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MAHADEV APP CASE

ED makes two fresh arrests

Raipur, Jan 13:

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested two more persons in connection with its money laundering investigation into the Mahadev online betting and gaming app case, officials said on Saturday.

Nitin Tibrewal, a resident of Kolkata, and Raipur-based Amit Agrawal were taken into custody under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and produced before a special court in Raipur on Friday, ED lawyer Saurabh Pandey said. The court sent them to ED custody till January 17, he said.

Tibrewal is alleged to be a "close associate" of an accused in the case, Vikash Chapparia. He is alleged to have purchased some "undisclosed" properties in Dubai and a majority shareholder in an FPI company

About the arrest

Nitin Tibrewal, a resident of Kolkata, and Raipur-based Amit Agrawal were taken into custody under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and produced before a special court in Raipur on Friday, ED lawyer Saurabh Pandey said. Tibrewal is alleged to be a "close associate" of an accused in the case, Vikash Chapparia.

Agrawal's wife is said to have purchased many properties along with Anil Dammani, another accused in the case. Two Dubai-based immovable assets, a flat and a plot, worth Rs 99.46 crore belonging to Chhapparia and Anil Agrawal were attached by the ED last year.

The agency had earlier arrested alleged cash courier Asim Das, police constable Bheem Singh Yadav, ASI Chandrabhushan Verma, alleged hawala operator brothers Anil and Sunil Dammani and a man identified as Satish Chandrakar in this case. The agency had earlier said that the alleged illegal funds generated by the app were used to pay bribes to politicians and bureaucrats in the state.

Many celebrities and Bollywood actors were summoned for questioning by the agency on their links with the online betting platform and the mode of payment.

'India logs 1,200 cases of Covid sub-variant JN.1'

New Delhi, Jan 13 (PTI):

A total of 1,200 cases of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1 have been reported in the country so far with Nagaland becoming the latest of the 17 states and Union territories to have detected its presence, according to INSACOG on Saturday.

Data compiled by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) showed Karnataka has reported

the highest number of JN.1 cases at 215, followed by Andhra Pradesh (189), Maharashtra (170), Kerala (154), West Bengal (96), Goa (90), Tamil Nadu (88) and Gujarat (76).

Telangana and Rajasthan have recorded 32 JN.1 cases each, Chhattisgarh has recorded 25, Delhi 16, Uttar Pradesh 7, Haryana five, Odisha three, and Uttarakhand and Nagaland one each, according to the data accessed by PTI.

The Centre has asked the states and Union territories to maintain a constant vigil amid an uptick in the number of Covid cases and the detection of the JN.1 sub-variant in the country.

The states have been urged to ensure effective compliance of the detailed operational guidelines for the revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 shared with them by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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RECORD HOLDER

Radhika Apte locked in airport for hours

Mumbai, Jan 13 (PTI):

Actor Radhika Apte on Saturday claimed she and other passengers at an airport were locked in the aerobridge for hours after her flight was delayed.

The actor, known for movies "Badlapur", "Andhadhun", "Pad Man" and "Lust Stories", shared her ordeal



on Instagram, without naming the city, airport and airline.

"I had to post this! Today morning I had a flight at 8:30. It's 10:50 now and the flight has still not boarded. But the flight said we were boarding and put all the passengers in the aerobridge and LOCKED IT," Apte said.

'Infringement Of Country's Sovereignty'

India protests British envoy's PoK visit



New Delhi, Jan 13:

Lodging a strong protest against a visit by the British High Commissioner in Islamabad to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir;

the Ministry of External Affairs has said that the infringement on India's territorial integrity is unacceptable, and reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir has been and shall always remain an integral part of the country.

Reacting to the visit by British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, the ministry said on Saturday, "India has taken a serious note of the highly objectionable visit of the British High Commissioner in Islamabad, along with a UK Foreign Office official, to Pakistan occupied Kashmir on 10 January 2024. Such infringement of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unacceptable."

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Heroin peddler arrested in Vaishali Nagar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: Police arrested a heroin smuggler and recovered 3.23 grams of heroin (chitta) worth Rs 18000 and cash Rs 14000 from him. Under the direction of SSP Ram Gopal Garg and supervision of ASP (City) Abhishek Jha and CSP (Bhilai) Vishwadeepak Tripathi, the team of Vaishali Nagar Police Station is conducting a campaign against the people involved in drug smuggling and peddling.

In this sequel, police received a tip off regarding a person who was ped-



dling Heroin in Vikaspara in Ramnagar. Acting on this tip off, Inspector Mamta Ali Sharma immediately formed a police team and sent the police party to the spot. The suspect tried to escape on spotting the police team. The cops chased and took him into custody. The suspect was identified as Ranjit Singh alias Rinku Singh (32) son of Omkar Singh, a resident of Gurunanak Nagar, Police Station Vaishali Nagar. On searching, 3.32 grams of

heroin (chitta) wrapped in polythene worth Rs 18000 was recovered from him. Cash Rs 14000 collected by selling chitta was also seized from him.

