

'Service, not power, at centre of good governance'

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his government follows the principle of good governance that has got public service, not power, at its centre.

Releasing the first series of 11 volumes of collected works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya at a function here, Modi said his government is setting up several institutions committed towards nationbuilding, just like 'nation first' was supreme for Mahamana, a title often used for the Banaras Hindu University founder. The prime minister said

Three new bills get Prez assent

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday gave assent to the three new criminal justice bills which were cleared by Parliament last week.

The three new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshva Act -- will replace the colonial era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872. While replying to a debate on the three bills in Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said the focus were on delivering justice rather than handing down punishment.



PM Modi and former president Ram Nath Kovind pay tribute to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary, at Sadaiv Atal, in

New Delhi, Monday. several institutions of national and international

Tribute to Vajpayee, Malaviya on their birth anniv

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 99th birth anniversary on Monday, saying he worked to speed up the country's development all his life. Modi, along with President Droupadi Murmu. her predecessor Ram Nath Kovind, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and several Union ministers, including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Kiren Rijiju, Hardeep Singh Puri and Arjun Ram Meghwal, paid tributes to the BJP stalwart at his memorial, "Sadaiv Atal", here.

today give a new direction not only to India of the 21st century, but the entire world.

He said the country is indebted to the great personalities who made invalueable contributions to the nation and he was importance being set up privileged to release a

book of Malaviya's works. "Malaviya Ji dedicated to India, a big number of institutions of nationbuilding. We are glad to note that today, Bharat is again creating the nationbuilding institutions at unprecedented levels, Modi said.

PM to attend 'Veer Baal **Diwas' prog today**

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Tuesday participate in a programme marking 'Veer Baal Diwas', which commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's two sons.

A statement said the prime minister will flag off a march-past by the youth in Delhi on the occasion.

The government is organising participative programmes all over the country for informing and educating the citizens, especially the young children, about the story of exemplary courage of the Sahibzades, a reference to

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MP CABINET EXPANSION Vijayvargiya, Patel among 28 ministers sworn-in Vijav Shah. Kailash Vijavvargiva. Bhopal, Dec 25 (PTI): Twenty

eight legislators, including for-Prahlad Patel, Karan Singh mer Union minister Prahlad Verma, Rakesh Singh, Uday Patel and BJP national general Pratap Singh, Sampatia Uikey, secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, Tulsiram Silawat, Aidal Singh Kansana, Govind Singh Rajput, were on Monday inducted into the Madhya Pradesh cabinet led Vishvas Sarang, Nirmala Bhuria, by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. Narayan Singh Kushawaha, A total of 18 MLAs took oath as Singh Nagar Chouhan, cabinet ministers, while 10 were Pradyumna Singh Tomar, sworn in as ministers of state Rakesh Shukla, Chaitanya including six with independent Kashyap and Inder Singh Parmar. The ministers of state charge. Governor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath of with independent charge are office and secrecy to the minis-Krishna Gaur, Dharmendra Bhav Lodhi, Dilip Jaiswal, Gautam ters at a function held in the Raj Tetwal, Lakhan Patel and Bhawan here. Those who took oath as cabinet ministers are -Naravan Singh Pawar.

the Sikh guru's sons. Be a part of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot!

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Outstanding bonus paid to 1.13 lakh farmers of Durg Dist

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 25: As per the intentions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and instructions of Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai, the farmers of the state received the outstanding paddy bonus amount of Rs 3716 crore for Kharif marketing year 2014-15 and 2015-16 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is celebrated as Good Governance Day.

The main programme of the district was organized in the campus of District Cooperative Central Bank Limited Durg. Durg MLA Gajendra Yadav was the chief guest. He presented certificates of bonus amount to 9 farmers of the district. Certificate of Rs 5.10 lakh was given to.

Purushottam Lal, a farmer of village Amti; Rs 3.87 lakh to Raghunandan of village Anda, Rs 59280 to Moti Lal Sahu of village Kolihapuri, and Rs 49800



amount of Rs 3716 crore to lage Vinayakpur; Rs 4.11 more than 12 lakh farmers lakh to Madhav Prasad of of the state against the village Nikam, Rs 37200 pending bonus of two rupees to Lekhudas of vilkharif years - 2014-15 and lage Risama, Rs 3.24 lakh 2015-16. to Sarju Prasad of village

1,13,151 farmers of Durg Nikum, Rs 36950 to district have received an Tikaram Sahu of village amount of Rs 177 crore. Kuthrel and Rs 2.45 lakh to Yadav said that the government is soon going to MLA Gajendra Yadav ensure the availability of said that the creator of the Rs 1,000 per month and gas state of Chhattisgarh was cylinder at Rs 500 for marthe former Prime Minister women under ried Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Mahatari Vandan Yojna His birthday is being celeand 18 lakh houses will be Good constructed under Governance Day in the Pradhan Mantri Awas country. On this occasion, Yojna. Quoting the Prime the state government is Minister's guarantee, he paying a paddy bonus assured the farmers that

Farmers express gratitude

The outstanding paddy bonus was transferred directly into the bank accounts of 1,13,151 of the district. Huge enthusiasm was seen among the farmers of the district. The farmers expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the payment of the bonus amount. Gumendra Sahu, a farmer of village Ginyari, said that he had no hope of getting the bonus amount. Gumendra and his family are very happy after receiving this amount. In the

every guarantee.

of

of 1,13,151 farmers. He

congratulated the farmers

Preetpal Belchandan.

District

casion

of the district.

same sequence, young farmers Omeshwar Yadav and Ghazal Yadav of village Borai also thanked the Chhattisgarh government for the bonus amount. Ghazal Yadav said that this decision taken by the government in the interest of the farmers has proved beneficial for the farmers. Omeshwar Yadav said that he had forgotten the outstanding bonus amount. Getting a bonus at this time was an experience like winning a lottery for him. He expressed gratitude towards Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

the government will fulfill Jageshwar Sahu, Chandel, Devendra Collector Pushpendra Ramakant Dwivedi. Kumar Meena, Authorized Minister Former Ramsheela Sahu and other Administrative Officer of public representatives also Cooperative Central Bank Maryadit addressed the gathering. Durg, said that on the oc-District Panchayat CEO Ashwani Dewangan, CEO Good Governance Day, an in-charge of District amount of Rs 177 crore of Cooperative Central Bank Limited Durg - Hridesh paddy bonus has been transferred by the govern-Sharma and other officers ment to the bank accounts and a large number of

farmers were present. Apart from the district lakh 44 thousand in the accounts of 42 thousand 479 headquarters Durg, a profarmers of Patan. gram of transfer of bonus



Man arrested for molesting minor girl

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai. Dec 25: Police arrested a man on charges of eve teasing and molesting a minor girl. Police had received a written complaint from the victim on December 22. The victim was sitting outside her house when the accused Manish Sonkar alias Golu reached there and molested the victim by making wrong gestures and comments.

After preliminary investigation, prima facie the act of the accused was found to be a crime. An offence was lodged under section 354, 354 (A) of IPC and section 8, 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POCSO Act) in Police Station City Kotwali Durg.

thousand 80 farmers of Durg development block, The matter was taken into consideration under Rs 57 crore 65 lakh 64 thousand 510 in the accounts of the guidance Deputy 34 thousand 343 farmers of Inspector General of Police Dhamdha, Rs 80 crore 80 and Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg and supervision of Additional Superinten-dent

02

of Police (City) Abhishek Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Mani Shankar Chandra. The police team led by Inspector Mahesh Dhruv (SHO, Durg City Kotwali) traced the accused and took him in custody.

The accused Manish Sonkar alias Golu (40) son of Late Vishwanath Sonkar, a resident of Bajrang Nagar,

Kandrapara, Durg, was ar rested on December 24 and produced before the court. He was sent to jail on judicial remand.

Man enters BSP with forged gate pass; steals copper wire

as

Dharampal.

brated



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 25: Police arrested a man on charges of using a forged gate pass to enter the BSP premises and stealing copper wire. 170 kg copper cable and car used in the crime were seized. Around 07:00 hrs on December 24, CISF personnel stopped a white colored car Honda CRV (CG 07 CN 3846), which was coming out from the Plant. CISF personnel questioned the car driver and thoroughly checked the vehicle. They found a secret storage

space under the rear seat of the car, which was filled with scrap

copper cables. The car driver was identified as Sanjay Kumar Rathi, a resident of Newai. CISF found a BSP gate pass from his possession. On verification, it was found that the gate pass was forged. The accused Sanjay Rathi had prepared this fake gate pass with the help of Lakshmi Tandi. Sanjay drove the Honda CRV (CG 07 CN 3846) of

Lakshmi Tandi inside the plant. Lakshmi Tandi was already

present inside the plant and they burgled copper cable from some place near Blast Furnace-08. They cut the copper cables into pieces and hid it in a secret compartment in the car.

114 nos copper cable weighing 170 kg worth Rs 68000 were recovered from the possession of the accused. Police lodged an offence under section 379,419,465, 468,471,120 of IPC and Section 25, 26 Chhattisgarh State Security Act.

The accused Sanjay Rathi (58) a resident of Newai was sent to jail on judicial remand while police are searching for the absconding accused Lakshmi Tandi. Inspector Vipin Rangari, Sub Inspector SN Head Constable Singh, Purushottam Sahu and CISF personnel played a vital role in arresting the accused.

MP Saroj Pandey administers oath on Good Governance Day

amount has also been or-

ganized in the develop-

ment block headquarters

Dhamdha and District

Cooperative Central Bank

Rs 39 crore 26 lakh 52

thousand 720 was trans-

ferred in the accounts of 26

branch located in Patan.

Bihari, as part of the cleanliness campaign, Rajya Sabha MP Dr Saroj Pandey along with elected representatives and officials conducted the cleanliness drive.

tance of the highest standards of good governance established by former Prime Minister Bharat Atal Ratna Bihari Vajpayee, MP Saroj Pandey administered an



It is also the responsibility of every citizen to keep the surroundings of their house, streets and city clean and also make other people join the cleanliness campaign to make the city clean and beautiful. Atal Ji's poem "Mann ki fakiri par, kuber ki sampadabhi roti hai", was also recited during the programme.

Chandrakar, Dev Narayan Chandrakar, Narendra Banjare, Deputy Commissioner Mohendra Sahu, Building Permission Officer Girish Diwan, Javed Ali, Gupta, Durgesh Corporators, officers-employees and other public representatives, Usha Tawari, Chandrashekhar Chandrakar, Rakesh Sen, Hema Sharma, Manish Sahu, KhilavanMatiyara, Anil Singh and others

Public representatives and officials conduct cleanliness campaign

Saroj Pandey said that

given the definition of

good governance in the

country. Today the whole



Central Chronicle News

Former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Rajya Sabha MP Dr Saroj Pandey launched a cleanliness campaign in Durg.

Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar, Leader of Opposition Ajay Verma, Corporators, public representatives and officers and employees joined the cleanliness campaign conducted near Nana-Nani Park in Civil Lines.

Dr Saroj Pandey garlanded the portrait of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and lit the lamp. On the 99th

birth anniversary of Atal also greeted the sanitation

workers by giving them flower bouquets. Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee was "Ajaat Shatru", as he had no enemies in politics. He had

Propounding the imporoath to the gathering. She

country is following that definition. The cleanliness DMC Commissioner campaign was started on Lokesh Chandrakar, the birth anniversary of Leader of Opposition Ajay Verma, former Mayor Chandrika former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. were present.

BSP signs MoU with Ramkrishna Mission Ashram. Naravanpur

For promoting sports activities in tribal-dominated region

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 25: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has signed an MoU with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram (RMA), Narayanpur for promoting sports activities in the tribal-dominated region with the objective of training and promoting players from specified areas of Rowghat&Abujhmadh, Narayanpur& Bastar region for competing in District, State,

National & international level tourneys. SAIL-BSP has been support-

ing the annual Khel Mela at

RMA, Naravannur since 2006-07. Hundreds of boys and girls from different schools in Narayanpur and adjoining districts take part and compete in various sporting disciplines.

Jointly organised by Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur and SAIL-BSP, the annual SAIL Khel Mela hosted at the Ashram Grounds is a much awaited competition in the region. Among the games in which schoolchildren participate are Football, Volleyball, Kho-kho, Badminton and various athletic events including long jump, races etc.

On November 24, 2023, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant signed an MoU with Ramakrishna Mission Ashram (RMA), Narayanpur according to which SAIL-BSP will grant Rs 1.15 crore including Rs 40



Lakhs for SAIL Khel Mela, Rs 45 Lakhs for activities of Football Academy run by RMA, Naravanpur, and Rs 30 lakh for development of other sports activities, transportation, ground development, uniform, lodging-boarding, outward player fees etc.

While the amount of Rs 40 lakhs for Khel Mela will be released by SAIL-BSP prior to the Khel Mela, the amount for Football Academy as also the amount earmarked for other sports activities will be disbursed in two equal instalments. The term of the MoU is for a period up to three years, initially.

On its part, RMA shall make necessary arrangements for

sports activities and also ensure availability of essential infrastructure for the sports activities. RMA shall also hire coaches/trainers. RMA shall procure clothes for players/ participants, banners, posters, leaflets etc.

RMA will also organize tournaments and sports events to search for talent in the buffer zone area and offer them to join the Academy. It is worth mentioning both the under 17 & under 14 football teams of RKM, Narayanpur have been state champions.

Swarup, ED SAIL-BSP and Samir (Rowghat) Vyaptanandji, Swami Ramakrishna Secretary, Mission Ashram, Narayanpur signed the MoU on behalf of SAIL-BSP RKM. and Narayanpur.

Bhilai Vidvalava Sector 2 organises Annual Day 2023-24

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 25: BSP Bhilai Vidyalaya, Sector-02 organised the Annual Day 2023-24 with fervour. JY Sapkale, CGM (TSD & CSR) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. RK Bisare, CGM (P Mill), and Shikha Dubey, GM (TSD-Education) were also present on this occasion, along with Rajendra Prasad, DGM (TSD-Education), Principals of various schools, Bhilai Vidyalaya Staff, members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), school students, and their parents in large numbers.

JY Chief Guest Sapkale, CGM (TSD & CSR), appreciated the School's Annual Report in his address and said that the true value of a thing or a person is determined as per the place they hold, hence staying in the company of good people is essential for our progress.

R K Bisare, CGM (P Mill), in his address said that in order to take our education system to new heights, we need to put special emphasis on female education, by adhering to the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" policy.

At the outset Bhushan Nadia, Chairman (PTA) gave the welcome address, while Vijay Singh Pawar, Principal (Bhilai Vidyalaya) presented a brief Annual Report of the school's annual activities, achievements, and



work plans for the upcoming Academic Session. National Board Toppers were felicitated by the dignitaries and guests on this occasion, along with other meritorious students for discipline, NCC, Eco Club, Red Cross, cultural activities, and other interschool competitions. Kumari Nandani Yadav was awarded the Star of the School, on this occa-

sion "Udaan-2023" the Cultural Programme under Bhilai Vidyalaya's Annual Day 2023-24 comprised several performances including Solo Song, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi Dance performances, Group Dance Chhattisgarhi on Baramasi, Beti Bachao, and Rajasthani Kalbelia. Members of school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA), along with four teachers including DK Sahu, SK Khobragade, GP Sharma and Yasmin were also felicitated for their notable services.

SK Khobragade and Vandana Sonawane, Addl Sr Lecturers and School Students compered the programme, while Sarita Shakya proposed Vote of Thanks. DK Sahu, GP Sharma, RK Gupta, PK Vishwakarma, GR Chelak, DLJoshi, Sangeeta Mishra, Savita Dhapwal, Vimala Sharma, MK Choudhary, SK Sahu, Parvez Ahmed, Purnima Sharma, Nishi Shivappa, and AS Sahu, along with the School Staff also contributed for organizing the Annual Day 2023-24 successfully.

KPS Sunder Nagar celebrates annual festival 'Indradhanush'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 25: The annual festival "Indradhanush" was celebrated at Krishna Public School, Sunder Nagar on December 23, 2023. The chief guest of the program was Rikesh Sen, MLA Vaishali Nagar. MM Tripathi, Chairman Krishna Group of Institutions, Anand Kumar Tripathi Vice Chairman Krishna Group of Institutions, Pramod Kumar Tripathi Secretary Krishna Education Society, RS Pandey **Education Officer Krishna** Group of Institutions, School Principal Rajesh Kinhekar, Anubhav Tripathi CEO, Vice Principal Maya Mishra were specially present.

At the beginning of the pro-



gram the chief guest was given a 'Guard of Honour'. Thereafter, the program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest with the lighting of the lamp amidst recital of 'Saraswati Vandana'.

A welcome song was also sung. The guests were welcomed with bouquets by the school students. Principal **Rajesh Kinhekar presented** the welcome speech which

was followed by 'Ganesh Vandana'.

Chief Guest Rikesh Sen in his address said that our aim is to become a good human being, a responsible citizen and a good Indian. Also, he appreciated the performance of the talents of Sunder Nagar and wished them all the best. MM Tripathi in his address

appreciated the excellent performance of the children and

wished them a bright future. He also said that KPS is committed to the all-round development of the students so that they can hoist the flag of suc-

cess not only in Chhattisgarh but in the entire world. Thereafter the students were rewarded for their excellent performance by the chief guest and special guests.

Anand Kumar Tripathi, Vice Chairman of Krishna Group of

cellent performance of the children. The school's annual magazine 'Voyage' was also released by the chief guest. The colourful cultural programme presented by Primary, Middle and Senior wing students held the audience spell bound. The 'Vote of Thanks' was

Institutions, in his speech

praised the hard work and ex-

given by the Council's Head Boy 'Ayush Pandey' and Head Girl 'Srishti Singh'. The program was conducted by Afroz Jahan, Avanti Das, Barkha Tiwari, Manmeet Bhalla' and Deepika Chakraborty'. KPS School Principal Rajesh Kinhekar appreciated the hard work of the teachers and school staff.



