



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Free treatment for every poor | 55 crore people given assurance of treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Scan for more information

BRIEF

Sikh devotees display martial arts skills during a religious procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh guru, in Jammu, Wednesday.

Waiver

Chandigarh: In a decision aimed at providing relief to rural households, the Haryana cabinet on Wednesday approved to waiving off outstanding water charges, including surcharge and interest, amounting to Rs 374.28 crore. This decision will extend relief to a substantial 28.87 lakh water connection holders in rural areas across the state, an official statement said.

Tremor

Palghar: A tremor of 3.4 magnitude was recorded in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Wednesday, said officials. No damages were reported due to it, they said. The seismic activity was reported at 13:00:47 hours, according to a release by the district administration. However, officials did not specify the exact location of the tremor's epicentre.

Imprisonment

Mumbai: A special court here has convicted a former chief manager of the State Bank of India (SBI) and an executive director of a firm for cheating the bank nearly two decades back, and said such crimes are "heinous in nature" as they intend to destroy the "economic fabric and financial edifice of the state". Special CBI court judge D P Shingde convicted V B Mantri, former chief manager of the SBI's Mulund branch, and M P Abraham, executive director, Trinity Greases Private Ltd, on December 21 under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for cheating and criminal conspiracy.

CBI action

New Delhi: The CBI has booked Jamia Millia Islamia professor Khalid Moin in a fresh case of bribery related to the issue of structural safety certificate to projects of a Bhubaneswar-based builder, officials said Wednesday. The agency has alleged that he issued the certificate to Khushi Realcon Private Limited's projects in return for a bribe of Rs 2.20 lakh, of which Rs 99,500 was paid in cash.

Weather
High 28 Low 15

MARKET
NIFTY 21,517.35
SENSEX 71,356.60

BULLION
GOLD 62,751
SILVER 72,664

SCAM IN PSC EXAM

Cabinet okays CBI probe

Raipur, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Chhattisgarh cabinet on Wednesday decided to recommend a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged irregularities in the state Public Service Commission examination -2021.

The decision was taken during a meeting of the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at the Mantralaya here. In the interest of the youth, the state government has decided to hand over the case of complaints related to irregularities in the CGPSC examination-2021 recruitment to the CBI for a detailed investigation,



Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao told reporters after the meeting. The CGPSC, under its examination 2021, had released a selection list for 170 posts of 12 different state government departments. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders during electioneering for the recently

What was the scam...

The CGPSC, under its examination 2021, had released a selection list for 170 posts of 12 different state government departments. In the interest of the youth, the state government has decided to hand over the case of complaints related to irregularities in the CGPSC examination-2021 recruitment to the CBI for a detailed investigation.

held assembly polls had promised to get the alleged scam in CGPSC recruitment during the previous Congress government probed if the saffron party comes to power.

(More news on Pg 3)

Namibian cheetah delivers 3 cubs

Bhopal, Jan 03 (PTI)

A Namibian cheetah has given birth to three cubs at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, a Union minister said on Wednesday. "Purrs in the wild! Thrilled to share that Kuno National Park has welcomed three new members. The cubs have been born to Namibian Cheetah Aasha," Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Bhupender Yadav said on social media platform X. He termed the development "a roaring success for Project Cheetah, envisioned by PM Narendra Modi to restore ecological balance". "My big congrats to all experts involved in the project, the Kuno wildlife officials, and wildlife enthusiasts across India," Yadav said in the post. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also expressed happiness over the birth of the cubs.

Narayana Health

We are there to **Take Care**

Most Electrocardiogram screenings in 30 hours

Hospitals | Health City | Clinics | Labs | Pharma | One Health

Over 3 cr students have so far registered for ABC: UGC

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI)

Over three crore students from across the country have so far registered for the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), according to the University Grants Commission.

How ABC works...

It is a digital repository of credit records of each student that allows them to seamlessly access their scores and facilitate the transition from a university or a college to other institutions. The ABC portal promotes curriculum framework flexibility and interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary academic mobility of the students among the Indian Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) through a proper credit transfer method.

Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) through a proper credit transfer method. It is a digital repository of credit records of each student that allows them to seamlessly access their scores and facilitate the transition from a university or a college to other institutions.

SC backs SEBI clean chit to Adani Group

No SIT or CBI probe

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

In a significant win for the Adani Group, the Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to transfer the probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by the Indian corporate giant to a special investigation team or the CBI, saying market regulator SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" and its conduct "inspires confidence".

ed, the apex court directed the market regulator to complete the two pending investigations expeditiously, preferably within three months. The term delegated legislation or secondary legislation refers to laws made by individuals or bodies authorised by the legislature to create detailed regulations under a specific Act of Parliament.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said reliance placed by the petitioners on newspaper articles or reports by third-party organisations like Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) to question a comprehensive investigation by a specialised regulator does not inspire confidence. The bench, also com-

SC verdict 'extraordinarily generous': Cong

The Congress on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgment on certain matters relating to transactions by the Adani Group has proven to be "extraordinarily generous" to SEBI and asserted that the party's fight against crony capitalism and its ill-effects on prices, employment and inequalities will continue. In a statement on the judgement, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh hit out at Adani, saying "truth dies a thousand deaths when we hear Satyameva Jayate from those who have gamed, manipulated and subverted the system this past decade".

'Truth has prevailed'



Billionaire Gautam Adani reacting to the Supreme Court judgment on allegations levelled by a US short-seller against his conglomerate, said on Wednesday that truth has prevailed and his group would continue to contribute to India's growth story. "The Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement shows that: Truth has prevailed. Satyameva Jayate," Adani said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. "I am grateful to those who stood by us." "Our humble contribution to India's growth story will continue. Jai Hind," he said.

investigations into allegations levelled against the Adani Group. Reacting to the verdict, billionaire entrepreneur Gautam Adani said truth has prevailed and his group will continue to contribute to India's growth story. "The Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement shows that: Truth has prevailed. Satyameva Jayate," Adani said in a post on X. "I am grateful to those who stood by us," he added.

In its 46-page judgement, the bench said, "The facts of this case do not warrant a transfer of investigation from SEBI. In an appropriate case, this court does have the power to transfer an investigation being carried out by the authorized agency to an SIT or CBI."

flexibility and interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary academic mobility of the students among the Indian

KEJRIWAL TO ED 'Busy with RS polls, R-Day preparations'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI)

Skipping ED summons for the third time in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday wrote to the probe agency that he is busy in the run-up to Rajya Sabha elections and is ready to answer any questionnaire from it.



aforementioned critical aspects leads me to infer that you are maintaining unwarranted secrecy and are being opaque and arbitrary in the present matter," he said in the reply to the summons. Kejriwal had earlier refused to appear before the federal agency on two earlier summonses for November 2 and December 21, calling the notices "illegal" and "politically motivated".

The AAP chief also asked the agency to respond to his earlier letters where he sought clarification on the "real intent, ambit, nature, sweep and scope of the purported inquiry/investigation for which I am being called". "Your silence on the

ILLEGAL MINING CASE

ED raids Hemant Soren's aide

Ranchi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided the premises of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's press advisor, the officials of Sahibganj district and a former MLA as part of a money laundering probe into alleged illegal mining in the state, official sources said.

About a dozen locations in the state, including in state capital Ranchi and a premise in Rajasthan, are being raided by the central agency under the provisions

of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The premises of press advisor Abhishek Prasad alias Pintu, the collector of Sahibganj district, ex-MLA Pappu Yadav, an architect, some jail department officials and a police constable are being searched by the agency officials, sources said. An armed escort of central security forces went along with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials.

Prasad has been questioned by the ED in this case earlier. Sources said the action was undertaken on the

receipt of fresh inputs in the case. The raids come on a day when the legislators of the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition in the state are meeting here to discuss the current political scenario in the backdrop of the ED's summons to the chief minister in an alleged land grab case.

Former Union minister and senior Congress leader Subodh Kant Sahay said that all efforts of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including the ED raids, are aimed at pulling down the Soren government.

'Fulfilled vow on women empowerment with reservation bill'

PM targets Left, Congress

Thrissur, Jan 03 (PTI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lashed out at the Congress and Left parties, alleging that they had delayed the Women's Reservation Bill, whereas the BJP had ensured the passage of the quota legislation that would empower women.

In a fiery speech at a women's convention organised by the BJP in central Kerala, Modi also



PM Modi being garlanded during the 'Sthree Shakthi Modikkoppam' Mahila Sangamam, in Thrissur, Kerala, Wednesday.

launched a scathing attack on the INDIA alliance, alleging that it is impeding the growth and progress of the state. With the Lok

Sabha elections round the corner, he confidently declared that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would

ADR REPORT

BJP bagged 70% of donations received by parties

From electoral trusts in 2022-23

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI)

The BJP bagged more than 70 per cent of donations received by political parties from electoral trusts in 2022-23, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The NGO working for electoral reforms stated that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) received about 25 per cent of the donations. According to an analysis of

contribution reports of electoral trusts for 2022-23, there are 39 corporate and business houses that contributed over Rs 363 crore to electoral trusts.

Thirty-four corporate and business houses contributed over Rs 360 crore to Prudent Electoral Trust, one company contributed Rs 2 crore to Samaj Electoral Trust, two companies contributed Rs 75.50 lakh to Paribartan Electoral Trust, and two companies contributed Rs 50 lakh to Triumph Electoral Trust, the ADR stated.

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought a reply from the Lok Sabha secretary general on Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra's plea challenging her expulsion from the Lower House.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta also refused to pass an order on her interim prayer that she be permitted to attend the Lok Sabha proceedings, saying that allowing it will amount to granting



her the main relief. "We will consider your plea for interim relief in March," Justice Khanna told Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared for

Moitra. The current Lok Sabha will have one more session- the Budget Session-before the general elections are held.

The top court also refused to issue notice to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Committee on Ethics of the House. Both were made respondents by Moitra in her plea. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Lok Sabha secretary general, urged the bench not to issue a formal notice and said he will file a reply to Moitra's petition.

12 killed in bus-truck collision in Assam

Golaghat/Jorhat, Jan 03 (PTI):

At least 12 people, including three children, were killed and 38 others suffered injuries in a head-on collision between a coal-laden truck and a bus in Golaghat district of Assam on Wednesday, officials said.

The accident took place at Balijan near Dergaon on National Highway-715 when the bus with 49 people on board collided with the goods vehicle, Golaghat District Commissioner P Uday Praveen told PTI.

"Out of the 12 people who died, six were women. All of them were from Basa Bharaluwa village," he said.

A total of 31 people are undergoing treatment at Jorhat Medical College and Hospital (JMCH), while seven others with minor injuries have been admitted to Dergaon Community Health Centre, Praveen said. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of lives in the accident, and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Police solves blind murder mystery

Bhilai, Jan 03:

With the arrest of a youth, police claimed to have solved the blind murder case which occurred at village Khapri on the intervening night of January 02. A joint team of Anti Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Kumhari conducted an investigation and solved this case.

The deceased was Gopal Sonwani alias Pangdu, who lived at the residence of his relative Rajendra Mahilang in village Kapsada, Kumhari. He had lost his parents about five years ago and for the last eleven months he was working at a hotel in Raipur. On January 01, he borrowed a bike from his friend and came to Kapsada. Around 20:00 hrs on January 01, he was seen quarrelling with his friends Anil Markandey, Akash Markandey and Raj Chelak. Next morn-

ing, his body was found lying on the roadside in village Khapri. Police lodged an FIR under Section 302 IPC and launched an investigation.

Taking the incident of blind murder seriously, SSP Ram Gopal Garg gave instructions to immediately trace the accused. Under the supervision of ASP (City) Abhishek Jha, ASP (Crime) Dr Anurag Jha, CSP (Chhawani) Ashish Banchhor, a joint team led by ACCU in-charge Inspector Naresh Kumar and Kumhari SHO Inspector Sanjeev Mishra was formed for investigation.

The team inspected the scene of crime and collected necessary evidence. They collected information from family members, relatives, friends and local people. It was revealed that the deceased Gopal Sonwani alias Pangdu was living in the house of his relative



Rajendra Mahilang for the last 05-06 years after the death of his parents. Used to live and work in Heritage Hotel Raipur for the last 08-09 months and often visited the village. On Jan 01, he came to the village from Raipur on his friend's motorcycle.

At the village, he consumed alcohol in the evening with his friends Anil Makarande, Akash Markande and Raj Chelak. Later, they quarrelled amongst themselves. Gopal's shirt got dirty in the fight after which Mohit had given his shirt to wear. Later, Gopal left for Raipur with Mohit alias Akash. On suspicion, police quizzed Mohit alias Akash Markande. During sustained interrogation, Mohit confessed to killing Gopal. He disclosed that on Jan 01 late evening, Gopal asked him to come with him to Raipur and assured him to arrange a job in the hotel. Akash agreed and left with Gopal to go to Raipur on a motorcycle. They stopped near Kedia Nala Khapri crematorium to smoke ganja. Gopal was already drunk and after smoking ganja, he started using abusive words for Akash. He even started beating

Akash. Irked Akash retaliated and attacked Gopal with a heavy stone. He bludgeoned Gopal to death with the stone. Akash took off his shirt, which he had given to Gopal and walked back home. The accused Mohit alias Aakash Markande (19) son of Pardesi Markande, a resident of village Kapsada Kumhari Durg was arrested and produced before the court. He has been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Sub Inspector DD Verma, Constable Rajkumar Singh, Vijay Dhurandhar, Bunty Singh, Manish Verma, Kavinder Sahu, Vineesh Sharma from Police Station Kumhari and ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Sagir Khan, Chandrashekar Banjeer, Constable Arvind Mishra, Rinku Soni, Rakesh Chaudhary, Rakesh Anna, Guneet Kumar, Bhavesh Patel played a vital role in arresting the accused.

BSP Officers Association releases Table Calendar 2024



Bhilai, Jan 03:

The Officers' Association of Bhilai Steel Plant has published a Table Calendar 2024 for the convenience of the officers and personnel of Bhilai Steel Plant. In this calendar, the holidays and dates of the year 2024 declared by Bhilai Steel Plant have been adjusted, making this calendar extremely useful for all the

employees. This table calendar 2024 was formally released the other day by Director-in-charge, Bhilai Steel Plant Arniban Dasgupta, Executive Directors Anjani Kumar, AK Panda, Pawan Kumar, S Mukhopadhyay, AK Chakraborty, and Vipin Kumar Giri at Ispat Bhawan.

Officers Association President Narendra Kumar Banchhor, General

Secretary Parvinder Singh, SEFI nominee Ajay Kumar, Vice President Tushar Singh, Secretary duo Sanjay Tiwari and JP Sharma were present on the occasion. OA President Narendra Kumar Banchhor said that the Officers Association will always strive to complete small and big works for the interests and facilities of the officers and Bhilai fraternity.

Mobile snatcher nabbed

Bhilai, Jan 03:

Police arrested a ruffian on charges of mobile snatching. The accused used the Paytm installed on the mobile and withdrew Rs 9090 from the victim's account.

Police had received a complaint from the victim Priyanka Shah, a resident of Khursipar on December 24. She was returning home from work when two unknown youths riding a motorcycle snatched her mobile phone and fled away. Later, they withdrew Rs 9090 from Paytm of the mobile. Police lodged an FIR under Section 356, 379 of Indian Penal Code.

A joint team was deployed for investigation. The team collected the footage of CCTV cameras installed on the traffic routes around the incident site.



Two suspected youths riding NS Pulsar motorcycles were seen in the footage. Police tried to trace the accused by collecting technical evidence regarding withdrawal of money through Paytm. Meanwhile, Police received a tip off regarding a youth Ravi Choudhary, a resident of Rajiv Nagar Jamul,

who was trying to sell a mobile at a shop in Nandini Road. The suspect Ravi Choudhary was taken into custody and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to snatching the mobile phone with his accomplice Karan Kumar Rajbhar. Police seized the mobile, Rs 6000 cash and a Pulsar Bike CG07-NK-5774 from Ravi Choudhary (22) son of Shambh Nath Chaudhary, a resident of Rajiv Nagar, Jamul, Durg.