A TVS Jupiter (CG-07 BD 8134) used in the crime was also impounded. The accused was arrested and sent to jail on judicial remand. Inspector Mamta Ali Sharma, ASI Ksendra Singh Chauhan, Head Constable Hemant Singh, Constable Virendra Yadav, Constable Dinesh Jaiswal, Constable Nitesh Pandey, Constable Rajesh Sinha and Constable Suresh Yadav played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Collector conducts surprise inspection at procurement center

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Jan 13: District Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary conducted a surprise inspection of the Paddy Procurement Center in Sirsa. She took information about the purchased paddy, paddy lifting, stag arrangement, moisture measuring machine, gunny bags etc.

The Collector got the moisture content of the purchased paddy measured on the spot using a moisture measuring machine. Emphasizing on the electronic weighing scale, she directed to make arrangements for it in all procurement centres.

Collector Chaudhary instructed the officials of the Revenue Department to motivate the farmers, who have not been able to sell paddy till now, to sell the paddy till the stipulated period of purchase. She asked SDM, Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar to inspect all the paddy procurement centers of the concerned area and submit the report.

Manager of Sirsa Procurement Center, Tumesh Sahu said that 7776.40 quintals of paddy has been purchased in the center, which includes 456.40 quintals of thick, 425.60 quintals of thin and 6894.40 quintals of saran quality. The amount has been paid to the farmers.

Out of 996 farmers listed in the procurement centre, 830 farmers have sold paddy so far. Food Controller CP Dipankar, SDM Mukesh Raote, Tehsildar Gupta, CCB Nodal Officer SK Joshi and officials of Cooperative and Civil Supplies Corporation were present.

Fourth batch of tribal youth departs for Gurugram

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: Under the 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, the fourth batch of 15 tribal boys and 15 girls from the extremely remote and Naxal affected areas of District Kanker, Chhattisgarh was sent from Durg Railway Station to Gurugram (Haryana) on Saturday.

Two male security officers and one female security officer of the Border Security Force are accompanying them. This group will meet tribal youth from different states of India in Gurugram and get acquainted with the culture of other states.

Under this programme, appropriate information will be provided to the tribal young men and women about their bright future and rights. There



will be an interaction between the participating young men and women from other states to enable them to understand each other.

They will be introduced to food, lifestyle, cultural activities and costumes of other states. In this program, local folk programs of all the states will be

staged. Besides, they will tour the famous, scenic and culturally important places of Haryana.

The 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Program (TYEP) is being organized under the joint aegis of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,

Government of India) and Ministry of Home Affairs.

The duration of each Tribal Youth Exchange Program is 07 days. Border Security Force deployed in the naxal infested areas of Kanker is organising four tours this year. 130 selected youth of the age group of 18 to 22

years from Kanker are participating in the tours.

Major activities of this Tribal Youth Exchange Program include interaction sessions with constitutional officers and eminent persons, panel discussions, lecture sessions, activities under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, speech competition, career guidance, learning about on-going sports events, etc. Apart from this, the participants will visit Delhi's industries and camps of security forces.

Satish S Khandare, IPS, Inspector General, Border Security Force Frontier Headquarters (Special Operations), Chhattisgarh and Ajay Agarwal, Deputy Inspector General (Intelligence) congratulated the selected youth before their departure to Gurugram (Haryana).

Drug peddler arrested with brown sugar

Central Chronicle News



Bhilai, Jan 13: Supela Police nabbed a drug peddler and recovered 8.73 grams of brown sugar worth Rs 19000. On the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg and under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Vishwa Deepak Tripathi, Supela Police is conducting an anti-drug campaign.

Police received a tip off on Friday at around 11.00 pm regarding a drug peddler who was looking for customers at Dakshin Gangotri Circus Ground, Supela. Acting on this tip off, Supela Police team immediately reached the spot and arrested the suspect.

On interrogation, he confessed to drug ped-

dling. The accused was identified as Sadesh Meshram (28) son of Ramesh Meshram, a resident of Teacher Colony, Chhota Bhawani Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Raipur.

18 sachets of brown sugar (8.73 grams) worth Rs 19000 were seized from the possession of accused Sadesh Meshram. The ac-

cused was arrested and sent to jail on judicial remand.

Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma (SHO, Supela), ASI Narendra Soni, Head Constable Abhay Shukla, Constable Vivek Singh, Junaid Siddiqui and Vikas Tiwari played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Uday Mahavidyalaya celebrates National Youth Day



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: National Youth Day was celebrated at Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul, Bhilai on Friday. The objective of National Youth Day is to make the youth aware of the teach-

ings and ideals of Swami Vivekananda so that the youth of the country can take inspiration from the life, working style, consciousness and ideals of Swami Vivekananda. Speech competition and essay competition were or-

ganized in the programme. All the teachers including Dr Alipa Sahu, Kalavati Rao, Prabha Sahu, Neelam Chauhan, Purnima Sahu, Ranjana Tripathi, Prabha Prasad and Kalpana Gupta were present in the programme.