Pending paddy bonus of Rs 3.7k cr transferred to 12 lakh farmers

Raipur, Dec 25: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday digitally transferred pending bonus of Rs 3.716 crore to more than 12 lakh farmers who had sold their paddy in 2014-15 and 2015-16 in cooperative societies under minimum support price.

Addressing the function meant to disburse bonus, Sai said his government will fulfil every "Modi guarantee' (ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's pre-poll promise) in the next five years.

The event was held in Bendri village of Raipur district to mark Good Governance Day, observed nationwide on the birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The bonus of Rs 300 per quintal was not disbursed to paddy farmers by then Raman Singh-led BJP government for Kharif marketing seasons 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The previous Congress government under Bhupesh Baghel had promised to disburse this bonus but failed to do so



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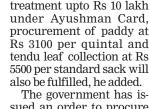
citing some reasons

In its manifesto for the 2023 Assembly polls, which were held on November 7 and 17, the BJP had promised to pay this bonus on December 25 if it came to power in Chhattisgarh. "We had

promised farmers that as soon as the BJP comes to power in the state, we will give the outstanding bonus of two years to them. I am very happy

today we have transferred Rs 3716 crore into the bank accounts of more than 12 lakh farmers", the CM said. The confidence of the

farmers of Chhattisgarh



Mantri Awas Yojna. "We have made a provision in the recent supplementary budget to give Rs 1000 per month to married women under Mahtari Vandan Yojna," he said. The promises of annual

assistance of Rs 10,000 to landless labourers, recruitment to one lakh government vacant posts in a transparent manner, free

Prime Minister

Narendra Modi has in-

The CM further said his

government has decided to

provide 18 lakh houses to

the poor under Pradhan

creased, Sai asserted.

treatment upto Rs 10 lakh under Ayushman Card, procurement of paddy at Rs 3100 per quintal and tendu leaf collection at Rs 5500 per standard sack will also be fulfilled, he added.

sued an order to procure 21 quintal paddy per acre from farmers and, if required, the schedule of the procurement drive, which is scheduled to end on January 31, will be extended, the CM said.

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, party MLAs and other leaders were present on the occa-

Former PM Vajpayee remembered on Good **Governance Day**



Raipur, Dec 25: Former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee was remembered on his birth anniversary today in Dr. Ambedkar Bhimrao Memorial Hospital, Raipur. A cleanliness drive was organized to celebrate his birth an-

niversary as Good Governance Day. Remembering his contribution towards the nation, heartfelt tributes were paid to him in the program organized in the telemedicine hall of the hospital. Raipur North MLA Purandar Mishra who was present on the occasion as chief guest started the cleanliness campaign by holding a broom in his hand at the entrance of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College and Ambedkar

Hospital. Dean of the Medical College, Dr Trupti Nagaria, Superintendent of Ambedkar Hospital, Dr SBS Netam, Deputy Superintendent Dr MK

Sahu, Dr Manju Singh, Dr Jyoti Jaiswal, Dr Usha Joshi, Dr Snigdha Jain, Dr Varsha Mungtawar, Mrs Ranjana Dhruv, Dr PK Khodiyar, Dr. Vivek Patre, Dr Kamlesh Jain and Dr Piyush Bhargava also participated in the

cleanliness drive. In the program organ-ized in Telemedicine Hall, MLA Purandar Mishra administered the oath of good governance, resolve and cleanliness to the officers and employees of the hospital. Addressing the program, the MLA said that cleanliness had great importance in the field of health. According to him the idea of ??a healthy and beautiful nation can be realized only through cleanliness. Remembering the contribution of Atal ji for the formation of Chhattisgarh state, he

paid emotional tribute to

him. All the officers and

employees of the hospi-

tal were present in large

numbers

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Dy CM Sao narrowly escapes stage collapse



Raipur, Dec 25: Deputy Minister Chief of Chhattisgarh and Lormi MLA Arun Sao narrowly escaped the collapse of welcome stage built near the old bus stand of Lormi during his visit to the area today. The stage was built to accord a grand welcome to him by the workers. More people reached the stage than the capacity, due to which the stage collapsed, although it did not

cause any injury to anyone. Sao also participated in the paddy bonus amount distribution ceremony organized at Manas Manch, where he addressed thousands of common people

guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the election manifesto of the Assembly, the first task to approve PM Houses for 18 lakh families of Chhattisgarh was carried out immediately after the oath taking of the CM. The second major task of Modi's guarantee in the interest of farmers has been

present in the assembly

constituency. Meanwhile,

while talking to the media,

Sao said that as per the

completed by giving the paddy bonus amount of the last two years to the farmers, he said, adding that 'we will do what we said'

hatsApp No

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BJP President extends greetings to Sai

For bonus distribution: sanction of amount for PMAY and paddy purchase

Raipur, Dec 25: The newly appointed State President BJP Kiran Singh Dev has extended greetings to the people of the state on occasion of birth anniversary of former PM and Bharat Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and for the Good Governance day being observed in his memory. On this occasion Dev also ex-

pressed gratitude to CM Vishnu Deo Sai for starting the work of fulfilling PM Modi's Gurantee.

BJP State President extending greetings to farmers said that the CM Sai fulfilling the promise

made has transferred total of Rs 3716 cr into the accounts of 18 lakh farmers in the state. This will help in improving the financial condition of the farmers and their family members. Deo also urged all the BJP office bearers, party workers and public representatives to play an active and effective role in taking the public

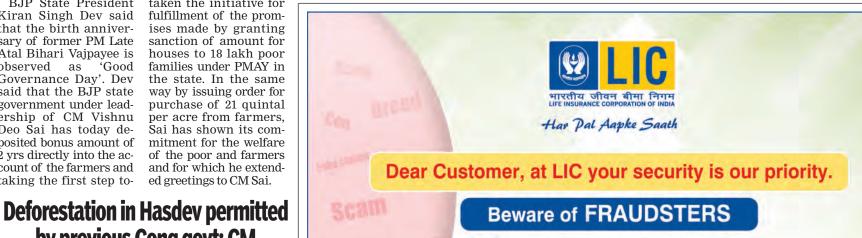
welfare policies and schemes of the BJP government at the Centre and state to the masses on occasion of Atal's

Good Governance Day. BJP State President Kiran Singh Dev said that the birth anniversary of former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee is observed as 'Good Governance Day'. Dev said that the BJP state government under leadership of CM Vishnu Deo Sai has today deposited bonus amount of 2 yrs directly into the account of the farmers and taking the first step to-

wards fulfilling the promises made under 'Modi-ki-Gurantee'. **BJP State President**

said that the BJP in its first cabinet itself has taken the initiative for fulfillment of the promises made by granting sanction of amount for houses to 18 lakh poor families under PMAY in the state. In the same way by issuing order for purchase of 21 quintal per acre from farmers, Sai has shown its commitment for the welfare of the poor and farmers and for which he extended greetings to CM Sai.

by previous Cong govt: CM



deforestation in Hasdev

Congress opposes



BJP govt is cutting trees to benefit some people, says former MLA Vikas

Raipur, Dec 25: Congress leader and former MLA Vikas Upadhyay along with workers formed a human chain at Bhim Rao Ambedkar Chowk here in protest against deforestation in Hasdev by the BJP Vikas government. Upadhyay also appealed to

save Hasdev. People are pleading to save Hasdev Aranya, the densest forest of Chhattisgarh, Upadhyay said. Within a few days, as soon as the Bharatiya Janata Party government came to power, it started showing anti-tribal, anti-farmer policies, he said, adding that selected leaders of BJP are cutting thousands of trees to benefit some people. He further asserted that Congress will take to street to save Hasdev.



Raipur, Dec 25: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that the permission deforestation in for Hasdev was granted when the Congress was in power in the state. Whatever has happened there has happened with the permission of the Congress government, Sai said while talking to the reporters on 'Save

the second phase of Parsa Purva Kante Basan (PEKB) coal mine project in the biodiversity-rich Hasdev Aranya area located in Surguja district. Social workers and villagers are protesting in large numbers to save the forest. Social workers allege that the people protesting against coal mining in Hasdev area

Hasdev Movement' of Congress before he left for Bilaspur tour today.

Frees felling has started amid tight security for

police. party Opposition Congress also raised the issue in the state assembly and accused the BJP government of favoring the industrialist.

have been detained by the

Brijmohan takes part in prog organized on Good Governance Day

Says Atalji fulfilled dream of ancestors by making Ch'garh a state

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Dec 25: Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agrawal paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary in a program organized at BNB School premises of Tilda on Good Governance Day. Atal ji created Chhattisgarh so that the dreams of our ancestors could be fulfilled, he said, adding that Atal ji took many steps for the



outstanding paddy bonus all-round development of this place. is being transferred to their accounts he said.

Today is an important day especially for the State government is fulfarmers as the amount of filling its promises, he

added. According to Agrawal 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', construction of roads in every village, Pokhran nuclear test are the contributions of Atal ji. The cabinet had taken the decision to fulfill Modi's guarantee on the birth of Atal ji, said the Minister. Agrawal also distributed Ayushman Bharat cards to 6 beneficiaries. He distributed Ayushman Bharat cards to beneficiaries Tanisha Sahu, Dulari Dewangan, Jaya Nishad, Chanchal Yadu, Piyush Sahu and Pragati Sharma. Local public representatives, SDM Prakash Tandon and a large number of citizens were present.



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RAIPUR

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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CM Sai to join Veer Bal Diwas program today Chhattisgarh on December

Brave children to be honoured in Pahuna

Ch'garh gears up for grand celebration of Veer Bal Diwas

PM Narendra Modi's message to broadcast during Veer Bal **Diwas celebrations**

Numerous events will be organized in the state to inculcate the values of patriotism and contribute towards nationbuilding

Raipur, Dec 25: Veer Bal Diwas will be celebrated with great enthusiasm in

Vishnu Deo Sai participating in the programs to be organized on this occasion Brave children will be honored at Pahuna, the Chief Minister's residence in the capital Raipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message will be broadcast in all registered childcare institutions across the state. Besides, a digital exhibition based on Veer Bal Diwas, including an audiovisual screening produced by the Union Ministry of Culture, will be organized. Winners of the Veer Bal competition will also be felicitated during the celebrations.

It is worth mentioning that Veer Bal Diwas, commemorating the supreme sacrifice and courage of

the sons of Shri Guru 26, with Chief Minister Gobind Singh Ji, will be observed nationwide on December 26, including in Chhattisgarh. Various activities are planned at the district level, Nagar Palika, ward, block, and gram panchayat levels in the state to mark this occasion. The obiective of these activities is to instill and reinforce values and contributions towards nation-building among the youth, as well as the general public. To achieve this goal, the experiences of freedom fighters and former recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) are being shared. The registration and ac-

tivities of adolescent girls and boys have been uploaded on the My Bharat Portal on December 22 and

23. During this, an oathtaking ceremony for Viksit Bharat and a 'Veer Bal' (brave child) competition were organized. The competition included painting. reading (recitation), singing, poetry, and essay contests focused on the theme of bravery. The winning participants in these competitions will be honoured and rewarded on Veer Bal Diwas. The Child Women and Development Department, Sports and Youth Welfare Department, Panchayat, Higher Education, and Urban Administration Department have been designated as nodal agencies for organizing Veer Bal Diwas, with support from volunteers of NYK, NSS, and NCC in mobilization activities

Raipur, Dec 25: The Radiant Way School, Raipur celebrated its 35th Annual Day on December 23, 2023, centred around the theme 'Treasure Hunt' encapsulating a plethora of performances and a gamut of emotions. It was the show solely conceptualized and designed on the relationship between the natural elements and human beings. The event continued with captivating performances such as "Phir se Udd Chala" and "Main Kaun Hoon" "Mera Dil

Pahaadon Mein" by Class VIII, instilling self-confidence and evoking emotions among the audience. Class PP2 children exhibited resilience and continuity in life through their performances on songs like "Mana Ki Mushkil," and "Chori se chupke se", the students of class Class V gave the message of balance within yourself by showcasing the performance on

'Treasure Hunt' encapsulate plethora of performances

Fire and Water leaving the audience emotionally engaged.

The Chief Guest Sunil Soni, Member of Parliament (Raipur) and the special guest, Padma Shri Recipient Anuj Sharma and the esteemed Members of Mangal Dube Memorial Education Society graced the occasion. All the distinguished guests handed over the prizes to the academic toppers and other meritorious students who brought laurels to the school in various competitions. The chief guest addressed the audience by emphasizing on the treasures of self-courage moral values and punctuality. Director of the school Sameer Dube extended honour to the guests by presenting them with mementos Principal Bhavna Dube presented the school Annual Report by showcasing the achievements of students in academics and extracurricular activities. After three hours of grand performances by the students the principal proposed the vote of thanks and extended her gratitude to the visiting guests and parents.

04

BJP makes propaganda only for elections

PCC Chief's jibe at **BJP's Lok Sabha** election preparations

Central Chronicle News

Dec 25: Raipur, Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Baij has targeted BJP over its preparations for the Lok Sabha elections. They (BJP people) have nothing left and they make propaganda only for elections, Baij said.

BJP has no issue other than Ram temple and it does not contest elections on poverty, unemployment and inflation, he said.

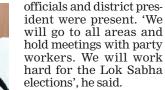
Reacting to BJP's plan celebrate Good Governance Day on 25th December and state government's preparation to



give bonus to the farmers of the state Deepak Baij said considering the farmers of Chhattisgarh as the backbone of the state his party had written a letter to the BJP for bonus on the day the first cabinet meeting was held.

Regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, PCC Chief Baii said that continuous meetings were held in the state office and all the public.'

Scene of Ramayana and ISRO presented in the annual function



hold meetings with party workers. We will work hard for the Lok Sabha On Sachin Pilot getting

charge the of Chhattisgarh, Baij said, former in-charge Kumari Selja also did a good job. The new in-charge is a youth from Rajasthan and he is experienced, Baij said adding that Chhattisgarh will get benefit from work. On the question whether the schemes of Congress will be stopped during the tenure of BJP, Deepak Baij said 'we want that the scheme of cow dung procurement and Gauthan should continue and electricity bill half scheme should also be implemented. These are schemes related to the

of Adivasi Seva Samiti



To attend the felicitation ceremony

Raipur, Dec 25: Members of the Adivasi Seva Samiti paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai at the State Guest House Pahuna today. invited Chief Thev Minister to attend the felicitation ceremony of Adivasi Seva Samiti, which will be organized in

Kushalpur area of the capital city Raipur. Chief Minister Shri Sai thanked the members of Adivasi Seva Samiti for the invitation. On this occasion, Chairman of Adivasi Seva Samiti Salik Ram Netam, Vice Chairman Manharan Singh Thakur, former President Urmila Netam, Shyam Sundar Agarwal, Jayalal Rathiya, Lal Singh

Rana, Anand Ram Dhruv and members were present.

At Vrindavan **Bhawan, Civil lines**

Raipur, Dec 25: There were around 200 people including women and children of Odiya Vipra(Brahmin) Samaj, who were present to felicitate the MLA Raipur (North) Purandar Mishra Speaking on occasion,

MLA Mishra spoke in

Sachin Pilot is young leader, **Ch'garh will benefit: Baghel**

change of PCC State incharge of Chhattisgarh, former CM Bhupesh Baghel said that Kumari Selja has been given charge of Uttarakhand and Sachin Pilot has been given the charge of Chhattisgarh. Baghel said that he welcomes Sachin Pilot and since he is a leader and voung Chhattisgarh would defi-



were held. Prior to talks with the Alliance Parties, discussions with the state leaders will be held with whom the coalition is to be

About the meeting with former MLAs of party in

the state, Baghel said that

it party's internal matter

and he does not have infor-

mation about what has

happened in the meeting.

Within the party all have

the right to put forth their

views and suggestions, he

added.

Samaj showcased their talent as singers and dancers and they were rewarded by

fight for their rights.

Before MLA Mishra arrived, some children of the the newly elected MLA.

The day's programme began with Nivedita Mishra, the President of the Samaj the gathering about the agenda of the Samaj and felicitating the dignitaries.*

Sambalpuri language, en-

couraging every member of

the Samaj to get united and

The programme conclud ed with the enlightening

speech of MLA Mishra and Lunch, wherein, MLA MISHRA promise to donate 5 lakh rupees towards the construction of a building Vipra for the Utkal (Brahmin) Samaj.







CM receives invitation MLA Purandar felicitated by the Utkal Vipra (Brahman) Samaj





Of The Great India School Students said 'we salute you ISRO'

Raipur, Dec 25: The annual festival organized on Dec 23 under the theme of 'Naya Bharat Utsav' at 'The Great India School' located at Godhi. Mandir Hasaud. decorated with the statues of more than 200 martyrs and the story of martyrdom. On this occasion, students of class 5th to 12th presented a colorful cultural program. Bhangra Rajasthani, Bengali, Marathi, Chhattisgarhi

dance. Bihu dance and the students of class 10th Kirtan Diwan and the brought a smile on the group playing the role of faces of the people who were eagerly waiting to Shivaji, who were the center of attraction, presented hear the news of the sucthe bravery and incessful domitable courage of Chandrayaan-3 through a Shivaji through dancespectacular dance-drama drama. The same students and Ram's exile. The students presented the scene of classes 9th, 10th and 11th reminded the martyrdom from the coronation to the coronation in a wonderful of the martyred soldiers way in the 15-minute through dance and drama in 'Uri Surgical Strike' Ramayana. On this occabased on the true incident sion, Chief Guest Dr. in which 16 soldiers of our Purnendu Saxena said that Indian Army were martoday we have time to think tyred. The audience, who and understand, may there became emotional after seebe peace and security may ing this scene, appreciated we all remain united. him with loud applause. Chairman of the organiza-After the unsuccessful tion, Acharya Surendra landing of Chandrayaan 2, Pratap Singh said that



of

landing

there will be no fight of religion or caste in India.

