



BRIEF



Fireworks at the Mysuru Palace during celebrations of new year 2024, in Mysuru, early Monday.

Feedback

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday sought people's feedback on the progress achieved by India in various sectors in the last 10 years. With Lok Sabha polls months away, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'NaMo' app last month had launched a survey to gauge the popular mood on a variety of issues, including people's views about the performance of his government and that of the MPs.

Suicides

Morbi: A woman and her two daughters allegedly committed suicide on Monday morning in Gujarat's Morbi district, a police official said. Manjulaben Khandekha (45) and her daughters Anjana (23) and Sejal (19) hanged themselves in their home in Wankaner, Sub Inspector Dharmishtha Kanani said.

Booked

Hyderabad: A total of 3,001 people were booked for drunk driving as part of the special drive taken up during the new year celebrations under three police commissionerates covering Hyderabad city and the suburbs, police said on Monday. The drive was conducted from 8 pm on December 31, 2023, to morning on January 1 to prevent road accidents and other untoward incidents, police said.

Mishap

Tiruchirappalli: Four members of a family including two minors were killed when a portion of a roof caved in suddenly when they were sleeping in their house, police said here on Monday. A 75-year-old woman identified as C Shanthi, her daughter-in-law Vijayalakshmi, and two granddaughters were crushed to death when the roof collapsed on Sunday night, the police said.

Protest

Mumbai: Truck drivers staged 'rasta roko' protests at many places in Maharashtra on Monday against the stringent punishment and "steep" fine prescribed for motorists under the hit-and-run provision in the new penal law. In Navi Mumbai, a policeman was injured when a group of truckers attacked him in Nerul in the morning hours, prompting police to use force to disperse the mob gathered on the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway, an official said.

Weather
High 28 Low 14

MARKET
NIFTY 21,741.90
SENSEX 72,271.94

BULLION
GOLD 63,322
SILVER 74,435

NEW PENAL LAW

Truckers, bus drivers protest against 'hit and run' provision

Raipur, Jan 01:

Drivers of commercial buses and truckers on Monday stopped work and staged protests at several places in Chhattisgarh demanding the withdrawal of the provision in the new penal law regarding hit-and-run accident cases involving motorists.

The protests caused inconvenience to several commuters and also affected the transportation of goods to an extent.

People queued up at petrol pumps in various cities fearing that the agitation may hit fuel supply in coming days.

Drivers of more than 12,000 private buses across the state stopped work on Monday, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded at



Police trying to disperse truck parked at Siltatra here as part of strike called by transporters.

bus stations in Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, and Rajnandgaon among other cities. Stranded passengers were seen trying to make alternative travel arrangements.

Many passengers at the inter-state bus station in Bhatagaon in Raipur rushed to hire private

taxis and auto-rickshaws to reach their destinations. "Around 1 lakh drivers, including those engaged in operating buses, trucks, transport and school buses, have launched a protest on Monday as a part of 'steering chhodo andolan'," Chhattisgarh Vahan

What law says.....

Under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the colonial era Indian Penal Code, drivers who cause a serious road accident by negligent driving and run away without informing the police or any official from the administration can face punishment of up to 10 years or a fine of Rs 7 lakh. Chhattisgarh Vahan Chalak Sangh convener Jitendra Shukla said the 10-year jail term and Rs 7 lakh fine are very harsh on drivers.

Chalak Sangh convener Jitendra Shukla told PTI. He said "chakka jam" protests will be held in various districts beginning Tuesday against the new provision on hit-and-run accident cases.

Ram Lalla consecration to take place at 12.20 pm

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 01 (PTI): The consecration of Ram Lalla in the newly built temple in Ayodhya will take place at 12.20 pm on January 22, said Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra General Secretary Champat Rai on Monday.

Interacting with reporters here, he said, "Pran pratistha will take place at 12.20 pm. After this, you should perform aarti, distribute prasad in the localities and markets, and light lamps after sunset." "A similar appeal has been made by the prime minister to the entire world," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in the consecration ceremony.

Rai attended the launch of the 'akshat' distribution programme in Ayodhya on Monday.

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RECORD HOLDER

ISRO heralds 2024 with satellite to study black holes in space



ISRO's PSLV-C58 carrying an X-ray polarimeter satellite and 10 other satellites lifts off from the spaceport of Sriharikota, Monday.

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh), Jan 01 (PTI): ISRO on Monday ushered in 2024 with the successful launch of its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite that would offer insights into black holes in the space, making the country only the second to conduct experiment into such celestial objects.

Among the payloads that piggybacked the space agency's ever reliable Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) was one made by women, prompting ISRO to call it an inspiration for the country.

The PSLV-C58 rocket, in its 60th mission, carried the primary payload XPoSat and deployed it in an intended 650 km low

earth orbit. Later, scientists performed the orbit lowering maneuver by reducing the altitude to 350 km for conducting the POEM experiment.

Speaking at the Mission Control Centre, ISRO Chairman S Somanath said "happy new year to all of you." "So on 1 January 2024, yet another successful mission of PSLV has been accomplished. PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite XPoSat in the desired orbit."

The main X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) is intended to investigate the polarisation of intense X-ray sources in space. It is the first dedicated scientific satellite from ISRO stable to carry out such research.

Infant killed, mother and 2 DRG jawans injured

In encounter with Naxals

Bijapur, Jan 01: A 6-month-old girl was killed and her mother was hurt in firing between security forces and Naxalites in Bijapur in Chhattisgarh on Monday, which also left two District Reserve Guard jawans injured, an official said.

The gunfight took place at around 5 pm in a forest near Mutvandi village under Gangaloor police station limits when a DRG team was out on an anti-Naxal operation. A 6-month-old girl was killed and her mother was hurt in firing. The injured woman and the two jawans have been hospitalised, while a search operation was un-

derway at the site of the encounter by personnel from the DRG and the Central Reserve Police Force, he said.

About the encounter

The gunfight took place at around 5 pm in a forest near Mutvandi village under Gangaloor police station limits when a DRG team was out on an anti-Naxal operation. A 6-month-old girl was killed and her mother was hurt in firing. The injured woman and the two jawans have been hospitalised.

Govt declares Canada-based Goldy Brar as terrorist

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI):

Canada-based gangster Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar, who was the alleged mastermind of the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, was on Sunday designated terrorist by the government under the anti-terrorism law UAPA.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said Brar, backed by a Pakistan-based agency, has been involved in multiple killings and professes radical ideology. He figured in making threatening calls to pro-nationalist leaders, demanding ransom and posting the claims of killings on different social media platforms. An activist of the banned Babbar Khalsa



International, Brar has been involved in the smuggling of high-grade arms, ammunition and explosive materials through drones from across the border and supplying them for carrying out killings and also providing sharpshooters.

He hails from Sri Muktsar Sahib in Punjab and is presently residing in

Brampton, Canada. The home ministry said Brar and his associates have been conspiring to disrupt the peace, communal harmony and law and order in Punjab through nefarious designs including sabotage, raising of terror modules, carrying out targeted killings and other anti-national activities

A Red Corner Notice has been issued against him by Interpol and there is a non-bailable warrant against him.

The central government believes that Satinder Singh alias Goldy Brar is involved in terrorism and he is to be added as a terrorist in the Fourth Schedule to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the home ministry said.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



People release balloons during celebrations of the new year 2024, in Ahmedabad, Monday.

Tsunami alert after 7.5 magnitude tremor rocks Japan

Tokyo, Jan 01 (AP):

Japan issued tsunami alerts and told people to evacuate seaside areas after a series of strong quakes on its western coastline on Monday.

The Japan Meteorological Agency reported quakes off the coast of Ishikawa and nearby prefectures shortly after 4 p.m., one of them with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6.

It issued a major tsunami warning for Ishikawa and lower-level tsunami warnings or advisories for the rest of the western coast of Japan's main island of Honshu. Japanese public broadcaster NHK



Cracks are seen on the ground in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan Monday.

TV warned torrents of water could reach as high as 5 metres (16.5 feet) and urged people to flee to high land or the top of a nearby building as quickly as possible. NHK said the tsuna-

mi waves could keep returning, and warnings were continuing to be aired more than two hours after the initial alert. Several aftershocks also rocked the region.

Puri temple implements dress code for devotees

Puri, Jan 01 (PTI):

The administration of Shree Jagannath Temple on Monday made dress code mandatory for devotees wishing to enter the 12th century shrine. It also put a complete ban on chewing gutkha and pan in the shrine premises and use of plastic and polythene from the New Year's day of 2024.

An SJTA official said devotees will be required to wear "decent clothes" to enter the shrine. Devotees wearing half pants, shorts, torn jeans, skirts and sleeveless dresses will not be allowed to enter the temple.

With the rule coming into effect male devotees coming to the temple on



the first day of 2024 were seen wearing dhoti and towels and women were clad in either sarees or salwar kameez as they thronged to have a darshan of the deity. The

'Shorts, ripped jeans, skirts banned'

People wearing half-pants, shorts, ripped jeans, skirts and sleeveless dresses will not be allowed entry into the famed Jagannath temple in Odisha's Puri as a dress code came into force on Monday, officials said. The SJTA also increased its vigil on chewing gutkha and pan inside the temple, besides the use of plastic bags, which have been banned, they said. The air-conditioned tensile fabric structure that has been built outside the temple was made functional in the morning.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had earlier issued an order to the effect and the police were asked to enforce the restrictions. The official said the ban on gutkha

and pan in the temple premises was being implemented to maintain its sanctity. Those who violate the restriction are being fined, he added.

Meanwhile, a large number of devotees have thronged the seaside pilgrim city to have a darshan of Lord Jagannath on New Year's day. The temple doors reopened for the devotees, who have queued up at the Grand Road in front of it, at 1.40 am.

Policing strengthened with technology and innovations

SSP Garg presents annual report

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: On Monday, SSP Ram Gopal Garg presented the annual report of Durg Police. He said that the district recorded a decline in serious crimes. Police took timely action and resolved the cases. A campaign was launched on a large scale against drug addiction and police succeeded in seizing illegal liquor in huge quantities. Police also managed to save the money of online fraud victims.

SSP Garg has strengthened the policing by several successful experiments of innovation. He has separated the tasks of 'law and order' and 'crime investigation' and has ensured speedy justice to the victims. In the year 2023, there is an action plan to improve policing by using

new technologies, mobile and web apps like Cyber Prahari, Trinayan (CCTV monitoring app) and Sashakt (vehicle theft database app) etc as innovations in the district.

SSP Garg said that amidst the ever increasing population and rising number of vehicles, Durg Police has been successful in controlling crime through its various awareness campaigns and legal actions. In the year 2022, a total of 7411 crimes were registered, while in the year 2023, a total of 6555 crimes were registered.

There has been a 12% decrease in the crimes in comparison to the previous year. Out of the registered crimes in 2023, Durg Police resolved 83% cases and challans are ready in 7% cases. Thus, a total of 90% of the crimes have been resolved.

Durg Police arrested the accused in property crimes (robbery, embezzlement and theft) and recov-

ered booty worth more than Rs 4.16 crore. 1380 cases were registered in 2022 while 1183 cases were lodged in the year 2023, which is a decrease of 14%.

821 cases of body related crimes (murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping) were registered in the year 2022, while 811 cases were lodged in the year 2023, which is a decrease of 1.21%.

Crimes against women are being reviewed and continuously monitored by the Investigation Units of Crime against Women. Such cases are being resolved within the time limit. 485 cases of crime against women (rape, humiliation, torture) were lodged in 2022 while 403 were lodged in 2023, which



is a decrease of 17%.

Under Operation Muskaan, the police recovered / rescued 147 minors (boys/girls) out of 266 missing from different police station areas. The recovery rate of missing children was 55%. The police also searched for 644 men and women who went missing in the year 2023 from various places and reunited them with their loved ones.

ple involved in drug trade, peddling and smuggling of intoxicants (ganja, brown sugar etc) and illegal liquor. In the year 2022, 2567 liters of illicit liquor was seized, while in the year 2023, 10763 liters of illicit liquor was seized.

In the year 2022, 107 kg cannabis in 46 cases and 120 grams of brown sugar in 72 cases were seized in 2022. In the year 2023, 410 kg cannabis, 233 grams of brown sugar and 152 grams of heroin have been recovered. The recovery is 55% higher than previous year.

Preventive action: To maintain law and order and control crimes, people of suspicious and criminal character were

monitored and necessary statutory/restrictive action was taken against them. In the year 2022, action was taken in 7292 cases while action was taken in 14572 cases in the year 2023, which is a 100% hike in this category.

Traffic Management: To improve traffic regulation, Durg Police in coordination with the District Administration, National Highways and Transport Department took action against violators and penalised 50119 vehicle drivers.

Focus on cyber crime: A special campaign is being run to control cyber crimes. People are being made aware through social media groups and awareness programs. The Anti Crime and Cyber Unit took immediate action on the complaints.

In 2338 complaints, a duped amount of Rs 1,33,11,053 was put on hold in the banks and saved. On Court's order,

Rs 7,21,059 was recovered and returned to the victims. 320 stolen / lost mobile phones worth Rs 80 lakh were found and returned to owners.

Mahadev Book Online Betting: Continuous raids were conducted against people involved in cricket betting through an online app (Mahadev Book) and 194 accused were arrested in 26 cases. 78 laptops, 371 mobile phones were seized and 231 bank accounts operated by the accused were frozen.

Chit Fund Refund: Police took action against the chit fund companies and made efforts to return the money to investors. In the year 2023, 15 directors of various companies have been arrested and sent to jail. Also, a total of Rs 8.60 crore has been returned to 6291 investors after auctioning the assets of companies like Shushk India Company and Yash Group.

'Chandulal Chandrakar's efforts resulted in statehood to CG'



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: Badruddin Qureshi, former minister of Chhattisgarh state, remembering Late Chandulal Chandrakar on his 103rd birth anniversary stated that it was his efforts that resulted in bringing statehood to Chhattisgarh. Qureshi and other Congress party workers observed the Jayanti at Chandulal Chandrakar Square Supela and garlanding his statue in the premises of Shram shakti Sadan Sector-6 office. The office bearers of Chandrakar Samaj also offered floral tributes and pledged to follow the paths shown by him.

Qureshi further said that the leaders and workers of all the po-

litical parties of the country are witness to the movement initiated by Late Chandulal Chandrakar for the formation of Chhattisgarh state. He had put forth the proposal to make Chhattisgarh a state while addressing an "Aam Sabha" being held in Arjunda in 1992. Erstwhile Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh who was also present at the gathering, had in his speech extended support to the demand and urged Chandulal to take step forward in the direction.

Subsequently, late Chandulal Chandrakar started a movement in the entire district for the creation Chhattisgarh state. The movement gained in momentum and Digvijay Singh

had no option but to include this issue in the manifesto of that assembly election. As soon as the Congress government was formed in erstwhile Madhya Pradesh, a resolution was unanimously passed in the assembly to create Chhattisgarh state.

Thus, it was this movement that culminated into the formation of Chhattisgarh state, Qureshi concluded. Pawan Chandrakar, Samaylal Sahu, Baldau Prasad, Kuleshwar Chandrakar, RS Sharma, Mohanlal Gupta, Pushpakraj Deshmukh, B Jogarao, Arun Singh, JR Sahu, Ishwar Prasad Verma, Didar, Lakhnam, Sanjay Gupta, Nandkishore Gupta were present in the program.

Performance Enhancement Program for Educators concludes at DAV Hudco

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: In a momentous culmination, DAV Hudco successfully concluded its 2-day Performance Enhancement Program, an event aimed at refining the pedagogical skills of teachers across various subjects. The program, held on December 30, 2023, brought together educators in a collaborative effort to elevate the standard of education at the institution.

The workshop culminated with the valedictory function where the platform was aggrandized by Ravi K Bhaskaran (ACC Jamul), GV Rajshekhar Rao (TATA Sonadih), CM Pandey (SECL Kusunda), Pramit Jain (MMPS Pamgarh), SK Shrivastava (LIONS DAV Akaltara), Santosh Kumar Shrivastava



(Monnet Raigarh), SK Pandey (SECL Chirimiri), HK Pathak (SECL Bishrampur), Rajkumar Sharma (Monnet Raipur), Anamika Bharti (SECL Korba), Prashant Kumar, the Principal of DAV Hudco, expressed optimism about the positive impact the program will have on the overall academic environment.

He remarked, "This initiative aligns with our vision of providing quality education. Our teachers are key influencers, and their enhanced skills will undoubtedly contribute to the holistic development of our students." The closing ceremony, marked by a sense of accomplish-

ment and camaraderie, showcased the commitment of DAV organisation to continuous professional development. The program's objective was to equip teachers with innovative tools, methodologies, and insights to enhance their teaching practices and enrich the learning experience for students. The Resource Persons were honoured with the mementos. Teachers shared their reflections on the transformative journey over the two days.

Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage with experts in education, exchange ideas, and learn practical strategies applicable to their specific subjects. The interactive workshop helps to disseminate the technology based learning which creates creative thinking and results in experimental learning. The vibrant and enthusiastic delegates felt empowered attending the meticulously designed workshop. The workshop opened new horizons of effective teaching. The function concluded with Shanti Path.

Bhilai Steel Plant felicitates 150 students with 'Protsahan' Scholarship

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Education Department organised a Merit Award function "Protsahan" to encourage the wards of BSP's Contractual Workers at Nehru House of Culture, Sector-01, on December 29, 2023. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. The scholarships were given away by Kumar to 150 beneficiary students under the Protsahan Scheme.

JY Sapkal, CGM (TA & CSR), JN Thakur, GM (IR&CLC), Shivrajan, GM (CSR), and Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) were also



present on this occasion, along with other Senior Officials of Bhilai Steel Plant, OA Representatives, Union Representatives, Scholarship recipient students, and their parents in large numbers. The program began with lighting of the Ceremonial Lamp by the guests and Welcome Song by students.

Chief Guest Pawan


Kumar, ED (P&A), congratulated the recipients of the awards and said that the merit awards are meant not only to support the students financially but also to encourage them to perform even better in academics and hold the torch of excellence aloft in future as well. The awardees should strive to become better human be-

ings and keep Bhilai's culture alive, Pawan Kumar said.

At the outset Shikha Dubey, GM (Education) gave the Welcome Address and briefed about the Protsahan Scheme. JY Sapkal, CGM (TA&CSR) congratulated the recipients for working hard to achieve the well-deserved awards and encouraged them to reach new horizons of excellence.

Out of the 287 applications received this year, the Merit Awards worth Rs 11,50,000/- (Eleven Lakh Fifty Thousand only) were awarded in the function to a total of 150 beneficiary students including 101 Boys and 49 Girls. The

"Protsahan" Scheme has been launched under SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's CSR initiative, to recognize and motivate the wards of contractual workers working under Bhilai Steel Plant for their good academic performance in classes 8th, 10th, and 12th. The top 50 students of each class, who have passed out in the Academic Session 2021-22, have been awarded Rs 5,000/-, 8,000/- and 10,000/- respectively, under the Protsahan Scheme. Sarita Bahal, Head Mistress and Uma Pandey, Lecturer compered the programme, while Sumita Sarkar, Principal (SSS Sector-10) proposed Vote of Thanks.