DAV IPS Sector-2 celebrates National Youth Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2 celebrated the National Youth Day with full zest and zeal on January 12, 2024 marking the birth anniversary of the renowned and great visionary of our country Swami Vivekananda.

The day commenced with a special assembly where the children presented and expressed their thoughts and ideas on this special day in the form of speeches, song, and street play (nukkadnatak). Thereafter, a short session on yoga and meditation was kept in for students displaying the various beneficial postures of yoga and reminding once again



the benefits and importance of imbibing yoga in our daily life.

The asanas along with their names and advantages were demonstrated by the yoga expertise team and thus paying a true tribute to the youth icon of the nation on his birth anniversary Swami Vivekananda. A special

rally by the students of the primary and middle wing was organised which was flagged off by the Principal Priyanka Shukla.

The rally made its way all around the nearby vicinity of the school in an attempt to display the youth power and to commemorate the birth an-

niversary of Swami Vivekananda amongst the public.

The rally marched ahead uttering in unison, bold and confident slogans and quotes which we have inherited from Swami Vivekananda like Arise, Awake Until You Reach Your Goal

The Principal Priyanka

Shukla in her address to the gathering insisted all the children to read the life history of Swami Vivekananda in order to understand his ideals and principles and to imbibe them in their own lives.

The youth of a nation is all powerful and filled with energy and passion which the teachers should channelise into proper mould and direction for the betterment of the country. Herein lies the role of the teachers as nation builders.

The children had taken all the motivation from their teachers in high spirits and promised themselves to follow the ideologies and principles of Swami Vivekananda.

DAV Hudco celebrates cultural fiesta for junior wing

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: "All the difference in this world are of degree, and not of a kind because oneness is the secret of everything", calling to mind the above saying of Swami Vivekananda, DAV Public School, Hudco, Junior Wing celebrated its annual event for the Academic Session 2023-24 on Friday. The unique platform helped the young DAVians to recall the traits of Swami Vivekananda and to unearth their hidden talent, enhance their skills, inculcate positive values, and confidence as his belief was to empower the youths to transform the society for good.

The occasion was graced by Chief Guest Rajesh Srivastava (Legal Advisor to Governor, Raipur) and Guest of Honour Dr Suparna Srivastava (Assistant Professor, MATS University, Raipur). The other distinguished dignitaries present were BP Sahu (ARO Cum Principal DAV Nandini), Ravi Bhaskaran (Principal DAV, Jamul), AB Purung (President,



LMC), Surendra Gupta (Arya Samajist), Priyanka Shukla (Principal DAV ISPAT, Sec 2) and Subrata Kumar.

The programme commenced on a spiritual note with lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the bouquet presentation and a mellifluous welcome dance by the students of class III & IV to honour and welcome the eminent guests, dignitaries and the parents. The function preceded with the narration of the school's Annual report by Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Deputy Regional Officer CG Zone A), thereafter his exquisite sagacity where he rightly said that the greatness

of a culture can be found in celebrating Unity in Diversity, which has rightly been proven by our students.

It was followed by the felicitation of academically laudable students of LKG to class V. Nearly 1200 kids performed in various theme based music, dance, skit and cultural events with a catchphrase 'Step into the rhythm of life with folk dance' captivating everyone with their jaw-dropping performances inspired by various cultures and traditions across the country like Gidda, Rajasthani, Bhangra Konkani and other folk dances by both boys and girls. Giving strict competition to each other, the

students also showcased their skills and talents through skits showcasing the comparison of the era's 90's and present world in various elements. All the dance performances were performed with perfect rhythmic beats, in combination with unique setting, use of fantastic props, beautiful dresses & stunning decoration which left the audience completely mesmerised.

The most memorable moments of the function were marked by the precious words of advice and appreciation by the chief guest Rajesh Srivastava in his address to the parents. He applauded the efforts of the students and teachers in putting up a great show. He further added that such events leave an everlasting impression on our minds and are worth reminiscing throughout life.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Master Leeshan Verma (Head Boy Junior Wing). The entire event was a grand success and concluded with Shanti Path followed by the National Anthem.

QCFI Bhubaneswar Chapter honoured with Best Chapter Award

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 13: The Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI) has recognised the outstanding efforts of the Bhubaneswar Chapter by conferring upon them the prestigious Best Chapter Award. The accolade was presented during the National Convention on Quality Concepts in Nagpur, where 35 chapters nationwide were evaluated for their various activities, informed PRO of the Chapter Satyawar Nayak in a press communique.