The Founder of the institution Acharya Surendra Pratap Singh Sir requested everyone to praise the Parents and hundreds of voices came all together. He urged the parents to wake up every morning with the sunrise. Give enough time to your children.

And in the presence of everyone, the Founder presented a demand draft of Rs 351000/- for the Indian Army to the Chief Guest,

The program ended with the national anthem along with a vote of thanks and hearty greetings to all those present at the annual function.

nitely benefit from his works and experience. Further Baghel in

formed that in the National Alliance Committee meeting all the party leaders were present and preliminary talks

Youth should draw inspiration from courage and sacrifice of our ancestors: CM

• CM pays tribute to the sons of Guru Gobind Singhii on Veer Bal Diwas

Raipur, Dec 25: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid tribute to the unwavering courage and sacrifice of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Baba Zorawar Singh Ji, and Baba Fateh Singh Ji on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas. The Chief Minister

remembered the unparalleled courage and sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's sons. He stated that the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji had honoured the country with their courage and bravery. The Chief Minister urged the youth to draw inspiration from their sacrifice.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai highlighted that on Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Prakash Parv,

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the commemoration of Veer Bal Diwas on December 26 to honour the martyrdom of Sahibzade Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. Various patriotic activities are organized for the youth with the aim of fostering a sense of nation-building and patriotic values among them. citizens. and women.

Raipur, Dec 25: Minister Chief Vishnu Deo Sai, on Monday, unveiled the calendar published Chhattisgarh bv Kurmi Kshatriya Chetna Manch (CKKCM) at the State Guest House Pahuna. Chief Minister extended congratulations to the community members for the publication of the calendar. State Secretary Shri Rishi Kashyap, along with other of fice bearers were present on the occa-

sion.

Mining crucial for growth, jobs but only after weighing pros and cons: CM

Tikeshwar Patel

Dec 25 (PTI): Raipur. Chhattisgarh's new Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has said his government does not endorse the view that industrialisation and mining should not take place, insisting these activities are crucial for development and employment generation in the state as he expressed confieliminating dence about Naxalism.

Sai, a prominent tribal leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who took oath on December 13, maintained his BJP stormed back to power government will take appropriin the state by ousting the ate steps after analysing advan-Congress in the assembly tages and disadvantages of minpolls held in November. Sai,

ing activities in regards with the state's bio-diversity rich Surguja region, which has witnessed protests by adivasis against coal mining at many places in the last several years. In an interview to PTI, the CM said Naxalites have become frustrated after change of guard in Chhattisgarh and asserted the "double engine" government (a term used to mean BJP in power in the state and at the Centre) will fight against the menace resolutely and eliminate it. The

the MLA from the Kunkuri est region for the last sever-(ST) constituency, is the first tribal CM from the saffron party which lost power to the Congress in 2018 after ruling the state since 2003. The 59-year-old politician, a former Union minister, hails from the tribaldominated Surguja division in north Chhattisgarh, where the BJP put up a stellar performance, clinching all 14 assembly seats. Asked about the newly-

elected government's stand on mining activities in Surguja where locals, particularly tribals, had been protesting against coal mining in the Hasdeo Arand for-

al years, Sai said, "As far as mining is concerned, we will see it. We do not favour (view) that mining activities and industrialisation should not take place as such activities create employment opportunities."

He said the ecologicallysensitive Surguja region offers immense opportunities in the tourism sector. 'The Surguja division has ample potential from the tourism point of view as the region is densely-forested and has multiple waterfalls. As CM, my effort will be to encourage tourism in the area. When mining takes

place and industries are set up then it also causes loss along with yielding benefits as it causes pollution. So, after considering everything on the basis of merits and demerits appropriate steps will be taken (about mining)," he added. Asked about Naxalism, Sai said, "When the BJP was in power in the state for 15 years (2003-2018), it had strongly fought against the menace. but when the government changed in 2018, they (Maoists) got encouragement. Naxals used to say their government has come to power." The state, particularly the Bastar region in

the south, has been struggling with Left Wing Extremism (LWE) for more than three decades. "Since the government has changed, they have become frustrated and are resorting to cowardly acts. But we have given necessary directives to officials following which they have swung into action. Naxals have been arrested (recently). Union Home Minister Amit Shah wants to eliminate the menace and now both the central and state governments will resolutely fight against it," he added.

During election campaigning, Shah had declared that Naxalism will be elimiwill take place and convernated in the next five years in Chhattisgarh if the BJP asserted. Asked about comes to power.

The tribal leader accused the Congress of encouraging religious conversion during its rule (2018-23) and said the new government will take steps to put an effective check on such activities

"Rampant religious conallocation of houses, disversion happened during the previous government. I pending bonus to farmers can clearly say the Congress kept encouraging conver-Mahtari (financial sion for vote bank politics as converted people distance themselves from the BJP. But now no such activities

on conversion and after sion will be stopped," Sai reviewing the issue, required steps will be taken enacting stringent laws to in this direction," said Sai. check conversion, the CM Asked about the state's maintained his government financial condition and chalhas just assumed office and lenges to fulfil his party's will first focus on welfare pre-poll promises, the CM schemes. "It has only been 5 said Chhattisgarh is reeling to 7 days since the formaunder high debt and blamed tion of the new government. the previous Congress gov-As of now, key works like ernment for it. "The state's economic condition is not bursement of two years good. In five years, they (Congress) took as much and implementation of debt that we had not taken Vandan Yojana even in 15 years (2003assistance 2018). The previous governscheme for married women) ment borrowed around Rs will be done. Our efforts will 60.000 crore in just five be to put an effective check years," he stated.



NATION

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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TURBAN TYING COMPETITION



Sikh children wait for the judgement in a turban tying competition organised to mark martyrdom of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh, in Amritsra, Monday.

Jesus Christ inspiration for humanity, says Nadda

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI)

BJP president J P Nadda visited the Sacred Heart cathedral here on the occasion of Christmas on Monday and hailed Jesus Christ as an inspiration for humanity.

Nadda met senior priests at the cathedral, in what is being seen as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) outreach to Christians. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also visited the cathedral on Easter. After his visit to the

cathedral, the BJP president said Jesus Christ dedicated his life to peace and harmony and is an inspiration for humanity.

"I was fortunate to visit this church on the pious occasion of Christmas.



BJP National President JP Nadda visits the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church on the occasion of Christmas, in New Delhi, Monday.

We took the blessings of Jesus Christ," he told reporters.

"All of us know that the life of Jesus Christ is a source of inspiration for the entire humanity. He dedicated his entire life to

humanity," Nadda said.

Everyone must take inspiration from Jesus Christ's teachings, preaching and contributions to humanity, he said, adding, "He dedicated his entire life especially for peace

and harmony in the society, taking everyone along."

05

We pray to Jesus Christ that we dedicate ourselves to humanity, peace and evervone's progress in our country and all over the world in a cordial atmosphere while keeping in mind the path shown by him," Nadda said, adding, "This will be our regards for him.

The BJP has been make ing efforts to connect with the Christian community leaders, especially in states like Kerala where Christians are in large numbers.

The party has cited its improved poll performance in the northeastern states, which have a sizeable Christian population, as a proof of its increasing acceptability among them.

Bareilly woman set on fire over dowry dies at hospital

Bareilly (UP), Dec 25 (PTI): A 24-year-old woman died of burn wounds on Monday allegedly after she was set on fire by her inlaws for dowry in an area under the Baradari Police Station here. The husband of the woman has been arrested in the matter. a senior police officer said on Monday. The father of the woman, Akansha, in his complaint to police, alleged that his daughter was set on fire on Sunday by her mother-in-law Shanti, brother-in-law Pradeep, and sister-in-law Geeta. Dinesh Kumar, who is employed at a mental hospital, alleged that her in-laws fled after admitting Akansha to a private hospital, where she died during treatment. Akansha had married Ashok, a resident of Durga Nagar, in November 2019.

BJP names Poojari as Leader of Oppn in Legislative Council

Bengaluru, Dec 25 (PTI):

party MLC and former

Minister Kota Shrinivas

Poojari as the Leader of

Opposition in the state

Legislative Council, and

MLA Arvind Bellad as

The BJP also has also

appointed its MLCs Sunil

Ravikumar respectively

as the Deputy Leader of

Opposition and its Chief

Whip respectively in the

legislative council -- the

upper house; while party

MLA Doddanagouda G

Opposition in

Legislative Assembly.

Leader

and

of

the

Deputy

Vallyapure

the Chief Whip in the The Karnataka BJP on lower house of the state Monday announced the legislature. appointment of senior

In a press release announcing these appointstate ments, BJP President B Y Vijayendra said, "appointments have been made as per the directions of party national President J P Nadda."

Patil has been named as

After the Assembly polls in May in which Congress swept to power, the BJP participated in two legislature sessions -in July and earlier this December -- without appointments to these key posts, which had drawn large-scale criticism from ruling Congress and some sections of the society.

In fact, the post of legislature party leader or leader of Opposition in the Assembly too was vacant till November, until R Ashoka was appointed, ahead of the legislature session earlier this month.

After the appointment of Ashoka as the LoP and Vijayendra as the party's state unit president in November, which led to some amount of disgruntlement in the BJP, there was a lot of speculation within the party, as to who will occupy other key legislature posts -- for which appointments were made today-- amid large number of aspirants and lobbying.

Shimla, Dec 25 (PTI)

Billava community and has a Sangh Parivar background, has already served as both leader of the house and opposition leader in the Legislative Council.

The appointment of Bellad and Patil as Deputy Leader of Opposition and chief whip in the Legislative Assembly respectively is significant considering that both hail from the north Karnataka region, as there was open disgruntlement in the state BJP, about the region not being given enough representation, after Ashoka and Vijayendra were given posts

Poojari, who hails from

'Over-possessiveness led to murder of software engineer'

Chennai, Dec 25 (PTI):

Being empathetic appears to have cost R Nandhini, a software engineer from Madurai, her life. Little did she or her family suspect that her once-school classmate would go to the extent of murdering her. Her classmate Vetrimaran, a transman, made her believe that he would give her a surprise on her birthday eve on Saturday and convinced her to accompany him to a deserted place in Ponmar in Thalambur police limits.

He then blindfolded her and chained her hands and feet as a "surprise," slashed her neck and wrists, emptied a can of petrol and torched her before fleeing from the spot, said police. Hearing her cries, a few

passers-by alerted the police. However, before she was rushed in an ambulance to the Chromepet Government hospital for treatment, Nandhini gave out the mobile number of Vetrimaran, police said.

"Initially, he came to identify Nandhini and had accompanied her to the GH but later disappeared," a police officer said. He was however, nabbed on Sunday and later remanded in judicial custody.

Police investigation rethat Pandi vealed Maheswari, 26, studied with Nandhini at a school in Madurai. Nandhini had continued her friendship on humanitarian grounds even after Maheswari changed the name to Vetrimaran. He was in regular touch with

her. He got incensed when she started avoiding him. "He became over-possessive when he noticed her talking to other male friends. There was an argument between the two over this," said a police official.

On December 23, on Nandhini's birthday eve, Vetrimaran called her to say that he would not quarrel with her and asked her to meet him as he planned "a surprise" for her birthday. After presenting her new clothes, he took her to an orphanage near Tambaram and made a donation. On the way home, he took Nandhini to Ponmar where he blindfolded her, tied her limbs, inflicted cut injuries on her neck and wrists. doused petrol and torched her, and fled

EX-MP LAND DEAL

Former IAF Squadron Leader convicted for amassing illicitassets

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI): A Special Court has

posits worth Rs 11.9 crore with his own money were made in his three ac- using the accounts of counts in Axis Bank. The money allegedly belonged to former Congress MP Balashowry his earnings from share Vallabbhaneni and was trading, mutual funds, supposed to go towards a land deal worth Rs 12.5 from land deals. crore. The CBI registered Kumar the case on September 27, 2016, against Sreedhar, Sreedhar Balashowry, and bank manager Manish Saxena. earned through share The agency filed a charge sheet six years later, on as claimed by him, as well as he did not intimate November 24, 2022, against Sreedhar only as about the unaccounted for money either to his it could not find sufficient own office or to the evidence against Vallabbhaneni Income Tax Department. and Saxena. The agency reduced the prosecution was able to quantum of illicit assets from Rs 11.9 crore to Rs 40 lakh in its charge sheet as accounted money" to the it found that the former

to December 31, 2010, de- MP had purchased land Sreedhar. Sreedhar dur

held

The Judge said that the

prove beyond doubt that

Sreedhar had "earned un-

HP CM dedicates Sanjauli-Dhalli tunnel to people



the Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

The idea was to take the journey from Shimla towards upper Shimla and therefore, the Jatar (devta) procession was chosen, Chatterjee, the chairman of the department of visu al arts in the Himachal Pradesh University, told PTI, adding that the tunnel was hand- painted by the students of the university and artists from Delhi. The Choltu dance form depicted in the paintings is an important form of "Pahari" dance, which is practised in upper areas of the state, such as Theog, Rohru, Rampur, Kotkhai, he said. The dance is performed in the devotion of local deities on special occasions.

convicted a former Indian Air Force Squadron Leader for allegedly moving funds for a former Congress MP for a land deal and amassing disproportionate assets worth Rs 40.36 lakh, officials said Monday.

Squadron Leader Polu Sreedhar, facing several health issues, was not given any respite by the court, which convicted him for amassing assets that could not satisfactorily be accounted for, they said

The special court will start hearing arguments on the quantum of the sentence from January 2 next year, they said. In its FIR, the CBI had alleged that from January 1, 2007,

UNHCR thanks India for taking care 142 **Rohingyas intercepted** in Andaman

Port Blair, Dec 25 (PTI): United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday expressed gratitude to Indian authorities at Andaman and Nicobar Islands for taking care of 142 Rohingya refugees, whose boat was intercepted by coastal security agencies near Shaheed Dweep a day ago.

"UNHCR thanks the Indian Coast Guard and the authorities for saving desperate human lives. This noble act of humanity brings relief to those in distress," Babar Baloch, spokesperson for Asia and the Pacific, told PTI in a text message. The boat left from Bangladesh around 14-15 days ago and was on its way to Indonesia. Those onboard included 47 women and 59 minors.

• • • • •

Singh Sukhu here on ing the trial claimed that Monday. the CBI did not consider

Taking a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Sukhu said the conand commission earned struction work of the 154.22-metre tunnel was Special Judge Ashwani going on at a snail's pace under the previous governthat "could not ment in the hill state and show" that the money was the Congress government expedited it and the structrading or land dealings ture was completed within a vear.

The state government has directed all departments to ensure a timebound completion of every project, Sukhu was quoted as saving in a statement issued here.

The existing Dhalli tunnel, which was constructed in 1852, served as a single-lane passage and had CM Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at the inauguration of newly constructed Rs. 47.36 crore Sanjauli-Dhalli tunnel spanning 154.22 meters, in Shimla, Monday.

surpassed its design life, causing persistent traffic congestion. With the inauguration of the new tunnel, these issues would be addressed.

Tourism, a key industry in Himachal Pradesh, stands to benefit significantly from the improved

connectivity. The tunnel, strategically positioned on the route to popular tourist destinations, such as Naldehra. Kufri. Tattapani, Narkanda and Chail, will ease the movement of tourists and contribute to the region's economic growth, Sukhu said.

The paintings in the tunnel on the theme of the Jatar procession of Shimla were conceptualised by Professor Him Chatteriee. who had earlier designed the murals (wall paintings) on the 28,991-square metre Integrated Transit Corridor in and around

"Initially, I developed the details of the drawings and one of my students, Diksha, enlarged those. It took almost a month and a half to paint the tunnel,' Chatterjee said.

tune of Rs 40 lakh. Vajpayee set example of purity, transparency in politics' It is informed to the general

Lucknow, Dec 25 (PTI):

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday termed former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the "Ajatshatru" (the one who has no enemies) of India's politics, and said that he set an example of purity and transparency in poli-

tics ji was the 'Atal

'Ajatshatru' of India's politics. Along with bailing out India from political instability of India, he set an ideal example of purity and transparency in politics in the country.

The foundation stone of the new model of development, security and good governance that India has established under the

leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

in the last nine-and-a-half years was laid by respected Atal ji during his reign," Adityanath said at the Lok Bhavan in Lucknow on Vajpayee's birth anniversary.

Tributes were paid to former PM Vajpayee at the Lok Bhavan by CM Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak and other leaders on Monday.

Due to his special attachment towards Uttar Pradesh, Vajpayee chose the state for his education and workplace, Adityanath said.

He added that the state government is working with commitment tomemories alive and to showcase every aspect of his life, which gave a new direction to the society and the nation.

ary interest and contribution in the field of journalism, different types of programmes will be organised from gram panchayat to state level in basic education schools, universities and other institutions, he added.

On this occasion, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, Jal Minister

Swatantra Dev Singh, UP Legislative Council member and state BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary, other public representatives and other

senior officers were present, the UP government said in a statement.

Earlier, in a post on X, Adityanath said. "Tributes were paid to the carrier ('sanvaahak') of excellent democratic values in Indian politics former prime minister 'Bharat Ratna' revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji at his statue on the occasion of 'Good Governance Day'. The sacred memories of respected Atal ji will always remain alive in the hearts of all of us."

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya in a post said, "A strong politician, who gave the country a strong identity on the world stage, a multi-faceted personality, a dynamic speaker, our

source of inspiration, the grandfather of the BKP, former PM and (the one) honoured with Bharat Ratna, hundreds of salutes to respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji on his birth anniversary!

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak in a post on X, said, "Today, on the occasion of 'Good Governance Day', the birth anniversary of respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, the grandfather of the BJP, the 'Ajatashatru' of Indian politics and our source of inspiration, former Prime Minister 'Bharat Ratna' Floral tributes were paid

at the statue of revered

Atal ji at the Atal Bihari

Scientific Convention

Centre, Lucknow.'