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BMC conducts anti-encroachment drive in Sunday market

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: A joint team of Bhilai Municipal Corporation Bhilai, District Administration and Police conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Supela Sunday Market. The traffic congestions on the road between Supela Square to Gada Chowk were removed. The flooring, ties and paver blocks installed in front of the shops were removed. On the instructions of Commissioner Rohit Vyas, the team of Zone 1 and 2 of the Corporation had made markings at Supela Sunday Market on Saturday. The shops were allowed within the marking and all the extra encroachment made by carts, tables outside the allotted shops and street vendors were removed. After marking the road with white paint, an announcement was made that the traders should conduct their business



within the prescribed area. Do not obstruct the road by setting up carts, stalls, etc. On Sunday morning at 6 am, the BMC team reached the spot in the presence of the district administration officials and police force. The team launched the anti-encroachment drive and removed the bamboo poles and tin sheds installed in front of the shops and seized them. Five JCB of the team removed the cement flooring, paver blocks and tiles installed by the shopkeeper in front of the shop on

both sides of the road. It needs to be mentioned here that BMC was continuously receiving complaints about Sunday Market, which was affecting the traffic on the road from Gada Chowk to Supela Chowk. Acting on the complaint, action was taken on Sunday last month and the road was vacated. But again the traders started doing their business on the road. Considering the situation, action was taken on December 31 and the road was freed from encroachments.

34th Triennial Convention of HMS from Jan 03

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 01: On the occasion of the diamond jubilee of the foundation of Hind Mazdoor Sabha, the 34th Triennial Convention is being organized in Nagpur from 03 January to 05 January 2024.

Under the leadership of HMS Chhattisgarh State President Nathuram Pandey, State Executive President HS Mishra and General Secretary Salil Lawrence, a large number of labour leaders and workers from Bhilai Steel Plant, Nagarnar (Jagdulpur), Balco (Korba) and industries of Coal, Railway and

many private sector industries are going to attend the convention.

Thousands of laborers are departing for Nagpur on January 02 to participate in this convention. The delegates will get an opportunity to listen to HMS National General Secretary Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, who has been continuously sounding the bugle of struggle against this anti-labor and anti-farmer government for many years.

Acting State President HS Mishra said that every farmer, laborer and youth of Chhattisgarh is ready to support Sidhu in the struggle for labour rights.

Work with sensitivity for betterment of Ch'garh: CM to officers

Raipur, Jan 01: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has asked the officials to work with better strategy and sensitivity towards achieving departmental goals in the next one year. People have many expectations from the new government and to accomplish all this it is necessary to work hard, he said in his meeting with Secretaries of various departments at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan) on New Year. The Secretaries wished the Chief Minister a Happy New Year. The Chief Minister also wished them Happy New Year. The better the Secretary level officers in



Mantralaya work on the schemes made for public welfare, the more help will the local authorities get in their implementation at the ground level, he said. During the meeting with the secretaries,

Sai greets secretaries a happy New Year, asks them to plan and work for whole year

Chief Minister Sai specifically discussed about the guarantee given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of Chhattisgarh. 'It is our priority to fulfill all the guarantees of Modi ji. The progress that has been expected in the implementation of central schemes in the last five years has to be extended to the people. From Pradhan Mantri Awas

Jyana to pure drinking water for the people, Modi ji's guarantees are related to the daily needs of the common people', said the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said in the discussion that portfolios had been allotted to the ministers. According to the intention of the government, there is to be rapid progress in public welfare schemes, he said. 'We have also launched Atal Monitoring App on Good Governance Day. Through this we will continue to get updated information about the progress of the schemes', he said.

PAYING OBEISANCE



People offered prayers and obeisance on the first day of the New Year in temples for a good and happy prosperous year ahead.

Republic Day to be celebrated with dignity

Raipur, Jan 01:

The main Republic Day function will be organized on 26 January at the Police Parade Ground in the capital Raipur. Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan will hoist the flag and take the salute of the parade at 9 am in this grand ceremony. The General Administration Department has written a letter to all the departments, all the Divisional Commissioners, all the Collectors and all the Chief Executive Officers of the District Panchayat for organizing the Republic Day celebrations, taking special precautions including wearing masks, and strictly following social distancing etc. in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like previous years, this year also instructions have been given to organize programs and other cultural programs for school children. According to the scheduled program, the Governor will address the state level event after the flag hoisting and parade salute. Apart from this, there will be a display of tableaux run by various departments and institutions at the venue and there will also be a medal award ceremony. Colorful balloons will also be released at the venue. Contingents of CRPF, CISF, DF, Jail Force, Home Guard, STF Commando, BSF, ITBT and other armed forces will also participate in the parade to be held at the state level. In the district headquarters, the ministers will hoist the flag and take the salute of the parade

and the Chief Minister's message will be read out. In the letter issued by the General Administration Department, it has been clarified that there will be no parade at any place except the district headquarters. The contingents of Army (wherever available), Police, Municipal Army and Jail Guard will participate in the parade.

The flag will be hoisted by the District Panchayat President at the District Panchayat or Tehsil level and in such Municipal Councils/Nagar Panchayats whose headquarters are not at the block headquarters, by the President of the Municipal Council/Nagar Panchayat. Instructions have been given to sing the national anthem collectively after hoisting the flag by the Sarpanch in Panchayat headquarters and in large villages by the village head. The main functions to be organized in the state capital Raipur and other district headquarters will start from 9 am, in view of this, the flag hoisting program in the government offices located in Raipur and other district headquarters should be completed before 9 am, so that these offices the officers and employees can participate in the main function of the district. The national anthem will be sung collectively by department and office heads by organizing flag hoisting program in their government offices. Flags will be hoisted in government and public buildings and lights will be lit on the night of 26 January.

GST taxpayers can appeal till January 31

Raipur, Jan 01:

The amnesty scheme for GST taxpayers has been brought by the GST Council. Under this scheme, taxpayers can appeal till January 31 against the assessments made by the tax authorities till March 2023.

It is notable that under the GST Act, a taxpayer can file an objection against the tax assessment within three months of the passing of the tax assessment. The decision



on this was taken in the 52nd meeting of the GST Council. According to the information received from tax experts, under this scheme, the taxpayer will have to appeal against the demand orders passed by the tax authorities by March 31, 2023. As per the GST law, an appeal can

be filed against an assessment order demanding tax within three months of the passing of the order by a prescribed tax officer, this has now been extended by one more month. Under the GST law, tax authorities can temporarily attach assets, including bank accounts, of GST-registered entities for non-payment of taxes. These days, the GST department is taking action against fraudulent companies and GST evaders.

Public grievances heard at Jan Chaupal

26 applications received



Raipur, Jan 01:

Additional Collector BB Panchbhai today heard grievances of citizens, villagers and women from various development blocks of the district through Jan Chaupal organized in the Collectorate under the guidance of Collector Dr Sarveshwar Bhure. After hearing public grievances Panchbhai instructed the concerned officers to take immediate steps for redressal as per the rules. With proper imple-

mentation of all the government schemes, it should be ensured that the benefits of the schemes are provided to the common people on time, he said. Kushalpur resident Vijay Sona submitted application for drain construction under Ward-66 while Jeetu Babar sought action against porter Sunil Nayak for illegally collecting money. Murari Patel demanded action against cleaning contractors. Mowa resident Arun Pandey demanded action against fake caste certificate.

Kaushal Prasad Upadhyay of Ashwani Nagar submitted an application regarding securing the possession of his house and land. He also complained Shram Samman amount was not given to the daily wage employees of DKS PGI and Research Center Hospital.

Dunda resident Avinash Sahu complained about encroachment and construction of a shop on government land and requested for action against encroachment. Vijay Bajaj, a resident of Katora Pond, complained about the encroachment on government land in village Kathadih by unauthorized persons and demanded appropriate action. Social worker Suresh Diwan demanded the construction of children's toilet in the government primary and pre-secondary school of village Akoli, repairing the road and completing the road asphaltting work at the earliest.

Laparoscopic Surgery helps 25 year old Woman to get new life

Suffering from rare disease known as achalasia cardia

Raipur, Jan 01:

In a groundbreaking medical achievement, a 25-year-old woman in Chhattisgarh, overcomes a severe difficulty in swallowing food and liquids. Affected by a disease that left her entire food pipe damaged, she had a rare disease known as achalasia cardia with a rare complication where food pipe is damaged and dilated known as sigmoid oesophagus. Dr. Gaurav Joshi, Consultant, General & Laparoscopic surgery suggested her laparoscopic Heller's cardio myotomy following the laparoscopic

Following the laparoscopic procedure, the recovery was swift and remarkable, with minimal pain. The woman swiftly



regained her ability to swallow, marking a return to normalcy. Notably, she spent only 2 days in the hospital, underscoring the efficiency of laparoscopic surgery and its advantages in facilitating a quicker return to regular activities compared to traditional methods. Dr. Gaurav Joshi's pioneering work in laparoscopic surgery is redefining the landscape of gastroenterological treat-

ments. The success of this complex case highlights the potential of advanced laparoscopic techniques in providing effective and minimally invasive solutions for challenging medical conditions. Expressing his satisfaction with the outcome, Doctor stated, "I am delighted with the outcome of the laparoscopic procedure. It is truly remarkable how minimally invasive techniques can achieve such significant results in complicated cases of Achalasia Cardia." The success of this case not only brings relief to the patient but also showcases the transformative power of innovative medical approaches in overcoming complex health challenges. The girl has fully recovered and is currently doing job.

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal takes charge

Raipur, Jan 01: Health and Family Welfare Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal assumed charge today after offering prayers at Mantralaya (Mahanadi Bhawan) here. Additional Chief Secretary of Health Department, Mrs. Renu Ji Pillay, Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, Commissioner of Health Department, Dr CR Prasanna, Director of National Health Mission Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan, Director Health



Services JP Maurya, Director of AYUSH Department Ms Namrata Gandhi and senior officials of the Health Department were present on the occasion.

New Year welcomed with enthusiasm by Raipurian

- People danced till late night
- First day of New Year celebrated with spending quality time with friends and families



People in large number flocked to city's Jungle Safari and Purkhouti Mukhtangan to celebrate the New Year here on Monday.



Raipur, Jan 01: The residents of the city warmly welcomed the New Year 2024. Small and big programs were organized in more than 100 hotels and restaurants in the city. Big events were organized in 20 hotels. Famous DJs and artists gave live performances here. As 2024 arrived, Raipurians witnessed enthusiastic celebrations marked by parties, fireworks, resolutions, and large gatherings at celebration points in city bid farewell to 2023.

People thronged celebration points in city to bid

farewell to 2023. New Year's aarti and prayers were performed at major temples and church, which drew a large crowd.

To celebrate the New Year, people kept dancing till late night, forgetting the old memories of 2023. Delicious and mouth-watering dishes were also served along with the entertainment. As soon as it was 11:59 pm, the New Year countdown started. People

welcomed the year of hopes by cutting the cake while counting 60 seconds in a loud voice. Meanwhile people across the city celebrated the beginning of the New Year with different styles with no major untoward incident reported. The New Year was celebrated here with great enthusiasm and fervour on Monday. Besides organising formal celebrations, various social and religious organisations

wished a prosperous New Year to each other. On the first day of the year, many families decided to take it easy after the exhilarating experience and spend quality time with visiting relatives and loved ones while others ventured out.

On the first day of the year, people thronged parks for picnics. Places like Nandan Van, Gandhi Udyaan, Jungle Safari witnessed huge rush. Officials of the Jungle Safari in-

formed that they witnessed all-time high footfalls on January 1. People in large numbers visited the zoo on New Year. The management thanked the picnickers for celebrating the first day of the year peacefully and supporting the zoo authorities. Apart from this popular tourist destinations were choc-a-bloc with travellers making the most of the winter holidays in schools and colleges.

Modi govt should consider demands of drivers: Cong

Raipur, Jan 01:

PCC senior spokesman Surendra Verma commenting upon the strike by the drivers on PM Modi government's decision on private insurance company said that by speaking about 'maan-ki-baat' and imposing one-sided decision has sort of become a political character of central government led by PM Modi. It is in order to pass on the benefit to the private insurance company that this anti-people policy has been imposed. The vehicle owner is not so economically strong that he would be able to pay huge penalty of Rs 10 lakh. The poor driver is going to face double the blow from Modi's government and this include heavy penalty on one side and jail of 7 yrs on the other. In such

conditions when the main money earning person of the family i.e the driver will be sentenced 10 yrs jail, then what will happen to his family and who will carry out their livelihood? Verma charged that this black law imposed by the Modi government at the Centre has put the driver category, playing important role in country's economy in state of state fear. No accident takes place deliberately and in such conditions, imposing such heavy penalty and long term imprisonment is something beyond the reach of common vehicle driver and therefore it is in-human and impractical.

PCC senior spokesman Surendra Verma said that BJP and Modi-led government at the Centre is all set to close down democra-

cy. As & when the Modi government has to pass some anti-people bill then they suspend the Opposition MP's from the House and then pass the bill without any discussions on it. The way during Covid pandemic, without any discussions the 12 anti-labour laws were passed in one day to benefit the capitalists' friends, in the same way this black law was passed by suspending the MPs from opposition through a conspiracy. One such provision is the black law passed against the poor drivers of vehicles in the country. The Modi government keeping aside their selfish motives, they should take into cognizance the demand of drivers and make necessary amendment into the laws.



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee
Ensuring smoke-free kitchens to women through Ujjwala Yojana
More than 10 crore free gas connections nationwide

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Four accused of NCIB nabbed for illegal recovery

Within 10 hrs of committing crime

Used to project themselves as NCIB officers and then starts recovery in the name of illicit sale of liquor by holding owner as hostage



Dhamtari, Jan 01: The Dhamtari police got a major breakthrough in nabbing four accused claiming themselves to be officers of NCIB within 10 hrs of their committing crime and seized two four-wheelers. The used to hold the victims as hostage and then used to claim ransom on his name. The police has filed a case under section 420, 419, 384, 365, 342, 120B and 457 f IPC and taken all four into custody. Dhamtari police informed that as per complaint by complainant Ajay Singh, four persons in a white coloured Brezza car bearing No. CG 27 M 8403 came near his shop and showing an ID claimed themselves to be from NCIB sleuths and started searching in his

shop. The employees of the shop had kept two quarter bottles of liquor hidden somewhere in the shop and seeing which they started alleging that we are selling liquor illegally and had beaten the employees. Thereafter taking out a bagful of liquor from their car, they put it in front of the shop and started taking photos with threat to send all to jail. In the name of sorting out the issue, they started demanding Rs 80000 and said that till the cash is given they would not spare anyone. The complainant was taken as hostage and took him to his residence at Damani Colony, Nayapara District Raipur, from where he gave Rs 15000 in cash and then took him back forcefully in the car and dropped him in Gram Nari with a warning that

they would come for balance Rs 65000 on Dec 31, 2023 at 11:00 am to claim the remaining amount. A complaint in this regard was filed in Dhamtari thana. During investigation, the accused were gheraoed at Bus Stand in Dhamtari and on interrogation they disclosed their names as Sagar Devnath, Vedansh Chouhan, Sudhanshu Pandey and Pankaj Yadav and on further strict interrogation they disclosed that they met one Kailash Sahu in Kanker, about four months back and he gave training to all four to work in NCIB. During training Kailash Sahu informed that NCIB is a registered NGO of GoI and it can take action against illicit sale of liquor anywhere in Chhattisgarh. So under a well chalked out

plan, all four reached Gram Nari and accepted the crime of recovering cash from owner of Kiran Restaurant by threatening him. The Dhamtari police seized two cars viz. one Brezza bearing No. CG 27 M 8403 and Honda City Car bearing No. CG 06 GQ 2003; cash of Rs 12250; five mobile phone sets and other documents, totalling entire amount to be around Rs 12.41 lakh.

The Dhamtari police has filed a case against all four in Kurud Thana under section 420, 419, 384, 365, 342 and 120 B and 457 of IPC and took all four in judicial custody.

To nabbe the above accused TI Kurud inspector Deepa Kewat, Cyber Cell technical in-charge SI Ramesh Sahu, Check-post Birejhar in-charge Umakant Tiwari, Cyber Cell head constable Devendra Rajput, R Kamal Joshi, Dheeraj Dadsena, Mukesh Mishra, Krishna Kanhaiya Patil, Anand Katakwar, Vikas Dwivedi, Yogesh Dhruv, Manoj Sahu, Fanesh Sahu, head constable from Kurud Thana Rajesh Chandrakar, constable Raju Bharadwaj played an important role.

Ministers assume office in State Secretariat



Raipur, Jan 01: On the first day of the New Year 2024, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shyam Bihari Jaiswal assumed charge at the state secretariat in Mahanadi Bhvan in Naya Raipur here on Monday. He offered prayers first and then assumed office.

On this occasion Upper Chief Secretary Renu Pillai, Health Secretary Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, and other departmental officers were present. On this occasion he reviewed about the departmental activities and gave necessary instructions to the officials.



Raipur, Jan 01: The Minister for Women and Child Development Department and Social Welfare Laxmi Rajwade assumed office at the State secretariat in Mahanadi Bhavan in Naya Raipur after of-

fering prayers. On this occasion Departmental Secy. Bhuvanesh Yadav, Director Divya Mishra and other senior departmental officers and public representatives were present.



Raipur, Jan 01: Minister for SC, ST Welfare and Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare Ramvihar Netam assumed office at the state secretariat here on Monday. He offered prayers and during it his family members and Secretary from Agriculture Ministry Kamalpreet Singh and officers from other departments were present.



Minister for Forest and Climate Change Kedar Kashyap paid courtesy call on CM Vishnu Deo Sai and extended greetings on New Year to him.

Transport department springs to action after recovery of ganja in ambulance

18 unauthorised ambulances seized

Raipur, Jan 01: A week after recovery of 364 kg Ganja from an ambulance in Amanaka Police Station area the transport department has started checking ambulances running across the city. Investigation that was conducted after recovery of Ganja from ambulance revealed that permission for the ambulance was not obtained from the transport department. Action is now being taken against ambulances without permits and drivers without licenses.



government ambulances are running fearlessly in the capital. During the Corona period, in order to earn money, many people started converting hundreds of vans and mini-doors into ambulances. As per rules, permission has to be taken from the Transport Department to operate an ambulance, but the operators did not do so. After continuously receiving complaints, the flying squad of the transport department is taking action against illegally operated ambulances. In Raipur, private ambulances running on the roads in the

name of health services are merely providing food to the patients. These ambulances, which are operated in violation of the rules, have neither provision of life-saving medicines nor trained staff. The silence of the health department monitoring them is having an adverse effect on the patients and their relatives. Novice ambulance drivers are seen carrying serious patients. Hundreds of private ambulances are operating in the district, ignoring the rules of the National Health Mission and Transport Department.

IIM Raipur is conducting a certificate program

In Global Supply Chain Management in collaboration with the Directorate Resettlement Zone (Central), Ministry of Defense, GOI

Raipur, Jan 01: Indian Institute of Management Raipur (IIMR) is conducting a six-month Certificate Program in Global Supply Chain Management in collaboration with the Directorate Resettlement Zone (Central), Ministry of

Defense, Government of India from Dec 27, 2023 to June 9, 2024. This certificate program is curated by IIM Raipur for defense personnel.

The program's inauguration ceremony will take place on January 4th, 2024, at IIM Raipur, with distinguished guests from both DRZ and IIM Raipur gracing the occasion. The first batch comprises 30 Navy Officers at the rank of Lieutenant Commander. The program started on 27th December 2023 in the presence of Prof. M Kannadhasan, Prof.