QCFI, Bhubaneswar Chapter was honoured with the Best Chapter Award by ED-QCFI DK Srivastava and QCFI National President Avinash Mishra. This award was given to the Director QCFI and Vice President, Bhilai Chapter's Secretary GP Singh, and PRO of the chapter Satyawar Nayak, those who played a major role in starting the Bhubaneswar



Chapter.

The QCFI annually assesses chapters based on various parameters, including the organizing of training programs, publication of regular magazines, educational activities, effective chapter conventions, propagation of quality concepts, and engagement in CSR activities. The Bhubaneswar Chapter excelled in all these areas, earning them the Best Chapter Award.

The efficient leadership and guidance of Chapter

Chairman SS Mohanty, continuous efforts of Chapter Secretary Ramshankar Das, and active support from Governing Council members Bibhu Dutt Mishra and Satyawar Nayak played a crucial role in the chapter's success.

The Bhubaneswar sub-chapter, initiated on July 8, 2018, under the mentorship of the Bhilai Chapter, has made significant strides over the past five years. Recognizing its outstanding contribution, the QCFI

Board of Directors granted full Chapter status to Bhubaneswar. Satyawar Nayak, on behalf of the Bhubaneswar Chapter, presented the achievements to the QCFI Board, with instrumental support from ED (QCFI) DK Srivastava and Secretary of Mentor Chapter Bhilai, Director, and Vice President of QCFI GP Singh.

Chapter Chairman SS Mohanty and Chapter Secretary Ramshankar Das expressed gratitude to DK Srivastava and GP Singh for the recognition bestowed upon the Bhubaneswar Chapter. They also commended the significant contributions of Satyawar Nayak and Bibhu Dutt Mishra. Mohanty congratulated everyone involved in this achievement.

This recognition underscores the commitment and dedication of the Bhubaneswar Chapter to promoting quality concepts and fostering excellence in their endeavours.

India will become world's 3rd largest economy by 2047: CM

Says PM Modi's resolution will be fulfilled with everyone's cooperation

Participates in the program "ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting"

Raipur, Jan 13: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai today attended the "Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting" program organized by ICAI at a private hotel in the capital Raipur. Chief Minister Sai presented awards to financial, non-financial, industrial and service sector organizations and chartered accountants who have performed excellently in the field of financial reporting. Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal was also present in the program.

Congratulating the organizations receiving the



awards, Chief Minister Sai said that all financial, non financial, industry and service provider companies will have major role to play in fulfilling Prime Minister Modi's resolve to make India the third largest economy in world by 2047. 'Presently present we are the fifth largest economy in the world and with everyone's coopera-

tion we will definitely be successful in achieving our financial targets within the stipulated time', Sai said.

He also underlined role of chartered accountants in financial management. The better the financial management, the faster the organization will develop, he said. 'If we look at it holistically, better financial management will also strengthen the country economically', he said. According to him after the introduction of GST, the role of chartered accountants has increased and companies are getting the benefit of their efficiency, due to which financial management has also become easier.

ICAI National President Aniket Talati, National Vice President Ranjit Agrawal, Raipur City President Ravi Gwalani, Anuj Goyal, Devashish Mitra and a large number of chartered accountants were present.

Giriraj for increasing women's participation in Chhattisgarh's economic growth



Raipur, Jan 13: Union Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Giriraj Singh said that Gouthans (cow-shelters) built in villages will be developed as centers of economic prosperity. Addressing the meeting of Panchayat and Rural Development Department officials at the Circuit House of Nava Raipur Atal Nagar today, he said that for the economic prosperity of the women of Chhattisgarh, action plans will be prepared to make Didis Millionaires under the National Rural Livelihood Mission.

He also stressed on the systematic development of Amrit Sarovars. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, MLA Ishwar Sahu and Sushant Shukla were specially present in the meeting.

Participation of women in the economic progress of the country is 56 percent, whereas in Chhattisgarh it is 50 percent, there is a need to increase it, the Union Minister said in the

review meeting. He said that women should also be encouraged to set up small enterprises under the National Rural Livelihood Mission. He also stressed on the need to set up new enterprises of women through banks.

'Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to make Bihaan's didis millionaires. It is our resolve to make 56 lakh didis millionaires under Bihan Yojana', he said, adding that officials of Panchayat and Rural Development Department should work accordingly.

Singh said that an action plan was being chalked out by NABARD to create model Gouthans in the state. Under this, one Gouthan each in 4 districts of the state will be developed as a model. For this, an amount of Rs 25 lakh will be given by NABARD to the National Rural Livelihood Mission. Advanced breed cattle will be reared in model Gouthans apart from poultry

farming, goat farming, pig farming. Hybrid breeds of chicken breeds like Kadaknath will also be created, he said.

On the occasion of completion of 75 years of independence, instructions were given to systematically develop the Amrit Sarovars being built in rural areas. He said that beautification works including tree plantation and pathways should be done around Amrit Sarovars. MGNREGA funds should be used to complete these works, he added.