Sub-Inspector Ajay Singh from Chhawani Police Station, ASI Shamit Mishra, Head Constable Sagir Khan, Chandrashekar Banjeer, Constable Arvind Mishra, Rinku Soni, Rakesh Chaudhary, Rakesh Anna, Guneet Kumar, Bhavesh Patel and Javed Khan from ACCU played a vital role in arresting the accused.

SAIL launches story writing competition-2024

Bhilai, Jan 03: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has launched "SAIL Story Writing Competition - 2024" titled "You, Me and SAIL", inviting writers from all over the country to participate and showcase their creative writing skills. The aim of SAIL Story Writing Competition - 2024 is to inspire people of all ages to explore their imaginations, sharpen their writing skills, and connect with SAIL, as well as to make people aware of SAIL's contribution in the Nation's development.

With the theme of "You, Me and SAIL", there is no limit to the range of emotions and experiences that

writers can explore in their submissions. The competition is open to writers of all ages and levels of experience, from first-time writers to established authors. Entrants are encouraged to explore their imagination and creativity in crafting their stories. This year's competition offers exciting prizes to the winners, publication opportunities, and certificates. Additionally, all winning entries will be featured in SAIL's in-house Magazine SAILNews, giving writers a chance to gain exposure and recognition. Participants are encouraged to submit original and unpublished stories,

in no more than 800 words, that explore the theme in innovative and imaginative ways. To enter the competition, participants must submit their original stories by February 15, 2024 to sail-story2024@gmail.com. The submission guidelines and rules are available on SAIL website (www.sail.co.in).

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is one of the largest steel-making companies in India and one of the Maharatnas of the country's Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). SAIL has always stood committed to the cause of nation building.

Ashish Kumar Taram qualifies for All India Athletics Men's Competition



Bhilai, Jan 03: Dr Dinesh Kumar Namdev, Director, Physical Education, Hemchand Yadav University, Durg, informed that Ashish Kumar Taram, player of the athletics team of the University has won a place

for the upcoming All India Athletics Men's competition. He secured the place owing to the excellent performance he put in at the Eastern Region Inter-University Athletics Long Jump competition held in Kalinga University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa from December 26-29, 2023. Ashish Kumar will participate in the All India Competition to be held in Tamil Nadu from January 04-07, 2024. Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr Aruna Palta, Registrar Bhupendra Kuldeep and the University family congratulated Ashish and extended best wishes for the tournament.

HYU officials conducted surprise inspection of 12 colleges



Bhilai, Jan 03:

In the very first week since the semester examinations conducted by Hemchand Yadav University, Durg began on December 28, the university officials conducted surprise inspection of 12 colleges. Giving this information, the Dean of Student Welfare of the University, Dr Prashant Srivastava said that on the instructions of the Vice Chancellor of the University, the University officials are conducting surprise inspections every day during the semester examinations. Semester examinations were conducted smoothly at almost

all the examination centers and not a single case of cheating was recorded.

According to Dr Srivastava, two groups have been constituted for inspection which visited colleges in Durg, Bhilai and Rajnandgaon. The first group included Dr Prashant Srivastava, Deputy Registrar Rajendra Chauhan and Assistant Registrar Himanshu Shekhar Mandavi. The second group included Sports Officer Dr Dinesh Namdev, Accounts Officer Sushil Gajbhiye, Assistant Registrar Digvijay Kumar. The colleges which were inspected by the officials included Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Swami Shri

Swaroopanand Mahavidyalaya, Hudco, Kalyan Post Graduate College in Bhilai; Seth RCS College Durg, Ghanshyam Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya Durg, Government Kamala Devi Rathi College Rajnandgaon, Government Shivnath Science College Rajnandgaon, Confluence College, Rajnandgaon, St Thomas College Bhilai, Sai College, Sector 06 Bhilai, Devsanskrit College, Khapri, Durg, Shri Shankaracharya Mahavidyalaya, Junwani Bhilai.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor, Dr Aruna Palta held a meeting of officials in the university and gave instructions regarding conducting the examination of BE first semester.

Candidates of BE first semester will be able to enroll themselves online from January 03 to 08 and after enrollment, all the candidates will be able to submit applications online from January 04 to January 10. BE first semester examination is proposed to start from January 24.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai in Durg on Jan 06

Bhilai, Jan 03:

After the historic victory of Bharatiya Janata Party in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo are going to attend a programme to express gratitude towards BJP workers in a felicitation ceremony.

On Wednesday, a divisional meeting was organized in the Durg district BJP office. The preparations for the worker felicitation ceremony and other issues were discussed in the meeting chaired by divisional in-charge Bhupendra Savanni.

Bhupendra Savanni said that on January 6, a divisional level worker felicitation ceremony has been organized in Durg. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo, State BJP in-charge Om Mathur, co-in-charge Nitin Nabin, Organizational General



Secretary Ajay Jamwal, State Organization General Secretary Pawan Sai and ministers of the state government will attend the programme.

After January 06, a review meeting of the assembly elections held in all the 20 seats of Durg division will be held. An ac-

tion plan was made to speed up the work of adding, deleting and correcting the names in the voter list. The BJP workers will celebrate January 22 with great enthusiasm and contact the people by visiting door to door before the Pranpratishtha in the Ram temple. District

BJP President Jitendra Verma said that extensive preparations are being made by the District BJP Durg District Organization for the first arrival of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo. BJP has won 10 out of 20 seats in Durg

Division and 04 out of five seats in Durg organisational district due to the hard work and struggle of the workers. CM and BJP President are visiting to appreciate the hard work and struggle of the workers.

After the meeting, district BJP leaders visited different places for selecting the programme venue. After inspection, Pandit Ravi Shankar Stadium was selected as the venue of the program in the presence of key officials of the district administration. The meeting was conducted by District Secretary Surendra Kaushik and District Vice President Rajendra Kumar Padhye. Bhilai District BJP President Brijesh Bichpuria proposed the vote of thanks. Prominent BJP leaders from Durg, Bhilai, Bemetara, Balod, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Manpur Mohla and Khairagarh district attended the meeting.

Four including three women held for smuggling

Bhilai, Jan 03:

Police arrested three women and a youth on charges of cannabis smuggling. 32 kg of cannabis was recovered from them. It was a joint action of ACCU, Mahila Police Station and Kumhari Police Station.

On the instructions of SSP Ram Gopal Garg, police are conducting a special campaign against drug dealers and smugglers. A joint team led by Inspector Naresh Patel (i/c ACCU), Inspector Sanjeev Mishra (SHO, Kumhari) and Inspector Vandita Panikar (I/c Mahila Thana) was deployed on this campaign.



The team received a tip off regarding smuggling of cannabis in a white Ertiga car (OD02-CM-0852), which was coming towards Durg from Raipur. The car was intercepted at Kumhari Toll Plaza. On searching, 32 kgs of cannabis were recovered from three women

and the driver. The accused were identified as Rashmita Bagh (21) daughter of Vyas Dev Bagh, a resident of Jethupali, Komna, District Nuapada, Orissa;

Bharti Kuldeep (28) wife of Jubel Kuldeep, a resident of Jethupali, Komna,

district Nuapada, Orissa; Sushma Sagariya (33) wife of Upendra Sagariya, a resident of Koti Padar, Khariyar, district Nuapada and Dinesh Tandi alias Rahul (23) son of Puran Tandi a resident of Koti Padar, Khariyar, district Nuapada (Orissa).

They have been booked under Section 20 (c) of NDPS Act. 32 kg cannabis worth Rs 160000; car (OD02CM0852) worth Rs 700000; mobile worth Rs 5000 and Rs 3700 cash were seized from them.

ASI Purna Bahadur, Constable Anoop Sharma, Shahbaz Khan, Jugnu Singh, Panne Lal, Santosh Gupta, Shiv Mishra from ACCU and Head Constable Nandu Singh, Constable Bunty Singh Manish Verma, Om Prakash from Kumhari Police Station and ASI Sangeeta Mishra, Constable Yamita, Sushma, Anupa Bisen, Roshni and Lalita Banjare played a vital role in arresting the accused.

BSP to 'Interview' its retired employees for engaging in CSR Activities

Bhilai, Jan 03: SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant management is inviting applications for the contractual appointment of retired BSP Personnel for various CSR Activities. The notified posts include Pharmacist (Male/Female)- 2 posts, Dresser (Male/Female) - 1 post, Medical Assistant cum Receptionist (Male) - 2 Posts, Medical Assistant (Male) - 2 Posts, and Hostel Warden (Male)- 1 Post. The Notification has duly been published. Only retired employees of Bhilai Steel Plant, who are residents of

Durg Bhilai, are eligible to apply for the aforementioned posts. The age limit for all applicants should be 60 to 68 years. Selected candidates will be engaged for the responsibility initially for 6 months, which can later be extended twice for a period of 6 months as per the Contract. The appointed candidates will be entitled to the prescribed honorarium only based on actual attendance. Applicants must apply in the prescribed format along with complete details, as per the Notification published. Interested candidates may submit their applications to the General Manager -

CSR Office (Old Girls School Sector-5) Bhilai 490006 (Chhattisgarh) through registered post, or in person within 10 days from the date of publication of the application. Applications along with scanned copies of all necessary documents can also be sent through e-mail to sushilkamde@sail.in or kverma3@sail.in, within the stipulated period. Incomplete applications, or applications received after the due date shall be rejected. For further information one may refer to the notification advertisement published in all major newspapers.

Cabinet decides to procure 21 quintal paddy per acre

From farmers from Khariff mkt yr -2023-24

Raipur, Jan 03: Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai chairing the Cabinet Meeting held in Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan informed that the in the interest of farmers, Cabinet has decided to procure a maximum of 21 quintals of paddy per acre (including linking) from the farmers of the state at support price in the Khariff marketing year 2023-24.

With this decision of the Cabinet, the Chhattisgarh government's promise of purchasing 21 quintals of paddy from farmers has been fulfilled. It is noteworthy that paddy procurement was also a part



of Prime Minister Narendra Modi' guarantee.

Further in the cabinet the Chhattisgarh government has taken a major decision in the interest of Antyodaya and priority ration card holding families of the state. In the Cabinet Meeting held today, the decision to distribute free food grains to 'Antyodaya' and 'priority' category beneficiaries for the next five years has been taken. This will benefit 67 lakh 92 thousand 153 ration cards

holding families of the state and they will receive food grains for the next 5 years. Free rice will also be made available at ration shops.

The Cabinet has decided to distribute free food grains on Antyodaya and Priority Ration Cards in the state under Chhattisgarh Food and Nutrition Security Act 2012, similar to the distribution under the National Food Security Act-2013 for the next 5 years starting January 2024.

Dy CM Vijay Sharma reviews law and order in state



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Additional Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Pingua and Director General of Police Ashok Juneja had a courtesy meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Mr.

Vijay Sharma at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here and informed him about the current situation of law and order in the state. Other senior officials of the Home Department were also present on this occasion.

NORMALCY RESTORED



With strike called off by the driver of buses and truck, normalcy was restored in city and passengers were able to reach their destination after facing problems for last two days.

Netam directs officials to establish Gyms at tribal school campuses

Minister lays stress on increase in seats at Youth Hostels in New Delhi for Civil Services exam preparations

Raipur, Jan 03: Minister for Tribal Welfare Ramvichar Netam while presiding over the meeting at Naya Raipur-based National Tribal Research Institute auditorium on Wednesday, directed the officials to establish Gyms at the Hostel premises to provide them an atmosphere for healthy body and healthy mind in a bid to identify the sports talent among the students from



tribal community across Chhattisgarh.

Speaking on the occasion, the newly-appointed Minister Netam said that officials should work for the cultural development apart from socio-economic development of the community. Netam also

inspected the Centre and Library established at the Institute and was impressed with the collection of books based on culture and tradition of tribals. He stressed on the need to ensure excellence through new schemes as well as the existing pro-

grammes for the tribals and also asked the officials to ensure that prompt actions are being taken for better future of the students residing in residential campuses.

Netam directed the officials to prepare work plan to increase the seats for the students preparing for the Civil Services exam at Youth Hostels in New Delhi. He also directed the officials to establish a new coaching centre for the students in Bilaspur. He asked the officials to take prompt steps for the redressal to the various complaints received in providing land ownership certificates to the tribals form Sarguja and Bastar region.

'CM Sai shares his childhood passion for cricket'

Sourav Ganguly's first visit to Ch'garh: Impressed by Nava Raipur Cricket Stadium

Former Indian Captain Ganguly presents autographed bat to Chief Minister

Raipur, Jan 03: Former Indian cricket team captain and ex-president of BCCI, Shri Sourav Ganguly, on Wednesday, paid a courtesy visit to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, extending warm New Year wishes.

During formal discussions on cricket, Chhattisgarh, and various topics, Ganguly inquired about the Chief Minister's interest in cricket. In response, the Chief Minister shared his childhood experiences of making his own cricket bats in the village using wood. He further stated that hockey holds a prominent place in Jashpur, and the Pahadi Korwa tribe's proficiency in archery contributes to its popularity in the region.

Ganguly stated that this is his first-time visit to Chhattisgarh and praised



the Nava Raipur stadium, acknowledging its history of hosting international matches, including games featuring cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar. The conversation shifted to Kolkata, with Ganguly asking if the Chief Minister had visited the city. Chief Minister replied that he had frequent visits to the place during his tenure as the Union Minister of State for Steel.

Ganguly inquired about Chhattisgarh, to which the Chief Minister responded that the state is blessed with natural scenic beauty and abundant forest resources and minerals. Chief Minister presented Shri Ganguly with a bell

Kanha is in Madhya Pradesh, and mentioned the establishment of Jungle Safari in Raipur, visited by Prime Minister Modi ji. Shri Ganguly recalled seeing a photograph of Modi ji taking a tiger's photo and asked if it was from here, to which the Chief Minister responded with a yes!

Famous scented rice of Ch'garh sent as an offering to Lord Shri Ram

Chief Minister Sai informed Ganguly that 3000 quintals of fragrant rice from Chhattisgarh were sent as an offering for the Shri Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha programme in the newly constructed Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya. He also shared that the Chhattisgarh Government decided to provide free Ayodhya darshan to the state's citizens under the Ramlalla Darshan Scheme.

OP Choudhary praises Ganguly's thrilling off-side shots

During their conversation, Finance Minister OP Choudhary complimented Ganguly, saying, "Your off-side shots used to thrill us all when you were in the crease."

Bank of Baroda paid Loan Security Insurance amount of Rs 50 lakh



Raipur, Jan 03: Bank of Baroda, Manendragarh branch, District Manendragarh sanctioned Rs 50 lakh loan to Deepak Agrawal. He took the loan security policy from tie-up partner Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company. As Deepak Agrawal health condition deteriorates, he was unable to pay the installment of the bank in which the balance amount of Rs 50 lakh was sanctioned by

Niva Bupa Health Insurance. On the occasion Niva Bupa, Regional Office Chain Singh Vishwakarma, Bank of Baroda, Regional head and Deputy Regional head, Ranjeet Kumar Singh announced the cheque amount of Rs 50 lakh. Customer Deepak Agrawal and his brother Pradeep Agrawal (Saksham Industries) appreciated the contributions of Bank of Baroda.

Office bearers of Akanksha Lions Institute pay courtesy call on Guv



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Office bearers of Akanksha Lions Institute of Learning and Empowerment paid a courtesy call on Governor Vishwambhushan Harichandan at Raj Bhavan. The student of

the Akanksha Lions Institute of Learning and Empowerment has secured second place in the entire country in the Sabal Award dance competition and received a prize of twenty thousand rupees. The Governor appreciated the talent of the girl and encouraged her.

Sub Junior National Archery tournament from Jan 5

Raipur, Jan 03: Chhattisgarh Pradesh Archery Association (CPAA) is organising 40th Sub Junior National Archery tournament from January 5 to 9 at Rajutsav Ground in Government Science College premises.

Providing the above in-

SPORTS ROUND-UP

formation while addressing a press conference here, the CPAA President Kailash Morarka said that nearly 1000 players would be participating in the above tournament and added that the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai

has been invited as chief guest to inaugurate the tournament on Friday morning and added that Union Minister Arjun Munda too has given his consent to attend the prize distribution ceremony on January 9. He said that 12 players from Chhattisgarh too would

be participating in the above tournament. Recurve, Compound and Indian Round events would be held under the above sub junior championship. Maximum 33 each players from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh would be participating in the above tournament, he added.