Anand Kumar, Col (Dr.) Harindra Tripathi and other guests from IIM Raipur. Over the course of six months, the program aims to facilitate the transition of the Navy Officers into the corporate and non-corporate world and familiarise them with the contemporary and emerging global practices in supply chain management. Participants of this program will undergo intensive training for the same. Speaking about the Program, Prof M Kannadhasan and Prof Anand Kumar said, "This

program comprises intensive and all-encompassing courses covering every aspect of management studies with a special focus on global supply chain management. As the corporate world is always on the lookout for well-disciplined, loyal, committed leaders with varied experience, this course takes advantage of the disciplined background of the officers with strong ethical value systems backed by their resolve towards continued excellence and helps them transform into valuable assets to any organizations."



Sarva Sen Barber Society honoured distinguished officials

Rajnandgaon, Jan 01: The Durg division of the Sarva Sen Barber Society convened a meeting at the S a n s k a r d h a n i Rajnandgaon Club Chowk, Rajiv Nagar Basantpur. This gathering brought together officials from seven districts within the Durg division, namely Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Durg, Bemetara, Balod, K h a i r a g a r h , Chhuikhadan, Gandai, Mainpur, Mohla, Ambargarh Chowki Block, and district officials.

The program commenced with an inauguration ceremony, graced by Rajnandgaon MP Santosh Pandey as the chief guest, alongside Provincial President Punitram Sen, Provincial Secretary Bhuvanlal Kaushik, Provincial Treasurer Kishan Sen, Provincial Election Officer Khamman Lal Shandilya, and District Presidents from all participating districts. The event began with the reverence of Saint Shiromani Senji Maharaj, the patron saint of the society.

Rajnandgaon District President Shesh Narayan Shandilya extended a warm welcome to kick-start the program. MP Santosh Pandey emphasized the importance of unity within the society, noting that Brahmins and Barbers play integral roles in society's various stages, from birth to death.

'Nobel and creative way to begin New Year'

Raipur, Jan 01: Apoorva Neral (32 yrs) and Arindam Neral (27 yrs) have donated blood at Model Blood Bank, Department of Pathology, Medical College Raipur, 33rd and 19th times respectively on 31st December 2023 to begin the New Year with a novel, noble and creative philanthropic activity. They are daughter and son of Dr. Arvind Neral who himself has donated blood 124 times by now. They are regular blood donors and source of motivation and encouragement



to other potential blood donors. Dr. Vijay Kapse, Dr. Soodit Pal and Dr. Aviral Mishra were present during this activity.

Dr Anil Dixit honoured with Life time achievement award

Raipur, Jan 01: Dr Anil Dixit Joint Director of ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management honoured with highly prestigious Life time achievement award in international conference on one health and one world organized at RVSKVV Gwalior recently. The Life time achievement award was awarded during the valedictory function in the presence of Dr A.K.Shukla Vice chancellor RVSKVV, Former VC and DDG ICAR Dr A.K.Singh and General Secretary Bhartiya Kisan Sangh Mohini Madan Mishra. The event was sponsored by National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP). Dr Dixit received this prestigious life time achievement award for his outstanding contribution made during the entire career of more than 30 years in the field of Agronomy and specialized in weed science. Dr Dixit has been conferred three



fellowship award for his outstanding significant contributions in the area of Weed Science particularly in managing weeds through integrated weed management and herbicide technologies in crops and cropping systems and developed 20 weed management recommendations for major crops for

the country in past. He has brought out a National monograph in the shape of Weed Atlas in two volumes for the entire nation. He has contributed a lot to linking scientists with farmers and contributed towards the transfer of agricultural technologies to the end-users. Dr Anil Dixit has been received of

most prestigious FAKHU-RUDDIN Ali Ahmed ICAR National AWARD for outstanding work of tribal farming research in Chhattisgarh. Recently he has been officially deputed to Thailand to present the paper on Allelopathy in 28th Asian Pacific Weed science conference held at Phuket Thailand.

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'Raipur to America: The success story of Shriya Das and her journey through genetics'

By Sanjay Kumar Mishra

The life history of Shriya Das is a tale of struggle and inspiration. Having achieved a remarkable status in her field, Shriya now lives in America, where she excels in the field of Clinical Research. Her life has been a testament to her dedication to Genetics and her subsequent work in Clinical Research. Shriya's academic journey began with her outstanding performance at MS Ramaiah Medical College, University of Bangalore, and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College and Hospital, Navi Mumbai.



Her journey to the USA for her Ph.D. at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, marked a significant step in her career. Shriya's philosophy revolves around continuous learning

and pursuing passion over mere academic achievements.

Her interest in Genetics, which sparked at the age of 16, set her on a path of relentless pursuit of knowledge in this field. She was inspired by her father, a police officer; her loving mother, younger brother, and her school teachers at Holy Cross School, Raipur, as well as professors like Dr. Mansi Thakur and Dr. Praveen Sablana. These individuals played a crucial role in guiding her towards research in Genetics, particularly in Sickle Cell Disease. Once in the USA, Shriya

takes on the challenging role of managing complex human clinical trials for medical conditions like Oncology, infectious diseases, diabetes and mental health. Her ability to handle the intricate work culture in the US and excel in it, is a proof of her resilience and expertise. As a Clinical Project Manager in an American pharmaceutical company, Shriya's role extends beyond basic management. She specializes in optimizing clinical trials for patient safety across various phases (1-4) of drug development. Her work involves meticulous planning, imple-

mentation, and monitoring of clinical trials, ensuring that they adhere to rigorous scientific and ethical standards. This is critical in the development of safe and effective medical treatments. Her expertise in this area has not only brought her individual acclaim but has also contributed significantly to the advancement of medical science. Shriya's approach and dedication to clinical trial optimization have earned her several accolades, recognizing her as a key figure in the field of clinical research. Shriya's life story, which is as dramatic and compelling

as a film script, is underlined by her indomitable spirit, hard work, and dedication. She serves as a role model for today's youth, showing that obstacles and failures are stepping stones to success, if faced with determination and belief in one's abilities. In short, Shriya's journey from Raipur to America is a powerful narrative of achieving success through dedication and hard work in the challenging field of Genetics and Clinical Research, emphasizing the significant impact of her role in clinical trial management and optimization.

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN



A Road Safety Officer (RSO) with a commuter during a road safety campaign on the first day of the new year 2024, in Gurugram, Monday.

VC of agri university in Prayagraj arrested

On attempt to murder charge

Prayagraj (UP), Jan 01 (PTI):

The Vice Chancellor of an agricultural university here was arrested and sent to jail in a case of attempt to murder after two people allegedly opened fire at the vehicle of a former BJP leader, a police official said on Monday. Rajendra Bihari Lal, the VC of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), was arrested on Sunday evening on the complaint of former BJP leader Diwakar Nath Tripathi and remanded in judicial custody. Tripathi had alleged that early on Sunday, two men

who had accompanied Lal in an SUV had opened fire at him after trying to overtake and stop his vehicle when he was returning from his morning walk near Araail dam, SHO of Naini police station Yashpal Singh said on Monday.

Based on the complaint of Tripathi, a case was filed against Lal in Naini police station under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of the peace) and 427 (mischievous causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees). According to the police, 26 cases are registered

against Lal in Prayagraj, Lucknow, Hamirpur, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh districts over alleged illegal religious conversion and other charges.

The complainant claimed that Lal and others have a grudge against him as he has filed several cases against them. Early last month, the Allahabad High Court had refused to quash an FIR registered against the VC and other officials of SHUATS, which is a minority institution. In this case, they were accused of converting a woman by luring her with a job and other facilities.

JMM MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad resigns from Jharkhand Assembly

Ranchi, Jan 01 (PTI):

Ruling JMM MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad has resigned from the Jharkhand Assembly, according to a notification issued on Monday. However, no reason was cited in the notification as to why the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislator of Gandey constituency put it in his papers.

"It is being informed to the public that the Jharkhand Assembly Speaker has accepted the resignation letter of Gandey MLA Sarfaraz Ahmad. The constituency is vacant with effect from December 31, 2023," the notification issued by the assembly secretariat said.

Elections to the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly are due later this year. Ahmad, when contacted,

told PTI, "I have tendered my resignation due to personal reasons." Meanwhile, his resignation has sparked off speculations, with the BJP alleging that Ahmad was made to quit so that Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren could contest the assembly elections from Gandey seat.

Senior BJP legislator and former speaker CP Singh alleged that the move was aimed at facilitating Kalpana Soren to contest the assembly elections from the seat so that she could become the next chief minister in the wake of the issuance of the seventh summons to Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in connection with a money-laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. Singh said the tenure of the

Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.

While seeking a stay on the operation of the three laws, the PIL filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari said they were enacted without any parliamentary debate as most of the opposition members were under suspension.

The plea has sought directions from the court to immediately constitute an expert committee to assess the viability of the three new criminal laws.

"The new criminal laws are far more draconian and establish police state in reality and violate every provision of fundamental rights of the people of India. If the British laws were considered colonial and draconian, then the Indian laws stand now far more dra-

conian as in British period you could keep a person in police custody for a maximum of 15 days. Extending 15 days to 90 days and more, is a shockingly provision enabling police torture," the plea said.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita encompasses offences such as acts of secession, armed rebellion, seditious activities, separatist activities or endangering the sovereignty or unity in a new avatar of the sedition law.

According to the new laws, anyone purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial means, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite secession or armed rebellion or seditious activi-

ties, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

According to IPC Section 124A, which deals with seditious, anyone involved in the crime may be punished with life imprisonment or with a three-year jail term. Under the new laws, 'Rajdroh' has got a new term 'Deshdroh', while doing away with the reference to the British crown. Loosely explained, Rajdroh refers to rebellion or an act against the ruler, while Deshdroh represents such acts against the nation.



Sarfaraz Ahmad

Jharkhand Assembly will come to an end in December this year.

Expressing surprise over the MLA's sudden resignation and its acceptance by the Assembly Speaker Rabin Nath Mahto, Singh alleged it was a pre-planned strategy by the JMM so that in case of any eventuality in connection with the ED summonses,

the party could garner people's sympathy.

In the latest seventh ED summons to CM Soren, also the executive president of the ruling JMM, issued last month, he has been asked to inform the investigating officer about the date, venue, and time of his choice so that his statement could be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Soren has accused the Union government of using central agencies to destabilise the democratically elected state government. He had previously filed petitions before the Supreme Court and Jharkhand High Court seeking protection from ED's actions, terming the summonses "unwarranted". Both courts dismissed his petitions.

The probe pertains to a

"huge racket of illegal change of ownership of land by the mafia" in Jharkhand, according to the ED. The agency has arrested 14 people in the case, including IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan, who had previously served as the director of the state social welfare department and the deputy commissioner of Ranchi.

Meanwhile, BJP MP from Godda constituency, Nishikant Dubey, in an X post, said that with assembly elections in Jharkhand due in less than a year, by-election to Gandey cannot be conducted now. He cited a Mumbai High Court ruling concerning a by-election in a constituency in Maharashtra at a time when assembly elections were due in the western state in one year and 50 days.

Veterans versus Young Turks debate rages as TMC turns 27

Kolkata, Jan 01 (PTI):

As the Trinamool Congress turned 27 on Monday, the debate over whether veterans should make way for the young brigade raged, with supreme Mamata Banerjee backing the seasoned leaders, while her nephew Abhishek Banerjee advocating the retirement of elderly politicians.

The old guards versus new generation debate, which has been grappling the TMC for quite some time, took a fresh turn with the chief minister last month calling for respect for senior members, dismissing assertions that veteran leaders should retire from politics.

Following the CM's dictum, Abhishek Banerjee, the TMC national general secretary, however, said there must be a retirement age in politics, citing a decline in work efficiency with advancing age.

Party spokesperson

Kunal Ghosh, considered to be close to Abhishek Banerjee, however, claimed there was no conflict between the old and the new but asserted that the old guards "should know where to stop" and that they needed to step aside for next generation leaders.

The debate raged as several sitting MPs, ministers, and senior leaders aged over 70, who hold multiple posts, opposed Ghosh's remark. The senior leaders were not willing to read much into the maximum age limit proposed by Abhishek Banerjee, while the youth brigade yearned for more space within the party.

TMC's Lok Sabha party leader Sudip Bandopadhyay said, "Mamata Banerjee is the party supreme... her decision is final. If she thinks someone is old enough to retire, he or she will retire. If she thinks otherwise, that person would contin-

ue working for the party." Seventy-four-year-old Bandopadhyay, a veteran in West Bengal politics, felt the debate was "childish" as the party needs both youngsters and senior members.

Echoing his sentiments, senior party leader Saugata Roy said, "Age is not a barrier within the party. The ultimate decision on roles of seniors and the next generation rests with Mamata Banerjee." "Only she decides who will contest elections or be in which position in the party. She is the final authority," the 76-year-old politician said.

Roy, a three-term Lok Sabha MP, had last month drawn a clear distinction between the TMC and the BJP, which has a rule preventing leaders aged over 75 years from holding senior positions or contesting polls, while the ruling party in West Bengal didn't have any such mandate. According to party

sources, both Bandopadhyay and Roy top the list of leaders who might be affected if the proposed age bracket is implemented in the party.

Senior minister Firhad Hakim, known to be very close to the CM, also said that only she can decide on a maximum age limit or one-person-one-post propositions.

"If she thinks someone should hold several posts, he or she would, if not that person won't," Hakim, who holds two cabinet portfolios besides being Kolkata Mayor, said. Party sources said there have been increasing demands for an age bar and one-person-one-post to phase out veterans and make way for Young Turks handpicked by Abhishek Banerjee.

Ghosh, while speaking on the controversy, had earlier said the party needed the experience of the old and the energy of the youth. "The senior leaders should know where to

stop. If they continue to hold on to their positions for years, then what will the young leaders do? They will feel frustrated," he said.

Another senior TMC leader, on condition of anonymity, opined, "It would have been better had the debate not raged now ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election as it might affect our poll prospects."

The present controversy brings back memories of a two-year-old internal feud between the old guards and the young brigade. Amidst murmurs of an alleged power struggle in January 2022, Mamata Banerjee dissolved all national office-bearer committees, including the post of national general secretary held by her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

Subsequently, a new committee was formed, and Abhishek Banerjee was reinstated as the party's national general secretary.

Young dairy farmer loses 12 cattle to suspected poisoning

Idukki (Kerala), Jan 01 (PTI):

A young dairy farmer in Kerala has faced a devastating loss as 12 out of his 20 cattle died, suspected to be poisoned by their feed. The incident occurred around 8.30 pm on Sunday, leaving Mathew (15), visibly distressed, state Animal Husbandry Department officials said.

"Upon learning of the tragedy, the Animal Husbandry Minister J Chinchurani's office promptly intervened. Four veterinary doctors were deputed to treat the remaining cows," an official said. Witnessing the deaths of his cattle, Mathew became distressed and was hospitalized.

Officials said that the minister had consoled him over the phone. She is planning to visit his farm on Tuesday, they said. Preliminary reports suggest that the cattle might have been affected by a poisonous

substance in the tapioca leaves used as feed, a non-conventional but cost-effective option, a source in the department said. The tapioca leaf meal contains toxic hydrocyanic acid (HCN), he said.

Out of the 20 cows on Mathew's farm, 12 have died, three are under treatment, and a cow with four calves has survived. The losses incurred by Mathew are estimated to be around Rs 6 lakh, officials said. "Unfortunately, the family did not have insurance for the cows, making the situation more challenging," an official told PTI. The boy, who took over the farm two years ago at the age of 13 after his father's untimely demise, relied on tapioca leaves as a more economical alternative to conventional feed.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, SHIVANI KARKOON W/O SAJAL KUMAR KARKOON resident of Qu. No. A-12, Chauhan Town, Junwani Road, Bhilai, Teh. & Distt. Durg (C.G.) Pin- 490020 have changed my old name SHIVANI KARKOON W/O SAJAL KUMAR KARKOON so in future, I should be recognized by my new name that is SHIVANI KARKOON W/O SAJAL KUMAR KARKOON in all government and other documents.

SHIVANI KARKOON W/O SAJAL KUMAR KARKOON Qu. No. A-12, Chauhan Town, Junwani Road, Bhilai, Teh. & Distt. Durg (C.G.) Pin- 490020

Wage payments under MGNREGS now only through ABPS

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI):

Wage payments under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will now be done only through the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS), sources said on Monday. The last extension of the deadline to state governments to make the payments mandatory through the system ended on December 31.

The sources said it has been conveyed to states that payments will now be made only through the ABPS. If any state has any grievance, it will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, they said. The ABPS

uses the 12-digit Aadhaar number as a worker's financial address. For ABPS-enabled payments, a worker's Aadhaar details are seeded with their job card and the Aadhaar has to be linked to the worker's bank account.

There are around 14.28 crore active workers under the MGNREGS as per data on January 1, according to the Aadhaar Demographic Verification Status Report on the website of the Union rural development ministry. Aadhaar seeding has been done for 13.48 crore workers. While 12.90 crore workers' Aadhaar has been confirmed, around 12.49 crore workers have been converted to the Aadhaar-Based Payment System.

		Indian Bank Branch: - Rajnandgaon (C.G.)
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Properties) (Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)		
Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 05.10.2023 calling upon the Borrower: Mr. Rishi Kumar Mishra & Mrs. Pooja Mishra with their Rajnandgaon Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 1005310/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Five Thousand Three Hundred Ten only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.		
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 26 day of December of the year 2023.		
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 1005310/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Five Thousand Three Hundred Ten only) and interest thereon.		
The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES		
All that part & parcel of the property at Plot No 105, Kharsa No. 144/18 (144/2, 144/3, 144/4), P.H No 42, Ward No. 21 at Rewadhi (Asha Nagar) Jeevan Awas, Rajnandgaon C.G. Total extent of plot area 930 sq.ft or 4.86 sq.mts in which built up area Ground Floor: 688 sq.ft or 64.84 sq.mt., Poarch area- 94 sq.ft or 8.73 sq.mt and Tair area- 64 sq.ft or 5.94 sq.mt. Bounded: North by: Colony Road, South by: Land of Hiralai, East by: Plot No 106, West by: Plot No 104		
Date: 02.01.2024, Place: Rajnandgaon Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)		

		IDBI Bank Ltd. Branch: Samta Colony, 104-R.B Towers, Samta Colony, Raipur (C.G.)-492001 CIN:L61590MH2004GOI148838
APPENDIX IV (Rule 8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)		
Whereas: The undersigned being the authorised officer of IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated September 5, 2023 calling upon the borrower Shri E T Manoj and Smt. Leena Manoj to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.62,19,206/- (Rupees Sixty two lakhs nineteen thousand two hundred six only) within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.		
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below, in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 27th day of December of the year 2023.		
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IDBI Bank Limited for an amount of Rs.62,19,206/- and interest thereon.		
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
All that piece and parcel of immovable property Residential House on Diverted land part of Plot No-C-09, Kh No-545/25, Smti. Griha Nirman Sahakar Sanstha Mydrt. Smti. Nagar, admeasuring area 1500 sq. ft. Mouja - Junwani, Bhilai, District-Durg, PIN- 490020, Chhattisgarh. Bounded: On the North by: Block C-08, On the South by: Block C-10, On the East by: Block C-2, On the West by: Cross Street-3 Together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.		
Date: 27.12.2023, Place: Raipur Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Limited		

		REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Mannuthy, Thrissur- 680 651, Kerala.
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE		
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:		
DATE OF AUCTION : 08-01-2024 AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION AUCTION ADDRESS : https://gold.matxnet.org/	TIME : 2 PM TO 5 PM	
To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site		
BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS		
Akaltara : 75220001415901, Baled : 75220001413964, 63220000908298, Bhatapara : 75220001486385, Bhilai : 75220001486125, Bilaspur : 63220000906282, 75220001512348, Champa : 75220001495478, 1443447, Chandigarh : 63230000231112, 231502, Donagargah : 75220001393100, 1479209, 1444625, 1417247, 1417257, 1509334, 63220000886677, 893193, 889532, 228198, 893123, 912310, 209084, Durg : 63220000898912, 878472, 908998, Katghora : 63230000232900, 882764, Kawardha : 75220001505964, 1522769, Korba : 63220000884311, 900232, 872563, Mahasamund : 6323000022979, Pakhanjore : 63220000919057, 889843, 889652, Pithora : 63220000912450, 75220001444745, Raigarh : 75220001377431, 1491655, 1410080, 63220000900722, 870777, 221831, Raipur : 75220001427488, 63220000882004, Rajnandgaon : 63230000219095, 222519, Sarangarh : 63230000206230		
Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction. Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.		
Thrissur Date: 02-01-2024		Sd/- Authorized Signatory

Vijay Sharma participates in Yoga-Yagya camp

Five-day residential Yoga-Yagya employment Camp benefits hundreds in Kawardha

Kawardha, Jan 01:

Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma attended the closing ceremony of the five-day residential Yoga-Yagya employment camp held at Ambedkar Bhawan in Kawardha on Sunday. This camp, conducted under the auspices of Patanjali Yogpeeth



Haridwar, garnered significant attention and support. Upon his arrival at the camp, Vijay Sharma was greeted with warm garlands and an aarti by officials from Patanjali Yogpeeth. Swami Vipradev, Swami Narendra Dev, Swami Rahul Dev, Acharya Yashwant, and other esteemed yoga gurus who had travelled from Haridwar to Chhattisgarh were also welcomed by Vijay Sharma.