Also present on the occasion were Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Niharika Barik, CEO of Chhattisgarh State Rural Development Bhim Singh, Director of National Rural Livelihood Mission Padmini Bhoi, Director Panchayat Raktima Yadav, DGM of NABARD and SBI along with senior officials of Panchayat and Rural Development Department.

Speaker takes stock of preparations for proposed orientation programme in Legislative Assembly



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 13: Chhattisgarh Legislative

Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh reached the Legislative Assembly premises on Saturday af-

ternoon and took stock of the preparations for the proposed orientation programme on January 20 and 21, 2023 in the Legislative Assembly's Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Auditorium.

Dr Singh visited various committee rooms, library, auditorium, central hall. He also inspected the chambers of ministers and gave necessary directions to senior officials. Secretary of the Legislative Assembly Dinesh Sharma, senior officials of the Legislative Assembly, senior officials of the Public Works Department (Civil and Electrical/Mechanical) and Horticulture Department were present.

Raipur's Nalanda Parisar doubles free internet speed for students

CM Sai's initiative to boost free internet speed at Nalanda Parisar earns praise from students

Raipur, Jan 13: In a significant move to enhance the educational experience for students at the state's first Nalanda Parisar (digital library) located on the NIT campus in the capital city Raipur, the free internet speed has been doubled. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's announcement to increase free internet speed for students has been implemented from National Youth Day onwards, offering enhanced convenience for their studies. Students have expressed their grati-

tude and praised the Chief Minister for this initiative.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, during his visit to Nalanda Parisar on Good Governance Day on December 25 last year, acknowledged the students' concerns regarding low internet speed. In response, he promptly announced plans to address the issue by increasing the internet speed. To oversee the management and operation of Nalanda Parisar, the Nalanda Parisar Management Society, chaired by the Collector of Raipur, was formed. In a recent society meeting, immediate action was taken to implement the Chief Minister's announcement, resulting in the decision to double the internet speed in the li-

brary starting January 12. Nodal Officer of Nalanda Parisar, Shri Kedar Patel, stated that the library's free internet facility was previously available at a speed of 100 Mbps, which has now been upgraded to 200 Mbps.

Nalanda Parisar also has a digital library for students preparing for competitive examinations, operating round the clock. This facility serves a large number of students engaged in UPSC, State PSC, and various competitive exam preparations. Apart from offering free internet for students, the library provides access to offline study materials. In addition, the campus also has a cafeteria and other amenities for an enriched learning environment.

Kayaking & Canoeing team of Pt Ravishanker University held



Raipur, Jan 13: Kayaking & Canoeing University tournament was organised under the aegis of Govt Sanskrit College at Budhatalab (Vivekanand Sarovar) here on Saturday.

Providing the above information, the Sports Officer of Organising Committee Dr Pramod Mene said nearly 25 players from 12 teams participated in the above tournament. He informed that the team of the Pt Ravi hanker Shukla University would be constituted for the Inter University Kayaking & Canoeing tournament. Joint Secretary of Indian

Kayaking & Canoeing Association Prashant Singh Raghuvanshi was present as special guest on the occasion.

Mukesh Yadav from Government Nagarjun College secured first position in 200 and 500 M Kayaking event whereas Jitesh Sahu from Mahant College secured first position in Canoe event in both 200 and 500 M category. Similarly Neetu Sonwane from Govt DB Girls College won the 200 M Canoe event whereas 200 M Kayak event was won by Swati Sahu from Vipra College.

'SCInTFIC 2k24' hosted at IIIT-Naya Raipur



Naya Raipur, Jan 13: IIIT-Naya Raipur's flagship annual Science and Technology showcasing event "SCInTFIC", designed for school students, was conducted on January 13, 2024, at IIIT-NR campus. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Alok K. Sahu, Director CIPET, in the presence of Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Director IIIT-NR, and Prof. Rajesh Ingle, Dean Academics. In his inaugural address, Dr. Sahu encouraged the participants to seek new experiences and explore cross-disciplinary perspectives to solve global challenges. Motivating the students, Dr. Sinha talked about the genesis of the event and emphasised on the importance of Science, Society and Environment in

the present time. This was followed by an elaborated overview of the event by Dr. Avantika Singh, one of the faculty co-ordinators of the event.

The event showcased a total of 46 projects under IDEATHON 6.0 from various schools from Raipur like Adarsh International, Kendriya Vidyalaya, K.P.S. International and Bhartiya Vidya Bhavans R. K. Sharda Vidya Mandir. IDEATHON 6.0 was divided under three tracks - Track 1 for students from Grade 3-5, Track 2 for students from 6-8, and Track 3 for students from 9-12. Each track had its innovative and compelling problem statements ranging from health and cleanliness, science in everyday life, agricultural and food security to

disaster management, waste management and environmental issues and concerns. Each project was evaluated by the eminent judges from renowned institutions. The list includes Dr. Sumeet Gupta, Professor, IIM Raipur, Dr. Sharda Bharti, Assistant Professor, NIT Raipur, and Dr. Ajay K. Harit, Associate Professor, Kalinga University. Prof. Rajesh Ingle, Dean Academics IIIT-NR, Prof. K.G. Srinivasa, Dean Research IIIT-NR, Dr. Rajarshi Mahapatra, HOD ECE Deptt., Dr. P.P.Paltani, HOD HSS Deptt. were also present as internal judges.