3 Days National Expo (Steel & Power) to be inaugurated from Jan 5 to 7

Raipur, Jan 03: The countdown has begun for the most anticipated event in the industrial sector in Raipur, Chhattisgarh - the 3 Days National Expo (Steel & Power) from January 5 to 7 2024 at Shriram Business park, Vidhansabha Road, Raipur. This expo is poised to revolutionize the way we perceive industry trends, innovations, automation and advancements.



Addressing the scribes here, R.K. Agrawal - Managing Director, Indore Infoline Pvt Ltd said that National Expo, Raipur is the culmination of months of planning and preparation. We're excited to present a platform that will redefine how industry professionals engage with the latest advancements and connect with peers." From manufacturing industry 4.0 to service, this expo will cover an extensive range of topics, catering to professionals across different sectors. The event will offer attendees a unique

blend of educational sessions, hands-on experiences, and ample opportunities to forge meaningful connections. There is business opportunity for every visitors, dealers, distributors and stockiest. The Expo is supported by Urla Industries Association, Raipur. National expo is also approved by MSME, Ministry Government of India and providing subsidy to participants upto 100% as per guidelines and also approved by NSIC.

Nearly 10,000 visitors are expected to visit coming from across the country. This show will benefit the industries of Raipur and Chhattisgarh

with latest technology exposure to local industries. This Expo will provide a great opportunity for networking of MSME sector. This year focus is on Industrial Automation & Solar Energy. Visitors will get the latest information about industrial automation products, bearings etc, he added.

The exhibition will showcase 15000 units of various industrial products, the biggest ever in the city and Chhattisgarh. The gross value of these products on display may cross Rs. 50 crore. Through this exhibition we are confident of registering a sales worth Rs.150 crore over a period of next one year, he added.

More than 200 exhibitors from across the country from cities like Raipur, Bhilai, Bilaspur, Durg, Bhilai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad are showcasing their products like industrial automation, cooling towers, machine

tools, bearings, switchgears, welding equipment's, power tools, hand tools, cutting tools, scientific equipment's, lab equipment's, Pre Engineering materials, material handling products, safety products, maintenance products and many more products. NBC Bearing is main sponsor of expo and Many leading companies like Metal Power, Wendt India, Ingersoll Rand, JR Seamless, Wesman, Jain Bearings, Tirupati CNC, Aakar Carbons, Admas, Chirayu Power, Shiva Infra and many big names are participating in this expo.

"We are thrilled to unveil the 13th year, National Expo (Steel & Power) Raipur which will serve as a vital platform for industry players to connect, collaborate, and gain insights into the latest industry trends," said Rajkumar Agrawal, Managing Director, Indore Infoline Pvt Ltd. Entry to National Expo is Free from 11-6 PM daily on all 3 Days.

Sardar Patel memorial inter-school Badminton C'ship final today



Raipur, Dec 03: First inter-school Sardar Vallabhai Patel memorial inter-school Badminton tournament organised by Shri Gujrati English Medium School, Devendra Nagar got off to a flying start on Wednesday with over 100 players from different top schools of the city ensuring their presence in the tournament. The tournament was inaugurated at the hands of school management com-

Title of Ch'garhi and Hindi film 'Gangs of Raipur' announced

Raipur, Jan 03: Tribal Warrior Production and K. S. Works announced the title of upcoming Hindi and Chhattisgarhi film "Gangs of Raipur" on Wednesday at the local Lokayan Bhawan under the chief hospitality of producer, director Satish Jain, Alak Rai, Amit Jain and in the presence of media persons.

Film producer Sajid Khan and Director K. Shiv Kumar jointly informed that "Gangs of Raipur" is a fictional crime drama, which is inspired by all the crimes happening in Raipur city, whose dramatic adaptation will be seen in this film. They informed that this film will probably be released simultaneously in theaters and multiplex in the country and the state in the summer of 2024. Film's director K. Shiv Kumar and producer Sajid Khan (film production) will debut in They added that will give full guarantee to the Chhattisgarh film industry and makers in the cinema industry to provide better entertaining film that can be made for the viewers



through the best drama, action, emotion, comedy and romance in the film. Thr team members include Vinod Kumar, cameraman from Chennai who has been working in Tamil cinema for many years and Mayank Rakwar, an accomplished editor who has worked for some Hollywood films in a renowned production house in Mumbai (VFX) have done editing work. The audition for the actors of this film will be held from January 15 to 18 at 'Mor Mati' office between 12 noon to 4 pm. For the first time, the audience will be thrilled to see a gang war taking place in the streets of Chollywood, where the sound of bullets will echo, the dark truth of the world of crime will be exposed and there will be a game of check-mate between the criminal and the police.

Govt declares 'Dry Day' in Ch'garh on Jan 22

On the day of 'Shri Ram Lala Pran Pratistha' in Ayodhya

Excise Department issues instructions in compliance

Raipur, Jan 03: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has declared 'dry day' on January 22, i.e. on the day when 'Shri Ram Lala Pran Pratistha' will be organized in Shri Ram Mandir of Ayodhya. In the same sequence, Excise Department has issued instructions today to ensure implementation of the aforementioned announcement.

In the video message released yesterday, Chief Minister said that 'Pran Pratistha' of Shri Ramlala will take place on

January 22 in Ayodhya. People of Chhattisgarh are enthusiastically looking forward to this mega event, as Chhattisgarh is the maternal birthplace of Shri Ram. In consideration of the zeal and fervour of people, this auspicious day will be declared dry day in Chhattisgarh.

As per the order issued in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 24 of Chhattisgarh Excise Act, 1915, all the country liquor and foreign liquor retail shops, restaurant-bars, hotel-bars, clubs etc. located in the state will be closed on January 22. Collectors have been directed to ensure implementation of "Dry Day".

Excise Department has directed the officials to make sure that no liquor shop, hotel, restaurant, club or any other estab-

lishment/person sells or serves liquor on the "Dry Day". Non-proprietary clubs, restaurants and hotels have also been instructed not to allow selling and serving of liquor on the "dry day" declared as above. Instructions have been given to strictly ban personal storage of liquor and storage of liquor in unlicensed premises in the said period and take action to confiscate them.

Besides, all the district offices as well as the divisional and state level flying squads have been directed to take effective steps to prevent transportation and sale of illegal liquor. An investigation team has also been constituted to keep a check on the suspicious locations and vehicles to prevent the illegal storage of liquor.

CM Sai to release 'SDG District Progress Report, 2022 Ch'garh'

Raipur, Jan 03: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will release "SDG District Progress Report, 2022 Chhattisgarh" at Yojana Bhawan, Nava Raipur on Wednesday. The report, prepared by the State Planning Commission, focuses on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chief Minister Sai will not only release the report but also conduct a review of the significant accomplishments of the State Planning Commission. Besides, he will also discuss the forthcoming action plan. Minister of Planning, Economics, and Statistics Secretary O.P. Choudhary will also attend the programme.

It is worth mentioning that the data for 2021-22 is based on the "Chhattisgarh District Indicator Framework," ensuring localized and continuous monitoring of SDGs at the district level. The "SDG District

Progress Report, 2022 Chhattisgarh" has been prepared using this framework.

The "SDG District Progress Report 2021" was released on February 20, 2023, based on 2020-21 data, comprising of district scores and rankings. The upcoming report will provide insights into how districts' scores and rankings have changed compared to the previous year.

State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Ajay Singh, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Planning, Economics, and Statistics Secretary Himshikhar Gupta, State Planning Commission Member Dr. K. S. Ubramaniam, Chhattisgarh UNICEF Chief Shri Job Zachariah, State Planning Commission Secretary Anoop Kumar Srivastava along with other senior officials will also be present on the occasion.

Martyr Colonel Viplav Tripathi's father pays courtesy visit to CM



Invites him to the unveiling ceremony of the newly-installed statue of the martyr

Raipur, Jan 03: Subhash Tripathi, father of martyr Colonel Viplav Tripathi, paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at the State Guest House Pahuna. Tripathi informed Chief Minister that Martyr Colonel Viplav Tripathi Memorial Trust has installed a statue of Martyr Colonel Viplav Tripathi in

front of Colonel Viplav Tripathi Stadium, Raigarh. A memorial plaque has also been installed here. Shri Tripathi invited Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to attend the statue unveiling program.

On the occasion, Chief Minister said that the brave son of Raigarh district, Martyr Colonel Viplav Tripathi sacrificed his life for the country. His martyrdom will continue to inspire us. It will be an honor for me to be present at the unveiling of his statue, said Sai. Meanwhile, martyr Colonel Tripathi's maternal

uncle Shri Rajesh Patnaik and Gokul Patnaik were also present.

It is noteworthy that Colonel Tripathi had taken commission in Kumaon Regiment in the year 2003. He worked in various postings such as Siachen, Kupwara, Nowshera, Congo, Mathura, Wellington etc. On 13 November 2021, in a bid to save soldiers in an ambush by separatist groups in Bihang bordering Myanmar; he fought till the last bullet, but eventually attained martyrdom with his wife Anuja and son Abir.

RNS celebrates Mannam Jayanti



Raipur, Jan 03: Raipur Nair Samajam (RNS) celebrated Mannam Jayanti, the 146th Birth Anniversary of founding father Bharat Kesari P a d m a b h u s h a n Mannathu Padmanabhan of Nair Service Society, Kerala at Shree Shankara Senior Secondary School, Birgaon, Raipur on 2nd January 2024. The function was inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. Motilal Sahu, MLA Raipur Rural constituency and Guest of Honour Shri Nandlal Dewangan, Mayor Birgaon Nagar Nigam. Extending his wishes for Mannam Jayanti and giving his welcome speech, Advocate B Gopakumar, President, Raipur Nair Samajam said that Shri Mannathu Padmanabhan was a great man, who was

born to serve society. Padmanabhan not only struggled for the upliftment of Nair Community but also all other downtrodden and backward communities. Addressing the function Chief Guest Motilal Sahu said that Mannathu Padmanabhan, the Founder of the Nair Service Society (NSS), was a great social reformer who tirelessly worked to improve the social and economics status of the Nair community.

Speaking on the occasion Guest of Honour Nandlal Dewangan lauded the social reforms carried out by Mannathu Padmanabhan. The vote of thanks was proposed by General Secretary, RNS Shailesh Kumar Nair. The programme was followed by various cultural pro-

gramme and entertainment organised by the cultural and ladies wing.

On the occasion prior to the celebration to give homage to Shri Mannathu Padmanabhan 'Blood Donation Camp' was organized by AIMS with the invaluable help and support by Parshad of W.N. 19, Ritesh Singh. In the noble cause all the members of Raipur Nair Samajam as well as Teachers of Shree Shankara Sen. Sec. School donated blood. Furthermore adding to the spirit of celebration Prize distribution ceremony was held with great enthusiasm and zeal. In which Abhiraj Shrivastava (Class VIII) (Qualified at National Level Shooting), Yuvraj Vishwakarma (Class X)

(Selected in Under-16 State Cricket Team), Vedesh Bhojar (Class II) (Chattisgarh State Marital Arts Team) Of Shree Shankara Sen. Sec. School and Mitesh J. Pillai, Varsha Venugopal, Aditi K. R. of RNS Were awarded for their meritorious result and excellence in academic performance.

The entire school participated whole heartedly towards the success of the grand event. The triumph was made possible by the relentless efforts of members of Raipur Nair Samajam.

On this auspicious occasion various cultural and musical performance were presented. The guests were impressed by the showcase of such zealous performances. The President of Raipur Nair Samajam Advocate Mr. B Gopa Kumar honoured both the guest and motivated the students for their present and future. General Secretary Shailesh Kumar Nair sir congratulated the winners of academic prize. Thus making the event a huge success.

RDA receives Rs 18.66 crore through sale of properties

Raipur, Jan 03: Raipur Development Authority (RDA) has received revenue of Rs 18.66 crore against the 97 successful bids for the various residential, commercial plots and flats under various schemes like Kaushalya Mata Vihar Indraprasth Phase II and Dr Khoobchand Baghel Transport Nagar Rawanbhat.

According to the information received, the RDA



had received 177 bids out of which 97 bids matured for various properties.

Providing the above information, the RDA Chief Executive Officer Dharmesh Kumar Sahu

said that 36 bids out of 97 bids for LIG flats in Indraprasth Phase II was successful and added that the amount of Rs 4.57 crore was received by RDA. Similarly, the RDA also received the amount of Rs 7.08 crore against 47 successful bids for LIG Flats in Kaushalya Mata Vihar. He further informed that a 3BHK LIG flat situated at Sector 10 at Kaushalya Vihar received the amount of Rs 19.07 lakh against the

offset prize of Rs 13.91 lakh.

He further informed that bids are invited on every second and fourth Fridays of every month for the remaining residential and commercial properties. He added that RDA has not appointed any agent or broker for the sake of the various properties and added that the interested persons can directly contact the Marketing Branch of RDA for queries.

SECR enhances passenger amenities

For a safe and comfortable journey

Raipur, Jan 03: South East Central Railway places the safety and comfort of its passengers at the forefront of its priorities, continuously striving to enhance their travel experience. The railway division, serving 321 stations across Bilaspur, Raipur, and Nagpur, is dedicated to providing top-notch passenger amenities and modern facilities.

In line with this commitment, South East Central Railway has invested in in-



frastructure development projects, ensuring that passengers have access to a range of conveniences at the stations. To assist elderly and needy travellers in navigating between platforms, the railway has introduced an impressive array of amenities, includ-

ing 24 lifts, 14 escalators, and 190 foot over bridges.

During the current financial year of 2023-24, significant progress has been made in further expanding these facilities. Five additional foot over bridges and one lift have been successfully con-

structed, with construction work underway for an additional 20 foot over bridges, seven lifts, and four escalators.

These passenger facilities play a vital role in ensuring the safe and seamless movement of travellers within the railway stations. Most of the foot over bridges are equipped with flat ramps, simplifying the process of carrying luggage, trolley bags, and other belongings. Additionally, hand railings have been thoughtfully installed to enhance the convenience of disabled passengers.

Sakshi, Hridam and Aditya bag placements at tech giant Microsoft



Raipur, Jan 03: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's final year students Hridam Palve, Sakshi Agrawal and Aditya Srivastava from the Department of Information Technology, Asmita Sharma from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Prashansa Gupta from the Department of Chemical Engineering have been offered PPOs (Pre-Placement Offers) in the

renowned Microsoft Corporation, a global technology company eminent for its pioneering role in the software industry.

Sakshi Agrawal has been offered PPO for the post of Software Engineer (SWE) with a CTC of 55 Lakhs. Talking about her experiences she commented that her journey commenced with the Microsoft Engage program, where she crafted a

project in response to given problem statements. Reflecting on her preparations, Sakshi highlighted a comprehensive approach, covering C++, front and back-end development, data structures and algorithms (DSA), various coding languages, and pertinent IT subjects.

Hridam Palve has been offered the post of Software Engineer (SWE) with a PPO of Rs 55 Lakhs CTC. He elaborated that his passion for coding ignited from an early fascination with computers, fuelling his ambition to carve a path as a software engineer within a prestigious multinational company. The inception of his journey occurred

through the Microsoft Engage program, a pivotal platform where he translated his enthusiasm into tangible results by creating a project that addressed a specified problem statement.

Aditya Srivastava has been offered a PPO as Software Development Engineer (SDE) with a CTC of 55 Lakhs. Aditya's journey began with a coveted summer internship at Microsoft, where he delved into a two-month live project, gaining profound insights into the latest technologies and large-scale project management. The experience, coupled with interactions with seasoned professionals, paved the way for a subsequent pre-placement offer.

Main accused in NCIB case nabbed

Dhamtari, Jan 03: In case of fake NCIB officials conducting raid and demanding money to settle the case, the Dhamtari Police has nabbed the main accused Kailash Sahu from Kanker on Jan 02 and send him on judicial remand. In this case four other accused were nabbed on Jan 1 itself and were sent on judicial remand.