During his address, Vijay Sharma emphasized the nationwide initiative of Yoga education by the

Central Government and encouraged the citizens of Chhattisgarh to embrace yoga as an integral part of their daily lives. He highlighted the myriad benefits of yoga, including the infusion of positive energy and the promotion of overall health. Sharma expressed his commitment to supporting yoga promotion further, assuring that the Chhattisgarh government would provide all necessary assistance. He also gave his in-principle consent to the committee's demands. The event was graced by the presence of prominent figures, includ-

ing former Parliamentary Secretary Motiram Chandravanshi, former MLA Ashok Sahu, District Panchayat member Ramkumar Bhatt, and other public representatives. Members of Patanjali Yogpeeth also participated actively in the event. Suresh Chandravanshi, the District President of Patanjali Yoga Samiti, shared that approximately 200 individuals from Kabirdham district and neighboring areas, including Korba, Janjgir, Bemetara, Raipur, Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi,

Mungeli, Rajnandgaon, and Durg, benefited from this transformative five-day residential Yoga-Yagya employment camp. The camp provided relief to those suffering from complex health conditions such as arthritis, cervical problems, diabetes, high blood pressure, and thyroid disorders.

The camp featured the dedicated efforts of therapists from Haridwar, including Ramavater, Ganesh Yadav, Saket, Deepak, Vaishnav, Harendra Chandravanshi, Hariram Sahu, Gauri, Bhagwati Patel, Sarita Patel, and Parameshwari Nishad, who provided their valuable services. The collaborative endeavour between Patanjali Yogpeeth and the Chhattisgarh government showcased the positive impact of yoga on health and wellness, further reinforcing its importance in society.

Manoj Pingua reviews development work in Bastar

Jagdulpur, Jan 01:

Principal Secretary of the Home and Forest Department, Manoj Pingua, emphasized the ongoing efforts to bring about substantial developmental changes in the region, assuring that these endeavours would yield improved results in the near future. In a meeting, Pingua urged the construction department to prioritize the construction of roads, a vital demand voiced by the local populace. Additionally, he encouraged collaborative efforts among the revenue, police, and forest departments to accelerate the construction of roads, bridges, and culverts in remote areas.



The review meeting, held in the Aastha meeting room of the District Office, brought together officials from the Police, Forest Department, Public Works Department, PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), and the Telecommunication Organization.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary assessed the progress made by telecommunication organizations in the Bastar division area. He also reviewed the development of PMGSY roads, construction works of RRP-01,02 under LWE of Public Works Department, road-bridge construction progress on the C h a t t i s g a r h - Maharashtra state border, and electrification works by CSPDCL (Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited).

Pingua stressed the need for PMGSY officials to promptly disburse payments to labourers engaged in road develop-

ment. He also discussed the possibility of operating ashram-hostels and similar facilities in villages that have been declared Naxal-free, particularly in sensitive areas of the Bastar region. The meeting covered the progress of Manwa Nawa Nar, a program led by the police department.

Reviewing the Forest Department's work, Pingua emphasized the importance of enhancing livelihood opportunities through economic activities conducted by beneficiary-oriented self-help groups associated with the Van Dhan Vikas Kendra and Prime Minister Janman in the

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. Discussions also included CAMPA fund projects, action plans for tree planting, beneficiary selection, the procurement of minor forest produce, registration of collectors of minor forest produce, and tree planting along riverbanks. Additionally, wildlife-human conflict incidents were addressed.

The meeting was attended by Bastar IG Sundarraj P, Prem Kumar of the Minor Forest Produce Corporation, DIG Balaji Rao, along with Forest Department CCF Gupta, Dugga, and divisional and district officers from relevant departments.

Beneficiaries share heartfelt stories at VBSY camp

Anwari, Jan 01: The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra,' unfolded in Anwari on December 29, with a noble mission to bring the benefits of government welfare schemes to every doorstep and foster direct interaction with the beneficiaries themselves.



Under this initiative, people were not only enlightened about various government department schemes but also availed the benefits they were entitled to. The event featured captivating cultural performances by local schoolchildren, who conveyed the message of 'Dharti Kahe Pukar' through their artistry. Additionally, attendees at the camp collectively pledged to continue supporting this cause.

Moolchand Yadav, a beneficiary of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Thanks to the scheme, he now resides in a permanent house, realizing his long-held dream of owning a home. He shared that he and his family now live peacefully, free from concerns about unpredictable weather conditions and other uncertainties. His village of Anwari, with 50

households, has seen 45 families finding comfort and security in their new homes through this initiative.

The event also served as a platform for disseminating information about various government schemes. The health department issued Ayushman cards and provided free medicines to patients. The Agriculture Department educated farmers about essential programs like the Prime Minister Crop Insurance

Scheme, Kisan Credit Card, Soil Health Card, Aadhar Updation, Horticulture, and Animal Husbandry. Women from the Bihaan Group, Saraswati Sahu and Rekha Bai, highlighted the group's benefits, while Bhukhan Dhiwar discussed the advantages offered by the Fisheries Department. The youth actively participated in a quiz, with Jageshwar Nirmalkar clinching the top spot and receiving hon-

ors. Additionally, beneficiaries were provided gas stoves under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

The event saw the presence of esteemed guests and officials, including Puneswar Sahu, Sarpanch of Anwari; Sunil Gaikwad, District Member of Kurud; Lekhran Sahu, former Secretary; DS Markam, Taxation Officer; DS Netam, ADO; Abhishek Shrothi, Rural Agriculture Extension Officer; Ramkumar Banjare, Secretary of Gram Panchayat Awari; I R Sahu, Pracharya High School; Domeswar, Computer Operator of Kurud; Mukesh Nirmalkar; along with Panchgan members and villagers from all walks of life.

Navodaya Vidyalaya celebrates New Year with cultural programs

Principal and staff join in festive celebration



Lavan, Jan 01: The spirit of the New Year came alive at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Lavan Nagar as 386 students from classes 6th to 12th showcased their talents in a spectacular array of cultural programs, including songs, dances, and dramas. The vibrant cultural festivities at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya commenced in the evening and extended late into the night. School Principal, dedicated teachers, and enthusiastic staff members graced the event with their presence. Impressed by the students'

performances, the school's educators showered praise upon their remarkable talents. Rajendra Sika, the coordinator for the cultural program, highlighted the school's commitment to nurturing not only academic excellence but also sports and cultural endeavors. In re-

cent days, PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya had organized a tour for its students, taking them to enriching destinations such as Girodhpuri, the birthplace of Baba Guru Ghasidas, and the archaeological marvels of Malhar Zoo and Kanan Pandari.

VBSY Camp enhancing public services in Kurud



Kurud, Jan 01: In alignment with the government's directive to enhance public facilities, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp took place at Kurud's Swami Vivekananda Indoor Stadium on December 31.

This informative event provided a platform for citizens to learn about various public welfare schemes offered by the Central Government, including PM Swanidhi, Ayushman Bharat, Aadhar Updation, Health

Testing, and the Ujjwala Scheme. Approximately 300 attendees seized this opportunity to gather valuable insights into these initiatives.

One of the highlights of the camp was the Modi's Guarantee Vehicle, stationed at the venue, which broadcasted information about the schemes, captivating the attention of all present.

Chief Guest Ajay Chandrakar, in his address, emphasized the camp's core objective: to

encourage dedicated collaboration between all departments and citizens. He urged everyone to commit to their goals, emphasizing that by doing so, the nation could once again attain the heights of glory it was known for a spiritual, religious, and cultural leader.

Ajay Chandrakar further emphasized India's resurgent status as a global powerhouse and called upon all attendees to dedicate themselves to the service of the nation, espe-

cially focusing on serving marginalized and targeted groups. The event was graced by notable figures, including honourable MLA and former Cabinet Minister Ajay Chandrakar, Councillor and Leader of Opposition Bhanu Chandrakar, former Nagar Panchayat Kurud President Jyoti Bhanu Chandrakar, senior BJP leader Malak Ram Sahu, Councillor Manish Sahu, Suresh Agarwal, the Health department team, Nagar Panchayat team, Anganwadi workers, assistant Mitani, health workers, and other dedicated employees.

Rampant illegal brick kilns pose environmental concerns

Anwari, Jan 01:

Concerns are growing as illegal brick kilns continue to operate unchecked in the Bhakhara area, including villages like Bhelvakud, Pachpedi, Gadadih, Rampur, Silghat, and beyond. The absence of regulatory action against these operations has led to a surge in their numbers, resulting in environmental pollution and a loss of revenue.

The Mineral Department has yet to take substantial action against these illegal brick kiln operators, with only sporadic actions reported in some areas to monitor their activities. Consequently, the confidence of these operators has soared, leading to large-scale brick produc-



tion and mining, even encroaching upon both government and private land.

Surprisingly, many of these illegal brick kilns are functioning based on last year's royalty and peat passes issued by the Mineral Department, raising questions about the department's vigilance.

Regulations for brick kiln operations mandate specific distances from

populated areas, forested regions, educational institutions, roads, and government structures. However, many brick kilns operate in blatant violation of these rules, exacerbating concerns about their unchecked expansion.

A closer examination of brick kiln operations in Bhelwakuda village revealed that operators claiming to be residents of

Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh, have established their presence in rural areas. These external operators engage in brick production by acquiring agricultural land from local farmers. In the midst of this, local artisans, known as kumhars, face challenges in sustaining their traditional businesses as outsiders encroach upon their territory.

Statue of Sant & Poet Pawan Diwan not installed

Even after 7 yrs of him leaving for heavenly abode

Rajim, Jan 01:

The birth anniversary of Sant and Poet Pawan Diwan is celebrated all over the state here on January 1 every year. Late Pawan Diwan spent his life delivering discourse on Shrimad Bhagwat Mahapurana and spread the religious knowledge among the people. He contested on Janata Party's ticket in 1977 and defeated Congress party's stalwart Pt. Shyama Charan Shukla and brought surprise to all. At that time he was appointed as the Jail Minister and after this he served as MP,

work, people launched a touching line with words like 'Pawan nahin, yein Andhi hein, Chhattisgarh ka Gandhi hein'. Born in Kirwai of Rajim, Sant & Poet Pawan Diwan by remaining in the Ashram continued to boost the state's politics. In the year 2016 he went on heavenly abode. Having served in BJP, Congress and Janta Dal, he served as their strong and dedicated worker. But seven years have lapsed on his going to heavenly abode, no statue of Sant Pawan Diwan has been installed in any chowk or locality in the soil and

place of work i.e. Rajim city. The people of the city have been regularly demanding the same and seeing which last year in



the Nagar Panchayat Rajim general body meeting a proposal was passed for installation of statue of Pawan Diwan and Atal Bihari Vajpayee in city.

But in reply to this, the Choubebandha Chowk has been named as Atal Chowk and till date no statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been installed.

On the other hand, no statue of Sant & Poet Pawan Diwan has been installed anywhere in the Rajim city and it is acting as big disappointment to all his followers, lovers and general public. Last year there was lot of discussions that a statue of Pawan Diwan would be installed by naming a chowk on his name, but it has still not being fulfilled. It is learnt that Diwanji by reciting his

poems from the Red Fort has not only brought laurels to Rajim, but to entire Chhattisgarh and gave a new message to entire Hindustan. The words by Sant & Poet Pawan Diwan used to attract all towards others and the tapping sound from the 'Khadau' worn by him used to create ripples in the corridors of power. People just used to gather on hearing about his name and used to remain submerged in the pleasant sound of his verses and poems for hours at a stretch. After going to heavenly abode, his absence is being strongly felt in entire Chhattisgarh.

Poems of Diwan on people's tongue: Sant & Poet Pawan Diwan poems reflects philosophy of life and one of the favourite poetic lines of Diwan viz. 'Tuhu hobe Rakh, muhu honu rakh; Chanda Rajiv lochan tune pranam' and others have left lasting impression in the minds of people. Through his literary and creative poems, Pawan Diwan was closely in touch with the intelligentsia of the country. Presently the poems of Pawan Diwan are popular on social media and he has always motivated those who were interested in writing poems.

Nobel laureate Yunus sentenced to 6 months in jail

Dhaka, Jan 1 (PTI)

Bangladesh's Nobel laureate economist Dr Muhammad Yunus was on Monday sentenced to six months in jail by a court on charges of violating the labour laws, a development termed as "politically motivated" by his supporters ahead of the general elections.

The 83-year-old economist won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign, earning Bangladesh the reputation of being the home of microcredit through his Grameen Bank, which he founded in 1983.

Yunus and three of his colleagues in Grameen Telecom— one of the firms he founded— were accused of violating labour laws when they failed to create a workers' welfare fund in the company.

The Third Labour Court Judge Sheikh Marina Sultana ordered Yunus to serve six months of simple or non-rigorous imprisonment.



Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus arrives to appear before a labor court in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday.

ment for violating the law as the Grameen Telecom chairman, along with three other executives of the social business company. "The allegation of violating the Labour Law against him has been proved. It appears that the allegation has not been barred by limitation (either)," the judge said, pronouncing the judgment while Yunus was in the dock.

She also slapped a Taka

25,000 fine (USD 227.82) on each of them, adding that they would have to serve 10 more days in jail in case of a default.

Soon after the judgment was passed, Yunus and the three other executives sought bail, which the judge granted immediately for a month in exchange for a Taka 5,000 bond.

Under the law, all four can appeal against the verdict in the High Court.

The verdict comes just

days ahead of the January 7 general election in Bangladesh.

His supporters have described the judgment as "politically motivated".

Last month, after a court appearance for the hearing, Yunus rejected claims of profiting from Grameen Telecom or any of the more than 50 social business firms he founded in Bangladesh. "They were not for my personal benefit," he told reporters.

His lawyers called the case "meritless, false and ill-motivated" and claimed it was only aimed to harass and humiliate Yunus before the global community.

The Nobel laureate is also facing a series of charges relating to labour law and misappropriation of money. The economist was on a protracted row with the incumbent government due to obscure reasons. The Sheikh Hasina-led administration began a series of investigations against him after coming to power in 2008.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



Confetti and commemorative hats are strewn on the ground at the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square in New York, Monday.

Biden assures Xi Jinping 'Committed to 'managing' China-US ties responsibly'

Beijing, Jan 1 (PTI)

US President Joe Biden on Monday assured his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that he is committed to "managing" the bilateral ties "responsibly" as the two leaders exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the 45th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two presidents met on the sidelines of the APEC summit in San Francisco in November and agreed to cool down the raging tensions between the top two economies of the world.

In his message to Xi, Biden said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, the ties between the US and China have facilitated prosperity and opportunities for both the countries and the world.

Biden said he is committed to "managing this important relationship responsibly", adding that he looks forward to continuing advancing the US-China relationship based on the progress made by the predecessors of the two leaders and through multiple meetings and discussions between the two heads of state, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Their summit took place after a comprehensive round of talks between high-level officials of the two countries.

In his letter, Xi urged Biden to earnestly implement the outcomes of the summit, saying history has already proven and will continue to fully prove that mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation are the right way for China and the US to get along

with each other as two major countries.

Xi pointed out that he and Biden, during their meeting in San Francisco, laid out a future-oriented "San Francisco Vision," charting the course for the development of China-US relations.

He called on China and the United States to earnestly implement the important common understandings and outcomes reached by the two heads of state, and take concrete actions to promote the stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-US relations.

Xi stressed that he is willing to work with Biden to continue to steer the course of China-US relations to benefit the two countries and their people and promote the cause of world peace and development.

Pak arrests 21 members of outlawed Taliban militant group linked to deadly attacks

Multan (Pakistan), Dec 31 (AP)

Pakistan's counterterrorism police said on Monday they arrested 21 members of outlawed militant group the Pakistani Taliban, which has been behind several deadly attacks across the country. Acting on intelligence information, the arrests were made in the eastern Punjab province over the past two weeks, the provincial Counterterrorism Department said in a statement.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), is a separate group but allied with the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021 as US and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war. The Counterterrorism

Department provided a list of the suspects, the cases against them and their alleged affiliation. But the list did not give details about the attacks the militants were allegedly involved in, including the number of casualties. The statement said that Mohammad Arshad, an alleged chief commander of the banned Baluch Nationalist Army which mostly operates in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, was also arrested.

Balochistan has been the scene of low-level insurgency by nationalists for more than two decades. They initially wanted a bigger share of provincial resources, but later initiated an insurgency for independence. The TTP and other domestic militant groups also operate in the province.

Tougher international student visa norms come into force in the UK

London, Jan 1 (PTI)

International students, including Indians, starting courses at British universities this month will no longer be able to bring family members on all but post-graduate research courses and courses with government-funded scholarships under tougher UK visa norms effective from Monday.

The UK Home Office said the changes, first announced by former home secretary Suella Braverman in May last year, are aimed at clamping down on people using the student visa as a backdoor route to work in the UK and will see an estimated 140,000 fewer people come to the UK.

The tougher rules are geared towards cutting what Home Secretary James Cleverly dubbed as an "unreasonable practice" of overseas students bringing dependants, which official figures show have risen

by more than 930 per cent since 2019.

"This government is delivering on its commitment to the British public to cut migration. We have set out a tough plan to rapidly bring numbers down, control our borders and prevent people from manipulating our immigration system, which will come into force throughout this year," Cleverly said in a statement.

