretary of Mahavir

Mandir in Patna, said. According to Ram Temple officials, the offering from Bihar will be offered to Lord Ram in the run-up to the consecration ceremony on January 22.

Kishore Kunal also announced that the Mahavir Mandir authorities will run a community kitchen, Ram Rasoi, in Ayodhya to serve devotees.

Mahavir Temple had announced a contribution of Rs 10 crore for the construction of Ram Temple. An amount of Rs 8 crore has already been given and the remaining amount will be handed over on January 15, he said. Meanwhile, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi

Teerth Kshetra Trust member Anil Mishra said the trust will make special arrangements for elderly devotees.

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