In this case the accused have raided Kiran Restaurant Dabha coming in white Brezza vehicle and showing their ID as NCIB officers, they started conducting search on finding four quarter bottles of liquor bought by the restaurant employees, they started threatening to file a case and put them behind bars. They took the

owner as hostage and took him to his residence and succeeded in taking Rs 15000 out of total demand of Rs 80000 and had warned to come for remaining amount on Jan 1. They even took a photo of restaurant owner in front of his restaurant taking out a bagful of liquor from their car and started black-mailing him.

Classifieds

आवश्यकता है
महामा हॉस्पिटल (सर्वर क्लिनिशियन) मे निम्नलिखित पदों पर स्टीफ की आवश्यकता है एम.बी.बी. एस- 5 पद, एम.डी. मेडिसिन- 3 पद, बी.एससी नर्सिंग- 10 पद, आई सी यू इंबाज- 5 पद, आई सी यू अडिस्ट्रेट- 5 पद, बी.ए.एम. एस डॉक्टर- 5 पद, पैथोलॉजिस्ट- 2 पद, मेडिकल स्टॉल में काम करने हेतु लवकें वारिंट- 10 पद संपर्क करें 9907127097/9713211728 mahamahospital@gmail.com

SP puts star on insignia of promoted Inspector

Dhamtari, Jan 03: The newly appointed Sub-Inspector (SI) Narendra Kumar Singh on being promoted as Inspector based upon seniority was motivated by pinning single 'star' on the insignia on his shoulder by the SP Prashant Thakur here on Tuesday and extended greetings to him and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

SP Prashant Thakur on this occasion addressing the promoted Inspector NK Singh said that a promotion is progress after working in lower post and getting promoted to higher post and it comes with lot of responsibility and changes in one's working as well. He gave instructions to fulfill the same with honesty and dedication and presented sweets to him for the same.



On this occasion DSP Neha Pawar, DSP Vikeshwari Pide, Reserved Inspector Deepak Sharma, TI Dhamtari Inspector Brijesh Tiwari, TI Arjuni Rajesh Murali, promoted Inspector NK Singh and his wife Neelma Singh, chief clerk Santa Verma, Steno Akhilesh Shukla, establishment in-charge Laxmi Dhruv, and other officers and employees from the Police department extended greetings to NK Singh for his promotion.

Aadhya Priyadarshini Binoy DPS, Risali

As early Indian astronomers tried to quantify the paths of the sun, the moon, the planets and the stars on the celestial sphere with ever more accuracy, or to predict the occurrence of eclipses, they were naturally led to develop mathematical tools. Thus astronomy and mathematics were initially regarded as inseparable. About 1400 BCE the Vedanga Jyotisa, the first Indian text on astronomy, states itself in 2 different versions:

Like the crest on the head of a peacock, and the jewel on the hood of a cobra, is Jyotisa (astronomy)

Whereas Ganita (mathematics) is the crown of the Vedanga Shastras (basically texts on various branches of knowledge).

In fact Jyotisa initially referred to astronomy and mathematics combined; only later did it come to

mean astronomy alone and later included astrology.

THE FIRST STEPS
As its first steps, India's first urban developments, the Indus or Harappan civilization acquired a high degree of town planning with proportions, angles and degrees all kept in mind. This implies that basic geometric principles were used to their fullest. The discovery of cylindrical compasses made of shell with a slit cut every 45 degrees prove this point.

Though there is no consensus on the dates of the 4 Vedas, (except they are almost 3000 years old) we find in them frequent mentions of numbers by name, in multiples of tens hundreds thousands and all the way to a million millions, known as 'Parardha' in the Yajur Veda. And by comparison, much later, the Greeks named numbers only up to 10,000 (which was a 'Myriad') and only in the 13th century was the con-

cept of a million adopted in Europe. This way we were pioneers in mathematics even before the other side of the world comprehended it

THE EARLY HISTORICAL PERIOD

The first Indian corpus of texts dealing only and only with maths were the 'Sulbasutras', dated between 8th and 6th century. They were written in Sanskrit in the highly concise 'Sutra' style and were, in fact manuals for the construction of fire alters (called 'Citris' or 'Vedis'). The alters often had 5 layers of 200 bricks each, the lower layer symbolizing Earth and the highest, Heaven. Thus they were symbolic representations of the universe.

A few centuries later, P i n g a l a ' s ' -Chandasutras, a text on Sanskrit prosody, made use of binary system to classify the meters of Vedic hymns, whose syllables might be light(laghu) or heavy(guru). Rules of

calculations were worked out to relate all possible combinations of light and heavy syllables, expressed in binary notation, to numbers in one - to - one relationship, which worked both ways. In the course of these calculations, Pingala referred to the symbol for Shunya or Zero. Thus we were pioneers for zero or infinity also

THE CLASSICAL PERIOD

The classical and post classical periods were entirely dominated by the unhinged theories of A r y a b h a t t , B h a s k a r a c h a r y a , Neelkantha Somayaji, the Kerala School of Astronomy, Brahmagupta, Shridhara, Mahavira and Jyeshthadeva (just to name a few), which were the base of India's golden period along with advents in arts and other prominent and less prominent forms of science.

The author is a **CCRT scholar in Creative Writing**

Sarpanch travels to sell bangles

Mainpur, Jan 03:

Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Hardibhatha adjacent to Mainpur, Mrs. Dulia Bai Dhruv, who has won the election of Sarpanch in Gram Panchayat Hardibhatha twice in a row, still travels from one place to other selling bangles. In the village, she is seen as an example because at the age of just 15, Dulia Bai Dhruv started selling bangles by roaming from village to village and even after becoming the Sarpanch, there is no significant change in the standard of living of Dulia Bai.

On the one hand, she is carrying out the development works of the village by sitting in the Sarpanch chair in the Panchayat office and on the other hand, even today, four days a week, she walks 10 to 15 kilometers from village to village to sell bangles.



Educated till fifth class and due to the family being very poor, her mother also used to sell bangles from door to door, and she got this business of wearing bangles from her and she was only 15 years old and presently she has been working to make the rural women wear bangles in about 35 villages up

to 15 kilometers away from Mainpur.

She shares that that many people tell her that now that she has become Sarpanch twice in a row, she should stop the business of selling bangles, but she still does because it is her ancestral business. Also Dulia Bai Dhruv, the female

Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Haldibhata, is often seen sweeping the streets and ponds of the village herself as she says that it is the responsibility of the Panchayat to keep the village clean. She also told that former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh had honoured her by calling her in Raipur.

Shopkeepers submit memorandum to Collector

Khairagarh, Jan 03:

After the change of government, the poor shopkeepers running small hotels and dhabas are facing the crisis of livelihood, are troubled due to the continuous action of the police and excise department. Youth Congress President Sonu Dhimar has submitted a memorandum to Collector Khairagarh Gopal Verma expressing protest along with the shop operators regarding the entire matter. Mr. Dhimar says that after the formation of BJP government in the state and Vishnu Dev Sai becoming the Chief Minister, the police and excise department are unnecessarily harassing the poor shopkeepers running tasting shops, while illegal liquor is being sold openly under the protection of the police and excise department. Instead of closing the tasting shop, it would be better if the BJP government closes the government liquor shop itself, he said. In Dharampura, shopkeepers were harassed and illegal recovery was made, here more than 25 shops were demolished by the Excise Department and the poor were rendered unemployed and now, illegal recovery of Rs 5,000 each has been made from 15 hotel and dhaba-like food shopkeepers running on private land be-



What public rep says

After the coming of BJP government, the responsible administration is forcing the closure of the tasting shops operated as hotels by intimidation and illegal extortion. Sonu Dhimar, President Youth Congress and former councillor and chairman of Khairagarh Municipality.

hind the chicken-fish market in Itwari Bazaar and moreover the shops are being closed daily, he claimed. During the submission of the memorandum, Congress leaders Advocate Subodh Kant Pandey, Shashi Ramtek, Milap Dhimar, Sanju Kumar Rajak, Bunty Meshram, Subhash Dhurve, Bisru Ram, Tukesh Dhimar, Amit Kandra, Suresh Verma, Manish Rajak, Subhash Yadav, Chhotu Sarathi and shopkeepers were present.

Work in mission mode to get benefits of PMJY: Collector

Korba, Jan 03:

A deadline meeting was held here under the chairmanship of District Collector Saurabh Kumar, in which he conducted a detailed review of the progress of Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra, revenue matters and other development works in the district with the departmental officers. The Collector instructed all the officers to make progress in the implementation of government schemes and do regular monitoring.

On this occasion, Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Vishwadeep, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Pratishta Mangai, Additional Collector Pradeep Sahu, Dinesh Nag, all SDMs, District CEO and other departmental officers were present. Taking informa-



tion about the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, the Collector talked about working in mission mode to provide benefits of Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana to all the identified PVTG communities of the district.

He said that in coordination with various departments, drinking water, housing, roads, mobile medical units, construction of hostels, nutrition through Anganwadi centres, and establishment of Van Dhan Kendra, availability of internet and mobile services and skill devel-

opment for livelihood promotion should be done in the settlements of such communities. He said that name wise entry of the deprived people should be done in the survey being conducted in PVTG settlement, so that they can be benefited by making them present on the day of the camp.

The Collector reviewing the camps being organized in Block wise Gram Panchayats under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra, asked the officials to ensure maximum benefit to the general public through the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra from the scheme of the Central Government. The Collector also gave instructions to resolve all the pending cases as soon as possible and responsibility was assigned to various department heads for successful organization of the Republic Day celebrations.

Retirees should be paid all their dues on time: Collector



Jagdalpur, Jan 03:

Collector Vijay Dayaram K said that efforts will be made to timely provide all their rights and entitlements to the officers and employees retiring after serving for a long period as government servants as per the government rules, being done. He wished the retiring government servants a healthy and happy life.

The Collector honoured 26 retired government servants by giving them flower garlands, shawls and PPO letters in the pen-

Drivers should cooperate in public interest: Collector

Korea, Jan 03:

District Collector Vinay Langeh here took a necessary meeting with the district gas agency and petrol pump operators and obtained information regarding the nationwide transport strike. The Collector said that he directed to continuously monitor the availability of essential commodities under any circumstances and while appealing to the vehicle drivers of the district said that they should not remain on strike so that the needy people can't get medicines, vegetables, milk, grains, petrol, diesel, gas etc. on time.

He also told the gas agency and petrol pump operators that there should not be any kind of black marketing and instructions have been given to keep adequate quantity of diesel-petrol in all the petrol pumps located



in Baikunthpur and Sonhat development blocks. Instructing food officials, he said that officials of the Food Department should continuously monitor that no shopkeeper should indulge in hoarding or black marketing or sell essential commodities at expensive prices, besides, instructions were also given to take strict action against those spreading rumors and misleading news. Korea Police has given information regarding avoiding rumors that in the upcoming new law, section 106 (2) - If a person dies due to rash and negligent driving and he does not inform the police or magis-

trate, then there is a provision of 10 years' imprisonment against the person.

But this section will not apply to those drivers who inform the police after the accident. A control room has also been set up in the Collectorate office, under which, in case of any problem during the drivers' strike, the common people can get solutions by reporting their problems on telephone number 07836-23255. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ashutosh Chaturvedi and officials of various departments, gas operators, petrol pump operators were present in the meeting.

Villagers enthusiastically participating in VBSY

Korea, Jan 03:

Under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), LED vans are reaching the remote gram panchayats of the district and under the guidance of Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh for the promotion of government schemes. Vikas Bharat Sankalp Shivir was organized to provide information about the welfare schemes of the Central Government, in which the villagers participated enthusiastically and in the program, the benefits of the schemes were given to the eligible beneficiaries by setting up stalls by the Revenue Department, Food Department, Agriculture Department, Health Department, Livestock Development Department,



Women and Child Development Department, Cooperative Bank.

Cultural programs are also being organized at the Sankalp Yatra site and in the program; an oath was taken by the villagers to make a developed India as per the wish of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Also, the villagers listened with rapt attention to the information related to gov-

ernment schemes and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolution message for developed India through LED van. Along with this, application forms were filled from the eligible persons in the stall of the Health Department for providing Ayushman Card, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and selected beneficiaries

were benefited from these schemes.

On this occasion, along with health checkup of the villagers, medicines were also distributed in the health camp and farmers were given information regarding natural farming and soil health card by the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Along with this, the beneficiaries shared the information about the changes in their lives due to the benefits received under various schemes through Meri Kahani-Meri Jubani with the villagers present. During this time, officers and employees of various departments of the district administration, Panchayat officials of the area and a large number of villagers were present.

Lata Usendi participated in the development of VBSY

Kondagaon, Jan 03:

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) arrived in Bade Kanara of Kondagaon development block, where the villagers were given the benefit of various government schemes. Local MLA Lata Usendi on this occasion gave a resolution to the villagers to make a developed India and said that no villager should be left out of any important scheme of the government and it is for this, that VBSY is reaching every village. Through this, people are being provided benefits of government schemes and they are being prepared for the creation of a well-developed India.

She expressed happiness over the instant bene-



fits to the villagers under Kisan Credit Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Nidhi Yojana. She said that whatever applications have been received here, they are being resolved immediately.

Usendi said that along with the creation of a developed India, the message of keeping this beautiful land green and fertile is also being conveyed. Farmers are also being trained in technology like drones to save cost and

time. She said that in view of the important role of all people in the development of the country, the work of reaching every village to provide the benefits of every scheme of the government is being done on the initiative of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this opportunity is benefiting everyone.

She also distributed calendars, leaflets based on government schemes to the villagers along with awarding the winners of the quiz competition on this occasion. Member of District Panchayat Bal Singh Baghel, Member of District Panchayat Suresh Devangan, Sarpanch Basanti Baghel and public representatives were present on this occasion.

Woman accused of selling Ganja nabbed



Jagdalpur, Jan 03:

Bodhghat police of the district received information from an informer that the Drug Marijuana was being sold illegally by a woman in Karkapal. On information, the accused woman Sonadayi's S/o Jairam Kashyap was caught near the railway crossing

Karkapal Chowk. The accused has been arrested after seizing 2 kg of illegal drug Ganja from his possession. An offense under Section 20(B) of the NDPS Act was registered at Bodhghat police station and action was taken. After the proceedings, the accused woman was presented before the court on judicial remand.

Villagers enthusiastically participated in the resolution camp

Held under Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra

Jagdalpur, Jan 03:

Under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), LED vans reached Gram Panchayats in the interior areas of the district on Tuesday under the guidance of Collector Vijay Dayaram for the promotion of government schemes. Under which the Sankalp Yatra reached Kurushpal, Ghotia and Narayanpal of Bastar development block, Dilmili-02 and Katakada of Darbha development block, Pandaripani and



Biringpal of Jagdalpur block and Mardoom and Badrenga of Lohandiguda development block, Kumhrawand and Barda of Bakavand block.

Vikas Bharat Sankalp Camp was organized to provide information about the welfare schemes of the Central Government, in which

the villagers participated enthusiastically. In the program, the benefits of the schemes were given to the eligible beneficiaries by setting up stalls by the Revenue Department, Food Department, Agriculture Department, Health Department, Livestock Development Department, Women and Child Development

Department, Cooperative Bank. A cultural program was also presented by the school children at the Sankalp Yatra site, and the children also enthusiastically participated in the quiz and painting competition.

In the program, an oath was taken by the villagers to make a developed India as per the wish of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Also, the villagers listened with rapt attention to the information related to government schemes and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolution message for developed India through LED van.

During this time, stalls

were also set up by various departments at the venue to provide information about the public welfare schemes of the government to the general public. In which the work of making Kisan Credit Cards for agriculture as well as animal husbandry, fisheries and horticulture was done. Along with this, application forms were filled from the eligible persons in the stall of the Health Department for providing Ayushman Card, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Selected beneficiaries were benefited from these schemes. On this occasion, along with health checkup of

the villagers, medicines were also distributed in the health camp. Farmers were given information regarding natural farming and soil health card by the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Along with this, the beneficiaries shared the information about the changes in their lives due to the benefits received under various schemes through Meri Kahani-Meri Jubani with the villagers present. During this time, officers and employees of various departments of the district administration, Panchayat officials of the area and a large number of villagers were present.