"Today, a major part of that plan comes into effect, ending the unreasonable practice of overseas students bringing their family members to the UK. This will see migration falling rapidly by the tens of thousands and contribute to our overall strategy to prevent 300,000 people from coming to the UK," he said. The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that in the year ending September 2023, as many as 152,980 visas were issued to dependants of students, a massive rise from the

14,839 in the year ending September 2019.

"Our world-leading universities rightly attract some of the brightest students from around the world to the UK. But we have seen a surge in the number of dependants being brought by students, which is contributing to unsustainable levels of migration," said UK Minister for Legal Migration and the Border Tom Pursglove.

"We are completely committed to seeing a decisive cut in migration. The action implemented today to restrict bringing dependants on the student visa route allows us to better protect our public services while supporting the economy by allowing the students who contribute the most to keep coming here. This is part of a series of measures which together will see 300,000 fewer people coming to the UK compared to last year," he said.

PALESTINIANS SOLIDARITY



Thousands demonstrate to show solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing war in Gaza, in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday.

Surfer dies after shark 'encounter'

Paia, Jan 1 (AP)

A surfer in Hawaii has died after being injured in a shark encounter off Maui's northern shore, according to the Maui Police Department. Authorities stopped short of calling the event an attack and didn't describe the man's injuries. Ocean Safety Officers grabbed and transported the man by jet ski to shore, where responders performed life-saving measures until medical personnel arrived and took the victim to a hospital for further treatment, police said in a news release. The man's identity was not immediately released pending the notification of extended family and friends. Authorities did say the man was from Haiku, a small community on Maui's north side.

Indian embassy sets up emergency control room following tsunami alerts

Tokyo, Jan 1 (PTI)

The Indian Embassy in Japan on Monday set up an emergency control room for Indians wanting any assistance in the wake of the tsunami alerts issued by the authorities after a series of strong earthquakes jolted the country's western coastline. Japan issued tsunami alerts and told people to evacuate

seaside areas after a series of strong quakes on its western coastline on Monday.

The Japan Meteorological Agency reported quakes off the coast of Ishikawa and nearby prefectures shortly after 4 p.m., one of them with a preliminary magnitude of 7.6. According to media reports, the quake started a fire and trapped people under rubble on the west coast of

the quake-prone country's main island.

"The Embassy has set up an emergency control room for anyone to contact in connection with the Earthquake and Tsunami on January 1, 2024. The following Emergency numbers and email IDs may be contacted for any assistance," the Indian mission in Tokyo said in a post on X.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE FOR MODIFICATION WORK

Tender Notice No.: TRD-R-2023-E19, Date: 28.12.2023. Name of Work: "OHE Modification for 'Raipur Division' - Expansion of MEMU shed at Bihilai for maintenance of 16 car rake". Tender Value: ₹ 1,18,18,679.03. Bid Security: ₹ 2,09,100/-
Submission of Tender: Upto 12:00 hours on 25.01.2024. Opening of Tender: 12:30 hours on 25.01.2024.
For further details of tender document, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download tender document which is available on our website: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr.Divl. Electrical Engineer(TRD)/PR/IR/IRD/IR/211 Raipur.
f South East Central Railway @scrcrail

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

S. N.	Branch Name/Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Gudhiyari Branch Raipur 9752099535	Mrs. Shameena Shah Shivanand Nagar, Veer Shivaji Ward No.-7, Khantara, Behind Old Laxmi Kirana Stores, Near Ganesh Mandir Gudhiyari, RNM Raipur (C.G.) - 492001	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Kh. No.- 247/67, PH No. - 108/3, Veer Shivaji Ward No. - 07, R. N. M. Raipur - 01, Admeasuring Plot Area - 1000 Sqft. Under Road Width Area - 61.43 Sqft. Net Plot Area - 938.57 Sqft. Gr Floor Built up Area- 449.87 Sqft. and First Floor Built up Area 449.87 Sqft. Mouza Shivanand Nagar, Khantara, RNM Raipur (C.G.) - 492001 within the registered sub-district Raipur and District - Raipur (C.G.) in the name of Smt. Shameena Shah W/o Mr. Saiyyad Shaifuddin. Bounded: On the North by - Other Land, One the South by - Road, One the East by - Seller Remaining Land, On the West by - Land of Smt Kavita.	16.08.2023 Rs. 19,69,459.70 + interest + other charges 28.12.2023 Symbolic Possession
02	Tatibandh Branch Raipur 9752410786	Mr. Gautam Kumar House No. MIG 313, Kabir Nagar, Sondongari, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492099	Equitable Mortgage of Residential house bearing Khasra No. - 218/1, Row House No. - 40, Type (B) East Gold Villa Built up Area 840 sq.ft, Plot Area 945 sq. feet, Green Earth City, Phase-3, Mouja- Amleshwar, Tehsil - Patan, Durg, Chhattisgarh in the name of Mr. Gautam Kumar S/o Mr. Vinay Kumar Ray. House No.40 bounded by - On the East - Road, On the West - House No.47, On the North-House No.41, On the South-House No. 39	07.10.2023 Rs. 17,92,836.51 + interest + other charges 28.12.2023 Symbolic Possession

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Date: 02.01.2024, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Fire at a bar kills 1

Berlin, Jan 1 (AP) One person died and 21 people were severely injured when fire broke out at a bar in the southeastern Austrian city of Graz in the early hours of the New Year.

Austrian police said that the fire broke out around 4 am at a bar in the city center where people were attending a New Year's party.

One person, who has not yet been identified, suffered fatal injuries, Styrian state police said in a statement.

CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION CO. LTD. (A Govt. of Chhattisgarh Undertaking) CIN:U40108CT2003SGC015821

No. 03-03/TN-335/23-24424 Raipur, Dtd. 29/12/2023

E-BIDDING TENDER NOTICE NO. TN- 335/23-24

Online bid is invited by the undersigned through CSPCL e-bidding system (SAP-SRM) from experienced & reputed contractors for the supply/works as mentioned below: -

S.N.	Tender No. / Rfx No.	Particulars	Last date & time of bid submission
1.	HW-416/23-24 [Rfx. No. 8100035341] (With RLA)	Work contract for Medical test as per form-21 of officers, Employees and Contract workers of CGPGCL, HTPS, Korba (West).	25 /01/2024 Up to 15:00 Hrs.
2.	MP- 417/23-24 [Rfx. No. 8100035340] (With RLA)	Procurement of various size CBC bends, Tees and Y-pieces for ash handling plant of 2x500MW, ABVTSP, Marwa.	25 /01/2024 Up to 15:00 Hrs.

The details of NIT can be viewed from our website www.cspc.co.in. The Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded online from our e-bidding portal :- https://ebidding.cspc.co.in:50724/iri/portal. Any amendment/ corrigendum, including bid submission & opening date, if required, will be displayed on our website only.
Executive Director (S&P: Gen) CSPGCL :Raipur

//Save Electricity// S-39247/1



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 92

Hafiz Saeed Extradition

A Complex Global Challenge

The developments surrounding Pakistan's refusal to accede to India's request for the extradition of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed have raised serious questions about the global fight against terrorism. As the world grapples with the ever-present threat of extremism, Pakistan's inaction in addressing this critical issue demands attention and a unified response from the international community. It was not surprising that Pakistan swiftly rejected India's extradition demand, citing the absence of a bilateral treaty governing such matters between the two nations. However, the implications of Pakistan's decision go far beyond the intricacies of international law. What is truly concerning is Pakistan's ongoing patronage of Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind behind the horrific 2008 Mumbai attacks, which claimed the lives of innocent civilians and left scars that continue to haunt the region. The LeT, along with other terrorist organizations, continues to thrive within Pakistan's borders, raising questions about the sincerity of its commitment to combating terrorism. Reports that Hafiz Saeed's son, Talha, plans to run for office in February's general election only reinforce India's assertion that Pakistan is systematically mainstreaming terrorist groups as a state policy. This is a grave concern that cannot be ignored. It is worth noting that India had previously designated Talha as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2022, where he currently serves as the LeT's second-in-command, responsible for controlling its finances. The fact that individuals with such affiliations can openly participate in the political process is a glaring indication of the depth of the problem. In 2022, a Pakistani court sentenced Hafiz Saeed to 31 years in prison for his involvement in terror financing, following a similar conviction in 2020 that resulted in a 15-year sentence. While Pakistan claims these sentences are the result of its commitment to combating terrorism, India views them as responses to international pressure, particularly from organizations like the Financial Action Task Force and Western powers. India's extradition request this time includes charges of money laundering for terror purposes, emphasizing the need for a coordinated global strategy against designated terror groups and their sponsors. It is a stark reminder that, despite progress in some areas, the international community still lacks a comprehensive and cohesive approach to combating terrorism. The LeT and its front organization, Jamaat-ud-Dawah, have been banned by both the United States and the United Nations, underscoring their global threat. Yet, China's support for Pakistan has obstructed efforts to impose sanctions on Islamabad through a UN committee specifically targeting the principal perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks. This highlights the complexity of international relations when it comes to combating terrorism. In the face of these challenges, it is imperative for India to maintain relentless pressure for action against individuals like Hafiz Saeed, who represent an ideology that promotes hatred and justifies terror. This ideology must be unequivocally defeated, and Pakistan must be held accountable for its continued support of such elements.

New Year and our spiritual unity

Sujit De

It is time to say Happy New Year, 2024! The New Year celebration has a universal appeal. It is not confined to any particular region or religion. It transcends all the boundaries. Barring very few, almost all the countries of the world use the Gregorian calendar. The Gregorian calendar was proclaimed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 as a reform of the Julian calendar. The Julian and thereafter the Gregorian calendar count years from the birth of Jesus Christ. This is the reason why AD stands for 'Anno Domini', Latin for 'in the year of the Lord' while BC stands for 'Before Christ'. Now religious neutral words BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era) have replaced BC and AD respectively to make the Gregorian calendar free from the tag of any religion. After these changes, the New Year celebrations have become a truly secular event all over the world. The idea of 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam' that is the world is one family manifests in its celebration. The people of different countries, cultures and religions celebrate it without bothering about man made walls. It takes us away from the falsehood of narrow confinement of jingoism and religiosity to the truth of our spiritual unity. The boundless joy in no boundary is the speciality of every New Year's day. It contains the dream of John Lennon, "Imagine there is no countries. It isn't hard to do. Nothing to kill or die for. And no religion, too." In this song, he said, "You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one." We can say that at least on New Year's day he is not the only one as the people from almost all the countries and religions knowingly or unknowingly join together in celebration to live as one. Apart from this openness, the new year's day has another characteristic that bears the signature of spiritual endeavour. That is the resolution part of the New Year. People make New Year's resolutions to make their tomorrows a little better. It would be pertinent to recall the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." It is important because our resolution is our aspiration to become a better human being for a better tomorrow. This is the driving force of evolution that has taken us from a society of slaves to a feudal society and from police states to welfare states. Researchers have produced new DNA evidence that almost certainly confirms "Out of Africa" theory of human evolution that all of us stem from a single group of Homo Sapiens. After originating in Africa, our ancestors began spreading throughout Eurasia 60,000 years ago to seek food after experiencing a "quantum leap in thinking". Many generations ago, our ancestors could not help but to move out of Africa to satisfy their aspirations that they felt so strongly about after having experienced a "quantum leap in thinking". It had opened, as it were, a new horizon in their minds which could be described in the words of Rabindranath Tagore, "Fountain awakened from its dream." According to Sri Aurobindo, the cycles of evolution tend always upward, but they are cycles and do not ascend in a straight line. The process therefore gives the impression of a series of ascents and descents, but what is essential in the gains of the evolution is kept or, even if eclipsed for a time, re-emerges in new forms suitable to the new age. When we look back to the open slave markets in Europe and America and the practice of Sati in India, we cannot deny the upward movement of evolution. But when we see 8,000 dead bodies of children in the graveyard of Gaza, we also have to admit that we have to welcome the New Year, when a series of descents are going on all over the world. In India we see descents in the cycles of evolution in rising atrocities against Dalits and minorities. The emergence of India as a secular, democratic country was certainly a gain of the evolution. But that gains are likely to be eclipsed for a time as an attempt is being made to create an impression that a religious ceremony is but a State event.

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 editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

DEVOTEES AT GOLDEN TEMPLE



Devotees visit the Golden Temple on the first day of the new year 2024, in Amritsar, Monday, Jan. 1.

Welcome 2024: Wishes For All-Round, Inclusive Development

DR. MANMOHAN PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA



As the curtain falls on the eventful year of 2023, we stand at the threshold of a new dawn, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that 2024 has in store. The year gone by has been a tapestry of achievements and trials, a year in which India has made remarkable strides on multiple fronts. From sporting triumphs on the international stage to legislative reforms, from technological advancements to humanitarian endeavors, 2023 has left an indelible mark on our collective consciousness. Now, as we step into 2024, it's a time for reflection and anticipation—a time to celebrate our achievements and redouble our efforts towards the vision of an all-inclusive, progressive India. This article explores the highs and lows of the past year while casting a hopeful gaze towards the future. Join us as we extend our wishes for a year of all-round, all-embracing, and inclusive development. Welcome to 2024, a year brimming with possibilities and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

2023 will be remembered for the increasing number of medals in the Asian Games, the increasing success in international sports, the success of G-20, P-20, Chandrayaan Mission-3, Aditya L-1, the respect in international politics, the inauguration of the new Parliament House, Amrit Bharat, Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat trains as symbols of railway modernization and expansion, the development and increasing number of airports, the expansion of Metro, the rapid construction of corridors and roads, the development and beautification of tourist

places, especially religious ones, the fast move towards self-reliance, especially in the military sector, the growing economy, and a fast-developing nation.

This year will also be known for new bills passed in Parliament, like the Indian Civil Code Bill 2023, Indian Civil Defense Code Bill 2023, Indian Evidence Bill 2023, Women's Reservation Bill 2023, Nari Shakti Vandan Act 2023, Public Trust Amendment Bill 2023, etc., new indigenous names for cities, railway stations, stadiums, airports, islands, and for violence-free and fair assembly elections in

five states. Certainly, India has achieved many accomplishments in the last year, and every Indian has had the opportunity to be proud. Credit for this can be given to the concerned departments and the government.

But there have also been some unfortunate incidents like terrorist incidents and encounters in Jammu and Kashmir, the Balapur train accident, Silkyara tunnel accident, Manipur violence, heavy rains and devastating landslides in Himachal Pradesh, Meechong cyclone in Chennai, a shameful defeat in the One Day World Cup cricket final, and increasing figures of deaths in road accidents, etc., which every Indian would like to forget and would not like to see again in the coming years.

The demand from the government to declare India as Sanatan Rashtra/Hindu Rashtra and mother cow as the national animal remained in discussion throughout the year. It was also emphasized in the election campaign. Some supported this voice while some opposed it. The emerging development of new tools like Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake will create many possibilities and problems in the future, remaining a matter of concern.

No matter who forms the government at the Center in 2024, the public will support Prime Minister Modi's good governance mantra:

1. Only one religion for the government - India First
2. Only one holy book for the government - Constitution
3. Only one devotion for the government - Bharat Bhakti
4. Only one power for the government - people power.
5. Only one culture for the government - security and prosperity of 140 crore Indians.

6. Only one mantra for the government - everyone's support, everyone's development, everyone's trust, everyone's efforts.

The country would like to see it moving forward. It is also the wish of every Indian that India should become self-reliant in all fields and sectors. The introduction of e-courts, e-governance, e-payment, etc., are appreciable moves by the Indian government. In my opinion, every state should implement Education Policy 2020 and support education in regional languages. In fact, every Indian's dream is 'All-round, all-pervading, inclusive development.'

Operation Dost 2023, through which India helped earthquake-affected Turkish people, and Operation Kaveri 2023, through which 3000 travelers of Indian origin were evacuated from the conflict-torn land of Sudan, have also increased the stature of the Indian government.

Indians would also like to see our country increase its status in the field of Skill Development, Accessible India, Reshaping India, Empowered India, Green and pollution-free, and clean India. It is also the duty of Indian citizens to reduce man-made pollution, save water, adopt digital transactions, keep villages and cities clean, and follow 'Vocal for Local', do quality work, make quality products, and first focus on your entire country, then think of traveling abroad.

Include superfoods in your diet, prioritize yoga, sports, and fitness for health. Raise the social status of at least one poor family, understand the importance of organ donation and blood donation campaigns, and join them. Regardless of caste, creed, language, region, welcome 2024 with the thought that we will work hard for a rising and progressive India."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Despicable practice

It is deplorable and disgusting that the primitive and evil practice of "witch hunting" continues to thrive in parts of India especially in Assam. An adivasi woman was burnt alive by a group of men suspecting her to be a practitioner of "witchcraft" in Assam's Sonitpur district a few days ago sending shock waves across the region. A strong law on prohibition and prevention of witch hunting, that was passed in 2108, does exist in Assam but the enforcement has been indecisive. Though it is indisputable that the heinous practice is attributed to superstition, illiteracy and backwardness, but several mass campaigns by the authorities and non governmental organisations to create awareness among the gullible have not clicked. Witch hunting is a "mob culture"; the government cannot be contented with mere slogans and awareness drive. Adequate and efficient healthcare should reach areas where the inhumane practice is prevalent.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

A fresh start in North-East

The peace accord signed by pro-talk faction of ULFA with both the governments in central and state will bring a fresh start in the regional peace process. In the last five years nine peace and border related agreements have been signed with different states in the North-East and these have assured peace in a large part of the region. More than 9000 armed cadres of various outfits have surrendered with 85 % of the area in Assam now free from Armed Forces (Special Power) Act. Though one of the key founding fathers of ULFA and leader of the anti-talk faction, Paresh Barua is still at large, probably in Myanmar. The point of agreement behind this tripartite peace accord is the recent delimitation carried out in Assam. It has secured 97 seats out of 126 for the indigenous people. Thus political insecurity among the local people has been resolved. Besides, the demand of redoing NRC across Assam will be considered properly, including factors not considered earlier.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur, West Bengal

Lack of Garbage Disposal

Lack of garbage disposal in India is becoming dangerous for the environment and human health. Mountains of garbage are seen in all cities, which is a major cause of land, air and water pollution. The use of solid waste by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways during highway construction is commendable. Till now soil is used during road construction, now the use of solid waste in place of soil will bring a revolutionary change. Using solid waste instead of soil will help eliminate mountains of garbage in cities. All municipal bodies should classify waste so that solid waste can be separated and used in road construction.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

Will 2024 Bring In Minimum Sanity!

Kajal Chatterjee

As a parent, I am aware of the feelings and internal turmoil which all fathers and mothers have to undergo while bidding goodbye to their child after admitting him/her to college hostel. On the one hand there exists a feeling of joy that the child has got a platform to receive quality education and build up a professional career to ensure a bright secured future. On the other hand a gloom descends upon the heart as the child has left the nest by leaving memories in every corner. Still parents try to stabilise themselves for the sake of the greater good of the child with silent prayer for the welfare of the physically far-distant son/daughter.

Now what's the definition of "goodness" which parents harbor for the child! It depends upon the social/economic hierarchy of the family concerned! So for a set of parents, Oxford Cambridge Harvard remain the "dream destination" where they want to see their offspring! For another set of hapless parents, a "job" of a "petty" dishwasher in a far away restaurant form the "ultimate destination" which they dream about their child. But at the end of the day, one as-

pect is absolutely common - - love affection emotion which parents possess towards their children irrespective of social status, economy, geographical location or family background. No wonder why Mini's Bengali Bhadrakol middle class father (about to marry off her daughter) felt no hesitation in sharing the same platform with the poor Afghan trader Rahmat (just released from jail) on learning about his emotion towards the long unseen daughter back in Kabul (in Rabindranath Tagore's "Kabuliwala").