NAME CHANGE

public that I, Prahlad Rungta S/o Late Tikam Chand Rungta resident of Ward No. -36, Ganjpara, Durg, Teh. & Distt. Durg (C.G.) have changed my old name Prahlad Rungta S/o Late Tikam Chand Rungta so

in future, I should be recognized by my new name that is Prahlad Kumar Rungta S/o Late Tikam Chand Rungta in all government and other documents.

Prahlad Kumar Rungta Ward No. -36, Ganjpara, Durg, Teh. & Distt. Durg (C.G.)

To remember his liter-

Yogi Adityanath

wards the ideals and values for which the former PM dedicated his life. Shakti The UP CM said this year is also the beginning

of Vajpayee's birth centenary. Many programmes will be organised in the next one year to keep his



36GARH

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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VBSY: Bridging the gap to deliver government schemes

Vikrant Singh leads efforts to inform villagers about government initiatives

Khairagarh, Dec 25:

The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra continues its mission to bring the benefits of government schemes directly to those who need them. In a program organized in Gram Panchavat Saloni under the Khairagarh block on Saturday, Cheif guest Vikrant Singh, a State BJP Working Committee member, and Rajnandgaon **District Panchavat Vice** President, led the initiative. The event also featured under the chairmanship of District BJP President Ghamman Sahu and District BJP General Ramadhar Secretary Rajak as special guest. City Circle General Secretary Alok Shriwas was present as special guest

During the program, Chief Guest Vikrant Singh addressed the audience and highlighted



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming India into a developed nation. He emphasized that the requirements to elevate a developing nation to the status of a developed one are being diligently fulfilled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh envisioned that when the country celebrates its 100th anniver-

sary of independence, India will proudly stand as a developed nation.

He mentioned the concept of "Raths," which symbolize the idea of a developed India, and explained that various essential services, such as agrihealthcare, culture, Aadhaar, and more, are being made accessible to underprivileged the

through innovative efforts. These services are being extended to their doorsteps, ensuring that they reach 100 percent of the eligible population. Singh also announced that mobile stalls providing information about government schemes would travel to areas where these services are needed.

In his closing remarks, he encouraged all citizens to take full advantage of these schemes for their benefit. Additionally, Vikrant Singh directed all district-level officers to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries. This proactive approach aims to maximize the number of people who can benefit from these initiatives. The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Sarpanch Amisha Verma, Ravindra Verma, Bhushan Verma, and many others.

Anwari, Dec 25:

The village Bhatagaon celebrated the martyrdom day of Chhattisgarh's first martyr, Veer Narayan Singh, on December 23 with great enthusiasm. The day began with a Kalash Yatra through the village streets, accompanied by the melodious sounds of traditional music. Hundreds of men, women, and children participated in this procession.

Veer Narayan Singh, a true hero, dedicated his life to fighting for the right to food. During a devastating famine, unscrupulous traders had hoarded grain in their warehouses, denying the poor access to essential sustenance. In response to this injustice, Veer Narayan Singh took action. He bravely opened these warehouses and dis-tributed food to the starving and thirsty villagers. It's crucial to note that

his actions were not motivated by a desire to loot,



of resistance.

Speaking about Veer

Narayan Singh's remark-

able life, Ram Netam fur-

ther explained that he was

a provider of food for over

three hundred villages.

During the famine, he opened all his food stores

CM pays homage to the former PM

Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

but rather to ensure that people had their rightful access to food. Thakur Ram Netam Jai eloquently emphasized this point in his address, stating that Veer Narayan Singh could not stand to see the public suffering from hunger. He had initially asked the moneylender Makhanlal for food from his warehouse, but when Makhanlal refused, Veer Narayan Singh took it upon himself to provide the needy. Veer for

Narayan Singh's audato alleviate the suffering cious act left the British but it was still not enough. authorities shocked. He This led him to open the was subsequently hanged grain warehouses belongin Jaistambh Chowk in ing to Makhanlal, a coura-Raipur, the capital of geous act that would go Chhattisgarh, and his down in history. legacy lived on as a symbol

The event also featured addresses by Lalit Thakur, Kalajan Singh Mandvi, Harishchandra Mandvi, Khemraj Chandrakar, and others, as attendees celebrated the legacy of a true hero who ensured that the right to food was upheld for all.

06

Blankets distributed to city's newspaper distributors

To protect them from the effects of cold

Under Manav Seva, the operator of Vishal Honda showroom extended cooperation, blankets were also distributed to school children

Korba, Dec 25: On Sunday, senior journalist Tapan Chakraborty and social worker Padam Singh Chandel, director of Hotel Chandela, distributed a dozen blankets provided under Human Services to the newspaper distributors of the city to protect them from the effects of severe cold.

Due to increasing cold, the health of those who go



out in the morning is being adversely affected. Newspaper distributors also get up early in the morning to distribute newspapers from door to door. In such a situation, with the efforts of senior Tapan journalist

Chakraborty, to protect his health from the effects of cold, Ashok Rishri, the operator of a showroom in the city, provided blankets for distribution to Saptanik newspaper distributors. On Sunday morning, senior journalist

Tapan Chakraborty, social worker Hotel Chandela director Padam Singh Chandel and Korba Press Club secretary Dinesh Raj, in the presence of Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association state president Vinod

Sinha and district president Vipendra Kumar Sahu, newspaper distributors Rama, Rajesh Pal, Blankets were distributed to Rai Singhad Kanwar, Krishna Kumar Nirmalkar, Jai Singh Netam, Golu Dewangan, Muritaram Kashyap, Dilip Yadav, Rajesh Pal, Sunil Sahu, Lakshmi Rathore, Bajrang Yadav and Hemant Jangade. During this, senior journalist Tapan Chakraborty told that he has discussed with other newspaper distributors of the city and Ankush Aggarwal, operator of Mangalam Auto and Raja Gupta, operator of Ravi Sweets for the needy, and they have also assured to cooperate soon.

By garlanding his statue

Bilaspur, Dec 26: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, on Monday, paid homage to the Former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the occasion of his birth anniversary. He garlanded the statue of the former Prime Minister situated within the premises of Atal Bihari University. Besides, Chief Minister Sai honoured the valiant freedom fighters by paying floral tributes at the 'Shaheed Smarak,' a memorial dedicated to the freedom fighters of Chhattisgarh. University Vice-Chancellor



Arun Nath Diwakar Bajpai, along with Bilha Dharam Lal MLA Kaushik, Bilaspur MLA Amar Agrawal, Beltara MLA Sushant Shukla, and other dignitaries, joined in paying tribute to Bharat

The radiant heat from

Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. They offered floral garlands to his statue and commemorated the sacrifices Chhattisgarh's freedom fighters at the Shaheed Smarak.

Absconding accused of theft of Rs 25 lakh from ATM nabbed

After 10 years

Jagdalpur, Dec 25: Javed Ali and Irfan Ali,



same ATM and sprayed the CCTV camera installed there and stole Rs 24 lakh 08 thousand 600. Both the brothers divided the stolen amount among them-

Kurud district under chilling winter Locals find comfort and camaraderie around

and bustling city life Kurud's residents can be spotted sharing warm tea and delightful conversations at a prominent establishment on Mandi Road. In an inspiring display of unity, young entrepreneurs, businessmen, government officials. lawyers, and dedicated soworkers cial like Ravikant Chandraakar, Santosh Bais, Shishupal Sinha, Sanjay Dhruv, Sunil Jethani, Manoj Agrawal, Sanjay Chenwani, Tikam Katariya, Praveen Kela, Sharad Pandya, and many others have come together to relish these heartwarming moments

who were filling cash in the ATM of State Bank branch under Bakavand police station area of the district, had stolen about Rs 25 lakh from the ATM. During investigation in this case, accused Javed Ali was arrested and his brother accused Irfan Ali had absconded. Finally, after ten years, the absconding accused Irfan Ali has been arrested by the police today on Sunday. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the incident by telling his secret pass-

police, the accused Javed Ali and Irfan Ali were employees of the cash company. They used to deposit cash in ATMs of Nagarnar, Bakavand and Jagdalpur. Both of them are brothers, but they got the job by keeping the company management in

the money from the ATM. On July 11, 2014, Javed Ali took Rs 19 lakh from the branch manager of State Bank and deposited it in the ATM located at Bakavand in the afternoon. Then in the evening he again went to

selves. During investiga-tion, accused Javed Ali was arrested and his brother accused Irfan Ali had absconded. The absconding accused Irfan Ali was being continuously traced. On December 22, information was received from the informer that Irfan Ali had come to Jagdalpur. After which he was surrounded and arrested near bus stand Tiraha of Jagdalpur. Absconding accused Irfan Ali was sent on remand.

Kurud, Dec 25:

As winter grips Kurud with an unusual cold spell, the town's residents are showcasing their resilient community spirit by coming together to combat the chilly weather. In the face of disrupted daily routines and the discomfort faced by schoolchildren and senior citizens, the town has found warmth in the form of bonfires and heartwarming connections. Hotels and tea stalls



termination to keep the across Kurud have transformed into gathering town's spirits high. hubs, providing locals crackling flames has with a welcome escape from the biting cold. added a cozy charm to the conversations between Some innovative residents have even emfriends and neighbors. braced the tradition of creating a sense of tolighting bonfires to ward getherness that the cold off the winter chill, cannot diminish. Despite demonstrating their dethe brisk market activity

Christian society immersed in the celebration of Jesus' birth



Korba. Dec 25: The entire country was immersed in the celebration of the birth of Lord Jesus. Similarly, every church in Korba district was decorated with colourful lights. People from all sections of the Christian society visited the homes of Christians a week in advance and gave messages of joy about the birth of Jesus. On the other hand, on 24th December, special prayer and worship has been done in every church. A special arrangement for the Christmas tree was also organised. Jesus' birthday was

• • • • •

celebrated by cutting the cake at 12 o'clock in the mid-night. On December 25, special worship was performed in all the churches to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jesus. Similarly, apart from Korba city, huge enthusiasm was also seen in suburban areas Balko, Bankimogra, Katghora. Dankani, Deepka, NTPC, Darri, Urga, Kartala and forest areas Lemru, Kutruwan. The oldest church of the city, Mennonite Church and **Roman Catholic Church located** in Kosabadi were decorated with great decorations.

Geedam/ Dantewada, long jump, high jump, Dec 25: Aastha Vidya shotput throw, discuss Mandir English Medium throw, volleyball, kho School (AVMEMS) organkho, kabaddi.

ised a 3 days Annual Sports Meet for the year In the inauguration ceremony, Chairman of 2023-24 based on the School Management guidelines by the Central Committee Bomada Ram Board of Secondary Kowasi and Principal Education at Education Gopal Pandey unveiled the torch and green flag. City Jawanga, Geedam of In the closing ceremony, Dantewada district. It is important for every child Chief guest Dantewada to have passion for sports MLA Chaitram Atami, and art along with educaguest of honour District tion. Various sports com-Panchayat member Ramu Netam, Sangeeta Netam, petitions were organized for students from class 1st Geedam Janpad Panchayat President Anti to class 12th in boys and girls categories. 1200 chil-Wek, Janpad Panchayat dren from 8 houses i.e. member Rajesh Kashyap, Arpa, Pairi, Shankhani, Jawanga Gram Shivnath, Panchayat Sarpanch Shabari, Mahanadi and Aarti Kovasi, School Indravati Houses partici-Management Committee pated actively in different President Bomda Ram games like 50, 100, 200, Kowasi, social worker Dr. 400, 800 meter race, relay Budhri Tati, District race, three legged race, Coordinator Mission



Shyamlal Shori, APCs Sikendar Khan, Rajendra Pendes, ABEO Bhavani Punem, Cluster Coordinator Nitin Vishwakarma were present. Chief guest MLA Chaitram Atami and other guests honoured the overall champion of this sports meet, first Shabari House, second runner-up Dankini House and third runner-up Shivnath House with shields and prizes. In the

closing ceremony the lit tle children enthralled the audience by performing wonderful cultural dances and songs. Winners in various sports disciplines were honored with prizes, sweets and cash were distributed by the guests and officials. Aastha Vidya Mandir's Principal Gopal Pandey, Vice Principals Pramod Gupta, Ravindranath Panigrahi, Superintendents Ravi Prakash Thakur, Sushma

Das, Lecturer Amujuri Program Biswanath, Bikash Coordinators Ashimanand Bain, Baipari, Harishankar Verma, PTI Mamta Dubey and other teachers were contribute their valuable time and dedication in the three-days event. Chief guest MLA Chaitram Atami while addressing the children and parents said that Education City Javanga has proved to be a milestone in the field of education, its praise is heard in the field of education in the country and abroad also. It is a matter of pride for Bastar region including Dantewada. His excellency former Ramnath President Kovind, the world's popular and famous Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and many ministers and officials

have also visited the Education City Jawanga and Aastha Vidya Mandir. He said that the then Dantewada Collector IAS Reena Kangale and OP Chaudhary are heartily congratulated for thinking about an institution like Education City Jawanga in a sensitive area like Dantewada. Today, OP Chaudhary has also been made a minister in Government of Chhattisgarh Cabinet ministry. MLA Chaitram Atami assured that they have made it, they will improve it. Thereafter guests met the children and spent time with the future of India and learned about the education system. Officers, parents, employees and students of Dantewada district were present in this grand program.

MLA Chaitram Atami honored the overall champion first Shabari House, second Dankini House and third Shivnath House with shield

AVMEMS Jawanga organises annual sports meet 2023-24





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07

Party backed by LeT chief Hafiz Saeed fields candidates in Pak elections

Lahore, Dec 25 (PTI):

A new political front organisation of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed has fielded candidates for most of the national and provincial assembly constituencies across Pakistan for the February 8 general elections, saying it wants to make the country an Islamic welfare state. Saeed, the founder of

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has been in jail since 2019 after being convicted for several years in multiple terror finance cases

along with some other leaders of the banned

assembly

Sindhu is a candidate for NA-130 Lahore, from Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). The Pakistan Markazi which Pakistan Muslim Muslim League (PMML) League-Nawaz supremo and former prime minisparty - set up by Saeed says it is a political party. ter Nawaz Sharif is also The electoral symbol for contesting. the PMML is 'chair'.

Saeed's son Talha Saeed is contesting from PMML President Khalid Lahore's NA-127. Masood Sindhu said that

contacted, When denied his his party is contesting on Sindhu most of the national and party's link with Saeed's outfit. "The PMML has no backing of Hafiz "We want to come to Saeed," he claimed on power not for corruption Monday.

but to serve the people In 2018, the Milli Muslim League (MML) and make Pakistan an Islamic welfare state," he was the political face of

The two sides are ex-

pected to discuss various

aspects of the bilateral re-

lations, especially in areas

of trade, energy, defence

and connectivity.

MEA said.

JuD. It had fielded candidates on most seats, especially in Punjab province but failed to win a single seat.

For the 2024 polls, the PMML has been formed because of a ban on the MML.

The US has placed a USD 10 million bounty on Saeed, a UN-designated terrorist.

Saeed-led JuD is the front organisation for the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which is responsible for carrying out the 2008 Mumbai attack that killed 166 people, including six Americans.



MIGRANTS AT CAMP IN MEXICO

Migrants camp in Alvaro Obregon, Mexico. A caravan or migrants started the trek north from Tapachula on Sunday, just days before U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives in Mexico City to discuss new agreements to control the surge of migrants seeking entry into the United States.

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar arrives in Russia

In a video message

provincial

seats.

Moscow, Dec 25 (PTI):

Affairs External Minister S Jaishankar on Monday arrived in Moscow on a five-day visit to Russia during which he will hold talks with his counterpart and discuss various bilateral and global issues.

"Arrived in Moscow. Look forward to my engagements," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

During his visit, he will also travel to St. Petersburg.

"The time-tested India-Russia partnership has remained stable and resilient and continues to be characterized by the spirit of the Special and

Strategic Privileged and St. Petersburg," the Partnership," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New

Delhi on Sunday. The minister will meet Russia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade Denis

The ties between India Manturov to discuss matand Russia remained ters related to economic strong notwithstanding engagement. He will also Moscow's invasion of hold talks with his Ukraine. India's import of

Russian counterpart Russian crude oil has gone Sergey Lavrov for discusup significantly despite insion on bilateral, multilatcreasing disquiet over it in eral and international ismany Western countries. sues. "Focusing on the strong people-to-people

India has not yet condemned the Russian invaand cultural ties between sion of Ukraine and it has our two countries, the exbeen maintaining that the ternal affairs minister's crisis must be resolved programme will include through diplomacy and diengagements in Moscow alogue.

last year by the non-profit

Fogo Cruzado and a secu-

rity-focused research

group at the Fluminense

Iran's navy adds sophisticated cruise missiles to its armory

Dubai, Dec 25 (AP):

Iran's navy on Sunday added domestically prosophisticated duced cruise missiles to its arsenal, state TV reported.

The TV said both Talaeieh and Nasir cruise missiles have arrived at a naval base near the Indian Ocean in the southern Iranian port of Konarak, some 1,400 kilometers (850 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.

chief Adm. Navy Shahram Irani said the Talaeieh has a range of more than 1.000 kilometers (620 miles) and called it "fully smart." Irani said the cruise missile is capable of changing targets during travel.

He said the Nasi has a range of 100 kilometers (62 miles) and can be in-

stalled on warships.

Last month, a container ship owned by an Israeli billionaire came under attack from a suspected Iranian drone in the Indian Ocean, as Israel wages war on Iran-backed Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

From time to time Iran announces the test firing, production and commissioning of new military equipment that cannot be independently verified. The country says it has a stock of various kinds of missiles with ranges up to 2,000 kilometers (1250 miles), capable of reaching its archenemy Israel and U.S. bases in the region.

At least 68 killed in central Gaza in airstrike

Arrested while protesting extrajudi-

Islamabad, Dec 25 (AP):

Pakistani police on Monday freed 290 Baloch activists who were arrested when they attempted to hold a protest last week in the capital, Islamabad.

Their release came days after protest organizers gave authorities a deadline to release all those detained.