The winner of Track 1 was Soumya Agrawal; for Track 2 were Avani Gupta and Aavishi Ojha; and for Track 3 were Chinmay Narwani, Shikhar Helode and Shourya Dhanuka. These students were from Bhartiya Vidya Bhavans R. K. Sharda Vidya Mandir and K.P.S. International School, Raipur. The whole event was co-ordinated by Dr. Sresha Yadav, Dr. Avantika Singh and Dr. Vijaya J.

Raipur, Jan 13: This year's biggest canvas film "Dulha Raja" has been produced under the banner of Aranya Cinema, whose producer and director is Raj Verma. This is the fourth film of Raj Verma, who has intervened in every genre in Chhattisgarhi cinema. He has the experience of writing a film to its production, as an actor he is proficient in dance and is a master of Karate and has also worked in Cellulite cinema as an actor. The people of Chhattisgarh will be able to watch this film in theaters from January 26. The songs and trailer of this film have been released by SRK Music in Chhattisgarh, which is getting a lot of love and appreciation from the public, which has got lakhs of views. This film has eight beautiful songs of different genres.

The star cast of this film includes Raj

'Dulha Raja' film releasing on January 26th



Verma, Kajal Sonber, Manmohan Singh Thakur, Anshu Das Manikpuri, Sanjay Mahanand, Hemlal

Kaushal, Shailendra Bhatt, Pradeep Sharma, Upanasa Vaishnav, Anuradha Dube, Kranti Dixit, Sohail Khan, Manisha Verma, Divya Nagdeve, Rakhi Sing, Rakesh Yadav, Anupam Verma, Prakash Sahu and Raju Sharma. The Story, screenplay, dialogues of the film and is written by Raj Verma, music by Sunil Soni, lyricist is given by Suryakant Tiwari, Dilip Patel and Ch h a n d r a p r a k a s h Bhardwaj. The playback singers are Sunil Soni, Anurag Sharma, Hires Sinha, Champa Nishad, Anupama Mishra and Kanchan. Joshi. The recording of the songs

has been done in Milan Studio, Cuttack. Film has been shot in Parsada village of Chhattisgarh, the film has been directed by Raj Verma, the camera has been operated by Toran Rajput, the choreography of the songs has been done by Chandan Deep, Rakesh Yadav, Nandu Tandi and Sanju Tandi. Action is done by Tampi. Post production work of the film has been done by Neeraj Verma at Shrestha Studio, Raipur.

Director of the film, Raj Verma said that the story of the film is completely family based, it is a completely commercial film, which means there is a guarantee of getting

full value of the money for audience, films on love story are being made continuously in Chhattisgarh, but this film is very different. People of Chhattisgarh will get to see a film full of social environment and comedy and also a positive message has been given in the film against the evil practice of dowry. This is the first time that more than twenty big actors of Chhattisgarhi cinema have acted together in the film. The producer of the film Raj Verma told that the film will be distributed through UFO Cine Media. Marketing head of the film is Lucky Rangshahi.

FM holds discussion over Mahtari Vandan Scheme for Women

Raipur, Jan 13: Giving momentum to the election manifesto implementation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has started decision to include the much hyped Mahtari Vandan Yojna which promises cash transfer of Rs 12000 per year into the accounts of Women, in the annual budget for the fiscal 2023-24.



Finance Minister OP Choudhary on Saturday held talks with the Minister for Women & Child Development Ms Laxmi Rajwade on key issues to deliver the promises made to the Women in the election manifesto which paved way for the victory of the party

in the recently-held Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly polls.

Finance Minister Choudhary suggested to integrate the state-level schemes into an Umbrella

scheme and also to establish a monitoring portal for the integrated schemes.

Finance Minister during review of Budget gave essential instructions to the officials on key issues. Senior Officials from the department were also present on the occasion. Discussion on Prime Minister Matruvandan Scheme, CM Kanyadan scheme and Integrated Child Development Services schemes were also held.