So I can clearly envisage the gloom within the hearts of the parents of Swapnadeep Kundu. Did the parents of Swapnadeep raise their child with lot of love and sacrifice to send him to "gallows" ie hostel of Jadavpur University where his dream and the flame of life can be extinguished brutally by the sponsors of ragging. Or the tragedy of the inconsolable parents of Abbachuddin Sheikh. Young son of a poor mason in the West Bengal district of South 24 Parganas! In this commercialised society where as basic amenity as education need to be purchased from the market, the boy had to pursue masonry only as means of survival in this

brute crude barbaric environment of "Survival of the fittest" or "Might is Right"! So when Abbachuddin got a window of opportunity in far-off Chennai as a member of the masonry team from his village, his joy knew no bounds.

With much pleasure and joy did Abbachuddin start for Chennai with his parting words to his father Ebadall being "Abba, stay well. Pray that I do good in Chennai". Did the poor father envisage that his son is soon to go beyond all boundaries of prayer with the Coromandel Express crushing at Bahanaga Bazar Odisha. Searching all hospitals and morgues yielded no result with the father returning by providing blood sample. Months later the unrecognisable charred body of Abbachuddin got identified through DNA matching with the father bringing the body home. Could the father of Swapnadeep or Abbachuddin ever dream during physical separation with their happy children in step of new life that they would next meet their son as corpse in bloodied or charred state.

It is a high time stern question needs to be asked - - Do the parents admit their children to the col-

leges to get physically abused by the uncivilized brute "brilliant" students? The menace of ragging is indeed increasing by leaps and bounds. However, it is natural because far from awarding severe punishments to the offenders, they actually escape scotfree on most occasions. This is the very reason why the vulgar lot continue to torture innocent juniors without a bit of hesitation. Ragging not only physically endangers the victim, but also leaves a permanent mark on his/her psyche also. Their career also gets nipped in the bud. Less said about the agony of the parents and economic losses of the less privileged families the better who send their children to institutions with a lot of hope and financial hardship.

Also it must be asked which should be the greatest priority - - Flagging off high-end luxurious glamorous trains to play to the gallery or ensuring fool proof security to the trains with liberal investment in accident prevention technology and mass recruitment instead of wasting precious wealth of the State in conquering Moon and erecting statues and temples. On the dusk of 31st January of 2022

or the dawn of 1st January 2023, did the parents of Swapnadeep and Abbachuddin envisage what the New Year is bringing in their lives. Of what use are such Universities which might feature in top ranks as per infrastructure and result, but snatch lives of innocent students through barbaric Ragging in hostels. How can the concerned authorities "celebrate" the resumption of train movement with crude slogans of a particular ecosystem instead of admitting it's failure in preventing one of the greatest accidents in the railway history of India. In this context, my earnest prayer remains that 2024 may bring a bit of sanity in India where innocent souls do not have to meet their end through artificial developments of Ragging or Avoidable accidents, Riots and pogroms, Wars and battles. Else there lies hardly any significance to celebrate the incoming of a fresh New Year if it remains bereft of minimum humanity sensibility rationality and accountability.

(The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF

Appointment



Kolkata: Senior IAS officer S Suresh Kumar on Monday took charge as the Chairman at Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). Kumar, an IAS officer of 1988 batch of West Bengal cadre was the Director General at Netaji Subhash Administrative Training Institute, Kolkata, before joining as DVC chairman, the DVC said.

Preferred destination



Thane: Maharashtra has become a preferred destination for investments from various countries, reflecting the state's conducive business environment, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said. Welcoming the New Year by participating in a midnight blood donation camp here, Shinde also spoke about the growing impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the positive impact of a deep cleaning drive taken up in Mumbai and its extension across the state.

Settlement scheme



Gurugram: Addressing a long-standing request from Haryana's trader and business community to settle pre-GST tax liabilities, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday launched the One Time Settlement-2023 (OTS) Scheme. The scheme will be operational from January 1, 2024, to March 30, 2024.

Horticulture equipment



Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh government will offer quality horticulture equipment, fertilisers and pesticides at affordable rates to apple growers through HPMC from January 1, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. In a statement issued here, he said the Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC) has reduced its margin from 15 per cent to 9 per cent, enabling apple growers to access quality products at more economical prices.

World needs India to become reliable challenger to China's supply-chain dominance: Anand

New Delhi, Jan 01:

The world needs India to become a reliable challenger to China's supply-chain dominance, which will provide a great opportunity in 2024 and investment will flow into the country in unprecedented volumes, according to Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra. In his New Year message, Mahindra also said all signs point to the Indian economy achieving "the mythical lift-off that we have been waiting for decades" and predicted that in 2024 "companies that are able to create a portfolio of desirable products both in features and price will face the happy challenge of raising their production to meet demand". Stressing that "a New Year is special because it always symbolises a new beginning", he said, "No matter how dark the year has gone by, the human spirit has an abiding capacity for hope. 2023



was a year characterised by conflict, climate change and a sluggish post-Covid recovery. The year ended with the world crying out for renewal." The first day of the new year opens a new chapter; a fresh opportunity for optimism and renewal, he added. "Globally, the world needs India to become a reliable challenger to China's supply-chain dominance. That is the great opportunity of 2024. That is what will fuel the lift-off. Investment is going to flow into India in unprecedented volumes," Mahindra said. He further said, "The opportunity for

India's manufacturing to achieve a quantum leap is within our grasp or ours to lose. Let's seize it with both hands because growth in manufacturing and exports will, in turn, enhance the consumption story, setting into motion a virtuous cycle that could endure for years." In the long run, however, what will keep India's economy on the ascent is a capacity for disruptive innovation, Mahindra said adding "that aspiration is showing up in many of the newer startups. More power to this tribe!" In 2023, he said the Mahindra group also faced the challenges firsthand in the communities its work with around the world being a transnational business.

"We also experienced the joy of overcoming those challenges, and in most situations, achieved extraordinary success. Our great advantage and opportunity in 2024 comes from our deeply embedded Indian roots.

PV sales touch record high in 2023 at 41.08 lakh units, SUVs continue strong growth

New Delhi, Jan 01:

Passenger vehicle sales in India touched a record high of 41.08 lakh units in 2023, growing by 8.3 per cent over the previous year driven by SUVs, which accounted for almost half of the total dispatches from manufacturers to dealers. The record sales have been achieved despite an increase in the average price of vehicles to Rs 11.5 lakh last year as compared to Rs 10.58 lakh in 2022. Market leader Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor India, Tata Motors and Toyota Kirloskar Motor reported their best-ever annual sales in 2023. "If you look at January to December 2023, wholesales crossed 41.08 lakh. This is the first time the industry has ever crossed the 4 million mark. That, I think is a huge milestone in the history of the Indian passenger vehicles (PV) industry," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told reporters in a call. He further said, "This is against whole-



sales of 37.92 lakh units for the calendar year 2022. Therefore, there is a growth of 8.3 per cent in the calendar year 2023." The previous record for the highest annual PV sales was recorded in 2022. Srivastava further said the industry estimate for retail sales in 2023 is 40.51 lakh against 37.30 lakh in 2022, at a growth of 8.6 per cent. "Most of the growth in the industry was largely driven by SUVs, which grew by 26 per cent," Srivastava said. In terms of contribution to the overall PV sales, he said, "The SUV percentage went up from 42 per cent in 2022 to 48.7 per cent in 2023. For hatchbacks, it has come down from 34.8 per cent to 30 per cent in the calendar year 2023, sedans also decreased

from 11 per cent to 9.4 per cent while for multi-utility vehicles it remained the same at 8.7 per cent."

He, however, said the contribution of SUVs to the overall PV sales is likely to saturate at around 50-55 per cent going forward. Srivastava said the overall PV sales growth has come in despite the increase in the average selling price (ASP) of vehicles.

"So far in the industry what we have seen in the last few years is a jump in the ex-showroom price," he said, adding as per the company's calculation the ASP in the industry has gone up to almost Rs 11.5 lakh in 2023 as compared to Rs 10.58 lakh in 2022. The ASP has gradually increased over the last four years and it was at only Rs 8.2 lakh in 2019-20

due to an increase in prices of commodities, more sales of bigger vehicles like SUVs which cost more, he said. Besides, even within a segment consumers prefer higher variants with more features. The regulatory stringency has also led to an increase in vehicle prices, he added. Maruti Suzuki India crossed the annual sales milestone of 20 lakh units in calendar year 2023, which includes its highest ever calendar year exports of 2,69,046 units. "This is the first time ever in a calendar year that Maruti Suzuki's total sales exceeded 2 million units..."

This was also the highest ever rural sales at 7.76 lakh and highest ever pre-owned car sales at 4.68 lakh," Srivastava said, adding the company's premium retail outlet NEXA also clocked its best ever annual at more than 5 lakh units. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) reported a 9 per cent year-on-year increase in total sales at 7,65,786 units in 2023, on the back of record annual domestic sales.

Petrol, diesel sales drop as winter sets in

New Delhi, Jan 01:

Petrol and diesel sales in India slumped in December as setting in of winter tapered demand, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed on Monday. Petrol sales of the three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, fell 1.4 per cent to 2.72 million tonnes in December 2023 when compared to the year-ago period, while diesel demand dropped 7.8 per cent to 6.73 million tonnes. The onset of the winter season in northern India led to the tapering of air-conditioning demand. Month-on-month petrol sales dropped 4.9 per cent when compared to 2.86 million tonnes consumption in November. Diesel de-



mand too was down 0.8 per cent month-on-month when compared to 6.79 million tonnes in November. Diesel is India's most consumed fuel, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum product consumption. Transport sector accounts for 70 per cent of all diesel sales in the country. Fuel consumption has been on a see-saw over the last couple of months. Demand for both petrol

and diesel had risen in October but diesel consumption fell 7.5 per cent in the following month. Consumption of petrol during December 2023 was 7.1 per cent more than in the COVID-marred December 2021 and 21.5 per cent more than in pre-pandemic December 2019. Diesel consumption was up 4.3 per cent over December 2021 and 2.7 per cent compared to

December 2019. Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 3.8 per cent year-on-year to 644,900 tonnes in December. But this was 6.5 per cent lower than in December 2019 primarily because not all international flights have resumed after the pandemic. ATF consumption was 25.5 per cent more than in December 2021, but lower than 628,400 tonnes used in pre-COVID December 2019. Month-on-month jet fuel sales were 2.6 per cent higher than 628,400 tonnes in November 2023. Cooking gas LPG sales were almost flat year-on-year at 2.73 million tonnes in December. LPG consumption was 8.1 per cent higher than in December 2021 and 16.4 per cent more than in pre-COVID December 2019.

India's steel sector still in recovery mode post Covid pandemic: Narendran

Jamshedpur, Jan 01:

The steel sector in the country is still in recovery mode after the Covid pandemic, Tata Steel CEO and MD T V Narendran said on Monday.

He said demand for steel will continue to grow, backed by the government's focus on infrastructure development. "This (2023) has been good year for the steel sector in India, even though it was a challenging period globally," Narendran said here.

"The recovery of the steel industry is still continuing post the global pandemic. In fact, we recovered well due to good handling of micro-econo-



my by the RBI, and the investment that has been made for infrastructure development," he said at a New Year programme here.

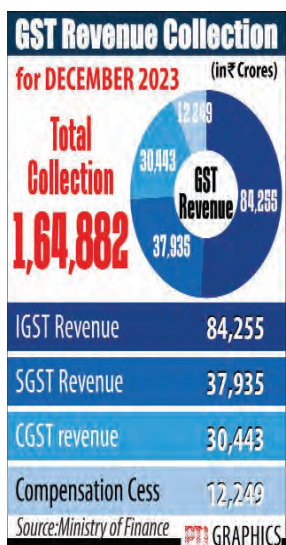
The demand for steel grew 10-12 per cent in 2023 and this trend should continue, he said, while expressing apprehension about increasing

import of steel from China. "China has been exporting 8 million tonnes of steel every month (in 2023), which was the highest since 2015, and this has an impact on international steel prices as well as profitability," Narendran said. Tata Steel will have to increase its capacity by 1-2 million tonnes every year to maintain its market share, "which we have been doing", he said. Earlier in August 2023, Narendran had said the company is planning to scale up its annual installed steel-making capacity to 40 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by 2030 in India, from around 22 MTPA at present.

GST collections rises 10 pc to Rs 1.64 lakh cr in Dec

New Delhi, Jan 01:

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections jumped 10 per cent to about Rs 1.64 lakh crore in December compared to Rs 1.49 lakh crore in the same month a year ago, the finance ministry said on Monday. During the April-December 2023 period, gross GST collection witnessed a robust 12 per cent growth, reaching Rs 14.97 lakh crore, as against Rs 13.40 lakh crore collected in the same period of the previous year, the ministry said in a statement. The average monthly gross GST collection of Rs 1.66 lakh crore in the



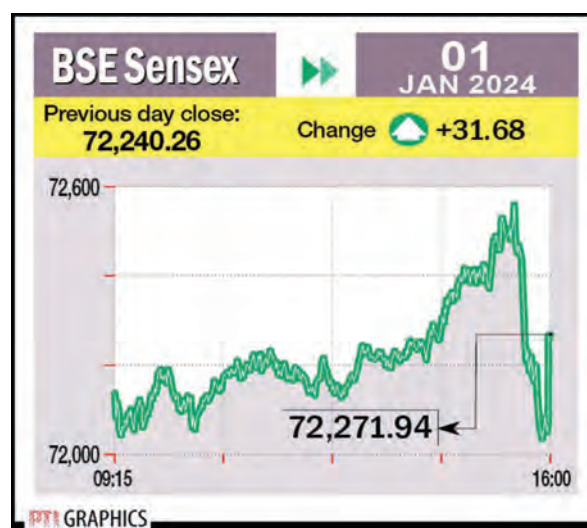
first nine-month period this year represents a 12

per cent increase compared to the Rs 1.49 lakh crore average recorded in the corresponding period of FY23, it said. "The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December, 2023 is Rs 1,64,882 crore out of which CGST is Rs 30,443 crore, SGST is Rs 37,935 crore, IGST is Rs 84,255 crore (including Rs 41,534 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 12,249 crore (including Rs 1,079 crore collected on import of goods)," it said. Notably, this marks the seventh month so far this year with collections exceeding Rs 1.60 lakh crore, it said.

Sensex, Nifty kick off 2024 on a flat note

Mumbai, Jan 01:

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty kicked off 2024 on a flat note, with the 30-share index closing with marginal gains following some buying in energy, services and telecom counters. In a highly volatile trade, the BSE gauge eked out a modest gain of 31.68 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 72,271.94 after a muted beginning. During the day, it hit a low of 72,031.23 and a high of 72,561.91, its lifetime intraday peak. The Nifty went rose 10.50 points or 0.05 per cent to 21,741.90. In 2023, the BSE benchmark jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 3,626.1 points or 20 per cent. On the Sensex chart,



Nestle, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Tata Motors, Wipro and ITC were among the winners. In contrast, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank, NTPC and Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards. Asian and European markets were closed on Monday for the

New Year. The US markets ended marginally lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.14 per cent to USD 77.04 a barrel. According to exchange data, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,459.12 crore on Friday.

The BSE benchmark fell 170.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 72,240.26 on the last trading day of 2023 on Friday. The Nifty declined 47.30 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 21,731.40. The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during the summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rains.

FOREMOST MEDITECH receives award for best promising company

For healthcare medical devices by Medgate

New Delhi, Jan 01: The event was honored with the presence of Cmdr. Surender Singh War Veteran & Leader BJP who was chief guest. Other guests include Rajiv Nath, Forum coordinator AiMED and Dr Girdhar Gyani, Director General AHPI.

In the shifting scenarios of the Indian healthcare industry, Foremost Meditech has emerged as a spearhead with Mr. Shishpal Rar being in the driving seat. His leadership as a Managing Director has left a remarkable impression, not only on the company, but the entire healthcare industry



of India. With his background in Mechanical field, he has gained immense experience in the domain of manufacturing healthcare machinery, majorly Ventilators and Anaesthesia machines. The voyage of this impeccable vision of manufacturing healthcare machin-

ery began when India was struck by the pandemic Covid 19. The times were hard as availing well-functioning ventilators and other medical devices was not simple. Empowering the Indian healthcare industry by joining the Make In India initiative, he founded this company

and began manufacturing highly innovative medical devices under budget.

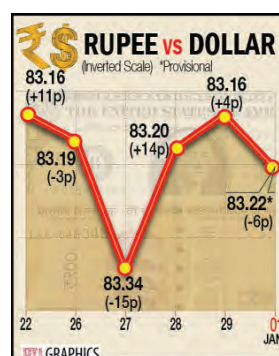
Needless to say, it is for his persistent pursuit of good healthcare facilities that technology, innovation and noteworthy introduction of top-grade Ventilator and Anaesthesia machines have become the hallmark of our 2017 built company. Consequently, he envisions taking our company to the forefront of the Indian healthcare industry.

At Award ceremony, FOREMOST MEDITECH was presented by Shishpal Rar, MD; Prita Rar, CEO; Anil Raj Jha, Head of global marketing; Rakesh Beniwal, sales head; and Ashwani yadav, R&D Head.

Rupee falls 6 paise to close at 83.22 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 01:

The rupee started the new year on a weak note, depreciating by 6 paise to 83.22 against the US dollar amid a muted trend in domestic equities and dollar demand from importers. Forex traders said the rupee traded in a narrow range in the absence of global cues. Global crude oil markets were closed for New Year Day holiday. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.18 and finally settled at 83.22 (provisional) against the dollar, down by 6 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee appreciated 4 paise to settle at 83.16



against the US dollar on the last trading day of 2023.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was 0.05 per cent up at 101.38. On the domestic equity mar-

ket front, Sensex advanced 31.68 points, or 0.04 per cent, to settle at 72,271.94 points. The Nifty advanced 10.50 points, or 0.05 per cent, to 21,741.90 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Friday as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,459.12 crore, according to exchange data.

The forex reserves continued to rise for the third consecutive week, adding USD 4.471 billion more in the week ending December 22, taking the total to USD 620.441 billion, according to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank on Friday.

DKS creating new steps of progress: Sharma

Omkar Sahu takes membership in SBDA

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Jan 01: Deputy Chief Minister and Kawardha MLA Vijay Sharma here participated in the annual conference program of Dadsena Kalar Samaj (DKS) organized at Sardar Patel Maidan in Kawardha of Kabirdham district.

The Deputy Chief Minister also released the social booklet and assured of every possible effort and cooperation for the construction of social buildings of the society.

In the annual conference program, marriageable young men and women introduced themselves and 50 talented students of class 10th and 12th of the society and 26 social persons who have brought glory to the society with the Dadsena Gaurav Samman, were



also felicitated.

The Deputy CM was honored with Gaj Maja on behalf of District Dadsena Kalar Samaj for his huge responsibility as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state and for giving time to the soci-

ety.

Overwhelmed with the honour, Shri Sharma said in his address that hard work and honesty are the identity of the Dadsena Kalar community, due to which the society today is creating new steps of

progress in every field.