The activists had travelled 1,600 kilometers (about 1,000 miles) on Thursday from Turbat, a town in Baluchistan province, to protest forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in the militancy-ravaged southwest. The protesters were

mostly women and some Baluchistan residents and had brought along their drew nationwide condemchildren, aged 7-12, when nation from top human security forces used batons rights activists. and water canons to dis-Protest organisers said perse and arrest them. that as the dozens of vehi-

They wanted to draw attention to the case of 24year-old Balaach Mola Bakhsh, who died in November while in police custody in Baluchistan. Authorities said he was killed after militants ambushed the police vehicle transporting him.

Police said Bakhsh was carrying explosives when he was arrested. His family insists he is innocent, demanding justice for him. They also said he had been detained since October. Police said they arrested him in November.

The police use of force against the protesters sparked anger among

Brazil's federal police arrest top criminal leader Zinho after negotiations

Rio De Janeiro, Dec 25 (AP):

Brazil's federal police said one of the country's top criminal leaders surrendered Sunday after negotiations with local authorities

Luiz Ant nio da Silva Braga, better known as Zinho, is the top leader of the largest militia group in the state of Rio de Janeiro. He had 12 arrest warrants issued against

of former police officers, Associated Press. firefighters and soldiers The militias are believed to control about who wanted to combat lawlessness in their 10% of Rio's metropolitan area, according to a study neighborhoods. Thev

charged residents for protection and other services, and more recently moved into drug trafficking themselves.

Federal University. The Zinho's group domimilitias are distinct from drug trafficking gangs nates Rio's west region, where several members that control important of his gang were killed in areas of Rio. The area dominated by recent years. He had been on the run since 2018. Zinho's group made news Ricardo Cappelli, execin October when gang utive secretary of the fedmembers set fire to at eral Justice Ministry, said least 35 buses in apparent on social media that the retaliation for police federal police had conkilling one of their leaders. The attack took place ducted several investigations until it reached far from Rio's tourist dis-Zinho. "This is work, tricts and caused no casuwork, work," Capelli said. alties, but it underlined the ability of the militias Zinho's lawyer did not respond to a request for to cause chaos and inflict comment from The damage.

Deir Al-Balah, Dec 25 (AP)

At least 68 people were killed by an Israeli strike in central Gaza, health officials said Sunday, while the number of Israeli soldiers killed in combat over the weekend rose to 15.

Associated Press journalists at a nearby hospital watched frantic Palestinians carry the dead, including a baby, and wounded following the strike on the Maghazi refugee camp east of Deir al-Balah. One bloodied



Gaza anyway." Earlier, the

The war has devastated Health Ministry in Gaza parts of Gaza, killed rough-

dead at the scene with a gunshot wound, and two more, each of whom had been shot at least once, were taken

cles carrying the activists

reached the outskirts of

Islamabad before dawn

Thursday, police used

water canons against them

and started beating them

up to prevent them from

reaching the heart of the

At the weekend, organiz-

outside

the

ers and protesters held a

Islamabad Press Club to de-

nounce the violence. "Four

female police officers with

batons hit me," Mahrang

Baloch, one of the organis-

ers, told reporters as she

and dozens of others held

portraits of those detained

by the police, demanding

capital.

sit-in

their release.

to hospitals in serious condition, police said. A female also was taken to a hospital with

what were said to be minor injuries. Police said they de-

Gunfire erupts at a Colorado mall on

Christmas Eve

One man is dead and 3 people are hurt

Colorado Springs (US), Dec 25 (AP) A man was fatally shot and three people were hurt as gunfire rang out at a shopping center in Colorado on Christmas Eve, police said Sunday.

A fight broke out be-

tween two groups of people in the afternoon

at the Citadel Mall in

Colorado Springs and

officers received a re-

port of gunshots and re-

sponded, the Colorado

Department said in a

series of posts on the

social media platform

X. One adult male was

Police

Springs

tained "multiple people" and were "working to determine their involvement. The mall was cleared and closed, police said, and there was no known continuing threat to the communi-

Pakistani police free 290 Baloch activists cial killings

him, federal police said.

"After the formalities due to his arrest, the inmate was taken for medical forensics and then sent to the state's prison system, where he will remain available for our courts," federal police said

Militias emerged in the 1990s when they originally were made up mainly

young girl looked stunned while her body was checked for broken bones.

The 68 fatalities include at least 12 women and seven children, according to early hospital figures.

We were all targeted." said Ahmad Turokmani, who lost several family members including his daughter and grandson. 'There is no safe place in

gave the death toll as 70. The Israeli military had no immediate comment. As Christmas Eve fell, smoke rose over the besieged territory, while in the West Bank Bethlehem was hushed, its holiday celebrations called off. In neighbouring Egypt, tentative efforts continued on a deal for another exchange of hostages for Palestinians held by Israel.

Minor earthquakes rattle Hawaii's Big Island

Hawaii, Dec 25 (AP): Hundreds of people reported feeling minor earthquakes of similar intensity on Hawaii's Big Island and on the Olympic Peninsula northwest of Seattle, but no damage was reported.

The earthquakes on Saturday afternoon in Hawaii and Sunday morning in Washington state were over 2,600 miles (4,200 kilometres) apart and apparently unrelated.

A magnitude 4.1 quake struck around 4:30 p.m. Saturday nine miles (14 kilometres) southwest of Volcano off the southeastern coast of the island of Hawaii.

The quake was too small to generate a tsunami, according to the National Weather Service US Tsunami Warning System.

However, dozens reported feeling it through Geological the US Survey. The quake was in the area of Kilauea, a volcano that erupted for several weeks before quieting in September.

ly 20,400 Palestinians and displaced almost all of the territory's 2.3 million people. The mounting death toll among Israeli troops - 154 since the ground offensive began - could erode public support for the war. which was sparked when Hamasled militants stormed communities in southern Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 and taking 240 hostage.

British home secretary under fire for making joke about date rape drug

London, Dec 25 (AP):

British Home Secretary James Cleverly was under fire Sunday for joking about date rape just hours after announcing plans to crack down on what he had dubbed a "perverse" offence.

Cleverly, who oversees national security and law enforcement in England and Wales, faced a call to step down after he reportedly joked at an event at the prime minister's home about drugging his wife.

He told women guests at a Dec 18 reception that the

Three men were shot

The New Orleans Police

Department said the gun-

fire rang out at 2:09 am at

an intersection in the busy

neighbourhood frequent-

ed by tourists, WVUE-TV

and wounded early on

Sunday in New Orleans'

French Quarter.

was having a spouse who "is always mildly sedated so she can never realise there are better men out there," the Sunday Mirror newspaper reported.

secret to a long marriage

Cleverly said "a little bit of Rohypnol" the so-called date rape drug "in her drink every night" was "not really illegal if it's only a little bit"

The drug, colloquially known as a roofie when it is crushed and put into someone's beverage without their knowledge, makes the subject drowsy and can lead to unconsciousness and memory loss. Cleverly apologised through a spokesperson for what he called an "ironic joke" after he had

announced the Conservative government

planned to update legislation to make clear that such drink spiking is illegal. He described the practice as a "perverse" crime.

The comments were made during a drinks reception at 10 Downing Street where political journalists mingled with political aides, ministers and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

Three men shot in New Orleans' French Quarter New Orleans, Dec 25 (AP): reported. Two of the men were shot in the legs and a

third was shot in the back. Police said the shooting began after a fight between the men who were shot and a fourth man. It was not immediately clear whether police had identified or apprehended the shooter. The group separated initially, but the fourth man followed the others and another argument began, police told the news outlet. The fourth man then took out a gun and fired at the other three men. The shooting victims were transported to a hospital for treatment. Police did not disclose the ages of the men or the status of their condition.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



People walk and play at a park decorated for the New Year and Christmas festivities with an Orthodox Church in the background in Moscow, Russia.

Colorado Springs is about 71 miles (114 kilometers) south of Denver.



EDITORIAL

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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Judicial Reforms SC's Decisive Actions

n a nation where justice delayed is often considered justice denied, the Supreme Court of India, under the stewardship of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud since November 2022, has made commendable strides in reforming the justice delivery system. The need to tackle the colossal backlog of cases, which has plagued our courts for years, has been rightfully recognized as a matter of utmost importance. Delayed justice has long been a bane for litigants, and it's high time we address this issue. The Supreme Court's recent actions are indeed a step in the right direction. The Supreme Court's most noteworthy achievement this year has been its relentless efforts to reduce the pendency of cases. As of December 15 this year, the Court managed to dispose of a staggering 52,191 cases. This marks a remarkable 33% increase compared to the 2022 figure of 39,800 cases decided. Such a substantial increase is not merely a statistic but a testament to the Court's commitment to delivering justice swiftly and efficiently. This is the highest number of cases resolved since the inception of the Integrated Case Management Information System in 2017. Leveraging technology played a pivotal role in this achievement. The Court introduced strategic reforms, including the reduction of the timeframe for verification and listing of cases from ten days to just seven. This reduction has allowed the Court to set a new standard for timely and efficient justice delivery. Recognizing the paramount importance of personal liberty, the Supreme Court expedited proceedings in matters such as bail, habeas corpus, eviction, and demolition, ensuring that they were processed within a single day and listed immediately. Notably, these proceedings were also conducted during the summer vacation, breaking away from traditional practices. The establishment of specialized Benches dedicated to handling specific types of cases has further streamlined the judicial process. This innovative approach has proven to be effective and efficient. It not only expedites the adjudication of cases but also ensures that cases are heard by judges with expertise in the relevant field. In addition to these procedural changes, the Supreme Court has implemented several litigant-friendly initiatives. These include the introduction of a hybrid hearing system, the establishment of an RTI portal, and the creation of an e-SCR (electronic version of Supreme Court reports) providing online access to thousands of judgments. The Court's integration with the National Judicial Data Grid has allowed real-time tracking of cases, fostering transparency and increasing judicial accountability. The Supreme Court's remarkable efforts serve as an example for high courts across the country. They must take inspiration from the innovative strategies employed by the apex court and implement them to expedite trial proceedings. It's high time that our entire judicial system prioritizes the efficient delivery of justice, ensuring that the wheels of justice turn swiftly for every citizen.



n a commendable stride towards fostering a more inclusive and respectful political discourse, the Election Commission of India has taken a significant step by issuing guidelines to political parties ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. These guidelines specifically address the use of derogatory and offensive language in reference to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Such language, historically employed to marginalize and stigmatize individuals with disabilities, has no place in a modern and inclusive society. The power of language cannot be underestimated. It plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and attitudes toward various social groups. When political leaders resort to derogatory language, it not only reflects poorly on the targeted individuals but also perpetuates harmful stereotypes and contributes to a culture of exclusion. The Election Commission's firm stance against such language sends a clear message that it expects political discourse to rise above divi sive and discriminatory tactics. While these guidelines are undoubtedly a step in the right direction, their effective implementation is paramount. The Election Commission must actively monitor political campaigns and take appropriate action if parties violate these guidelines. This may include issuing warnings, imposing fines, or even disqualifying candidates who persistently engage in the use of derogatory language towards PwDs. Strict enforcement will serve as a robust deterrent, reinforcing that such behavior will not be tolerated in the Indian democratic process. The Election Commission's initiative underscores the significance of language in shaping public attitudes and reflects a commitment to fostering a democratic culture that upholds the dignity and rights of all citizens. As India prepares for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it is imperative that political parties not only acknowledge these guidelines but also actively contribute to building a more inclusive and respectful political discourse. For the first time, the Election Commission has issued a comprehensive set of guidelines to political parties, urging them to abide by these principles. One of the key directives is to refrain from using ableist language in political discourse. Terms like "dumb," "retarded," "blind," "deaf," and "lame" have been historically employed to denigrate and discriminate against individuals with disabilities. The Election Commission rightly insists that such language has no place in the political arena. Political parties and their representatives must strictly avoid comments related to disabilities or PwDs that are offensive or perpetuate stereotypes and prejudices. Any usage of such language may attract provisions of Section 92 of the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, which lists penalties for such offenses. Additionally, political parties are encouraged to declare on their websites their commitment to using disability and gender-sensitive language and etiquette, respecting human equality, equity, dignity, and autonomy. To further promote inclusivity, all political parties are urged to adopt rights-based terminologies as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). They should also provide disability training modules for party workers at all levels and appoint nodal authorities to address complaints from persons with disabilities regarding the usage of ableist language. Moreover, political parties should strive to include more PwDs as members and party workers to break down attitudinal barriers in both the party and the public. This would provide equal opportunities and promote genuine inclusivity in the political landscape. The Election Commission's efforts extend beyond language guidelines. They have taken significant steps to ensure accessible polling stations, including ground-floor locations, Braille signage on Electronic Voting Machines, ramps, priority entry for PwDs, wheelchairs, and accessible toilets. The introduction of home voting facilities for PwD voters with a benchmark disability of 40 percent has also been a notable success, allowing them to exercise their voting rights conveniently and securely.

PM MODI AT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with students during Christmas celebrations at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, in New Delhi, Monday, Dec. 25.

Creating Will to Skill is the need of hour



radical

a major shift.

hy am I asking this question? The question is relevant because nothing can hold you back if you have the will to get skilled. Industry backed courses in emerging technologies, a talent connect portal where you can upload your skill certificates and get highlighted in front of recruiters, and government incentives along the way – all this in one platform is the need of hour. A learner can leverage it if they are keen to skill. Without the will of the learner, ecosystem efforts to skill would be fruitless. May I be given liberty to ask, "Should we rename Skill

India as Will India?" employers expect candidates to One right step in this direcbe skilled on foundational level tion is the NEP2020. In a single of education. This may not be stroke, it brought skills into the available in the regular curmainstream, right alongside riculum which was the need of academics. Shifting from prethe hour as employers expect venting students from dropcandidates to be skilled on oing out, the vision transformed to skill students to make them employment ready. I being a keen observer of the skilling landscape's growth trajectory, can emphasize the significant achievement of NEP 2020 in integrating vocational education and work-integrated learning into academic courses.The workplace is changing rapidly and so are the dynamics of talent planning, perform-

mile and for maximum outreach.

Rigor: Projects and quizzes help learners apply knowledge; fair and transparent assessments and proctored certifications to check skill level.

Retention: The program has to be adaptive, blended, and provide mentoring and career coaching for 360-degree development.

While today's workforce will need to learn new skills and learn to adapt as new technologies emerge continuously, a study was conducted under the guidance of author by the research scholars of BRAUSS (MHOW) School of Social Sciences and Management Studies as to how Industry, academia, and public sector can collaborate to help students, our future workforce, become ready for the future? The findings reveal that the businesses that adopted digital transformation not only survived but also grew despite the crisis. They set the groundwork for strong growth in the new normal because of their fast learning and agile implementation. Similar to this, it was found that upskilling is an essential and unavoidable component of the ongoing success of not only enterprises but also of global economies. The research study suggested that industry can collaborate with academia for upskilling in multiple ways. Centres of Excellence (CoE) are a great way to cooperate. These CoE's established by sectors of technology clusters in college premises will give the students an early start and enable them to seize the opportunities as they come out of educational streams. The results of the study reveal that today in edu-

cational institutions there is lack of digitally skilled staff. Faculty lack awareness about applications of technology. Moreover, they are not in active practice. Industry can collaborate to train and provide practical exposure to academia while supplying some of their best technologists as visiting faculty to colleges. The study come out with several other suggestions also. Most important among them is that Organizations must assist employees in understanding the importance of competency development and establishing it as a critical employee success measure, as well as provide learning resources and enable access to Edutech platforms, partner-led training, and work-lab environments. Organiza-tions must inculcate the right learning culture, set up the required infrastructure, and provide incentives to enable employees to learn and adapt continuously. Organizations must assist employees in understanding the importance of competency development and establishing it as a critical employee success measure, as well as provide learning resources and enable access to Edutech platforms, partner-led training, and work-lab environments. Organizations need to

08

Farmer's Day

Farmer's Day is celebrated on 23 December. Former PM Choudhry Charan Singh gave green signal to many policies for the farmers during his tenure to improve their condition and their lives. Indian Farmers' Day is celebrated every year on Charan Singh's birthday, but now according to the former PM, there have been a lot of people in politics who show seriousness towards the problems of farmers and do politics on these issues. The big issue of farmers is to save their crops from getting destroyed due to the havoc of nature.Agricultural experts should develop such technology so that farmers in every state can be saved from crop losses caused by the vagaries of weather, that is, crops should be harvested and cultivated as per the changes in the weather cycle. If this could be done then it would be a true tribute to the farmer leader.

> N Mateeni, Mumbai Shame for the

government

Deaflympics gold medallist Virender Singh Yadav also decided to return his Padma Shri to the government showing solidarity with the country's top wrestlers who have objected to the election of Sanjay Singh as a chief of Wrestling Federation of India.Reportedly,he is very close to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, member of the Lok Sabha. Sir, my question is that why the Govt is silent, why it doesn't try to solve this crucial matter, and why the government is supporting such evil-mannerd people.

Md Salman, Mumbai **Electoral Chessboard** for 2024

As the political landscape takes shape for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the India Alliance meeting on December 19 witnessed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee proposing Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge as a prime ministericandidate. Arvind al Kejriwal, AAP's national convenor, supported this proposal. If Kharge is declared the joint candidate, the upcoming elections are set to become intriguing. With Kharge's significant role in South Indian politics, his Congress presidency, and his Dalit background, the NDA will face a formidable challenge. As 17% of the population belongs to Scheduled Castes, their support for the India Alliance could shape the elections. The key question remains: will all opposition parties unite behind Mallikarjun Kharge for the contest?

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

toundational level of education. In this connection, the four R's model can play a pivotal role in creating a positive impact on the skilling landscape.

ance management, and candi-

date/employee experience

strategies. Additionally, the HR

value chain is undergoing a

Technology has been a boon to

mankind in terms of freeing

the time to try more intelligent

and productive work! It contin-

ues to drive innovation across

multiple facets of life. While

some companies track produc-

tivity, others monitor employee

engagement and well-being to

better understand employee ex-

perience. Not surprisingly, the

staffing industry is also seeing

It was the need of the hour as

transformation.