20 people killed, 40 wounded in blasts

At ceremony honouring slain general

Tehran, Jan 03 (AP):

Explosions at an event honouring a prominent Iranian general slain in a US airstrike in 2020 have killed at least 20 people and wounded 40 others, state-run media in Iran reported on Wednesday.

The state-run IRNA news agency quoted Dr Mohammad Saberi, the head of Kerman emer-

gency services, for the figure.

The blasts struck an event marking the fourth anniversary of the killing of Gen. Qasim Soleimani, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, who died in a US drone strike in Iraq in January 2020. The explosions occurred near his grave site in Kerman, about 820 kilometres southeast of the capital, Tehran.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the

blasts. Authorities said some people were injured while fleeing afterward.

Soleimani was the architect of Iran's regional military activities and is hailed as a national icon among supporters of Iran's theocracy. His death has drawn large processions in the past. At his funeral in 2020, a stampede broke out and at least 56 people were killed and more than 200 were injured as thousands thronged the procession.

Suicide bomber among 4 terrorists killed by security forces

In northwest Pakistan

Peshawar, Jan 03 (PTI):

Pakistani security forces killed four wanted terrorists, including a suicide bomber, in an intelligence-based operation in the country's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Wednesday.

The operation was carried out on Tuesday in the North Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) — the military's media cell. After an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists, including a suicide

bomber, were killed by the security forces, it said. Those killed were wanted by law enforcement agencies for various terrorist activities and were also planning a major terror attack in the district.

Large quantities of arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession, according to the ISPR.

The attack comes as Pakistan recorded an unprecedented spike in terrorism-related violence in the past year, with the total violence-related fatalities reaching a record six-year high, especially in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, according to data released by Islamabad-based think tanks.

EARTHQUAKE



Firefighters walk near a fallen building following earthquakes in Wajima, Ishikawa prefecture, Japan Wednesday, Jan. 3. A series of powerful earthquakes that hit western Japan left multiple people dead Wednesday, as rescue workers fought to save those feared trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings.

China's 3rd aircraft carrier Fujian gears up for sea trials

Beijing, Jan 03 (PTI):

China's third aircraft carrier 'Fujian', the heaviest and most advanced compared to its two previous warships, is gearing up for sea trials, official media reported on Wednesday.



China's official media often creates buzz about the progress of new defence equipment like new ships, fighter jets and missiles, displaying their photos to generate public interest.

China launched Fujian in June 2022 with a lot of fanfare with claims that it could match the US aircraft carriers in terms of technology as Beijing is increasingly coming under pressure from

Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy especially in the disputed South China Sea and Taiwan, which it claims as part of its territory. China claims most of the South China Sea while Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter-claims.

China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, was a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 followed by the indige-

nously built 2nd aircraft carrier Shandong in 2019.

With 80,000 tonnes displacement, 20,000 tonnes more than the first and second aircraft carriers, the Fujian was expected to venture out to far off seas like the Indian Ocean, India's backyard where the Indian Navy has a robust presence.

China has already expanded its naval base at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa to berth aircraft carriers. China has also acquired the Hambantota port in Sri Lanka as a debt swap for 99 years. It is also modernising Pakistan's Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea.

China plans to have around five aircraft carriers, according to the official media. The next aircraft carrier China plans to build is expected to be nuclear-powered.

ISIS trying to establish foothold in Pakistan: Ministry of Interior tells Senate

Islamabad, Jan 03 (PTI):

Pakistan, which is witnessing an influx of Tehreek-i-Taliban terrorists in significant numbers in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tribal districts, is also facing a threat from the Islamic State (ISIS) which is trying to establish a foothold in the country, the Ministry of Interior has said.

The ministry's statement came as the Senate was briefed about the escalating influence and activities of the TTP following the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the inaction of the interim Afghan government led by the Taliban against the banned group.

The interior ministry, in a written response during a question hour, highlighted the TTP's reorganisation and operational expansion during the peace talks in 2022, which has significantly increased its militant activities.

"It has given significant rise to its activities and is seeking the support of other militant groups to increase strength and capabilities. It is mostly concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially merged districts, with foot-

prints in Balochistan and trying to activate its network in the country," it said. It said that the arrival of TTP in significant numbers continues in merged districts, along with the recruitment, training and placing of suicide bombers, is a cause of concern.

The ministry said Daesh an Arabic acronym for the self-proclaimed Islamic State militant group was also trying to establish a foothold in Pakistan and resorted to terrorist activities against Shias and religious minority communities to ignite sectarian strife. It said fencing along the western borders of Pakistan had largely been completed to further strengthen the state mechanism of curbing the illegal movement from across the border. However, it pointed out that the two organisations, particularly the TTP, continued to sabotage the fence.

Pakistan started fencing its porous borders with Afghanistan in March 2017, after facing a spate of deadly attacks from Afghanistan-based militant groups in the previous year.

Deaths of Indian-origin couple, daughter in Massachusetts ruled murder-suicide

New York, Jan 03 (PTI):

The deaths of a wealthy Indian-origin couple and their daughter in the US state of Massachusetts last week have been ruled a murder-suicide by medical authorities after autopsy.

Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife Teena Kamal, 54 and their college-going daughter Arianna Kamal, 18 were found dead in their USD 5 mil-

lion mansion in Dover, Massachusetts on December 28, 2023. A firearm was found near Rakesh Kamal.

A press release issued by the office of Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey on Tuesday said that autopsy results issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner confirm that Teena and her daughter Arianna were victims of homicide by gunshot.

Police seek motive in fiery fatal crash in upstate New York



Rochester (US), Jan 03 (AP):

The driver who crashed an SUV loaded with gas cans outside a western New York concert venue appeared to have been aiming at a pedestrian crossing, but there is no evidence of a terror motive in the fiery wreck that killed him and two ride-hail passengers on New Year's Day, police said on Tuesday. The man behind

the wheel, tentatively identified as Michael Avery, 35, of the Syracuse area, may have suffered from undiagnosed mental health problems, Rochester police Chief David Smith said at a news conference.

Avery had spent days in the Rochester area and made at least a half-dozen purchases of gasoline and fuel containers before the crash. But officials say the motive remains unknown.

"I have been getting inundated with questions as to why this individual would choose ... Rochester, New York, why he would choose to do this on New Year's Day, and why he would appear to target concertgoers trying to have a great time to bring in the new year," Mayor Malik Evans said. "Those are all questions that have been raised, and things that we just do not have an-

swers to yet."

The wreck happened shortly before 1 am on Monday in front of the Kodak Centre as concertgoers exited after a performance by the jam band moe. The driver of the SUV, a Ford Expedition, accelerated as he neared the theatre, crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic and appeared to have intentionally been driving toward a crosswalk filled with people, according to police.

But the Expedition then struck a Mitsubishi Outlander pulling out of a parking lot, sending both vehicles sliding into people in the crossing.

Two rear-seat passengers in the Outlander were killed. Police identified them on Tuesday as New York residents Justina Hughes, 28, of Geneva, and Joshua Orr, 29, of Webster. Their families released statements saying they were best friends who loved music.

PROTEST



Thousands of people attend a protest rally in Mogadishu, Somalia, Wednesday Jan.3, after being angry with an agreement signed between Ethiopia and the breakaway region of Somaliland to give landlocked Ethiopia access to its shoreline.

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

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

CORRIGENDUM No-01

(1) In System Tender 150090/NIT No. : 03/SAC/2023-24, Champa, Dated: 15.12.2023 Whose G-Number is 06528 dated 16-12-2023

Following amendments are made :-

S.No.	Amendments
1	Online Tenders are invited up to 11.01.2024 at 17.30 Hour
2	Bid Open Start Date and time : 12.01.2024, 11.30 Hours

Note:- All other terms and conditions will remain be unchanged.

Executive Engineer
 Water Resources Division, Janjgir
 H.Q. Champa
 For, Chief Engineer, Hasdeo Basin
 Bilaspur (C.G.)

G-06852/1

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता,
लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

दिनांक 30.12.2023

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	नि.जा.सू.क्र. दिनांक	सिस्टम आईडी क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत
1.	37/CEN/NIT/44-34/2023	2023 MoRTH, 786697_1	Short Term Maintenance works and activities (STMC) on section from Km 80.600 to 110.000 of Ambikapur Ramanujanji Garhwa Road N.H-343 in the state of Chhattisgarh.	Rs. 223.08/- (i/c GST)
2.	38/CEN/NIT/44-35/2023	2023 MoRTH, 786698_1	Short Term Maintenance works and activities on section (i) from Km 363.000 to Km 373.500, Km 375.620 to Km 385.700 Km 429.200 to Km (429.650 and Km 433.850 to Km 437.670 of Katni - Gumla Road NH-43 (Old NH-78) AND (ii) from Km 215.800 to Km 216.700 of Simpa-Bilaspur- Kalthora-Ambikapur Road NH-130 (Old NH-111) in the state of Chhattisgarh.	Rs. 196.69/- (i/c GST)
3.	39/CEN/NIT/44-36/2023	2023 MoRTH, 786699_1	Short Term Maintenance works and activities (STMC) on section from Km 0.000 to 57.600 of Ambikapur Ramanujanji Garhwa Road N.H-343 in the state of Chhattisgarh.	Rs. 315.16 i/c GST
4.	40/CEN/NIT/44-12/2023	2023 MoRTH, 788113_1	Repair and Rehabilitation of High Level Bridge over Mand River at Km. 27/8, 10 on NH-216.	Rs. 312.05/- (i/c GST)

स. क्र. 1 से 3 के लिये निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 22.01.2024 शाम 17.30 बजे तक है तथा स. क्र. 4 के लिये निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 15.01.2024 शाम 17.30 बजे

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी सहायक परिसर एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय (MORT&H) के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियंता
 लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग परिक्षेत्र,
 रायपुर (छ.ग.)

G-06826/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03, MACHADOLI DISTT.-KORBA (C.G.)

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

(FIRST CALL)

System Tender No. 150077 NIT No.: 17/SAC/2023-24
 Dated: 19-12-2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 09-01-2024 at 17.30 Hour

Name of work: **REPLACEMENT OF IRRIGATION SLUICES (EMERGENCY AND SERVICE GATES) INCLUDING SYSTEM AND GANTRY CRANE OF MINIMATA (HASDEO) BANGO DAM.**

Probable Amount of Contract :- Rs. 426.82 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 26-12-2023, at 17.31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
 MINIMATA BANGO DAM DIVISION NO. 03
 MACHADOLI (C.G.)

G-06845/1

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA
 (A Central University established under the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009)
 KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA
 Tel. - +91-7752- 260342, Fax - +91-7752- 260154, 260148, website - www.new.ggu.ac.in

Ref. No. 457/Admission /Academic/24 **ADMISSION NOTICE (2024-25)** Bilaspur, Date- 03.01.2024

Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur invites online application for admission to the various PG level programmes for the academic session 2024-25 through Common University Entrance Test CUET (PG) 2024 to be conducted by NTA.

(a) Programmes available for admission:

- Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), B.Ed. Special Education (Learning disability), B.Ed. Special Education (Hearing Impaired), Bachelor of Physical Education (B.P.Ed.), Bachelor of Library & Information Science (B. Lib. & I. Sc.),
- Postgraduate programme: M.Sc. — Botany, Chemistry, Bio-technology, Microbiology, Forensic Science, Computer Science, Rural Technology, Forestry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology, M.A. — Economics, Political Science, Hindi, English, History, Journalism & Mass Communication, Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed.), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Computer Applications (M.C.A.), M.A./M.Sc. in Anthropology, M.Lib. & Inf. Sc., M.Com., LL.M, MBA, M. Pharm.

(b) For admission procedure, eligibility, number of seats, reservation policy, Entrance Test provisions, fees and mapping of programme-subject for test, please refer to "CUET PG Admission 2024-25" available on university website www.new.ggu.ac.in and <https://pgcet.samarth.ac.in/> for CUET (PG).

(c) As the entrance test will be conducted by NTA, therefore, the University will follow the admission procedure and syllabus for entrance test as notified by the NTA for CUET (PG). Interested candidates have to visit the links provided above for all updates regularly.

(d) Important dates:

- Start of Online Application Process : 26.12.2023
- Closing date of Online submission of Application forms : 24.01.2024

(e) Admission notice for M. Tech. programme will be notified separately. Candidates interested in M. Tech. programmes need not apply against this advertisement.

Registrar (Acting)



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 94

A Lesson for All

Japan's Resilience in the Face of Quakes

Japan, a nation perched on the fiery Pacific Ring of Fire, knows all too well the terror that Mother Nature can unleash. On New Year's Day, it experienced yet another reminder of its seismic vulnerability, as a formidable earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale sent shockwaves through the land of the rising sun. Despite the devastation it brought and over 155 smaller tremors that followed, Japan has emerged from this ordeal with its characteristic resilience. This remarkable resilience is no accident. Japan, recognized as the most quake-prone country in the world, has invested heavily in technology and strategies to fortify its infrastructure against the fury of the Earth. It has forged a swift and efficient response mechanism for disasters, turning each seismic event into a lesson for improvement. The 1923 earthquake disaster led to the formulation of a robust quake-resistant building code, a testament to Japan's commitment to disaster preparedness. However, the most poignant lesson was learned in 2011 when a devastating earthquake triggered a tsunami, resulting in the loss of over 18,000 lives. The harrowing experience of facing both the earth's violent shaking and the relentless onslaught of sea waves crashing inland provided crucial insights into dealing with dual catastrophes. Japan did not shy away from updating its measures to mitigate such calamities, continuously evolving to ensure its people's safety. Japan's readiness was evident in its response to the recent seismic activity. Although the earthquake caused buildings to wobble violently, some even collapsing, and roads to crack open, the nation demonstrated its well-practiced resilience. By Tuesday evening, approximately 50 lives were tragically lost, and many more were injured. Yet, amidst the chaos, Japanese rescuers, despite facing formidable challenges such as power outages and disruptions to transportation, raced against time to save lives. Almost one lakh people were swiftly evacuated to emergency shelters, including sports halls and school gymnasiums. This is where Japan's example becomes a beacon for nations worldwide, including India. We can glean invaluable lessons from Japan's approach to earthquake preparedness and its rapid response mechanisms. One of the most critical take-aways is the importance of issuing timely alerts to inform and prepare citizens for impending disaster. Moreover, it is about steadfastly adhering to building bylaws related to quake resistance. Japan's strict enforcement of such regulations has played a pivotal role in minimizing casualties during earthquakes. India, a country with its own seismic vulnerabilities, must take heed and strengthen its commitment to building codes and regulations designed to withstand earthquakes. Japan's experience serves as a poignant reminder that preparedness is the cornerstone of disaster resilience. While we may not have the same seismic activity as Japan, India is by no means immune to natural calamities. We must invest in technology, infrastructure, and disaster management strategies to protect our citizens and minimize the loss of life and property. In a world increasingly defined by climate change and shifting tectonic plates, the lessons from Japan are a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of preparation. We must not wait for tragedy to strike before taking action. Japan's example urges us to build a safer, more resilient future for ourselves and generations to come.

EXISTENCES BYGONE

Dr Madhavi Lata Agrawal



Those were the days when everyone looked anxiously looked out to catch sight of a man on a bicycle with a khaki uniform for he brought pleasures untold, carrying letters and pleasures and a link to all friends and relations he was. Letters with memories and warmth and love, all he carried in his bag and dropped in at the doors. Words written down were pearls of wisdom from parents. Love and memories of the past bygone days from friends and relations guiding you down memory lane. A simple paper but with pen created a havoc in the hearts of the writers and emotions were re-lived as words were penned down on paper. Beautiful letters, some worth framing for the affection it carried and for love rolled on onto paper creating a bond so strong that was as robust as the clinging of fingers with each other. Days of the bygone created a memory - anempathy so entrancing that the first reading was not adequate it was just a superficial glance of the thoughts, then a second reading where all the emotions were rekindled and memories all recollected bringing pleasure untold. As new year approached, greeting cards from various parts of the globe came twirling in and the postman became the link with places unknown. Pleasures grander came effusing in, just with the sound of his jingling bell. These letters gave pleasures elevated thoughts of the writing minds as well as of the reading minds. Each emotion on paper was written and found its place under the pillow for a final reading before sleep to be relived again. I remember the days past when I picked up from my heap some letters of yore and most from my parents written eons ago. Such rich thoughts, such happy memories do relate and all get cradled within my heart reliving those good old days. Some are alive and many have gone, but the letters always will remain, an enchanting memory that shall always bind us together whether alive or dead the bonds can never break. Today we do have a form of letters the mobile, with all its contacts and messages yet the personal charm has all vanished into thin air. Emotions are just copy - paste and the charm of writing with pen and paper have all vanished and the art of personal writing with particular characteristics have all faded away. The feeling of paper written long ago can never be recaptured until you come in contact with letters of yonder days. The personal touch of trying to understand the character of person by analyzing handwriting have all gone and these pleasures we of a past generation only know how to treasure!