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Youth can make their lives meaningful by imbibing Swami Vivekananda ideals: Dr Verma

Raipur, Jan 13: On the occasion of National Youth Day, a symposium was organized on the topic "Youth Power, Patriotism and Swami Vivekananda" by Vivekananda Manav Prakarsh Sansthan, Vivekananda Vidyapeeth, Raipur. As the initial speaker in the program, Dr. Omprakash Verma, Director of Vivekananda Manav Prakarsh Sansthan said, "Water nourishes life, but when there is a flood, the same water damages life, by building dams it was saved from being destructive. Similarly, youth is like a river, if appropriate path is not paved for it at the right time then it moves in a destructive direction. Therefore, there is a need to tie the youth power with the dam of discipline at the right time so that they can be made useful in the national interest. Swami Vivekananda ji was a multidimensional



personality, youth can make their lives meaningful by imbibing his ideals. As a speaker in the program, Swami Prapattyananda said, 'Swami Vivekananda worked to awaken self-respect and self-pride among the youth. To inculcate nationalism among children/youth, first their gurus/teachers will have to imbibe the messages of Swami Vivekananda in their conduct. Today, despite being materially prosperous, everyone is restless, the reason for this is the lack of moral/spiritual education in the

Indian education policy. Only inclusion of morality in education policy can provide peace in life. On this occasion, Dr. Sudhir Sharma said that Swamiji was in favor of coordination and harmony. Throwing light on Swamiji's life, Dr. Subhash Chandrakar said that it is necessary for every youth to have a goal, the youth should work enthusiastically to achieve their goal. Presiding over the program, Shrimat Swami Sevavratnand, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Bilaspur said, 'Swami Vivekananda is a symbol

of youth power and patriotism. Religion and morality are the fundamental basis of national life. Adherence to religion and morality is necessary for the upliftment of the nation. The program was conducted by Mrs. Manisha Chandravanshi. Dr. Sameer Thakur, Dr. Rajesh Dubey, Manoj Yadav, Virendra Verma, Dr. B. Sonekar were present in the program. IUniversity professor, B.Ed. College trainees and students of Vivekananda Vidyapeeth were present in the program.

CS instructs to take steps to provide quality education



To all children in remote areas Samagra Shiksha Executive Committee meeting concludes

Raipur, Jan 13: The meeting of the Samagra Shiksha Executive Committee was held on Friday at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan here headed by Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain. In the meeting, a detailed review of the construction works approved under Samagra Shiksha was done.

The Chief Secretary has directed the officers to do all necessary work to provide quality education to all the children in remote areas of the state under the Samagra Shiksha Programme. He took detailed information about the facilities being provided under information technology in schools under

the Samagra Shiksha Programme. In the meeting, Chhattisgarh State Comprehensive Education Action Plan 2024-2025 was discussed in detail to be sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Similarly, there was extensive discussion on the budget proposal of the annual action plan approved under the PM Shri Yojana. In the meeting, the proposal for post-facto approval for change of site of construction works sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha was discussed. In this meeting organized under video conferencing, the Secretary of the School Education Department, Mr. Siddharth Komal Pardeshi and officials of the departments involved in the executive of overall education including Rural Development, Women and Child Development Department were present.

NIT Raipur organized a symposium on the future of AI



Raipur, Jan 13: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur organized an expert talk on 'Artificial Intelligence and Interaction Design' on 12th January 2023 under the flagship of Vikasit Bharat@2047 mission, a Government of India initiative. The session was graced by the esteemed dignitary Dr. Chandan Kumar, Head of Interaction Design and Technologies Research Group, Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering IAO in Stuttgart, Germany.

Dr. Chandan Kumar and his team passionately explore the synergy of Human-Computer Interaction and Artificial Intelligence, aiming to empower individuals through intuitive and inspiring user interfaces.

In a captivating presentation Dr. Kumar eloquently elucidated the dynamic landscape where AI and Data Science converge, presenting

a compelling arena for innovation across diverse sectors such as healthcare, education, commerce, and social media, each brimming with substantial potential. He underscored the paramount significance of the user perspective in shaping research design and illuminated the path towards process and decision optimization using data analytics and forecasting. Emphasizing the pivotal role of interaction design he envisioned an enhanced AI landscape achieved through the seamless fusion of data and design elements and elaborated on future scenarios in automotive technology, adept error handling with Active Worker Assist, transformative potential of Generative AI, and the streamlined automation of tender requests, specifically in customer requirement handling.

Moreover, Dr. Kumar astutely attributed the rapid ascent of ChatGPT, amassing a remarkable one million users in a mere five days, to the synergy of AI and its inherently user-friendly system. This monumental achievement, outpacing even established social media platforms, underscores the transformative impact of AI in shaping user experiences and interactions on a global scale.

Focus on 100% ash utilization: Ramesh Babu

Heads of ash management & utilization meet

Raipur, Jan 13: Joining the Heads of Ash Management & Utilization meet held at NTPC Nava Raipur through Virtual mode, NTPC Director (Operations) Ramesh Babu V asked the participants to take concerted efforts to achieve 100 per cent Ash utilization.