Relevant: Ensure the curriculum fulfils current and future needs and is aligned to Industry perspective and NEP2020.

Reach: Ecosystem participation is a must to reach the last

best skill they can learn. Including competency building as a part of the formal performance assessment can be a great way to encourage the employees to upskill.

help employees choose the next

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N Ashraf, Mumbai

Confronting Record Temperatures: The Climate Change Challenge



Shivanshu K. Srivastava

s we stand on the A precipice of 2023, a year poised to shatter records as the warmest in history, the world finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with the undeniable reality of climate change. The shocking revelation, with a 99% chance that the average temperature will breach the critical 1.5°C mark above pre-industrial levels, serves as an urgent wake-up call, demanding a deep reflection on the consequences of our collective inaction.

The forecast, delivered by California-based Berkelev Earth in its November 2023 temperature update, marks a stark departure from earlier

predictions, underscoring the volatile and unpredictable nature of our climate system. The initial estimate of a mere 14% chance of record temperatures in 2023 has given way to a disconcerting certainty, emphasizing the need for a profound reassessment of our approach to climate change mitigation.

While a single year's breach of the 1.5°C threshold does not automatically signify the failure of our climate goals, it serves as an alarming indicator of the precarious state of our planet. The Paris Agreement, a landmark accord ratified by nearly every nation on Earth in 2015, established the 1.5°C limit as a crucial safeguard against the worst impacts of climate change. Now, in the face of the imminent breach. the urgency of our collective response cannot be overstated.

Beyond the statistics and forecasts lies a deeper truth a truth about our dependence on fossil fuels, the relentless march of industrialization. and the insidious impacts of human activity on the delicate balance of our planet.

The unprecedented warming of 2023 is not a mere anomalv: it is a symptom of a broader malaise that demands radical intervention.

The 1.5°C threshold represents more than just a number; it signifies a line we dare not cross. Beyond this point, scientists warn of triggering tipping points, setting off irreversible chain reactions that could reshape our climate in ways we can scarcely comprehend. The melting of polar ice, disruptions to global ecosystems, and the intensification of extreme weather events are but a few of the potential consequences that loom large if we fail to address the root causes of our current trajectory.

As we confront the reality of 2023 breaking temperature records, it is crucial to scrutinize our own contributions to this crisis. The burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and unchecked industrial emissions are the culprits driving this surge in global temperatures. The time for half-measures and incremental change has passed; what is now required is a radical reimagining of our energy systems, production methods, and consumption patterns.

Governments, industries, and individuals must unite in a collective effort to transition towards a sustainable and regenerative future. Green technologies must be embraced, and policies incentivizing clean energy adoption and penalizing environmental degradation must be enacted. The economic cost of climate inaction far exceeds the investment required for a transition to a low-carbon future.

International collaboration is no longer a luxury but a necessity. Climate change is a global challenge that recognizes no borders. The failure of nations to honor their commitments under the Paris Agreement exemplifies the inadequacy of isolated efforts. A coordinated global response is imperative, underpinned by shared responsibility and a commitment to leaving no one behind.

The warming of 2023 is not just a scientific phenomenon; it is a call to arms, urging us to reassess our values and

priorities. The pursuit of unbridled economic growth at the expense of environmental degradation is a Faustian bargain that we can no longer afford. Sustainability must be the cornerstone of our development, with social and environmental wellbeing placed at the forefront our decision-making of processes.

In the face of the unprecedented warming predicted for 2023, we are confronted with a stark choice - to continue down the perilous path of ecological degradation or to embark on a transformative journey towards a sustainable future. The clock is ticking, and the window for meaningful action is rapidly closing. The events of 2023 should serve as a clarion call, a rallying cry for a global movement dedicated to preserving the only home we have - our planet. The time for rhetoric is over; the time for decisive action is now.

(Writer is a poet and advocate, pursuing Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Banaras Hindu University (BHU).)



BUSINESS

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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BRIEF

Green shoots



New Delhi: Green shoots are beginning to become visible as far as investment cycle is concerned led by government spending in the infrastructure sector, Kotak Mahindra Bank whole-time director Shanti Ekambaram said. "I think the last 18 months have been very good on the consumer credit side but you are beginning to see green shoots even in the investment cycle," she told PTI. The government focus on infrastructure development in the last three years has created space for capital expenditure by the private sector as well.

Inks pact

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy (AGEL) on Monday said it has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar **Energy Corporation** of India (SECI) to sup ply 1,799 MW of solar power. With the signing of this balance PPA, AGEL has completed the power offtake tie-up for the entire 8,000 MW manufacturing-linked solar tender awarded to it by the SECI in June 2020, a company state ment said. According to the statement. AGEL has announced

the execution of a PPA with the SECI to supply 1,799 MW of solar power. "We are glad to conclude the largest green PPA and enable a sustainable energy landscape. Aligned to India's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, Adani Green is determined to deliver in excess of 45 GW renewable energy, a five-fold in-

Disinvestment fetches over Rs 4.20 lakh cr in 10 years

but target to be missed again in FY24

New Delhi, Dec 25:

With general elections on the horizon, the government's privatisation bandwagon has almost but stalled as a government wary of being accused of selling family silver opts for minority stake sales on stock exchanges over outright privatisation. The result — the disinvestment target for current fiscal year is again likely to be missed. Big ticket privatisation plans such as that of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) and CONCOR are already on the backburner and analysts feel meaningful privatisation can happen only after April/May general elections. In the current fiscal. out of the budgeted amount of Rs 51,000 crore, about 20 per cent or Rs 10.049 crore has been collected through minority

stake sales via IPO (Initial Public Offering) and OFS (Offer For Sale). Strategic sale of a host of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), including SCI, NMDC Steel Ltd. BEML. HLL Lifecare and IDBI Bank, are in the pipeline for completion in the current fiscal. However, with the process of due diligence and demerger of core and non-core assets vet to be completed with respect to most of the CPSEs, there has been a delay in inviting financial bids. In the case of IDBI

Bank, where the government had received multiple EoIs (Expressions of Interest) back in January 2023, the bidders are vet to get security and 'fit & proper' clearance from the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), respectively. Hence the privatisation of all the CPSEs in the list and IDBI Bank are likely to spill over into the next financial year. In total, there are around 11 transactions which are being processed by DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) currently. There are three more — Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and subsidiaries of AI Asset Holding Ltd(AIAHL), the entity holding the former subsidiaries of the nowprivatised Air India, for which 'in principle' approval of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) is already in place but EoIs have not been invited by DIPAM. "Strategic disinvestment decisions are being governed by political necessities. With elections round the corner, we do not expect any movement on the strategic sale side," a market expert said.

Wheat sown in **30.86 mn** hectares so far New Delhi, Dec 25: After

facing loss due to terminal heatwave last year, more farmers are cultivating climate resilient wheat varieties which has been sown in more than 60 per cent of the planted area of 30.86 million hectares so far, according to agriculture commissioner P K Singh. Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop, sowing of which normally begins in November and harvesting is done from March-April. As per the agriculture ministry data, wheat sown area stood at 30.86 million hectares till December 22 of the ongoing rabi season, slightly lower than 31.44 million hectares in the year-ago period. "This is because there was a delay in wheat sowing in some parts where paddy harvesting got late. Otherwise, wheat sowing is progressing well," Singh told PTI.

Keeping in mind the terminal heat problem that wheat farmers faced last vear, the government this year has promoted climate resilient wheat varieties and kept a target to cover 60 per cent of the total cropped area, he said.

Semiconductor policy to help realise Gujarat's commitment towards self-reliance: CM Patel

Ahmedabad, Dec 25:

The 'Gujarat Semiconductor Policy will help realise the state's commitment for a self-reliant India and Gujarat, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has said. The policy is setting the stage for a future in the world of technology and manufacturing, and helping Gujarat transform itself into a semiconductor powerhouse, he said. According to the state government, chip maker Micron Technology's decision to set up a USD 2.75billion plant at Sanand near Ahmedabad indicates that Gujarat's dedicated semiconductor policy is bearing fruit and attracting global players. Under the policy, the state government will set up 'Dholera Semicon City near Ahmedabad where eligible projects will be given subsidies for setting up manufacturing units, it said ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) to be held in Gandhinagar next month. The summit is a forum for business networking, knowledge sharing and

strategic partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development. In June this year, the Gujarat government signed a Memorandum of (MoU) Understanding with the Micron Technology for setting up a semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand. "With the prime minister's guidance, Gujarat has emerged as a policy-driven state.

Taking this tradition further, we have implemented the country's first dedicated semiconductor policy. Our commitment for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Aatmanirbhar Gujarat' will be realised by this policy," CM Patel has said. In July last year, Gujarat announced a dedicated policy to draw new investments in the semi-

conductor sector by offering incentives and subsidies to start operations in the state, and will remain in force till 2027. The Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) is set to host the ambitious 'Semicon City', spanning

09

5,000-10,000 acres and generating a massive two lakh jobs over the next five years by attracting semiconductor fabrication units, display fabrication units, silicon photonics. and semiconductor assembly, testing, marking, and packaging facilities, as per the state government. Speaking at a startup event recently on semiconductor policy investment, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar said "(Prime Minister) Narendra Modi ji in January 2023 enacted a policy.

We have these big units and plants like Micron coming up in Gujarat." "There are over 30 design startups that have come up. We are going to set up a new Indian semiconductor centre for research." he said.

Running at 100 pc capacity now, NINL: MD Mehta

Was home to snakes, scorpions when acquired by Tata Steel,

Kalinganagar (Odisha), Dec 25: Snakes and scorpions crawled the premises of NINL, the land around was covered with bushes and the plant machinery was full of rust, its MD & CEO Sudhir Kumar Mehta said remembering the challenges involved in restarting the sick unit within a set 90day deadline. The company was in debt, Mehta said, adding NINL is now doing financially good and has generated a revenue of around Rs 3,000 crore in the April-September or

first half of the ongoing fiscal. On July 4, 2022, Tata

owned steel company to be divested by the Narendra Modi-led government through its erstwhile subsidiary Tata Steel Long Products (TSLP) for a consideration of Rs 12,100 crore. "NINL premises is of 2,500 acre. It had been

closed for a long period. When we first entered the unit post the acquisition, there were snakes, scorpions, and lizards crawling in the premises. Bushes up to several feet had grown all over the area and the plant machinery was lying non-functional in rust, Mehta said, replying to a question on the revival of the sick unit within a 90day deadline set by the Tata Steel. parent Accordingly, a detailed plan was chalked out and the entire area was cleaned and made accessible. The offices and buildings were repaired and reconstructed and broadband lines were laid to connect the plant with outside world, he said. In

August, all the employees were paid their entire salary as per the take over agreement. Mehta said. NINL's 1 million tonne per annum (MTPA) steel manunit ufacturing Kalinganagar, around 120 km from state capital Bhubaneswar, was closed for over three years on account of various reasons including lack of funds. Further, technical and mechanical experts from Tata Steel plants in Kalinganagar, Jamshedpur, and Meramandali worked nonstop to restart the NINL blast furnace on October 11, 2022, and the first billet was casted within two weeks on day of Diwali -October 24, he said.

9

New Delhi, Dec 25:

India's first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the UAĖ is helping the world's third largest energy consumer push for taking the local currency global, as it looks for similar deals with other suppliers, officials said, adding internationalisation is a process and there are no targets. With the nation more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs, India has been pursuing a three-pronged strategy of buying from the cheapest available diversifying source. sources of supply and not breaching any international obligation like the

price cap in case of Russian oil. While the strategy helped save billions of dollars, when it ramped up imports of Russian oil that was shunned by some in West post Ukraine war, it is looking to settle trade in rupees instead of dollars in a bid to cut transaction costs by eliminating dollar conversions.

looks for more deals, no targets: Officials

India in July signed an agreement with the UAE for rupee settlement and soon after Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) made payments for purchase of a million barrels of crude oil from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) in Indian rupees. Some of the Russian oil imports too have been settled in rupee. Officials

ISIEI SIGIO

said the default payment currency for import of crude oil has been the US dollar for several decades and the currency traditionally has liquidity as well as lower hedging cost.

But to boost the rupee's role in cross-border payments, the Reserve Bank of India allowed more than a dozen banks to set tle trades in rupees with 18 countries since last year. Since then, India has been encouraging big oil exporters such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia to accept the Indian currency for trade settlements, officials said, adding the first success happened in August this year when IOC made the rupee payment to ADNOC.

Visa, agri, GSP likely to figure in India-US trade policy forum meet in Jan

New Delhi, Dec 25:

Steel completed the acqui-

sition of Odisha-based

Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd

(NINL) — the first state-

last meeting was held in TPF meet had noted that Washington in January the movement of profes

First rupee payment for oil to UAE: India

crease from our current operating portfo-lio," Amit Singh, CEO, AGEL, said in the statement.

Term ends



Mumbai: The board of RBL Bank will no longer have a Reserve Bank of India representative, as the the two-year term of the central-bank appointed additional director Yogesh Dayal has ended. In a communication to exchanges on Sunday, the citybased private sector lender said Dayal's term as an additional director has ended on December 23. Dayal, a chief general manager with the central bank, had to be appointed as an additional director following concerns on the wav RBL Bank was being run and its practices. According to reports, the central bank's concerns included the outlook of the incumbent top management and also its exposure to the riskier unsecured loans.

Issues about visas, promoting agri trade and resumption of benefits under the American generalised system of preferences (GSP) are expected to figure in the meeting of India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in January here, an official said. US Trade **Representative Katherine** Tai will be here for a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval. "Both sides will discuss ways to increase trade and investments between the two countries during the two-day meeting from January 13, 2024. It will be the 14th ministerial-level meeting of the India-US TPF," the official said. The

2023. India in that meeting highlighted the delay in the issuance of business visas to people from India. New Delhi is also keen on restoration of its beneficiary status under the US GSP programme. The previous Trump administration in the US revoked the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from India in 2019. The GSP allows eligible developing countries to export dutyfree goods to the US. About 1,900 Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering were getting duty-free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976. Both the countries in the last

sionals and skilled workers and business travellers between the countries contributes to enhancing bilateral economic and technological partnership, the official added. The official said that the proposed social security totalisation agreement may also figure in the meeting. Under a totalisation agreement, an expatriate in either country need not contribute to the social security schemes of the host country. It would benefit a number of Indians, particularly from the IT sector who are working in America and paying social security but are unable to get any benefit out



E-FOUNDATION

Union Home Minister Amit Shah during e-foundation of various development projects, in Ahmedabad.

Small stocks lead 2023 bull run; give big returns to investors Cyber risks biggest threat faced by

New Delhi, Dec 25:

Smaller stocks have emerged as Dalal Street's favourites in 2023 that has turned out to be a "great year" for equities, rewarding investors with big gains, driven by optimism over the country's macroeconomic fundamentals and heavy retail investors participation. Experts said equity markets are experiencing a prolonged bull run and it is during this time that the midcap and smallcap segments tend to outshine their larger counterparts. Till December 22 this year, the BSE smallcap gauge has jumped 13,074.96 points or 45.20 per cent while the midcap index has surged 10,568.18 points or 41.74 per cent. In comparison, the BSE 30-share benchmark Sensex has ral-



lied 10,266.22 points or 16.87 per cent during this period. The smallcap index scaled its all-time high of 42,648.86 points on December 20 this year and the midcap gauge also reached its record peak of 36,483.16 points on the same day. The BSE benchmark also hit its lifetime high of 71,913.07 points on the major drivers for the

December 20. The midcap index tracks companies with a market value that is on an average one-fifth of blue chips while smallcap firms are almost a tenth of that universe. Analysts attributed better domestic macroeconomic fundamentals and the confidence of retail investors as

exuberance in equity markets this year. "When the overall economy becomes robust, small and midcap segments tend to do well,' Mukesh Kochar, National Head of Wealth at AUM Capital, said. Kochar termed 2023 as a "great vear" as far as the equity market is concerned. "We have seen a new high with broad-based participation," he said. In all bull runs, there has always have a new set of performers and this time PSU, defense and railways emerged as the greatest performers, he said, adding there have been Domestic strong Institutional Investors (DIIs) and retail money in a market where Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were consistently selling

Indian orgnaisations, says survey New Delhi, Dec 25:

Cyber risks are cited as the biggest threat faced by Indian organisations with 38 per cent of respondents feeling highly or extremely exposed to it, says a survey. With this, cybersecurity has jumped two spots from number three to number one on the risk radar when compared to the 2022 Global Risk Survey, the PwC's 2023 Global Risk Survey- India edition stated. PwC said the final results of the survey are based on 3.910 survey responses from Business and Risk Management leaders (CEO, board, risk management, operations, technology, finance, audit) across 67 territories providing their views on the status and direction of risk in their organisation. 163 Indian organisations were a part of

this survey. Other digital and technology risks are also top concerns for business leaders in India (at 35 per cent). To address the challenges, Indian organisations are making bold investments in cybersecurity with more than half of the respondents planning to invest in cybersecurity tools (55 per cent) and AI, machine learning and automation technologies (55 per cent) in the next 1-3 years, according to survey findings. To back these investments, 71 per cent of Indian organisations are gathering and analysing cybersecurity and IT data for risk management and opportunity identification. Globally 61 per cent of the organisations are doing the same. Sivarama Krishnan, Partner and Leader, Risk

Consulting, PwC India said that

the 2023 Global Risk Survey shows that Indian business leaders are not only demonstrating an increased appetite for taking risks but are also doing a reasonable job of identifying opportunities presented by risks. "This mindset shift is critical for an organisation's progress- it will not only help businesses be better prepared to manage risks, but also grow, build resilience, deliver outcomes and create value for all stakeholders," Krishnan added. The survey also showed that

99 per cent of Indian business leaders are confident their organisation can balance growth with managing risk effectively, of which 66 per cent are very confident of the same. Globally these figures stand at 91 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively.



CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

Kiran Dev commences home tour after victory

Minister Kedar Kashyap joins momentous occasion Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Dec 25: The Bharatiya Janata Party's newly appointed State President, Kiran Dev, kickstarts his inaugural tour from his home region, Jagdalpur in Bastar.

Accompanying him on this momentous journey is the three-time Cabinet Minister of the Raman Sarkar and the current Cabinet Minister in the Sai government, Kedar Kashyap. The grand celebration commenced at Sandha Chowk in Jagdalpur at 11:30 am.

The BJP members of Kurud Vidhan Sabha extended a hearty welcome to Kiran Dev and Kedar Kashyap. The event res-

During the gathering, Kiran Dev recognized the

tion



relentless efforts of party onated with party workers passionately chanting workers, attributing the slogans such as "Jai BJP, Bharatiya Janata Party's Jai Chhattisgarh, Jai return to power to their Shri Ram," reflecting unwavering committheir fervor and dedicament. He motivated party members to prepare diligently for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, emphasizing that their dedication and determination would lead to greater achievements. Kedar Kashyap said that our government will fulfill Modiji's announcements as soon as possible and bring prosperity in the state.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent BJP leaders, including Bastar Deputy Incharge Niranjan Sinha, senior BJP leader Kamlesh Thokne, Pankaj Sinha, Suresh Agrawal, former President Jyoti Chandrakar, opposition leader Bhanu Chandrakar, and numerous dedicated party workers, adding to the fervor of the celebration.

Cleanliness campaign observed in various Chowks

📕 In Pandaria Muncipality

Pandaria, Dec 25: Pandaria witnessed a dedicated cleanliness campaign on Sunday, organized under the joint leadership of Mahamaya Seva Samiti and the Municipality of Pandariya. Guided by Swachhata Brand Ambassador Virendra Sharma, Advocate Naval Kishore Pandey, State Executive Member Chandrakumar Soni, and Pandaria Mandal President Gajpal Sahu, the event celebrated Atal Bihari Vajpayee's legacy. The initiative took place at Atal Chowk in Rauha Pandaria under the Municipality.

The campaign promoted cleanliness by focusing on

cleaning various squares and intersections, including Atal Chowk in Rauha. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on the ideals of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Previously, the committee had motivated residents by conducting cleanliness drives at various public locations in the city

for 100 weeks. Now, the committee has recommenced its cleanliness program, aiming to continue fostering a clean and hygienic environment.

Prominent participants in this event included General Secretary Padmraj Tandon, Chintu Thakur, Pawan Anil Kumbhkar, Manmohan

Harish Sahu. Jain Bhaskar Dewangan, Manish Soni, Jai Deva Chandravanshi, Chatterjee, Buddhesh Roy, President and MP of Mahamaya Seva Samiti Sanjay Soni, along with enthusiastic community members from the surrounding areas, contributing to the event's success.

Terra Pati: A time-honored irrigation technique

As technology

farmers shifted

Submersible

reached more villages, and

pumps during the 90s.

gained prominence after

2000, simplifying the ex-

to

pumps

vanced,

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Dec 25: Sukalu Sonkar, a 70-year-old resident of Chaubebandha village, continues to use the age-old "Terra Pati" method to irrigate his garden, ensuring the growth of thriving crops. Every morning, he diligently tends to his small plot, nurturing it with water collected through this traditional technique.

Sonkar reflects on the enduring practice: "We've been using 'terra pati' since ancient times. I plant crops and personally water them. This keeps me healthy and active. Idleness brings troubles, so I stay engaged, exercising my body, aiding digestion, and maintaining my mobility.

He further shares his family's deep-rooted tradition: "I've been involved in cient irrigation.

vegetable farming since my childhood, working alongside my father and grandfather. Today, my children continue this legacy, providing fresh, wholesome vegetables to ensure the community's well-being."

In a nearby garden managed by his son, modernity meets tradition, with the installation of a motor pump for irrigation. This combination of methods showcases the evolving landscape of farming practices.

Decades ago, farmers across the region often employed the "Terra Pati" method, even on larger land holdings. This technique required a two-person effort: one to draw water from a well and another to guide its flow. A spade or shovel was used to create pathways for effi-



adtraction of water from electricity greater depths.

While government initiatives aim to benefit monoblock and diesel farmers, challenges persist, as Sonkar points out: "The Congress government worked on Narva Garva Ghurwa Bari for

Chhattisgarh's farmers, but Bari's farmers did not receive their due, even missing out on submersible pump machines. Farmers, it seems, con-

tinue to operate under their own circumstances, relying on their self-reliance and resilience. Their livelihoods are often determined by the quality of their crops and the market prices they can secure. When both factors align positively, farmers find satisfaction and prosperity.

However, the precarious nature of agriculture means that even a successful crop can lead to financial hardship if market prices do not support their efforts. The challenges faced by farmers underscore the need for effective and equitable support systems to ensure their well-being.

Eurokids Rajim hosts exciting sports day for kids

FUROK

Health

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Dec 25: Eurokids School in Rajim conducted an exhilarating sports day for the children, bringing joy and fitness to the forefront. The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including thrilling races and sessions of Yoga and Zumba centered around "Jaagrt Indriyon".

The school's director, Manmeet Kaur, emphasized that such events are designed to nurture children's physical development, boost self-confidence, and foster essential teamwork skills. Children were lauded for their efforts and enthusiasm. receiving well-deserved certificates and medals. What made this sports

day even more special was the active involvement of parents who joined in the fun-filled activities organized by the school. It was a day filled with laughter,

fitness, and family bonding. Notable attendees included Manmeet Kaur. Prabhu, Jyoti Singh, and the proud parents of the participating children.

CDEOEA delegation meets CM Sai

Key proposals for enhanced benefits and inclusivity

Central Chronicle News



mentation of a 3% reservation rule for disabled individuals in promotions, aligning with the reservation roster of the Chhattisgarh government.

The union proposes the construction of handi

Dongargaon thrashes Mainpur 6-0

In State-Level Football Tournament

Pithora, Dec 25: The Chhattisgarh Disabled Officer Employees Association (CDOEA) recently had a productive meeting with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. During this meeting, the association submitted a comprehensive 6-point demand memorandum, aimed at enhancing the rights and opportunities for disabled officers and employees in the state.

Under this proposal, the disabled vehicle allowance would be increased in line with the seventh pay scale, mirroring the Central gov-

ernment's policies, and straints related to educaswift implementation is on tion and disability within the horizon. Furthermore, the Education Department the association seeks the for Assistant teachers. establishment of a dedicatteachers, and lecturers. Additionally, they call for ed Disability Board to address the challenges faced the introduction of an open by disabled officers and transfer policy tailored to the needs of disabled teachemployees.

The union also advocates ers. Furthermore, their defor the elimination of conmand includes the imple-

Krishna

Kumar

Ashok

Yogendra

President

capped buildings with facilities in every district for the benefit of all disabled individuals. Lastly, the association emphasizes the strict adherence to the Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 within Chhattisgarh.

The meeting, attended by notable figures such as State President Pukram Kurre, State Coordinator Manoj Mahilange, State Treasurer Ishwar Lal Soni, and several others, marks a significant step towards advancing the rights and wellbeing of disabled officers and employees in Chhattisgarh.



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Dec 25: The state-level football competition, hosted in the neighboring village of Maneri, witnessed a series of thrilling matches on Sunday, with all the winning teams securing onesided victories.

In the opening match, Maneri triumphed over Rengakathera with a close 1-0 victory, setting the stage for an action-packed day. However, it was the second match that stole the spotlight as New Star Dongargaon outplayed Mainpur with a commanding 6-0 margin, showcasing

Paddy Procurement woes: Farmers demand limit increase

Societies are responsible for

tokens. However, the cur-

Furthermore, the re-

in paddy purchases conclud-

ing as early as 2 to 3 pm,

whereas an increase in lim-

its could facilitate procure-

procurement.

Rajnandgaon.

The excitement continued with the third match, featuring Ambagarh Chowki and Maneri, where Maneri secured a 2-0 win. In the fourth match, Rajnandgaon faced off against Rabis Club Dongargaon, resulting in a 4-0 victory for

As the competition heats up, spectators can look forward to three more exciting matches on Monday, featuring teams from Maneri versus Salhe, Police Line Rajnandgaon against Bhilai, and Khursitikul versus Rajnandgaon

Arang Rugby players excel at state championship



Central Chronicle News

Arang, Dec 25: The Arang Rugby Football Club showcased its talent at the Under 14 Open State Level Rugby Football Championship held in Raipur. Fifteen players from the club represented Raipur district, and their remarkable performance brought honor to the Arang community.

In the boys' category, players such as Somesh Kunwat, Pawan Sahu, Toran Puri Goswami, Tushan Verma,

community. Public represen-Shriyansh Gupta, Gopal Dhurandhar, Khemraj tatives from the area, includ-Vishwakarma, and Gopi Pal ing displayed their rugby skills. Bhardwaj, Chandrakar, Sandeep Jain, In the girls' category, Anjali Vishwakarma, Dolly Vikram Parmar, Vedprakash Mirdha, Ankita Kunwat, Dewangan, and Ritesh Sahu, Savita Kenwat, Preeti extended their congratula-Nishad, Jagrati Nishad, and tions to the talented players. Jaya Kanwat delivered out-The Arang Youth and Sports Organization, represented by standing performances. Notably, the girls' team per-Patron formed exceptionally well Chandrakar, and secured the champi-Aman Sahu, Vice President onship trophy. Their victory Lokesh Sahu, and Secretary was met with applause and Manish Sonkar, also celebratrecognition from the local ed the achievement.

Concerns mount as procurement deadline nears

Central Chronicle News

Mungeli, Dec 25: Paddy procurement in Mungeli is facing significant challenges due to restrictions imposed on procurement centers. Farmers are increasingly anxious as the set limits remain unchanged, casting doubt on achieving the procurement target with only 25 days left.

Despite the change in government, farmers' issues persist, and the purchase limits in societies are causing growing concerns. The procurement center authorities and farmers alike are distressed by the failure to meet the stipulated deadlines. Both societies and farmers are increasingly

vocal in their calls to raise these limits. Those involved in paddy

procurement centers emphasize that with only 25 days left, increasing the limit is imperative to complete procurement by January 31. Otherwise, an extension of the procurement deadline may be the only option. The existing situation in societies indicates that token quotas are fully utilized by January.

Due to the continuous reduction in the committee's procurement limit from the start of the procurement process, there is a growing concern that the entire paddy will not be purchased by January 31. To address this issue, it is crucial to either raise the limit or extend the procurement period.

Paddy procurement commenced on November 1 across 105 procurement centers in the district, with a ment until 5 pm. This

deadline of January 31 to

predicament is pervasive purchase farmers' paddy. across most societies.

Farmers have prepared allocating 60 percent of ontheir paddy for sale, and as a result, they are flocking to line and 40 percent of offline obtain tokens. They endure rent limits assigned to socilong queues to secure their eties have hindered the tokens, often spending an timely completion of paddy entire day at the society office. This surge in demand underscores the challenge farmers face in selling their duced limits have resulted paddy due to the existing limit constraints.

> The delayed paddy procurement is attributed to farmers' reservations dur-

where they held back their produce in anticipation of paddy purchases and bonuses promised by the BJP and Congress manifestos. Additionally, adverse weather conditions hindered paddy transportation to the procurement centers. As a result, paddy procurement in the district remains far from its target, causing growing concerns among farmers as the 25-day deadline approaches.

ing the assembly elections.

At the government level, correspondence is underway to raise the procurement center limits, and some purchasing centers have already seen an increase in their prescribed limits. As soon as instructions are received, the limits will be expanded accordingly.

- Santosh Singh, District Nodal Officer, Mungeli



CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

SPORTS

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Rohit's mengear up to end 31-year wait for series win in SA

Centurion, Dec 25 (PTI)

He endured the heartbreak of a lifetime 36 evenings back but Rohit Sharma will give his all to erase the memories of a World Cup final defeat as he trains his eyes on ending India's 31-year wait for a Test series win on South African soil.

The two-match Test rubber, starting here on the Boxing Day, will be India's ninth away series in the Rainbow Nation since 1992, and captain Rohit will have an onerous task of traversing a difficult terrain in order to conquer what has always been dubbed the team's 'final frontier'.

However, for the action to start at Supersport Park, the heavy rains predicted on the first two days need to subside.

The Centurion track offers variable bounce and is one of the fastest in the region. And that makes up for a compelling contest between bat and ball in relatively cooler and windy conditions in an open ground where it can jag around a bit.

In the last 50 over World Cup, skipper Rohit, at best would have emulated Kapil Dev and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, but if he and



his men manage to pull off a coup in this country, he would stand first among the equals.

M o h a m m e d Azharuddin (1992) failed, so did Sachin Tendulkar (1996) and Sourav Ganguly (2001). Rahul Dravid (2006-07), Dhoni (2010-11 and 2013-14) won Test matches and so did Virat Kohli (2018-19 and 2021-22) but none of them could win

the elusive series in South Africa. So Rohit will have a job at hand and a win might just be the muchneeded soothing balm re-

quired to heal the World Cup wounds even though the scars will remain.

For the golden generation of Indian cricketers, this is also their last African Safari and a chance to conquest what no other team could on eight previous tours.

In Temba Bavuma's South Africa, they have a team that has a crack fast bowling attack, which could make some of the young Indian batters look like cats on hot tin roof. For Yashasvi Jaiswal, it

will be the first big test

against a quality attack comprising Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee. There will be way more bounce than what he got in the Caribbean, and the variable nature of it will ask him probing questions

Similarly, Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer, who have proven their mettle on sub-continental pitches, need to up their game in more challenging batting conditions.

But all said and done, India's performance will depend on three factors: how well the skipper executes his hook and pull shots, for how much time Virat Kohli decides to leave balls outside the offstump, and how well the team covers up Mohmmed Shami's absence.

It will be another away Test match which Ashwin might have to miss because of conditions and combinations.

At Supersport Park, it normally takes three and half to four days to achieve results and if the toss happens on the second day, after a washout on opening day, batting first will surely be a very difficult proposition.

Match Starts: 1:30 pm IST.

Melbourne, Dec 25 (AP):

Pakistan goes into Tuesday's Boxing Day match against Australia on a 15-match test losing streak, not having won Down Under since November 1995. The team's ever-expanding injury list heading into the Melbourne Cricket Ground test won't make ending the streak any easier.

Pakistan spinner Noman Ali became the second player in two days to withdraw from the touring squad for the remainder of the three-test series due to illness and injury. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz will replace Ali in the squad, the selection committee said on the weekend.

Ali, who didn't play in the 360-run defeat in the first test at Perth last week, underwent surgery for appendicitis in Melbourne on Saturday.

"Noman Ali complained of sudden and severe abdominal pain yesterday, leading to examinations and scans in emergency that confirmed a diagnosis of acute appendicitis," a Pakistan team statement read.

"Post-surgery he is stable and doing fine. He will be discharged later (on Saturday)." The latest blow for the tourists comes after fast bowler Khurram Shahzad, who took match figures of 5-128 in his impressive test debut in

Perth, was ruled out for the remainder of the series with a Plenty of new faces in

Indian women's ODI squad

for Australia series



Australia's captain Pat Cummins (R) walks with Pakistan captain Shan Masood (L) after receiving a gift for the players and their families from the Pakistan team during a training session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in Melbourne on December 25.

rib stress fracture and muscle tear on Thursday. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, who missed out the first test, was also ruled out of the test because of a leg injury.

traveled Pakistan to Australia with a weakened bowling lineup after fast bowler Naseem Shah was ruled out due to a long-term injury and Haris Rauf opted to play in Australia's Big Bash League instead of joining the touring squad. "It is really unfortunate that Noman Ali is not available for the test matches," chief

selector Wahab Riaz said. "Due to logistical challenges, including visa issues for any new player, and considering the requirement for a left-arm spinner, Nawaz was the best available choice for the side."

Australia opener Usman Khawaja, who was reprimanded by the International Cricket Council for wearing a black armband in support of Palestinians in Gaza during the first test, was not expected to wear it on Tuesday for the start of the second. He risked further sanction by the ICC if he

wore it again, and said last week he had no plans to wear the armband again during this series. ICC regulations prevent cricketers from displaying messages of political, religious or racial causes during international matches. Khawaja was born in Pakistan and is the first Muslim to play test cricket for Australia. On Sunday at training, though, Khawaja was seen with the image of a dove holding an olive branch recognized as a universal symbol of peace on his right boot and on the back of his bat.

We really support Uzzy: Cummins



Australia's captain Pat Cummins (C) juggles some balls for his son Albie as his wife Becky (R) looks on.

Melbourne, Dec 25 (PTI):

Australian captain Pat Cummins on Monday

ing the Boxing Day Test against Pakistan.

Cummins said he finds no difference between

told reporters on the eve of the second Test at the MCG.

'As I said last week, 'All lives are equal', I don't think that's very offensive and I'd say the same about the dove."

Backing his 37-yearold colleague who was born in Pakistan capital Islamabad, Cummins added, "That's Uzzy. I think he can really hold his head high with the way he's gone about it.

"But obviously there's rules in place and I believe the ICC have said they're not going to approve that. They make up the rules and you've

got to accept it. Notably, the ICC reprimanded Khawaja for

Shreyanka Patil

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI):

Shreyanka Patil, Mannat Kashyap, Saika Ishaque and Titas Sadhu were on Monday included for the first time in for the upcoming limited overs assignment against Australia. The Indian women's team will play in three One-day Internationals and as many T20Is against the visiting Australian team from December 28 with the first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. A crafty left-armspinner, the Patiala-born Kashyap, 20, was earlier called up for the T20I series against

England but did not get a game. Shreyanka earned her maiden ODI call-up after she made her debut in the T20I series against England earlier this month. In three matches against Heather Knight's women, Shreyanka picked up five wickets and won the Player of the Match award in the third and final T20I of the series. Kashyap was part of India's victorious women's Under-19 World Cup winning squad in February, and so was Titas Sadhu.