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 emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

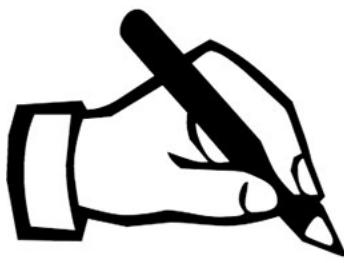
MAKAR SANKRANTI PREPARATIONS



Kite sellers prepare kites ahead of the upcoming 'Makar Sankranti' festival, at Dhoolpet in Hyderabad, Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Hit and Run Bill will bring a sense of responsibility on Indian roads?

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH



Hit-and-run cases are those where the driver of the vehicle that causes a road accident flees the scene. It is also proposed to increase the jail term to seven years and a fine for causing death by negligent driving in the Indian Judicial Code, which amounts to culpable homicide. The existing provision under section 304A of the IPC provides for "imprisonment of up to two years or fine or both". These proposed provisions are likely to prove to be a deterrent to errant drivers, who often get away with paying fines or serving lesser jail terms. At present, the accused in hit-and-run cases are prosecuted under Section 304A after their identification and hence they get away with even minor punishment in most of the cases. The new provisions under Section 104 (2) make it mandatory for anyone who causes death to a person by negligence or culpable homicide not amounting to murder and flee the scene of the incident or fail to report the incident. The police officer or magis-

trate immediately following the incident shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years. The hit-and-run case has become a common cause of road accidents in India. In simple terms, hit-and-run accidents can be described as a case where a person while driving hits another vehicle and runs away from the spot. It is the driver's criminal and civil responsibility to report a road accident involving his vehicle. As hit-and-run cases are on the rise in India, it is essential to understand the Motor Vehicles Act, which explains the laws imposed on anyone involved in hit-and-run accidents. Road accident statistics show how roads have become unsafe places for everyone. Hit-and-run cases account for more than 30 percent of all road accidents in India, but only 10 percent of drivers involved in hit-and-run accidents are booked. Lack of concern for the safety of another person and reckless driving are com-

mon. The Motor Vehicles Act, of 1988 contains a law that gives strict punishment to a person involved in a hit-and-run accident. IPC sections 279, 304A, and 338 are imposed on victims of hit-and-run incidents. According to government data, a total of more than one lakh people died in hit-and-run cases on Indian roads in four years due to reckless driving and hit-and-run cases. Generally at present police investigating officers are trained in IPC-related sections and are hardly aware of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Therefore, it becomes all the more important that the police officers also understand the provisions of the MV Act to make it more effective." The proposed bill also provides for the provision of a provision prohibiting speedy or reckless driving, endangering human life, or causing injury to any other person. The same provision of the IPC for causing hurt or likely to cause hurt has been retained. The punishment for such an offense is imprisonment for up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 1,000 or both. It is well known that India has the highest number of accidents in the world. India is one of the most - prone countries, with approximately 1,50,000 deaths, which is 10% of all deaths related to motor vehicles

worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, India has the highest number of road accidents worldwide. Even China, the most populous country, is lagging behind us in this matter. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways report: About 5 lakh road accidents occur in India every year, in which about 1.5 lakh people die. As far as road safety is concerned, discipline is essential. If implemented in the right spirit, the law can not only change the road habits of everyone by imposing harsher penalties but can also try to inculcate a sense of responsibility among the citizens. It will provide an efficient, safe, and corruption-free transportation system after the passage of the bill. Along with this, there is also a provision in the law if the general public assaults the driver during an accident, then they should also be punished. Then the driver of the vehicle will guarantee it and will take the victim to the hospital in case of emergency.

Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist. The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's Cosmic Leap

India's space endeavors took a remarkable stride into 2024 with the triumphant launch of its maiden X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). This achievement propels India into an elite club, being only the second nation to delve into experimental studies of enigmatic celestial entities - black holes. Named Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) one, this historic mission was led by women, serving as an inspiring beacon for the nation. The mission promises to elevate India's proficiency in X-Ray polarimetry, laying the groundwork for future breakthroughs and nurturing collaboration within the astronomical community. It signifies a significant value addition to the realm of science.

MK Nair, Raipur

Good to see FSR going beyond report

The global economy and financial system are not yet out of the woods despite warding off recession in 2023. But India's banking and financial system have successfully weathered domestic rate hikes and global shocks. This seems to be the main message from Reserve Bank of India's latest Financial Stability Report (FSR) for six months ending September 2023. The report presents data to show that not just banks, but also NBFCs, are sitting pretty with healthy capital buffers. It is good to see the FSR going beyond reported financials to try and identify segments where the next credit bubbles could be building up. However, if the RBI believes that lenders are downplaying default risks, it will need to undertake Asset Quality Reviews.

Karan Singh, Chennai

Pride Moment for ISRO

The first day of 2024 brought happiness for our country. Our country took a step towards the sky in the field of science from day one. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the world's second and country's first satellite which will gather information about radiation, galaxies, pulsars and black holes in space by studying them. We hope and pray that ISRO will achieve great success in this mission and scientists will find solutions to them by getting information about harmful rays and other things coming from the sky. This is a moment of pride for every Indian. Seeing the progress of ISRO, the whole world will grit its teeth.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

Higher Than Mt. Kanchenjuna

Kajal Chatterjee

As we walked inside the Mall area of Darjeeling in the sunny morning, a Nepali youth of probably late 30s or early 40s approached us to ask whether we would go for sightseeing. As we were negotiating the price with him, I noticed his impeccable humility and innocent smile. So without opting to negotiate with another driver so as to get a "better deal" in our favour, we chose him. Without belittling the "mainstream" tourists, it is my humble submission that my definition of tourism is stark opposite to their mindset. Landing in a spot, promptly flashing mobiles to take a selfie in front of the chosen peak or fort and immediately posting it in social media to count the number of "Likes" is definitely not my cup of tea. I would prefer to negotiate dangerous steps to reach the bottom of Bong Bong falls near Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh instead of searching every alley of the Buddhist town to purchase electronic goods at comparatively cheaper price or to have a good bite at restaurants. No wonder why I have to regularly meet blank faces when asking the "tourism lover" where the particular fort (embedded in his glamorous pictorial album) is located - Jaisalmer or Jodhpur, Bikaner or Barmer. My tourism is not confined within the facade of the Taj or flowers of

Mughal Gardens Srinagar only; but it extends to the history and heritage of the place state country visited for the culture, lifestyle, general mindset and attitude of the local population concerned. And just like the famous Lalmoan babu or "Jatayu" (one of the three icons of Feluda asked Feluda on their Uttarakhand visit (then Uttar Pradesh) in which exact spot on the Indian map were they stationed and felt satisfied on getting the exact picture; I also always remain inquisitive of the roads streets upon which I am travelling and also minutest details of the surrounding area. So when our cab driver, Mr. Suresh, started commenting in his own accord that now we are travelling through Lebong Cart Road or Peshok Road or that village in far distance on the Himalayan ridge is actually situated in Sikkim; I got thrilled that I have met my match - call it luck destiny coincidence or God's will. However it was not running commentary, just a small description at the right place at the right time. Also the tone was not of "know all" brand, rather a very humble presentation of facts which was enriching my horizon of knowledge that cannot be found readily available in books and brochures. It was he who notified us that we were passing below the Ramkrishna

Mission and even informed us that Sister Nivedita had passed her last days there. This proves that far from mechanically transporting us from one tourist location to another, Mr. Suresh (bearing the stamp of humble economic roots upon his persona) is also intellectually strong enough. On the Darjeeling days, whenever we asked him to report to a particular place and time, he used to reach there at appointed time despite traffic congestion of the hill town with a soft warm smile thereby proving his punctuality and discipline. How can I forget the honesty of Mr. Suresh who called in his own accord to declare that he has got paid an extra amount of Rs. 1000/- . He could have taken the unfair advantage of my forgetfulness (paying Rs. 1000/- as advance in a fuel station) and pocketed the money, but he didn't do so. After venturing a spot to start for another, whenever we used to offer him tea, he used to refuse it by saying "I have already taken a cup". And on the day of return to the plains, he stopped at pre-scheduled Mirik after noon. As I offered him a certain amount so that he can have his lunch while we ventured the lake, vehemently refused. It took me much cuddling to make him accept the amount, such was his non-greedy nature. During return trip to Siliguri, there were lot of scenic spots - - - the

beautiful sleepy hamlet of Lepchajagat to Indo-Nepal border viewpoint offering a spectacular sight of Mount Kanchenjuna (resembling "Sleeping Buddha" from that angle) to series of tea gardens. Apart from the scheduled spots, he was encouraging us to stop here and there (be it a secluded place where large green valleys can be witnessed or river beds) and enjoy as much as we wish instead of rushing to Siliguri to save his own time. Despite being in driving profession just for sheer money, Mr. Suresh is conscientious enough to give back due enjoyment to the customers/travellers also just like I witness the same mentality in the proprietor-cum-driver of the local car service which we regularly hail since a decade. During Durga Puja pandal-hopping (contract of certain hours at the expense of a pre-fixed amount), Mr. Bappa, of our local area, voluntarily takes us to more Puja pandals (without charging an extra penny) even after time limit if he finds that we haven't seen enough idols due to traffic jams within scheduled hours. Not to speak of his extremely sweet behaviour (not only to customers, but to his subordinates and family members also), humility, sense of timing and ethics. This brings us to a particular Director of our office who was agitated about the driver allotted to him. Yes, that

particular driver might have been rude, dishonest, inefficient etc. The Director could have expressed his frustration revolving around his driver as an individual. But, while referring to his driver, the Director bluntly said "Surely you know the "class" of the drivers". And get remembered of that otherwise nice Bangla comedy film where the popular song starts with "Oh what a disgrace, girl of a Bhadrakol family escapes with a driver" - - which directly transmits a message that drivers can never be termed as "Bhadrakol". If the so-called "Bhadrakols" (of "educated" "high class" vintage) of the society learn a few things revolving around civility humility humanity accountability and honesty from these unsung, socially marginalised lot of Suresh and Bappa, surely our society can attain a much higher height in terms of civility and morality. Mount Kanchenjuna was sweet. Sweeter was the information given by Suresh that the habitation on the far right of our position in scenic height of Tinchuley is Kalimpong and on our far left dwells Namchi of South Sikkim. But sweetest is the character of Mr. Suresh whom I treat higher than the world's third highest peak also. (The views expressed above are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the views of Central Chronicle.)

BRIEF**Investment**

We will maintain our export figures of last year: Goyal

New Delhi, Jan 03:

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday exuded confidence that during this fiscal, the country will maintain the last year's export figures despite slowdown in global trade. He said that India's exports of goods and services rose to USD 776 billion in 2022-23 from USD 500 billion two years ago. "Globally growth has been negative, international trade is in the negative territory, estimates are that this year international trade may fall, and in that perspective after having grown so rapidly



we are looking at a phase of consolidation... "and I expect that the current year, we will maintain our figures of last year and strengthen our processes and our domestic capacities, capabilities

to be able to grow at much faster rates in the years to come," Goyal told reporters here. Cumulatively, the country's merchandise exports in April-November 2023-24 contracted by 6.51 per cent to USD 278.8 billion. The estimated value of services export during the eight-month period stood at USD 220.66 billion.

He added that both the foreign affairs and commerce ministries are working together to boost exports. Earlier, speaking at the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024 and ODOP Awards Ceremony 2023, he said that the

country is not "anti-imports" and wherever required, companies can import goods.

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not about stopping imports," he added. Further he said that before the forthcoming general elections, the country's economy is expected to touch USD 4 trillion. At the event, Goyal and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar conferred the ODOP (One District One Product) awards onto the selected states, districts and Indian missions which led a drive towards fostering innovation and achieving excellence under this initiative.

DIVIDEND CHEQUE

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman receives Rs 1083.60 crore for FY 2022-23 from General Insurance Corporation of India CMD Ramaswamy Narayanan, in New Delhi.

Growth in Asia Pacific emerging markets to remain strong in 2024: Fitch

New Delhi, Jan 03:

The economic growth in Asia Pacific will remain strong in 2024 and GDP is expected to grow by about 5 per cent in India and a host of emerging market countries, Fitch Ratings said on Wednesday. In its report titled 'APAC Cross-Sector Outlook 2024', Fitch said the outlooks for the banking sectors in India and Indonesia, as well as APAC emerging markets as a whole, move to improving in 2024, partly reflecting the robust economic backdrop. "Economic growth in APAC will generally remain strong in 2024, especially in emerging markets (EMs), supporting sector outlooks across the region. We expect real GDP to expand by, or above, 5 per cent in India, Indonesia, the Philippines and

Vietnam, and China's performance will still be strong by most other countries' standards," Fitch said. The Indian economy grew 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 fiscal year. India's GDP expanded 7.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent in the June and September quarters, respectively. Fitch had last month said it expects India to be among the world's fastest-growing large sovereigns, with resilient GDP growth of 6.9 per cent this fiscal, followed by 6.5 per cent in 2024-25. "Robust regional economic growth particularly in Asia's large emerging markets - should offset headwinds from slowing growth in China, weak global demand and high interest rates, helping to support performance across sectors in APAC in 2024," Fitch Ratings Senior Director Duncan Innes-Ker said.

ONGC wins 7, Reliance-BP one oil, gas blocks in latest bid round

New Delhi, Jan 03:

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) won seven areas for exploration of oil and gas while a consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP Plc walked away with one in the latest bid round. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said 10 blocks for exploration and production of oil and gas were offered in the eighth round of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP-VIII).

Contracts for the 10 blocks were signed on Wednesday morning, he said. Of the 10 blocks offered, ONGC won seven while Reliance-BP, Oil India Ltd and Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd got one area each.



Parallely, three coal-bed methane (CBM) blocks too were awarded and the ninth round of OALP was launched for bidding. "Estimated investments in awarded blocks for a committed exploration work programme is to the tune of USD 233 million," an official note said. India had offered 10 blocks for

bidding in the eighth round of the OALP in July 2022. After extending the bid deadline a few times, the round closed in July 2023. Five companies - ONGC, Vedanta Ltd, Oil India Ltd (OIL), Sun Petrochemicals Pvt Ltd and Reliance-BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd - put in 13 bids for the 10 blocks on offer in OALP-VIII, according to the Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). Seven of the 10 blocks on offer received single bids and the other three blocks had two bidders each. Global energy giants like ExxonMobil, Chevron and TotalEnergies, which India has been courting to give a fillip to exploration and production, did not put in any bid.

Coal India's supply to non-regulated sector rises 31 pc in Apr-Dec period

New Delhi, Jan 03:

State-owned CIL said its supplies to the non-regulated sector rose 31 per cent to 98 Million Tonnes (MT) in the April-December period of the current fiscal. Coal India Ltd (CIL) supplied 75 MT fuel in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. "Even as CIL supplies to the country's power sector exceeded the projected commitment, the company supplied an all-time high volume of 98 million tonnes to non-regulated sector consumers till December," the maharatna firm said in a statement. With increased production and maximised supplies through all modes of despatch, the coal offtake to power plants of the country by the PSU rose to 454 MT during the April-December period.