The program was also addressed by former Parliamentary Secretary Motiram Chandravanshi, former MLA Ashok Sahu, District Panchayat member Ramkumar Bhatt, Kailash Chandravanshi.

District President of Dadsena Kalar Samaj, Rupendra Jaiswal said that Dadsena Kalar Samaj, while fulfilling its social traditions, is organizing a massive social event for the first time at Sardar Patel Maidan, the heart of the city, to strengthen and strengthen the society and to save money and time.

In the program, District Panchayat Bodla Vice President Sanat Jaiswal, District Dadsena Kalar Samaj Bilaspur Ashok Jaiswal, Additional Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bilaspur Rakesh Jaiswal, Local Area President of the district Badri Jaiswal, Brijanandan Jaiswal, Bhupat Jaiswal, Shyam Lal Jaiswal and public representatives, senior citizens of the society were present.

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Jan 01: Influenced by the social service work of Sanjeevani Raktdaat Sangh, Nevra Tilda, here on 30th December 2023, by the social service organization Sanjeevani Raktdaat Sangh (SBDA), under the 'Add Membership in Urban and Rural Areas' Maha Abhiyan, a new membership in the name of Omkar Sahu Gram Panchayat Nawagaon Po Kamta, Singa District Baloda Bazar (Bhatapara) was registered.

Sahu expressed his desire to donate blood and accepted the membership and also assured the head of the organization that he will not do anything against the



organization which may tarnish the image of this organization. Our friends, classmates, and family members will also get membership and whenever the areas of Tilda and Bhatapara Raipur need blood, we will come forward to donate blood and will increase the pride of our Sanjeevani Blood

Donor Association through this noble cause, he said.

The President of the organization, Vice President, Co-Secretary, Media In-charge, Chief Advisor, Treasurer and all the members congratulated Omkar Sahu for his work and wish him good luck and wish him to remain healthy forever.

Traffic congestion due to single road traffic movement

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 01: Traffic chaos has been reported in a single road which is on-route to reach Mahasamund is via Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk, located at the bus stand that is Pt. Shyamacharan Shukla Chowk. After Shivaji Chowk the road divides into two parts, the first one goes to Amapara Road, second one goes to Mahasamund via Block Headquarters Fingeshwar and on this route, the need of a divider road is being felt ahead of the agricultural produce market i.e. till Koma village.

Whereas via Shivaji Chowk till Peetaiband and on Gariaband Devbhog National Highway No. 130 C road, from Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Chowk to Govardhan Chowk, Mahamaya Chowk, Rajim Bhaktin Mata Chowk, Chaubebandha Tiraha be-



yond Atal Chowk, divider road has become extremely necessary.

However, only on the route to Rajivlochan Temple, dividers have been made in the name of Gaurav Path in 2007 from Bus Stand to Gayatri Temple and this is leading to accidents and traffic congestion.

This assembly has given Chief Minister thrice in undivided Madhya Pradesh and once Jail Minister and after formation of Chhattisgarh state, once Panchayat and Rural Development Minister and since then Rajim has given MP twice and MLA

every time, but as per developmental schemes no proper developments are seen.

Citizens like Mahendra Patel, Punnu Lal Sahu, Santosh Sahu, Rekharan Verma, Ramkumar Dewangan, Ekant Baghel have opined that the pride of the city is the divider road and the lights installed on it and after making the divider the visibility increases, which may lessen the accident rates.

They have demanded that divider roads should be built soon on Raipur Marg, Mahasamund Marg and Gariaband Devbhog National Highway through the bus stand.

In village Jhalakhmaharia

Central Chronicle News

Mahasamund, Jan 01: Under the Prime Minister's Tribal Justice Maha Abhiyan, initiatives are being taken to provide benefits of schemes to the special backward tribes of the district by organizing camps and special efforts are being made to reach out to their homes and make them aware of the benefits of the schemes through nutrition camps.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, officers and administrative staff of various departments are reaching out to the Panchayats, settlements, Tola Paras and doorsteps of special backward tribes and informing them about various types of problems and needs with great simplicity and intimacy.

Here in the District Collector Prabhat Malik, as per the intention of the

PM Janman Yojana camp organized



government, directed to become aware of the problems by organizing camps for better implementation of various schemes being run in the district under Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, especially for the socio-economic progress of special backward tribal groups.

It has been given so that all the identified Particularly Vulnerable

Tribal Groups (PVTG) communities can be provided benefits to the people of the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana by preparing an action plan in mission mode and better work can be done for better implementation of the schemes.

District CEO and Deputy Collector Misha Koshale and Tehsildar Chandrashekhar Mandai

visited the houses of Kamar families in village Jhalakhmaharia under Mahasamund development block and took information from them, after becoming aware of their problems, they asked them to take benefit of the related schemes.

Similarly, Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Ms. Shilpa

Sai is reaching these villages and making people aware and Janman cards were also given to the beneficiaries.

In Mahasamund district, 3240 special backward tribe Kamars of 894 families are living in Mahasamund, Bagbahra, Pithora development blocks.

It is noteworthy that Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana is being run to improve the social and economic condition of the special backward tribe community and under this, in coordination with various departments, drinking water, housing, roads, mobile medical unit, construction of hostels, nutrition through Anganwadi centers, establishment of Van Dhan Kendra, Aadhaar card, Ayushman card, permanent housing, tap water scheme, internet and mobile. Important activities including skill development will be implemented for service availability and livelihood promotion.

NSS Camp concludes with program based on folk culture

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 01: A seven-day special camp of the National Service Scheme Unit operated in Chhattisgarh Mahtari College Bhakhara was organized in village Joratarai, (Anwari) under the guidance of Principal Dr. Shailendra Kumar Sahu and the leadership of Program Officer TK Sahu, which was concluded by the campers and was concluded by a cultural program based on folk culture.

Chief Guest of the closing camp was Dr. SD Dwivedi, Ayurveda Medical Officer, Government Ayurveda Dispensary, Bhakhara, chaired by Khilavan Pal,



Sarpanch Gram Panchayat, Joratarai, T.R. Sahu, Secretary, Managing Committee, Chhattisgarh Mahtari College, Bhakhara, Parameshwari Mahendra Sahu, Chairman, District Panchayat Kurud, Mahendra Kumar Sahu, in the special hospitality of Dr. Shailendra Kumar Sahu Principal.

In his address, Dr. SD Dwivedi praised the daily routine of the campers and said that if this routine is implemented in life then surely no one can stop them from achieving their goal. Chief Guest of the evening cultural program, Khilavan Pal Sarpanch said that the purpose for which you people had come to our village will definitely

be successful, along with the message of de-addiction, a cleanliness campaign was launched in the village, and this has brought a positive thinking in the village. Dr. Shailendra Kumar Sahu, by giving permission and consent to organize a seven-day special camp of National Service Scheme in village Joratarai, gave the campers the opportunity to be filled with qualities like sociality, religiosity, morality, tolerance, service-mindedness through various activities. He expressed gratitude towards Yogacharyas, government primary school teachers etc. who provided residential facilities to the campers.

Martyr Memorial Committee remembers Pramod Patel

Pithora, Jan 01: On the martyrdom day of martyr Pramod Patel, resident of Pithora, a tribute program was organized by the Martyr Memorial Committee, Pithora and a floral tribute was paid at the martyr memorial and the lamp was lit by the entire family of Pramod Patel and the citizens and committee of Pithora.

After lighting the lamp by the members, a tribute meeting was organized in which the moment spent with the martyr was first told by Martyr Pramod Patel's friend and teacher Shashank Pradhan and then the meeting was addressed by Kaushal Kishore Sahu and MK Sahu. Martyr's biography and incidents in the en-



counter with Naxalites were explained in detail by Dr. Saroj Sao, through a poem. Police station in-charge Rajendra Singh Rajput praised service and police personnel in Naxal-affected forests and the martyr's brave bride Mrs. Kiran Patel gave informa-

tion about the incidents from police recruitment to martyrdom.

Martyr's sister who is a teacher gave information about Pramod's life and Martyr Memorial Committee member Ritesh Mahanty thanked the Martyr Memorial

Committee for the information and tribute program. Ritesh Mahanti, a member of the Martyr Memorial Committee, thanked for the information about the program organized in honor of the martyrdom of the martyrs from the first to the last of the year and for attending the program. Prominently present in the program were Anant Singh Verma, Umesh Dixit, Gurudeep Chawla, Mayank Pandey, Shubham Aggarwal, Inderjit Singha, Sonu Chhabra, Ramesh Soni Kishore Nayak, Surendra Saluja, Narendra Dassena, Sudhir Pradhan, Rajesh Chaudhary, Pramod Patel's mother, father and his entire family were present.

More than 350 pregnant, lactating women and children benefited

From the 'SMJJA' run by Adani Foundation

Central Chronicle News

Ambikapur, Jan 01: Shishu Mahtari Jan Jagrati Abhiyan (SMJJA) has been started by Adani Foundation in Udaipur development block of the district from the month of April. The main objective of this campaign is to promote health and hygiene among pregnant women, teach the correct way of breastfeeding to mothers of newborn babies and provide safe motherhood.

352 newborns and pregnant and lactating women participated in the campaign in Anganwadi cen-



ters of 15 villages including Parsa, Basan, Salhi, Ghatbarra, Hariharpur, Fatehpur, Tara, Janardanpur, Shivnagar and Gunga. These women are trained in the use of clean clothing and hygienic practices, elimination of susceptibility to bacterial infections, skin infections and seasonal diseases, family essentials after child birth, precautionary

measures for mother and child, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programs such as health and information was given about promoting cleanliness activities etc.

Led by Dr. Pooja Pandey, the program educates pregnant and lactating women about important antenatal and postnatal care practices. Special ma-

ternal and child kits were distributed to 352 infant mothers who participated in the program.

The essential items provided in the Jaccha Bacha Kit like, baby soap, baby shampoo, baby powder, baby massage oil, baby towel, baby blanket and baby clothes contribute significantly in ensuring the health safety of newborn babies and their

mothers. This program was successfully organized with the support of local Anganwadi workers, health workers and field staff and the overall management of the Adani Foundation team.

On behalf of RRVNUL, many programs of education, health, livelihood upliftment and infrastructure are conducted by Adani Foundation in accordance with the suggestions of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) issued by the United Nations to discharge social responsibility at the global level, under which children of all ages are included. The delivery of health services aims to ensure quality life.

Top honours for Aasra School in science exhibition



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 01: In a remarkable showcase of scientific talent, students from approximately 12 higher secondary schools in Dongargaon block participated in a block-level science exhibition held at Government Higher Secondary School Bijebantha. Among the talented participants, the students of Government Higher Secondary School Aasra achieved a remarkable feat by clinching the top position.

At the exhibition, they pre-

sented a model demonstrating how to recharge an electric car when it runs out of power. District Education Officer Rajesh Kumar Singh, the chief guest at the event, lauded this innovative model and encouraged the students to continue their exceptional performance in upcoming board examinations. Singh emphasized the importance of hard work and urged the students to aspire to merit lists. While presenting the award, Singh also stressed the need for both male and female students to excel aca-

demically, drawing attention to the success of girl students in merit lists. He motivated the teachers to inspire more students across the district to achieve outstanding results. The entire school community, along with students, extended their heartfelt congratulations on this exceptional performance and securing the first position. This impressive exhibition was made possible under the expert guidance of the school's principal, Rohit Kumar Taram, and physics subject expert Hukumlal Chaturvedi.

Warner announces ODI retirement ahead of swansong Test at SCG

Sydney, Jan 01 (PTI):

Batting stalwart David Warner on Monday announced his retirement from ODI cricket alongside the end of his Test career here this week but he will continue to play T20 cricket for Australia.

The 37-year-old swash-buckling opener, however, kept the door open for himself to be available for the 2025 Champions Trophy if the Australian team needs him. Ahead of his swansong Test at his hometown venue SCG, Warner revealed that Australia's World Cup final victory over India in November was his last match in the 50-over format. "I'm definitely retiring from one-day cricket as well. That was something that I had said through the (50-over) World Cup (in India in 2023), get through that, and winning it in India, I think that's a massive achievement," he said at a press conference at the SCG on Monday.

"So I'll make that decision today, to retire from those forms, which does allow me to go and play some other leagues around the world and sort of get the one-day team moving forward a little



bit," said an emotional Warner. "I know there's a Champions Trophy coming up. If I'm playing decent cricket in two years' time and I'm around and they need someone, I'm going to be available."

Considered as one of Australia's and world's most destructive batters in recent times, Warner ended his one-day career as a two-time world champion after finishing the 2023 World Cup in India as his team's leading run

'I've moved on from lifetime captaincy ban, enjoyed IPL leadership stints'

Sydney: The controversy surrounding the lifetime captaincy ban on David Warner following the 2018 ball-tampering scandal could have been handled differently but he has moved on from that episode, the retiring batting stalwart said here on Monday. Warner was handed a lifetime leadership ban after team-mate Cameron Bancroft was caught with sandpaper in his trouser pocket and Australia admitted to ball-tampering during the Cape Town Test against South Africa in 2018. Among the three cricketers who were punished — captain Steve Smith and Bancroft being the other two —, Warner got the harshest punishment. Following an amendment to Cricket Australia's Code of Conduct for players and staff in 2022, the left-handed batter was to appeal against the ban but later decided not to do so as he apparently found out that the review panel hearing was to be done in public.

scorer. The left-handed opener made his ODI debut in 2009 in a match against South Africa in Hobart. Since then, he has played 161 ODIs, scoring 6932 runs at an average of 45.30 with the help of 22 hundreds and 33 fifties.

He is Australia's sixth-highest run-scorer in men's ODIs and second on the hundreds list behind Ricky Ponting who played 205 more ODI innings than Warner. In the 111 Tests he has played so far, Warner has scored 8695 runs at an average of 44.58 with 26 hundreds and 36 fifties.

He will continue to be available for Australia in T20 cricket and is hopeful of featuring in their World Cup campaign in that format in June in the

Caribbean and USA.

After the ODI World Cup in India, Warner had hinted at pushing on until 2027 although he will have been 41 by then. He said that the way the team had rebounded in India made it the ideal finishing point.

Warner holds an IPL contract with the Delhi Capitals and he could be one of the most sought after cricketers on the domestic T20 circuit.

"I definitely am keen to pursue playing Big Bash next year. There's going to be conversations behind the scenes to allow me to do that," he said.

"Obviously I've joined the Fox commentary team next year during the Test series against India, which I'm looking forward to.

Kohli's simulation for Burger, Iyer faces short ball barrage

Cape Town, Jan 01 (PTI):

Virat Kohli looked a million dollars as he did extensive simulation for South Africa's left-arm pacer Nandre Burger but Shreyas Iyer's problems seemed to continue while facing a barrage of short balls at nets here on Monday.

On the New Year's Day, it was business as usual for Kohli, who had an extended session lasting close to an hour. First, he was at the centre nets against bowlers and then he faced high-intensity throwdowns for about 20 to 25 minutes at outside nets.

Kohli is known to come to nets with specific purpose and on Monday, it seemed he wanted to extensively bat against a left-arm pacer.

Since the Indian team's pace bowling roster doesn't include a left-arter, a net bowler was summoned and Kohli faced a good 25 to 30 deliveries from him in between playing against Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, R Ashwin and Avesh Khan.

Kohli was repeatedly seen putting in a big stride forward and at times walking a couple of steps to whip the bowler through mid wicket. However, the only problem here was that the youngster provid-



Indian cricketer Virat Kohli during a practice session ahead of the second Test match between India and South Africa, at Newlands Cricket Ground, in Cape Town, South Africa, Monday.

ed by Cricket South Africa (CSA) was at least 15 clicks lesser in terms of pace compared to Burger, who took seven wickets on debut in the opening Test at Centurion.

The net bowler's lack of pace allowed Kohli to read the inswing and then walk down a couple of steps to flick him through mid wicket.

In match situations, Kohli won't get so much time to come on the front foot.

A six off Ashwin was majestic and the way he played Bumrah, with so much time at his disposal, was a treat. Shreyas Iyer's weakness against short ball is well documented.

But the Mumbaikar wasn't amused one bit when the question cropped up during the ODI World Cup at home.

However, the Centurion Test once again exposed his shortcomings against bounce.

He continues to have serious issues while facing anything that's remotely above his waist line. He looked iffy while batting and as Nuwan Senaviratne, the Sri Lankan left-arm side-arter, bowled one from 18 yards, Iyer reacted late while trying to pull the delivery and was hit on the fleshy part of the stomach.

For a brief period, he stopped batting, looked in



Indian cricketer Shreyas Iyer during a practice session ahead of the second Test match between India and South Africa, at Newlands Cricket Ground, in Cape Town, South Africa, Monday.

pain and was given water before he resumed his job.

All three throwdown specialists bowled to him from 18 yards, and he didn't for once look solid and display enough confidence even though he is an automatic choice in this playing XI.

After being hit on the left shoulder during Saturday's throwdown session at Centurion, Shardul Thakur was back at training, albeit strictly as a batter. Shardul wasn't seen bowling but he did bat at centre net as well as throwdown nets.

He didn't seem in any discomfort and was looking good as he tackled the short balls.

AIFF president calls for accountability on part of refereeing in India's top football leagues

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI):

In an unprecedented move, All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey on Monday came down heavily on the referee department for the mounting refereeing errors this ISL and I-League season, saying there is an "urgent need for accountability".

Chaubey chaired a virtual meeting on Sunday to discuss ways to improve the standard of refereeing.

Expressing concerns over issues related to refereeing, Chaubey urged individuals involved in referee regulations, match officials and assessors to uphold "natural justice".

A total of 24 controversial Key Match Incidents (KMI) from seven ISL and four I-League games were presented for discussion.

After hearing explanations and analysis from the panel on the decisions of the referees, Chaubey said, "The season has seen increasing concerns over referee decisions with

complaints and counter-claims. Clubs have submitted hard evidence in the form of videos to back their claims.

"Several games have been impacted due to unfortunate 'plain-sight errors', and admittedly below the acceptability of standards expected from us."

It's not often that the AIFF makes a scathing assessment

The AIFF chief emphasised that the federation has made strides in the highly competitive environment, leading to having a 12-month packed football calendar as compared to 7-9 months in the recent past.

"We are fortunate to serve the sport followed by millions of fans today. We are not into 7-8 months of business anymore. We are engaged throughout the year, 365 days of the calendar, in running tournaments and developing the sport at various levels and geographies in the country.

Harmanpreet's form with bat in focus as India look to salvage pride in final ODI against Australia

Mumbai, Jan 01 (PTI):

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's form with the bat will be in focus as the Indian Women's team looks to salvage pride and end a nine-match losing streak at home against a dominant Australia in the third and final ODI here on Tuesday.