Saika Ishaque was one of the top bowlers for the Mumbai franchise in the inau-Women's Premier gural League. The three-match ODI series will be played at the Wankhede Stadium and will

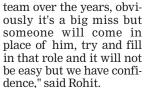
I want to achieve what no other Indian team has in South Africa: Rohit

Johannesburg, Dec 25 (PTI)

Rohit Sharma, as leader of the side, wants to achieve what past Indian teams have not in the past 31 years -- a series victory in South Africa -but even that won't be able to heal the scars of World Cup final defeat.

The skipper wants his unit to be the first one to win a series in the Rainbow Nation in India's ninth attempt since 1992.

'These are very important matches in terms of where we stand as a team. Also to look back that we have never won a series here as well, it's a big opportunity for us to do well



"Prasidh (Krishna) extracts a lot of bounce due to his height and Mukesh can swing the ball. We were suppose to have a look at pitch today and decide whether we want someone to bowl up or back. We have 75 percent decided and rest 25 percent we would tomorrow,' the skipper replied with a wry smile.

South Africa isn't exactly a dream destination for batters and in Shreyas Iver, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal, the team has three top-order players, playing a Test here for the first time. "That's a challenge. But at some point, we (him, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul) were also newcomers when we came to South Africa or Australia or England. And it's the same for these guys as



final defeat and he was straight?

"I don't know whether a Test series win in South Africa can be a balm for a World Cup final defeat. I mean World Cup is World Cup. Itni mehnaat ki haai, kuch toh result milein. (We have been working so hard, it's time we get some big result). We all want that," Rohit answered typically in his own sweet style. However, Mohammed Shami, who played a big role in the 2021 Test win at Centurion, will be missed due to his left heel injury. "What he has done for our

came in support of his Usman teammate Khawaja, saying the opener's attempt to bring to the fore the humanitarian crisis in Gaza was "not offensive".

Cricket's global governing body ICC has rejected Khawaja's application to have a sticker showing a black dove holding an olive branch on his bat and shoes dur-

Pakistan Hockey could face suspension by FIH

After Khokar challenges appointment of new PHF president

Karachi, Dec 25 (PTI): Pakistan hockey could face suspension from the International Hockey Federation after the appointment of a new President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation by the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar was challenged by predecessor, Brig (retd) Khalid Sajjad Khokar.

In a scene reminiscent of a movie script, the newly-appointed PHF President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti took charge of the federation headquarters on Saturday in Lahore surrounded by police and his own security guards.

Khokar, who has remained President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation since 2015, told a news conference on Sunday that he would challenge his removal and the appointment of Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti as the new President.

🔵 🥚 🦲 🍋

Khawaja displaying a dove logo on his shoe and bat to raise awareness of humanitarian issues and teammate Marnus Labuschagne displaying an eagle on his bat which signifies a personal religious message. "We really support Uzzy. He's standing up for what he believes and I think he's done it really respectfully." Cummins

wearing a black armband during Australia's 360-run win over Pakistan in Perth, the action coming after he was barred from wearing boots with the messages "Freedom is a human right" and "All lives are equal" in the colours of the Palestinian flag during the match at the Optus Stadium.

start on December 28. The next two matches will be played on December 30 and January 2.

The action will then shift to DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai which will host the three T20Is on January 5, 7 and 9. Harmanpreet Kaur remains the captain of both the teams with Smriti Mandhana being her deputy. India won the oneoff women's Test against Australia by eight wickets in Mumbai on Sunday.

here," Rohit said on the eve of the opening Test.

'We came pretty close the last two times when we toured here but again we have come to this place with lot of confidence to try and achieve what nobody (Indian) team has ever achieved in this part of the world,' the skipper said, exuding confidence. So will it act as a balm for World Cup

Jyoti Chhatri eyes spot in India's squad for Olympic Qualifiers

year and played across all

six games for India at the

Junior World Cup, scoring

a goal during the thrilling

3-3 (3-2 SO) win over New

nent role during India's

gold medal-winning per-

formance at the Women's

Junior Asia Cup this year.

in Valencia has boosted

my confidence as an indi-

vidual and I am hopeful to

'The preparatory tour

She also played a promi-

Zealand.



New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI): team setup for the past

Boosted by her experience on Valencia tour, young forward Jyoti Chhatri is now eyeing a place in the Indian women's hockey team for next year's FIH Olympics

Qualifiers in Ranchi. The 19-year-old was part of the Indian team at the recently-concluded Nations Tournament in Valencia. She has been a

key figure in the Junior

get a chance to be a part of the Indian squad for the FIH Hockey Olympics Qualifiers Ranchi 2024," she said in a press release issued by Hockey India (HI)

This past year has really helped me develop as a player and I am eager to grab on to every opportunity that comes my way.

'The senior players, coaches, and support staff have been thoroughly supportive and have helped me a lot whenever needed. It is a dream for every player to represent India at the Olympics, and our journey to Paris as a team will hopefully begin in January.

While Jyoti made her senior team debut at the 4 Nations Women's Invitational Tournament in Barcelona earlier this year against England, the 5 Nations Tournament in Valencia was another good chance for her to compete against some of the top teams - Ireland, Germany, Spain, and Belgium.

It came a bit late but will motivate me to do well internationally: Chirag

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI):

After living in the shadows of his illustrious younger brother Lakshya Sen, shuttler Chirag finally wins the men's singles title in the Senior National championships and he says the crown will motivate him to achieve success in the international circuit.

Chirag on Sunday beat fourth seed M Tharun 21-14 13-21 21-9 in the final to win the national crown in Guwahati which Lakshya could never win, having finished second best twice in 2017 and 2019.

"It came a bit late but I am really happy to finally win this. I have been playing well for the last 3-4 months but now got that breakthrough. I am looking forward to start doing well in international circuit also," Chirag, a winner of 2020 Kenya International challenge, told PTI. The 25-year-old Chirag, who has been play-



beat the top 30 players. It is just that I have to play well

While Chirag won the

Commonwealth Games

champion Lakshya lost to

Bharat Raghav in the

quarterfinals. Lakshya

stayed back to support his

after cancelling his 9 pm

flight to Bengaluru. He

"He waited for my final

reigning

academy-mate

during the match.

title.

fellow

older brother.

ing in the domestic circuit for the past few years, admitted that Lakshya had contributed in his career growth. "We both share a great bond. It has been a great journey for us as we have been in the academy together, taking care of each other and his contribution is immense in my career," said the world no. 97. "During the Denmark camp, I got a lot of confidence as I was sparring with him. I got this feeling

was sitting behind me along with my dad during semifinal and final and it motivated me and helped me a lot."

will have Chirag Lakshya as a sparring partner as he gears up for the Asian tour, including the Malaysia Open (super 1000), India Open (super 750) and Indonesia Masters (super 500).

The Uttarakhand shut tler, who started playing men's doubles as well in 2023, said he lost his confidence after facing losses in the senior circuit.

"It was about confidence. I was lacking in that earlier. When I started in the senior circuit I had faced a lot of losses and I didn't have any confidence," said Chirag, who will be playing in Iran and Sri Lanka next.

"I started playing doubles with Dhruv (Rawat) this year. I trained in doubles and I feel it helped me as it is not usual for others as I have a mixed game."

RAIPUR

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

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'India acknowledges Christian community's contribution'

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI)

Minister Prime Narendra Modi heaped praise on the Christian community on Monday for its role in giving direction to the society and sense of service, and said the country proudly acknowledges its contribution.

In an interaction with the members of the community at his residence here on Christmas, Modi recalled his old, intimate and warm relations with Christians since his days as the Gujarat chief minister and said they have always been at the forefront in serving the poor and deprived.

Many thinkers and leaders from the community were part of the country's freedom struggle, he said, adding that educational and healthcare institutions run by the communi-



PM Modi with Christian community members during Christmas celebrations at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, in New Delhi, Monday.

ty continue to make a big ment journey, the prime contribution across India. minister said and noted that the Upanishads, con-Modi said Jesus Christ's life message was centred sidered the fount of Hindi philosophy, also focused on

on compassion and service, and he worked for an inclusive society where justice was for all.

tives on Monday.

ness", he said.

occasion of Christmas.

"May the spirit of

family hope, love and happi-

The CM said, "With a

May the miracle of Jesus'

birth bring miracles in our

lives and bless us with a

The chief minister also

hope-filled 2024".

community members also These values are serving as a "guiding light" in spoke on the occasion and his government's developpraised different initia-

tives of the Modi government. In his remarks, Modi said people can focus on their shared values and heritage to move forward, and the spirit of coopera-'sabka prayas", can take

ing to end poverty. The Pope's words reflect the same spirit that is visible in the BJP-led governdevelopment mantra of "sabka sath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka prayas", he

His government is ensuring that development reaches everyone and it is benefiting Christians as well, especially the poor and deprived, the prime minister said.



A view the the Ridge during winter carnival in Shimla, Monday.

Mumbaikars usher in Christmas festivities **Be professional: COAS amid** row over civilian deaths with midnight masses, carol singing

Mumbai, Dec 25 (PTI)

People rang in Christmas festivities with midnight masses and carol singing on the decked-up streets of Mumbai on Monday.

The city police made elaborate security arrangements near churches to prevent untoward incidents as faithful and revellers took part in the celebrations, an official said.

Midnight masses were held at major churches in the city, including Mount Mary Basilica in Bandra, St Michael's Church in Mahim, St Thomas Cathedral and St Mary's Church in Kalina among other churches.

Carol singing began in the Christian pockets of south Mumbai and the suburbs of western Bandra and Mahim post 10 pm on Sunday.

"Four weeks before the festival, we prepare our hearts and homes. We

Christmas celebrated in Meghalaya

Christmas was celebrated attended a Christmas conin Christian majority cert in his hometown in Tura Meghalaya with midnight at the Baptist Church. The state capital Shillong services in churches and people exchanging greetings and was all decked up and the gifts with friends and relastreets and thoroughfare

were illuminated with lights. Meghalaya Chief Minister In the Khyndailad and Conrad K Sangma wished the Laitumkhrah area of the city, people of the state on the the Tourism department lit up the entire area and government and private build-Christmas bring you and your ings were decorated with Christmas trees, banners and Christmas festoons.

realising the absolute

Some leading Christian

truth like the Bible.

There were traffic snarls at grateful heart for everything the two localities even at that happened this year, I midnight as people thronged send each of you Christmas to take selfies and thousands and New Year greetings filled of passers-by stopped to with faith, hope and love. click pictures on their mobile phones.

Different Church denominations organised special midnight services in their respective churches.

have carol singing in our tainable Christmas tree parish, and this time, made of reused jute rope,' youngsters put up a sus- said Rita D'sa, a parish-

Nagaland celebrates Christmas

Christian-majority Nagaland on Monday celebrated Christmas with religious fervour by holding special prayer services and mass feasts. Houses, government offices and commercial buildings were illuminated on the occasion.

On Christmas Eve, revellers were seen moving around in groups. They greeted each other with 'Merry Christmas' as fireworks lit the sky with the strike of midnight. On Sunday morning, people dressed in their finest

were seen attending special

Mahim ioner from Church. Many groups also visit orphanages and old age homes to celebrate with the inmates, she said.

Christian neighbourhoods in the city wore a festive look. as the streets were lined with fairy lights and star lanterns

prayer services and listening to sermons on the birth of Jesus. They exchanged greetings and enjoyed mass

feasts. In state capital Kohima, various churches of the Chakhesang Naga tribe came together to celebrate the occasion at the NBCC **Convention Centre.**

In a benevolent gesture at commercial hub Dimapur, members of the Dimapur District Autorickshaw Drivers' Union provided free autorickshaw rides to the faithful attending Christmas

with a Christmas tree in everv lane.

services.

"Christians attend mass to welcome the birth of Jesus. The birth of a child is always a joyous occasion for any family," said Dolphy Dsouza, president of The Bombay Catholic Rajouri/Jammu, Dec 25 (PTI):

Amid an ongoing operation to track down terrorists behind the ambush that left four soldiers dead in Poonch last week, Army Chief General Manoj Pande visited the ground zero on Monday and exhorted the commanders to conduct the operations in the "most professional manner".

The Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) also asked them to remain resolute and steadfast against all challenges.

Three civilians picked up by the Army for questioning after the terrorist ambushed two Army vehicles on Thursday at Dhatyar Morh between Dhera Ki Gali and Buffliaz in Poonch were found dead on December 23.

'General Manoj Pande #COAS visited #Poonch sector and was given an update on the prevalent security situation. #COAS interacted with commanders on

nomically weaker section

(EWS), the Delhi High

Court has ruled.

It said the KVS

sion to a student



Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during a visit to review the security situation in the Poonch sector, Monday.

the most professional manner and remain resolute & steadfast against all challenges," the Additional Directorate General of Information Public (ADGPI) of the Indian Army posted on X. Earlier, a defence spokesman in Jammu said the army chief reached Jammu in the afternoon and immediately left for Rajouri-Poonch sec-

tional preparedness and the prevailing security situation.

The officials said General Pande visited Dhera Ki Gali and reviewed the anti-terrorist operation going on in Surankote and nearby Rajouri district's Thanamandi forest belt for the last five days to neutralise the terrorists behind the dastardly attack that left four soldiers dead.

ground, exhorted them to Sabha. conduct the operations in tor to review the opera-

'KVS can't deny admission under EWS category'

tion and coordination, coupled with the spirit of the country to a new height. The Pope, he said, had sought Jesus Christ's blessings for those work-

ment's said.

Plane detained by France to reach Mumbai today

With more than 300 passengers, mostly Indians

Mumbai/Paris, Dec 25 (PTI):

A plane carrying more than 300 passengers, mostly Indians, is expected to land at Mumbai airport early on Tuesday, three days after it was detained by French authorities over suspected human trafficking, a source said.

As per the earlier flight plan, the plane was to land in Mumbai at 2.20 pm.

operated by Romania's Legend Airlines, is expect-

ed to land at Mumbai airport, from Vatry near Paris where it was grounded, at around 1 am, the source said on Monday. The Nicaragua-bound

flight that had taken off from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates with 303 passengers was grounded

metres east of Paris, on Thursday over suspected "human trafficking". The A340 aircraft, being

On Sunday, four French judges questioned the detained passengers.

The hearings were conducted as part of the investigation opened by the Paris prosecutor's office on the suspicion of human trafficking.

the According to French media, some of the passengers spoke

at Vatry airport, 150 kilo-Hindi and the others Tamil.

After authorising the plane to leave, the French judges on Sunday chose to cancel the hearings of the passengers due to irregularities in the procedure.

The plane includes 11 unaccompanied minors. Two passengers in custody since Friday had their detention extended on Saturday evening for up to 48 hours, according to French prosecutors.

certificate issued from the

On ground of certificate issued by another state

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI):

The Centre, which con-Kendriya trols the Sangathan Vidyalaya (KVS), is the appropriate government for notifying the annual income threshold to decide whether a child belongs to the eco-

under the EWS category on the ground that the income certificate has been obtained from another state and not from the

Delhi government. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani said the central government has notified that a certificate for that purpose is to be issued by an officer not below the rank of tehsildar in the state, after carefully veri-

cannot deny admisfying all relevant documents and following due process as prescribed by the respective state governments.

"This implies that for a candidate applying for admission to a KV school anywhere in the country under the EWS category, they need not furnish a

state government where the school is situated but such certificate is required to be furnished by an officer of the specified rank in the State where such verification is possible," the high court said.

It added that the central government has notified the gross annual family income threshold for the purpose of determining EWS category as below Rs 8 lakh.

AST RESPECTS



Army personnel, family and relatives of Naik Karan Kumar gather to pay their last respects to him during a funeral, at Bithoor in Kanpur district, Monday.

'Let's not forget armed forces who are laying down their lives to protect nation'

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI):

Let's not forget about the sacrifices of our armed forces personnel who are at the borders laying down their lives to protect the nation as we celebrate Christmas, Justice DÝ Chief Chandrachud said on Monday.

He said the message of Jesus Christ's life was to sacrifice for the betterment of others.

'We will give up everything, even if it comes to our lives as so many people in our armed forces do in the service of the nation. We lost four of our members of the armed forces two days ago.

'So, as just we celebrate Christmas, let's not forget about those who are at borders...who are giving up their lives to protect our nation. When we sing, we also sing for



In year of milestones, SC upholds Art 370, demonetisation

New Delhi, Dec 25 (PTI):

In a year of milestones, the Supreme Court delivered a melange of seminal verdicts in 2023 including those that upheld the Centre's decisions to scrap Article 370, which bestowed special status on Jammu and Kashmir, demonetisation of Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 currency notes, and refused to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriages.

Under Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, the top court created a record by disposing of an unprecedented 52,191 cases between January 1 and December 15. 2023. It had disposed of nearly 40,000 cases the previous vear.

Though the Modi government received an emphatic endorsement from the Supreme Court for its decisions nullifying Article 370 and binning Rs 1000 and Rs

500 notes, it was at the receivthe Centre. Now the CJI will ing end of apex court order not be part of the committee that held the Delhi governfor selecting members of the ment had legislative and expoll panel as was envisaged ecutive control over services in the March 2 judgement of in the national capital except the Supreme Court. Through the new GNCTD Act the for public order, police and Centre also wrested control land over services from the Delhi

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court (SC) unanimously ruled that the ap-

pointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners shall be

made by the President on the advice of a committee consisting of the prime minister, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

However, these led to the framing of a new law on the appointment of CEC and ECs and amendments to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act by

नर्ड लेजर तकनीक द्वारा छ.ग.शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त कालड़ा बने एव

government.

(मेदना)

प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंट

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them in celebration,"

Chandrachud said, referring to the recent incident in which four soldiers were killed in Jammu and

Kashmir's Poonch district. He was speaking at a Christmas function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association

CJI Justice DY Chandrachud speaks during Christmas celebrations at Supreme Court, in New Delhi, Monday.