"This is 8 MT higher than the committed quantity of 446 MT for the period. Compared to 433 MT of April-December last year, the increase is 21 MT with around 5 per cent growth," the PSU said. It produced 532 MT of coal in the April-December period of FY24, logging a year-on-year growth of 11 per cent. Coal stocks at domestic coal-based power plants have surged to 32 MT at the end of December, 5.6 per cent higher than the year-ago period. "Coal stock at CIL's pitheads was around 50 MT as of December end, 56 per cent higher than the inventory of 32 MT of the same period last year, providing a comfortable buffer against any sudden demand surge," the PSU said. CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

Production falls

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday reported a 2.96 per cent decline in total vehicle production at 1,21,028 units in December 2023. The company had produced 1,24,722 units in December 2022, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. Total passenger vehicle production last month stood at 1,19,518 units as against 1,24,135 units in December 2022, down 3.72 per cent, it added. Production of light commercial vehicle Super Carry was, however, higher at 1,510 units as compared to 587 units in the year-ago month.

Appointment

Mumbai: Logistics operator Ecom Express on Wednesday announced the appointment of Pankaj Singh as its chief commercial officer. The appointment is effective from January 4. In this newly created position, Singh will spearhead the company's end-to-end procurement, covering sourcing, spend management and strategic management of cost levers of the supply chain, Ecom Express said in a statement.

Govt relaxes certain quality control order norms for AC industry

New Delhi, Jan 03:

The government has relaxed quality control order (QCO) norms for the air conditioner industry to promote ease of doing business. The order was issued in 2019 and it came into effect from October last year. These relaxations have been given after a detailed stakeholder consultation with the industry. To resolve the issues faced by the industry due to the order, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has introduced amendments. According to a government notification, Hermetic Compressors of more than 7000 W (2 TR) capacity have been removed from the order for one year for the manufacturers of air conditioning and refrigeration equip-

ment and related parts. It has also exempted 200 numbers of goods or articles imported per year for the purpose of research and development by the manufacturers. These imported goods and articles however will not be allowed to be sold in the market and should be disposed of as scrap. "The OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) shall maintain a year-wise record of such goods or articles and furnish the same, if so desired by the Government," it said. Exemption have also been given to 6,000 hermetic compressors and heat exchangers domestically manufactured or imported for maintenance and sales per year by each of the manufacturers. This is "subject to the condition that such manufacturers shall declare its old stock"

of hermetic compressors and heat exchangers, it added. The DPIIT initially issued Air Conditioner and its related Parts, Hermetic Compressor and Temperature Sensing Controls (Quality Control) Order, 2019 on December 5, 2019. The Temperature Sensing Controls were dropped from the list subsequently as requested by the industry due to practical difficulties. The date of implementation of the QCO was extended three times keeping in view of difficulties faced by the AC manufacturers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to align with the date of implementation of BEE energy table, non-availability of adequate testing labs, and inability of BIS to undertake in-person audits of foreign manufacturers due to restrictions on foreign travel.

Sensex falls 535 pts dragged by HDFC & IT shares, weak global trends

Mumbai, Jan 03:

Stock markets declined for a second day in a row on Wednesday with benchmark Sensex closing lower by 535 points due to selling in HDFC Bank and IT shares amid weak global trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 535.88 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 71,356.60. During the day, it tumbled 588.51 points or 0.81 per cent to 71,303.97. The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange slipped 148.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 21,517.35. Among the Sensex firms, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Nestle, HCL Technologies, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards. IndusInd Bank, ITC, Bharti Airtel and State Bank of India were among

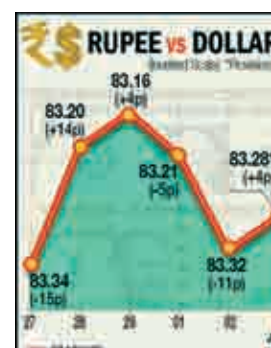


the winners. In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled lower while Shanghai ended in the green. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended mostly lower on Tuesday. "The lack of fresh triggers and concerns over valuation influenced investors to stay sidelined. Weak global indicators, like contraction in China & Euro zone manufacturing data, added concerns about global economic recovery in 2024.

Rupee rises 4 paise to close at 83.28 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 03:

The rupee appreciated 4 paise to close at 83.28 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, supported by easing crude oil prices and foreign fund inflows. However, forex traders said the Indian currency remained under pressure amid a negative trend in domestic equities. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.30 against the greenback. The rupee oscillated between an intra-day low of 83.33 and a high of 83.25 against the greenback and finally settled at 83.28 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 4 paise from its previous close, even as domestic benchmark indices were trading in a negative note. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 83.32 against the dollar. "The Indian rupee recouped



morning losses, as the greenback traded steady ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. "This week we have a data-heavy week starting Wednesday, we have payroll, we have ISM so it is obvious traders and investors are reducing exposures by moving away from crowded dollar short trade," Parmar added.

Ducati to ride in 8 new models in India this year

New Delhi, Jan 03:

Italian luxury motorcycle maker Ducati on Tuesday said it plans to launch 8 new bikes this year in India to strengthen its position in the market. The new models include Multistrada V4 RS, DesertX Rally, Panigale V4 Racing Replica 2023, Diavel for Bentley, Monster 30 Anniversario, Panigale V4 SP2 30 Anniversario 916, along with the new Streetfighter V4S 2023 which was unveiled globally last year, the company said in a statement. The launch programme will start in the first quarter of 2024 with the Streetfighter V4 Lamborghini, followed by DesertX Rally, Hypermotard 698 Mono, and the new Streetfighter V4 range in Q2, it added. The company said it will bring the Multistrada V4 RS and the Diavel for Bentley, which will be brought to India in limited numbers, in the fourth

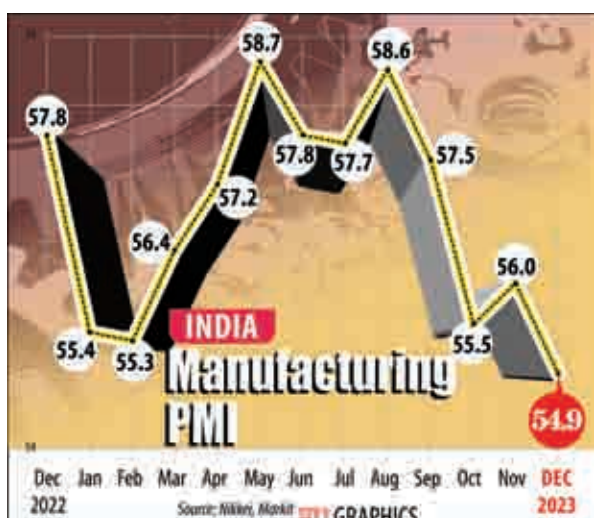


quarter. Ducati India Managing Director Bipul Chandra said in 2023 despite the absence of the Scrambler range for the first three quarters of 2023, the company was able to meet its planned volumes with maximum sales coming from brands like Panigale V4, Multistrada V4 and Diavel V4. With eight new Ducati motorcycles slated to be introduced along with two new dealerships, he said the company is "looking forward to a promising 2024 for Ducati in India".

India's manufacturing sector growth falls to 18-month low in Dec on softer rise in orders, output

New Delhi, Jan 03:

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to an 18-month low in December amid softer increase in factory orders and output, despite minimal inflation, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI survey, conducted by S&P Global, showed that there were softer, albeit sharp, increase in factory orders and output, while business confidence towards the year-ahead outlook strengthened. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing PMI fell from 56 in November to an 18-month low of 54.9 in December. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a



paint above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global

from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers. "India's manufacturing sector continued to ex-

pand in December, although at a softer pace, following an uptick in the previous month. Growth of both output and new orders softened, but on the other hand, the future output index rose since November," said Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. Despite a loss of growth momentum, the sector still expanded strongly in December. New business gains, favourable market conditions, and expositions collectively induced another sharp increase in manufacturing production during December, according to panellists. The December data showed a 21st consecutive increase in international order receipts at goods producers in India.

BoM slashes home loan rate by 15 bps to 8.35 pc

New Delhi, Jan 03:

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Wednesday trimmed its home loan rate by 15 basis points to 8.35 per cent as part of its new year offer to customers. The processing fees are also waived on home loans, BoM said in a statement. This dual benefit of reduced interest rates and waiver of processing fees in home loans is a testament of bank's commitment to offer best financing solutions to all its valued customers and help them fulfil their needs, it said. In the current high-interest rate landscape, bank is making retail loans cheaper to bring in cheer among customers, it said. By introducing this offer, bank is offering one of the lowest interest rates in the banking industry for home loans, it said, adding, the bank has already waived processing fees for home, car and retail gold loans under its 'New Year Dhamaka offer'.



PMJY implementation meeting held in Korba

Dr. Zeba Jamil leads district officers to uplift vulnerable tribes

Korba, Jan 03:

In a significant step towards the betterment of specially vulnerable tribal communities, a meeting of district-level officers was convened today at the Collectorate hall in Korba. Dr. Zeba Jamil, the District Coordinator for PM Janman, appointed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, presided over the gathering to facilitate the effective implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Tribal Justice Maha Abhiyan (PM Janman) scheme.

Dr. Jamil, during a detailed presentation, highlighted the goals and objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana. Under this visionary scheme, essential infrastructure such as housing, electricity, water supply, roads, education, and healthcare will be provided

to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) over the next three years through various ministries. The scheme aims to ensure 100% livelihood support and includes health benefits like vaccinations, safe deliveries, free treatments through Ayushman cards, access to clean drinking water, and support for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through Anganwadi centers. Additionally, it addresses issues related to livelihood, forest rights leases, and ration distribution, with the ultimate goal of integrating these communities into mainstream society.

Dr. Jamil emphasized the importance of organizing camps in areas with internet connectivity to facilitate the opening of Ayushman cards, Aadhar cards, and Jan Dhan bank



accounts for marginalized tribal populations. She also called for extensive publicity campaigns to inform settlements about these camps and urged all departmental officers and employees to make special efforts to ensure the successful implementation of PM Janman Yojana.

Collector Saurabh Kumar informed attendees that the Pahari Korwa and Birhor tribes, classified as special backward tribes, reside in the district. More than 4,000

individuals from over 1,200 families, residing in 74 settlements across the district, stand to benefit from the scheme. To achieve maximum benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, a comprehensive survey is underway, involving relevant departments including Panchayat and Rural Development. Based on the survey findings, an action plan will be formulated to ensure all work is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Collector further explained that beneficiaries with over a thousand kutcha houses will receive assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana based on the survey results. He emphasized that the camps organized in PVTG settlements provide deprived individuals access to schemes such as

Ayushman, Aadhar, Ration, E-Shram Card, Job Card, Jan Dhan Account, Forest Rights Patta, and Caste Certificate. A special Gram Sabha is scheduled from January 03 to 05 in the district, where PVTG communities will receive scheme benefits after gaining approval.

This significant meeting also saw the participation of key officials from various departments, including CEO District Panchayat Vishwadeep, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Pratishtha Mangai, Additional Collector Pradeep Sahu, Dinesh Nag, Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Shrikant Kaser, along with representatives from the Education, Health, PHE, Agriculture, Forest, Food, Livestock, and PMJY departments.

Yogesh Tiwari graces Panthi competition as chief guest

■ Celebration of Guru Baba Ghasidas birth anniversary

Berla, Jan 03:

The 267th birth anniversary of revered Guru Baba Ghasidas was celebrated with great enthusiasm in the village of Birga, marked by a Panthi competition. The event witnessed the presence of BJP's farmer leader, Yogesh Tiwari, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. Highlighting the significance of Guru Baba Ghasidas's birth anniversary, Tiwari emphasized that this celebration transcends the boundaries of the Panthi community and resonates throughout society. He commended the organizing committee for their efforts in arranging such an event and urged the continuation of Panthi competitions to impart the revered Baba's message to the youth. The celebration featured a vibrant procession through



the village, with enthusiastic participation from the local community. Snacks were distributed to attendees, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among the people.

Tiwari also underscored the timeless relevance of Guru Baba's message in today's context. Baba Guru Ghasidas vehemently opposed the prevalent social discrimination and untouchability of his era, advocating for equality and unity among all individuals. His principles have even found a place in the preamble of our constitution, as championed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Tiwari emphasized that it

is social harmony, not division, that drives progress in both society and the nation. Prominent figures like Sarpanch Salmi Arun Norke, Kishunlal Sahu (Vice President BJP Mandal Berla), Uday Sahu (Deputy Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Biroda), Satnami Samaj President Dukalu Norke, Vice President Moolchand Banjare, Secretary Sukhchand Tandon, Rupram Gendre, Jalam Banjare, Ishwar Norke, and Amrit Norke were among those present at the celebration, showcasing the unity and diversity that characterizes the event.

Three Parkhanda students make it to Netball School Nationals

Kurud, Jan 03: Three students from Government Higher Secondary School Parkhanda in the Development Block Kurud, District Dhamtari, have been selected to represent their school at the prestigious Netball School National Competition. The competition is scheduled to take place in Delhi from January 3 to January 10, 2024.

Principal Heera Ram Sah announced that Shruti Sahu from class 12th, Yogita from class 9th, and Tomendra Kumar Nishad from class 8th have secured their spots to compete at the national level. Their selection



is not only a testament to their dedication and talent but also a source of immense pride for the school and the local community.

On this momentous occasion, the School Development Committee

Chairman Devendra Sahu, Sarpanch Shatruhan Barle, Deputy Sarpanch Rukhmani Sahu, and several other community members expressed their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. The support and encouragement from the villagers, along with the dedication of the students and the school staff, highlight the unity and spirit of achievement in Parkhanda. The community wishes them a bright and successful future as they compete in the Netball School National Competition, knowing that they carry the aspirations and pride of Parkhanda with them.

Truck and Tanker drivers strike against Hit-n-Run law

Khairagarh, Jan 03:

The Chhattisgarh Drivers Association has submitted a memorandum to the District Collector, urging the reconsideration of the recently implemented hit and run law. This legislation, while aiming to address road accidents, includes provisions that the association considers overly punitive and unfair.

The association has expressed concerns over the new law, which mandates a maximum penalty of 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 lakh in hit and run cases. They argue that such stringent measures could devastate the lives of drivers and their families, leaving them with insurmountable challenges. The memorandum also emphasizes the need for the government to



address issues such as road conditions, road design, the growing number of vehicles, traffic discipline, and challenges posed by traffic police and RTO.

Meanwhile, in protest of the new hit and run law, truck and tanker drivers in the district have initiated a strike since Sunday afternoon. This strike has disrupted the supply of petrol and diesel, resulting in a surge of citizens flocking to

petrol pumps. On the first day of the year 2024, passenger buses throughout the district came to a halt due to the drivers' strike. Trucks, tractors, and other highway vehicles also ceased operations on various routes. Long queues formed at most petrol pumps, with some individuals purchasing fuel in drums as a precautionary measure. The drivers union has declared their intention to continue the strike on

January 3. The central government's proposed legislation to combat road accidents, which includes the stringent provisions of the new hit and run law, has ignited nationwide protests. The bill, introduced in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, has garnered opposition from various quarters. Drivers argue that the stringent law, if implemented, would force them out of their jobs, leaving them with no

choice but to abandon their livelihoods. Many point out that vehicle owners currently pay them remuneration as low as Rs 7,000 to 10,000, making it nearly impossible to afford the hefty fines outlined in the legislation.

The news of the strike and fuel shortage has prompted long queues at numerous petrol pumps throughout Monday and Tuesday. In response to concerns about dwindling petrol and diesel supplies, some individuals have resorted to purchasing these fuels in drums. Food Officer Bhuneshwar Chelak reassured the public, stating that except for one pump in KCG district, the situation is normal, and an adequate quantity of petrol and diesel remains available at all pumps.