Kaur has led her side admirably well in a long home season with a couple of historic results in the Tests, but this period has also witnessed her struggle with the bat. She has scored runs in double digits only thrice in eight innings across formats this season with her highest being 49 against England in the one-off Test last month. In the historic win against Australia in the one-off Test, Kaur was out for a duck in India's first innings and she was not required to bat in the second essay. In the two ODIs against Australia who have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, her scores



Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur during a practice session ahead of the third ODI cricket match between India and Australia, at Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, Monday.

were 9 and 5. While India made the most of the favourable home conditions in the one-off Test, the home team's frailties have come to the fore again in white-ball cricket in the last two ODIs. If India were ordinary with the ball in the first ODI wherein they lost by six

We will try to break Australia's unbeaten run soon: Deepti

Mumbai: Ace off-spinner Deepti Sharma on Monday backed India Women to end Australia's winning streak against them at home as soon as possible after losing nine consecutive ODIs including two games in the ongoing series. Australia clinched a narrow three-run win in the second ODI here at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The last time India beat the Aussies at home was at Chennai on February 23, 2007. "Look, winning and losing is a part of the game but we have improved as a team be it as a bowling unit or batting. We will try to break their winning streak as soon as possible," Deepti told the media here before India's training session. "There have been a lot of improvements. Earlier, whenever we would play against Australia the games never used to go that close. This is one positive (from the last match) that we are able to take it till the end," she added.

wickets even after posting their highest-ever total of 282 for 8 in the format, Kaur's side dropped as many as seven catches in the second game, as Australia get away with a three-run win.

At the same time, Richa Ghosh's heroics in the second ODI — 96 off 113 balls (14 fours) in a stiff chase — and Jemimah Rodrigues' consistency (82

We do not recognise ad-hoc panel and ministry suspension: Sanjay Singh

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI):

Indian wrestling teetered on the edge of a deeper crisis with Sanjay Singh, President of the suspended WFI, on Monday declaring that they will soon organise the national championships and insisting that they neither recognise the suspension of their newly-elected body by Sports Ministry nor the ad-hoc panel.

Three days after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) held its polls, the ministry suspended the sports body citing several violations of rules on December 24. On the request of the government, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) then formed a three-member panel, headed by Bhopender Singh Bajwa, to manage the day-to-day affairs of the body.

The other members of the committee are former hockey player M M Somaya and ex-shuttler Manjusha Kanwar. The

ad-hoc panel announced that it will host the senior national championships in Jaipur from February 2-5. Sanjay, though, remained combative and said they will not co-operate with the ad-hoc panel and will organise the Nationals. "We got elected democratically. The Returning Officer had signed the papers, how do they ignore that. We do not recognise this ad-hoc panel," Sanjay told PTI.

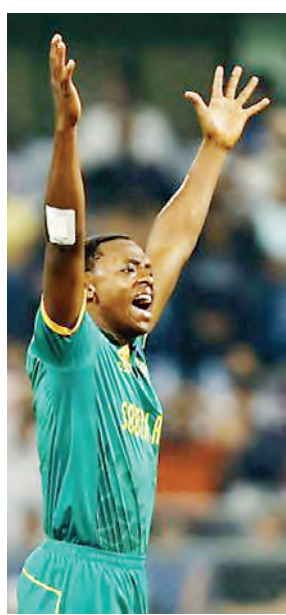
Asked how will they organise they Nationals, he said, "We do not recognise this suspension. The WFI is working smoothly, we are on the job."

"How will they (ad-hoc panel) organise Nationals if our state associations will not send the teams. We will organise our National Championship soon. We are soon calling the Executive Committee meeting. The notice of the EC meeting will be sent in a day or two and we will have the Nationals organised before they do it."

Great hip and shoulder rotation makes Rabada special bowler: Donald

Cape Town, Jan 01 (PTI):

Kagiso Rabada's hunger for success and an impeccable technique to release the ball easily makes him a modern-day South Africa legend, reckons former fast bowling great Allan Donald. Explaining what makes Rabada special, Donald said Rabada's hip-rotation is like a javelin thrower and that adds pace to his bowling. Donald said Rabada's bowling style is similar to the past legends of the game. The 28-year-old, who has competed in 61 matches, is just 13 scalps away from completing 300 Test wickets. "Skill is one thing but he has an got amazing ability to run the ball away. He has got some amazing wickets with stunning balls in the first Test match," Donald, who is now an acclaimed pace bowling coach, told PTI in an interview. In the series-opener, Rabada took seven wickets, including a five-wicket haul in the first



Indian innings at Centurion. "He was outstanding to watch as he always is and I just think his thirst for success drives his consistency. Anyone who gets success, doesn't matter what sport he plays, is judged by consistency," said Donald, who is

now attached with Cricket South Africa academy.

"If you look at Dale Steyn, he brought that thirst for consistency for himself and KG is no different as he is such a hungry individual. I see in him to be the absolute best competitor on the field that he can be."

To bowl fast, smooth hip and shoulder movements are pre-requisites and Rabada is a cut above the rest technically, the "white lightning" said.

"All genuine quicks have got great hip and shoulder rotation and if you observe him technically, he gets in a fantastic position in the air. We always talk about the launch, how they launch off the floor or how big they get at the crease. "Look at other greats like Curtley Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Ian Bishop, Michael Holding all these got off the floor to give them time to pull the trigger and that's what KG does beautifully.

Naomi Osaka returns to elite tennis from a maternity break



Brisbane (Australia), Jan 01 (AP): Motherhood has helped give Naomi Osaka a new mindset when things are getting tough on court.

In her first competitive match since September 2022, the four-time major winner was broken while serving for the match and needed three match points in the tiebreaker before converting a 6-3, 7-6 (9) victory over Tamara Korpatsch on Monday at the Brisbane International. Osaka didn't play the Australian Open last year and later re-

vealed she was pregnant. She and her partner, rapper Cordae, became parents to daughter Shai in Los Angeles in July.

"It's a big change overnight," former No. 1-ranked Osaka said of returning to the tour as a mom. "For me, I love it a lot because ... in a way I would say (Shai) has helped me grow up so much so quickly.

"Off the court I'm more aware of people and I appreciate them a lot more even my opponents and everything," she said. "On the court it's just helping me be strong and staying in the moment more."

Every time she missed an opportunity to win the match on Monday, she composed herself and focused on giving herself another chance.

"I was super nervous the whole time," Osaka said. "A part of me felt like Shai was watching me. I wanted to do my best for her.

Poland is into the United Cup quarterfinals

Norway beats Croatia but playoff chances uncertain

Sydney, Jan 1 (AP):

No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek led Poland into the quarterfinals of the United Cup mixed teams tennis tournament on Monday, winning both her singles and doubles matches. Swiatek took the court under pressure, needing to win her singles match against Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo to keep the tie alive. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina had given Spain a 1-0 lead with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory over No. 9-ranked Hubert Hurkacz.

But Swiatek beat Sorribes Tormo 6-2, 6-1 to force a deciding mixed doubles match. Swiatek, a four-time Grand Slam singles champion, and Hurkacz then needed little more than half an hour to wrap up the tie with a 6-0, 6-0 win to make Poland the first country through to the quarterfinals.



In Sydney, three-time Grand Slam singles finalist Casper Ruud kept Norway's quarterfinal chances alive with similar victories in the singles and mixed doubles against Croatia. Donna Vekic gave Norway an early 1-0 lead with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 win over unheralded Malene Helgo. But Ruud then beat Borna Coric 6-4, 6-1 to send the tie to a decisive mixed encounter, which Norway claimed in a match tiebreaker.

The 6-2, 3-6, 10-7 victory for Ruud and Ulrikke Eikeri over Vekic and Ivan Dodig leaves Norway (1-1) awaiting the outcome of the last remaining Group F match between Croatia (0-1) and the Netherlands (1-0) on Tuesday.

'Big conspiracy going on to finish me politically'

Bengaluru, Jan 01 (PTI)

With the Central Bureau of Investigation serving notice to Kerala-based Jaihind Communications Pvt Ltd channel headed by him, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday alleged that a big conspiracy is going on to finish him politically.



D K Shivakumar

The central agency issued a notice to the firm on Sunday seeking details of the investments made in the channel by Shivakumar in connection with a disproportionate assets case against the Congress leader.

The Bengaluru unit of the agency, which is probing the case against Shivakumar, had asked the managing director of Jaihind Communications Pvt. Ltd. to appear before

it on January 11, 2024, along with all the requisite documents sought by the investigation officer.

Reacting to the latest development, the Deputy CM said if the CBI wants to arrest him, then let them do so as he is prepared for it.

Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Congress unit president, wondered how the CBI was issuing notices against his firm though it had all the docu-

ments with it.

"I don't know how they are issuing notices. They have all the documents with them. It's not because they don't have any documents. There are big people to harass me. I know it all. It's not that I am unaware of it. Let them do whatever they want to finish me politically," Shivakumar, who is an MLA from Kanakapura, told reporters here.

"There is a big conspiracy going on. Some BJP leaders had said earlier that they would send me to jail. They have conveyed their message to the department concerned. I have asked those who have spoken about me to come for discussion. There is a big plot being hatched," he said.

Stating that he has not done anything wrong, and

he will get justice, Shivakumar said let the CBI conduct any inquiry against him.

To a question whether he had got the notice, he said his firm had got it.

"My partnership firm of which I am the chief, has been served notice. They are asking my children, my wife and relatives. The CBI is asking our family members and those from our village who are directors of the society," Shivakumar explained.

When asked whether he got individual notice, he said the CBI will first finish their investigation at the firm level and then come after him.

Shivakumar said the state government had handed over the matter to Lokayukta though he did not request or insist on it.

NEW YEAR VISITORS



People visit the Maidan on the first day of the new year 2024, in Kolkata, Monday.

1 lakh people participate in Bhaaderwah winter fest

In J-K's Doda district

Jammu, Jan 01 (PTI)

More than one lakh people visited the five-day Bhaaderwah winter festival in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district that concluded on Sunday with a celebration to usher in the new year.

The festival is a symbol of the cultural splendour and winter charm of the Chenab Valley and aims at promoting the local culture and traditions, and showcase the tourism potential of Bhaaderwah, officials said.

The tourism department is "committed to tap the untapped tourism potential of Bhaaderwah and other lesser known tourist destinations" of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tourism Secretary Abid Rashid said.

"The aim of holding such kinds of festivals is to pro-

mote local culture, traditions, and to tap the tourism potential" of areas bestowed with natural scenic and serene surroundings, he said.

Rashid said the department is also promoting homestays to meet the shortage of tourism infrastructure and to create livelihood for locals.

The festival was organised by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, in collaboration with the Doda district administration, the Academy of Art, Culture and Language and the Bhaaderwah Development Authority.

To conclude the festival, there was a performance by Punjabi singer Kaka and a display of fireworks. Over the five days, the Bhaaderwah Fort was illuminated and it hosted several cultural performances. Films such as 'Sam Bahadur', 'Tiger-3' and '12th Fail' were screened

during the festival.

"The festival not only showcased the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Bhaaderwah but also marked its emergence as a dynamic hub of tourism in the Chenab Valley, blending tradition with modernity," Doda Deputy Commissioner S Harvinder Singh said.

He expressed keen interest in encouraging the tourism sector in the district to create livelihood opportunities and to give the district its due share on the tourism map of the country. "All measures will be taken to improve the tourism infrastructure of the district," Singh said.

The deputy commissioner said that in view of the great potential of the district in the tourism sector, some private stakeholders have already pitched in, and world-class hotels and some five-star facilities are being established.

Gujarat welcomes 2024 with 'Surya Namaskar' Guinness world record

PM hails feat

Ahmedabad, Jan 01 (PTI)

Gujarat set a Guinness World Record on Monday after more than 50,000 people performed 'Surya Namaskar' simultaneously at 108 venues, earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said the state "welcomed 2024 with a remarkable feat".

Surya Namaskar or sun salutation is an ancient Yogic practice of paying respect to the rising sun and comprises different postures or Asanas.

As per the state government's release, Gujarat's name has been registered in the 'Guinness World Records' on the very first day of 2024 for the largest number of people, performing 'Surya Namaskar' simultaneously at 108 venues. More than 50,000 people took part in the statewide event, the release informed.

The main event was organised in the presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel

at Modhera Sun Temple in Mehsana district, the release said.

"Gujarat welcomed 2024 with a remarkable feat - setting a Guinness World Record for the most people performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 venues! As we all know, the number 108 holds a special significance in our culture. The venues also include the iconic Modhera Sun Temple, where several people joined," the PM said in his post on 'X', formerly Twitter.

"This is indeed a true testament to our commitment to Yoga and our cultural heritage. I also urge you all to make Surya Namaskar a part of your daily routine. The benefits are immense," the Prime Minister further said.

While addressing a gathering outside Modhera Sun Temple, Patel said people have now become aware of their health and have adopted Yoga and Surya Namaskar for a healthy life, said the release.

Nagaland welcomes 2024 with prayers for early solution to Naga pol imbroglio

Kohima, Jan 01 (PTI)

Nagaland on Monday welcomed 2024 with special prayers for an early resolution to the decades old Naga political issue for peace and progress of the state.

Special prayer services were held in churches across the Christian state, firecrackers were burst on the eve of New Year which was ushered in at midnight by ringing of bells. Many groups and organisations also were engaged in picnics and outings welcoming the New Year. Convenor of the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR), Rev Wati Aier hoped that the negotiating parties of the Naga political talks the Centre and Naga groups will arrive at a consensus for a solution to the issue.

FNR has played a significant role in bringing about reconciliation between the warring Naga groups since 2008.

Replying to media

queries on the recent talks held in Kohima not making any progress, Rev Aier, the founder of FNR, expressed optimism that the issue can be solved without delay. "I don't think there is a deadlock but just that they (the Centre and the Naga groups) might be going through a difficult time... The process is not simple but difficult as there are hurdles. We should not be discouraged".

The Naga political issue is considered to be among the longest in the country and the Centre has been holding separate negotiations with NSCN-IM since 1997 and the Working Committee, Naga National Political Groups (WC NNPGS) since 2017.

Eight years have passed since the signing of the Framework Agreement on August 3, 2015 with NSCN-IM and another six years have gone by following the inking of Agreed Position on November 17, 2017 with WC of NNPGs. As of now

there is no significant development in the political negotiations between the Centre and Naga groups.

The NSCN-IM has remained adamant on its demand for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas as well as integration of Naga inhabited areas spread over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland besides neighbouring Myanmar.

The WC of NNPGs on the other hand has expressed its willingness to accept whatever is granted by the Centre for now and continue with the talks.

In a latest development three Naga nationalist groups the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) led by Akato Chophy, NSCN-K led by Khango Konyak and Naga National Council (NNC) led by Z Royim have come together and decided to pursue the negotiations with the Centre in the new year.

India asks Pakistan to release Indian prisoners in its custody

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI)

India on Monday asked Pakistan to expedite the release and repatriation of 184 Indian fishermen in view of completion of their jail term.

In addition, Islamabad has also been asked to provide immediate consular access to 12 civilian prisoners in Pakistan's custody, who are believed to be Indian, according to the MEA. "The government of India has called for early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, missing Indian defence personnel, and fishermen along with their boats, from Pakistan's custody," the MEA said. "In this context, Pakistan was asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 184 Indian

fishermen, who have completed their sentence," it said in a statement.

"In addition, Pakistan has been asked to provide immediate consular access to the remaining 12 civilian prisoners in Pakistan's custody, who are believed to be Indian," it said.

The MEA said Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare of all Indian and believed-to-be Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India.

"India remains committed to addressing, on priority, all humanitarian matters, including those pertaining to prisoners and

fishermen in each other's country," it said.

"In this context, India has urged Pakistan to expedite necessary action at its end to confirm the nationality status of 65 believed-to-be Pakistani prisoners, including fishermen, whose repatriation is pending for want of nationality confirmation from Pakistan," it said.

The MEA said as a result of sustained efforts by the government, 2,639 Indian fishermen and 67 Indian civilian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan since 2014.

This includes 478 Indian fishermen and nine Indian civilian prisoners who were repatriated from Pakistan in 2023, it said.

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'Need for branding of premier tech institute'

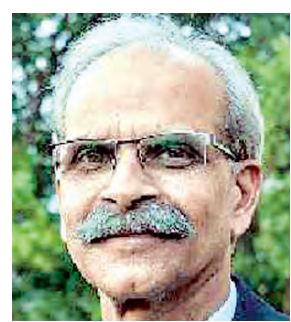
Kolkata, Jan 01 (PTI)

IIT Kharagpur Director V K Tewari has stressed on the need for branding of the premier tech institution and claimed it will be among the top 10 higher educational institutions of the world by 2030.

Tewari said this while interacting with the alumni in a virtual meet last week.

Advocating the need "for involving students in a more cohesive manner," he said, "We need to do a lot of branding as IIT KGP, we need to work on our limitations, we have to work on certain areas".

He said IIT Kharagpur is the first IIT in the country.



V K Tewari

"We have to think very very big. We have to take strong steps, we have to follow Modi ji's ideal for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. We should be targeting to be among the top 10 in the world," he added.

Referring to the call by President Droupadi Murmu to pitchfork IIT

Kharagpur among the top 50 in the world in the Convocation held in December 2023, Tewari said "the Hon'ble President said 50. One of our senior officials set the target of being within 25. However, I am setting the target to be within top 10 higher educational institutions in the world".

In the QS Asia World University Ranking for 2024, IIT Kharagpur occupied overall fifth rank in India and 59th in Asia. The largest and first IIT in the country made its entry at the top of the QS Asia University rankings with an overall score of 54.5, the institute said in a statement on November 11.

Tewari claimed IIT Kharagpur will be among the top 10 higher educational institutions in the world by 2030.

He suggested more academia-industry collaborations for which the institute needed to work with faculties and alumni and called for a higher number of collaborations with front-ranking world universities for the need to open up.

"The DRDO set up a centre of excellence (DIA-CoE). Centre for excellence for futuristic study in high-end technology subjects, in AI, in the sphere of safety analytics, in computational and data sciences, etc", he added.

ALL FOR LIVELIHOOD



A street performer balances herself on a rope at the Maidan, in Kolkata, Monday.

'Low-cost plant compound may help people quit smoking'

New Delhi, Jan 01 (PTI)

Cytisine, a plant-based compound, increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by over two-fold compared with placebo and may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a study has found.

Cytisine, a low-cost, generic stop-smoking aid has been used in eastern Europe since the 1960s and has shown no serious safety concerns, the researchers said.

However, the compound is not licensed or marketed in most countries outside of central and eastern Europe, making it unavailable in most of the world,

including many low- and middle-income (LAMI) countries where it could make a big difference to global health.

The study, published in the journal Addiction, pooled the results of eight trials comparing cytisine with placebo, with nearly 6,000 patients.

The combined results showed that cytisine increases the chances of successful smoking cessation by more than two-fold compared with placebo, the researchers said.

They also noted that cytisine may be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy, a medically approved way to treat people with tobacco use disorder

NEW STUDY

by taking nicotine through means other than tobacco.

"Our study adds to the evidence that cytisine is an effective and inexpensive stop-smoking aid. It could be very useful in reducing smoking in LAMI countries where cost-effective smoking cessation drugs are urgently needed," said Omar De Santi from Centro Nacional de Intoxicaciones (CNI), Buenos Aires, Argentina.

"World-wide, smoking is considered the main cause of preventable death. Cytisine has the potential to be one of the big answers to that problem,"

said De Santi, lead author of the study.

The research also looked at two randomised controlled trials comparing cytisine with nicotine replacement therapy, with modest results in favor of cytisine, and three trials comparing cytisine with varenicline, without a clear benefit for cytisine.

Cytisine was first synthesised in Bulgaria in 1964 as Tabex and later spread to other countries in eastern Europe and Asia, where it is still marketed, according to the researchers.

In 2017, the Polish pharmaceutical company Aflofarm began selling it as Desmoxan, a

prescription-only medicine, and Canada approved it as an over-the-counter natural health product, Cravv, they said.

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