Collector & SP work with operators to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply

■ No shortage of petrol, diesel or cooking gas in district

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Jan 03: In response to the strike action by truck and auto drivers, Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia and Superintendent of Police Yogesh Patel joined forces with petrol pump and gas agency operators to discuss the seamless supply of essential commodities and assess stock levels. During the meeting, reassuringly, it was revealed that the district currently faces no shortages of petrol, diesel, or cooking gas. Petrol pump operators shared that tankers have been dispatched to replenish stocks in areas where diesel and petrol supplies are running low. Some



vehicles have already returned after successful refilling. In an effort to maintain an uninterrupted diesel and petrol supply, the Collector advised operators to establish reserves for government vehicles, set limits, and exercise discretion when distributing fuel. The Superintendent of Police assured operators that in case of transportation issues, the police administration would

provide full cooperation. The meeting saw the participation of Additional Collector Namrata Anand Dongre, Additional Superintendent of Police Manisha Thakur Raote, SDM Pendra Road Amit Beck, District Food Officer Shweta Agarwal, as well as petrol pump and gas agency operators from Marwahi, Gaurela, and Pendra. Addressing concerns about the strike and the

new law, the Collector emphasized that there is no need to be fearful. The legislation has been enacted to ensure public safety and accountability for all individuals. It serves as a reminder for people to be responsible and accountable for their actions. The law imposes a punishment of up to 10 years for individuals who fail to inform the police or magistrate in the event of a road accident resulting from reckless or negligent driving. However, this provision does not apply to drivers who promptly report accidents to the authorities. Thus, responsible drivers who act responsibly need not be concerned about the penalties outlined in the law.

Collector ensures uninterrupted diesel and petrol supply

Korba district implements strict monitoring measures

Korba, Jan 03:

The central government's proposed legislation to combat road accidents, which includes the stringent provisions of the new hit and run law, has ignited nationwide protests. The news of the strike and fuel shortage has prompted long queues at numerous petrol pumps throughout Monday and Tuesday.

Korba district is committed to maintaining a constant and uninterrupted supply of diesel and petrol, with Collector Saurabh Kumar issuing stringent directives to fuel sales officers from IOC, BPC, and HPC com-

panies operating within the district, along with the Superintendent of Police. Additionally, all police station in-charges have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the safety of tanker vehicles and their drivers during transportation within Korba. To further enhance fuel security, vehicle movements are closely monitored by dedicated patrolling teams.

The District Food Officer provided reassuring information about the current availability of diesel and petrol in the district. He affirmed that the availability of these essential fuels at all

Indian Oil pumps operating in Korba remains normal. Continuous vigilance and supervision of the supply system for petrol and diesel from the Indian Oil Depot in Gopalpur, Korba, are being carried out meticulously.

Presently, there are a total of 44 Indian Oil (IOC), 27 Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC), and 24 Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) petrol and diesel pumps operational in the district. Diesel and petrol are primarily supplied to IOC petrol pumps from the Gopalpur oil depot, while BPC petrol pumps receive their supplies

from Lakholi, Raipur, and HPC petrol pumps from Mandir Hasaud, Raipur.

To ensure an efficient and seamless supply chain, daily updates regarding the availability and distribution of diesel and petrol are obtained from the sales officers representing the three fuel companies in the district. Furthermore, the transportation of diesel and petrol to tanker vehicles owned by transporters and dealers from the Indian Oil Depot in Gopalpur is vigilantly monitored. Drivers Association demands reevaluation of stringent legislation.

67th National School Sports Competition kicks off

■ MLA Amar Agarwal inaugurates the event with enthusiasm and encouragement

Bilaspur, Jan 03:

The 67th National School Sports Competition, centered around the sport of baseball, commenced with great zeal and enthusiasm at the Late BR Yadav Baharai Stadium. The event received a distinguished inauguration by Bilaspur MLA Amar Agarwal, who served as the chief guest. Accompanying him were esteemed guests, including Mayor Ramsharan Yadav and Masturi MLA Dilip Lahariya. Also gracing the occasion were Ramdev Kumawat, Commissioner KD Kunjam, Collector Avnish Sharan, and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Kunal Dudawat.



The inaugural ceremony began with a heartfelt tribute as the chief guest and dignitaries garlanded the statue of Mother Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge and wisdom. Following this, a captivating march past by the participating athletes, who paid their respects to the guests, set the tone for the event. Chief guest Amar Agarwal officially launched the competi-



tion by hoisting the national flag, symbolizing the unity and spirit of sportsmanship. The oath-taking ceremony for the players was administered by national-level athlete Samita Pankra.

Adding a splash of vibrancy to the occasion, students from National Convent and Dreamland School put on a mesmerizing performance that left the entire stadium

reverberating with applause and joy. Addressing the gathering of talented young athletes, Chief Guest Amar Agarwal expressed his delight, saying, "I am thrilled to welcome players from across the country to Bilaspur."

The people of Bilaspur are committed to taking excellent care of you during your stay here, and we hope you leave with unforgettable memories.

He emphasized the valuable life lessons that sports can impart, remarking that victory and defeat in the field are secondary to the spirit and effort displayed by every athlete.

"Those who try never truly lose, and these lessons are learned on the playing field," he remarked. Furthermore, he highlighted the significance of sports in maintaining both physical and mental well-being, encouraging participants to aim for the highest honors and to continue their pursuit of excellence.

In attendance at the event were key figures in the education department, including Bilaspur Education Division JD RP Aditya, District Education Officer TR Sahu, as well as principals, teachers, and physical education instructors, all eagerly anticipating the exciting competition ahead.

'Sonibai's dream of owing a house comes true'

Kondagaon, Jan 03:

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural) has brought change in the lives of many people and has become the second name of hope for many people. This is one such story of Sonibai Korram. Sonibai Korram, a resident of Gram Panchayat Charkai of District Panchayat Farsgaon, had always dreamed of having a solid house for herself. In which she could survive with his family but due to poverty and no source of income, this dream seemed impossible for her. 20 years ago, the responsibility of two sons and two daughters was on Sonibai's shoulders after her husband's death. Because of which it was difficult to think of anything other than to feed her children by working hard for a living. More than half of her life was spent in a room of a crude house. Despite owning land, Sonibai was unable to



build her own house due to financial constraints and during rainy days, the house used to get flooded and the roof would also drip and once in the rainy season, it even fell completely. In this way, living in that house seemed to be difficult.

In this regard, Sonibai said that she used to work in MGNREGA to support her daughters and sons and always thought of building her own house. In such a case, after filling the application on the advice of Sarpanch, Secretary and Employment

Assistant of Gram Panchayat, she was informed that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin for the year 2019-20 housing has been approved in your name. Due to which the whole family became happy and our house was built in a few days and money was also received for the housing construction work in 4 installments.

Apart from this, wages through MGNREGA also started arriving on time. Sonibai said that she did not have any problem in getting the necessary materials for building the house on time and got the house construction. Along with this she informed that she has also got gas connection through Ujjwala Yojana, single light electricity connection through Sahaj Bijli Har-Ghar Yojana and toilet under Swachh Bharat Yojana. With all this my family is very happy today she added.

PM reaches out to Muslim-dominated Lakshadweep

● Says it is small in size, big in heart

Kavaratti, Jan 03 (PTI)

Reaching out to the people of the Muslim-dominated Lakshadweep, which witnessed massive protests by opposition parties against reforms introduced by his government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the archipelago is small, but its heart is large.

The Prime Minister was here to inaugurate and lay the foundation for various projects worth Rs 1,150 crore in the Union Territory.

The development projects cover technology, energy, water resources, healthcare and education sectors.

The projects were launched at a function attended by hundreds of islanders including women and children whom Modi referred to as his "kudumbabangal" (family members) in Malayalam.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that the beauty of Lakshadweep is beyond words and mentioned visiting Agatti, Bangaram and Kavaratti to meet the citizens.

"Even though the geo-



PM Modi during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects, in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep, Wednesday.

graphical area of Lakshadweep is small, the hearts of the people are as deep as the ocean. I am overwhelmed by the love and blessings I am receiving here. I express my gratitude to you all," said Modi, who reached the islands on Tuesday.

He announced the development of a special plan for Lakshadweep under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, focusing on its unique attractions.

Emphasising its potential, he highlighted two

blue-flag beaches and upcoming water villa projects on Kadmat and Suheli islands.

Lakshadweep is emerging as a top cruise tourism destination, experiencing a five-fold increase in tourist visits compared to five years ago, he said.

Modi encouraged the people to explore their own country, urging them to visit at least 15 places before considering international travel.

He specifically recommended exploring

Lakshadweep, assuring that its beauty surpasses many global destinations.

"Once you witness the beauty of Lakshadweep, other destinations in the world will pale before it," he said.

The Prime Minister mentioned steps taken for Haj Yatris that have benefited the people of Lakshadweep too.

He noted the ease for Hajj visa and digitalisation of the visa process and permission for women to go on Haj without

'Mehram'.

These efforts have led to a significant rise in the number of Indians going for 'Umrah,' he added.

The Prime Minister assured the people of Lakshadweep that the Central government remains committed to enhancing their quality of life, travel convenience and business opportunities.

At the function, Modi handed over laptops to students under the Laptop Scheme and gave away bicycles to school students under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'.

He also handed out PM Kisan Credit Cards to farmers and fishermen.

During his address, Modi took a dig at the previous non-BJP governments at the Centre, stating that their only priority for decades was the development of their own political parties.

"Far-off states, border areas, or those in the middle of the ocean were not given any attention...In the last 10 years, our government has made border areas and locations at the edge of the sea its priority," he said.

He assured the islanders that those who tried to snatch away their rights would not be spared.

WINTER CARNIVAL



Artists perform 'Kulvi Naat' dance during the Manali Winter Carnival 2024, in Manali, Wednesday.

ASI urges court not to make Gyanvapi survey public

Varanasi (UP), Jan 03 (PTI)

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) on Wednesday urged a Varanasi court not to make its Gyanvapi mosque complex survey report public for at least four more weeks, according to the lawyer for the Hindu side.

Varanasi district court judge A K Vishvesh then adjourned the matter till Thursday, Hindu side counsel Madan Mohan

Yadav said.

According to the lawyer, the ASI requested the court for four more weeks before the sealed survey report is opened.

The ASI submitted its survey report to the district court in a sealed cover on December 18.

The survey was ordered by the court after the petitioners claimed the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing temple.

The ASI carried out the

scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple, to determine whether the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The survey was carried out on the direction of the district court. In its July 21 order, the court mentioned the need to survey beneath the mosque's domes, the cellars and the western wall.

HC pulls up Guj govt over non-payment of compensation

● To 16 dead workers' kin

Ahmedabad, Jan 03 (PTI)

The Gujarat High Court on Wednesday pulled up the state government over the non-payment of compensation to the kin of 16 sanitation workers who died during manual scavenging between 1993 and 2014 and directed it to explain the reason in an affidavit. The court of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Aniruddha P Mayee also wanted to know from the state what steps it has taken to adopt the 2013 anti-manual scavenging law, and whether the government was in a position to do away with the practice or still taking the help of sanitation workers for it. The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Ahmedabad-based NGO Manav Garima, seeking the implementation of the Prohibition of

MANUAL SCAVENGING

Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

When the petitioner's lawyer informed the court that the family members of 16 deceased manual scavengers were yet to be paid the compensation as per the Supreme Court guidelines, the court pulled up the government and said the latter could not go on making payments to some and leaving out the others.

It directed the principal secretary of the urban development and urban housing department to file his personal affidavit to bring on record the reasons for non-payment of compensation to the families of the 16 workers whose names were included in the list of deceased submitted by the petitioner. The court also took note of another recent incident of manual scavenging in Bhavnagar city where a sanitation worker

of the civic body died of asphyxiation while another suffered serious injuries after entering a sewage tank on the campus of the Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCR) on November 10, 2023.

It permitted the petitioner to implead the civic body as a respondent with a direction for it to file an affidavit to bring on record details concerning the incident. The court also directed the principal secretary to submit a report regarding the same.

"This is not hide and seek, let us be clear about this. If the list (of victims) was there...you have to give at least this much explanation as to why you have not paid them, reason has to be there," the Chief Justice observed. "What steps have you taken to adopt the zero manual scavenging policy...have

you got the requisite machines, are you in a position to do away with manual scavenging, or are you still taking help of these people...we want a clear answer," she asked. In a civil application filed in April last year in connection with a 2016 PIL, the petitioner claimed that the government had failed to implement the provisions of the 2013 law that prohibits manual scavenging and sought its direction for its proper implementation. The high court had in 2016 directed the government to pay Rs 10 lakh compensation to the families of each of the deceased man-hole workers on the PIL by the NGO.

'Godhra-like incident possible in K'taka'

Bengaluru, Jan 03 (PTI)

Senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad on Wednesday claimed that there is a possibility of Godhra-like incident in Karnataka in the run up to the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22. "The Karnataka government should be alert because in Gujarat during the same occasion, the Kar Sevaks were set on fire at Godhra," the MLC told reporters here.

The 2002 Godhra train burning case had plunged Gujarat into one of the worst communal riots.

The former Rajya Sabha



B K Hariprasad

member said: "A similar (Godhra-like) situation can be created here also. So, no room should be given for any untoward incident to happen in Karnataka. All the arrangements should be

made for those willing to go to Ayodhya so that we should not see another Godhra happening in Karnataka." "There is absolute possibility (for such incident). I can even give information. I can tell you that the head of some organisations went to some states and have instigated some BJP leaders. I cannot say that openly. They are doing it. They are instigating such act", Hariprasad alleged.

On the invitation to Congress leaders for the consecration ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Hariprasad said this event should be seen politically and not religiously.

"If a Hindu Dharma Guru inaugurates the Rama temple then you and me would have gone there (to Ayodhya) without any invitation", he said. "My knowledge tells me that the four Shankaracharyas are the head of the Hindu religion. If the four Shankaracharyas or any religious head had inaugurated the event then I would have attended the event. (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi and (Home Minister) Amit Shah are not 'Dharma Guru' but political leaders. We have to take this into consideration," he said.

Ex-CM Chouhan names his house as 'Mama Ka Ghar'



A board with the message 'Mama Ka Ghar' put up at the residence of former MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in Bhopal.

● Says its doors open for all

Bhopal, Jan 03 (PTI)

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday named his house, a government bungalow in Bhopal, as "Mama Ka Ghar" and said its doors were open for everyone. Chouhan's government accommodation is located off Link Road No. 1 in the posh 74 Bungalows locality in the state capital where he moved after vacating the Chief Minister's house on relinquishing the top post last month. The

four-term former CM, who was at the helm in Madhya Pradesh for more than 16 years, is popularly known as "mama" (maternal uncle).

On Wednesday, Chouhan (64) shared photos of the naming of his bungalow as "Mama Ka Ghar", nearly a month after he resigned as Chief Minister following the BJP's decision to select three-term MLA Mohan Yadav as his successor on winning the November 17 assembly polls.

Sharing the pictures on his official X account, the BJP stalwart, who is the MLA from Budhni in Sehore district, said his relationship with his "sisters, brothers, nephews

and nieces" was one of love, trust and affection.

"The address has changed, but 'Mama Ka Ghar' is still mama's house. I will remain connected to you like a brother and maternal uncle. The doors of my house will always be open for you," he said. Chouhan further added, "Whenever you miss me or need me, feel free to come home, after all this is your maternal uncle and brother's house." The house in the upscale 74 Bungalows locality was one of the two government accommodations Chouhan was possessing for the past several years.



Baidyanath NAGPUR

Unbearable Joint Pain

Enriched with swarna bhasma - hence more potent.

Helps to relieve joint pain, backache, knee - joint pain, sprain and stiffness of muscles

RHEUMARTHOL gold+ CAPSULE

ENRICHED WITH SWARNA BHASMA

For external use

Rhuma Oil

for immediate relief

Doctor's Consultation: 8448444935

www.baidyanath.co

End of Year Sale

EXTENDED

TILL 7th JANUARY

FLAT

50%

OFF

ON MAKING CHARGES FOR ALL PRODUCTS

ENJOY FLAT 50% DISCOUNT ON MAKING CHARGES FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF ₹50K

APPLICABLE ON MINIMUM PURCHASE VALUE OF ₹1 LAKH

KALYAN SPECIAL 1g GOLD RATE ₹5875 SAVE ₹90 MARKET 1g GOLD RATE ₹5965

RAIPUR - PH: 82690 24333, 0771-2420333 | BILASPUR - PH: 99938 05833 | BHILAI - PH: 74706 55033

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT US ON TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1600 425 7333 | WWW.KALYANJEWELLERS.NET | FOLLOW US ON

BUY ONLINE @ WWW.CANDERE.COM | FOR FRANCHISE ENQUIRIES WRITE TO FRANCHISEE.ENQUIRY@KALYANJEWELLERS.NET