The two-day meet was held on January 10-11, 2024 wherein Heads of Ash Management & Utilization department from across NTPC joined in large numbers. Ramesh Babu further underlined the importance of 100 per cent Ash



utilization to maintain sustainability in the thermal power segment. This will not only help in complying Govt. directives but also helps in generating thermal power in environment-friendly manner. Earlier, speaking on the occasion, C Sivakumar, RED (WR-II,

USSE & Ash-NI); Ravindra Kumar, OSD to Director (Operations) and AK Samaiyar, ED (SSEA) appreciated the efforts taken by the stations in increasing ash utilization in the recent years. The dignitaries further asked the Heads of Ash Management &

Utilization department to work in tandem with external stakeholders like Cement Industries, NHAI Projects, Brick Manufacturers besides exploring new avenues to utilize ash in sustainable manner.

During the two-day meet, Heads of Ash Management & Utilization department presented and discussed the best practices adopted in their respective stations which can be emulated in other stations to give momentum to ash Utilization.

SK Takhele, ED-SSEA, CGMs, GMs and other officials from Corporate Centre, Naya Raipur and Projects attended the meet.

Air fare from Raipur to Delhi-Mumbai becomes expensive

Two days before the consecration of Ram temple Some flights are already full, there will be trouble

Raipur, Jan 13: Air fare from Raipur to Delhi has increased to Rs 16,000, 9,000 and 8,000 on January 20, two days before the consecration of Shri Ram Lalla to be held on January 22 in Ayodhya. Similarly, the airfare to Mumbai is Rs 14,000 and Rs 12,000. Except for Raipur to Delhi and Mumbai, the airfare to other places is still normal.

Travel operators said that some flights have be-



come housefull. Along with January 20, air fares for January 21 have also become expensive. Kirti Vyas, director of Vyas Travels, said that there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people to go to Ayodhya. The demand for flights from Raipur to Ayodhya via Mumbai is very high.

State President of Chhattisgarh Yatayat Mahasangh, Syed Anwar Ali said that the federation has decided that in view of the eagerness of the devotees, a direct bus will be run from Raipur to Ayodhya. At present one has to go from Raipur to Ayodhya via Banaras. These days the demand

from Raipur to Banaras has also increased. It is being told that the number of people going from Raipur to Banaras by bus has increased, especially for January 19 and 20, this number is quite high.

Travel operators said that very soon flights from Raipur to Jaipur and Ranchi are also going to start. This demand has also been made by travel operators from aviation companies. It is being informed that Raipur to Jaipur flight has been approved by DGCA and its slot has also been decided. In view of this, it is expected that flights to these areas will start very soon. Along with this, there is a demand to start flights to Rajkot also.

Shivaji English School children showcase talent

Devotional song 'Meri Jhopdi Me Ram Aayenge.....' mesmerizes everyone

Raipur, Jan 13: A special competition was organized at Shivaji English School, Rohinipuram with a view to help children overcome inhibitions to perform on the stage. School Principal Shirin Joshi said that children from nursery to sixth classes displayed their talent ranging from singing, dancing, acting to storytelling etc. When Prisha Choudhary of nursery reached the stage in the form of Maa Kali with 'Khadak' in her hands, everyone kept



watching. Recital of devotional song "Meri Jhopdi Ke Bhaag Aaj Jaag Jaenge, Ram Aayenge" by Naksh Ojha spellbound the audience. Namami Rajput presented folk dance, while Sachintya Sahu told the

importance of father in life. After the performance of Purvi Tiwari and Nidhi Kushwaha a remix dance was presented by Maanvi Rajput. Parents and school teachers also had an important contribution in this competition.

Vivekananda's vision for inclusive governance holds relevance today: Sao

Raipur, Jan 13: Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur, successfully commenced its new academic semester with the prestigious 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture on Jan 12. Coinciding with National Youth Day, the event marked a significant moment in the university's academic calendar. The lecture, centered on the theme 'Swami Vivekananda's Vision for Inclusive Governance,' was delivered by Arun Sao, Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Prof. (Dr.) V.C. Vivekanandan, the Vice-Chancellor of HNLU, set the stage with his thought-provoking Opening Remarks. In his address, Prof. Vivekanandan highlighted the significance of Swami Vivekananda's teaching and his connection



with Raipur in his younger days playing a transformative role. He also said that the Chief Guest Arun Sao as befitting speaker for the occasion with his connect with the grassroot level on the topic of 'inclusiveness' Arun Sao, Dy CM in his compelling address captivated the audience diving deep into Swami Vivekananda's vision for inclusive governance, a vision that transcends time and holds immense

relevance in today's world. He elucidated on how Swami Vivekananda's teachings offer more than just administrative guidance; they provide a holistic framework for building compassionate societies. These teachings, rooted in spiritual principles and ethical leadership, are crucial in the current era where governance needs to transcend mere efficiency and effectiveness, and be imbued with purpose and higher ideals.

This timeless wisdom, the Chief Guest noted, is pivotal for nurturing just societies where the well-being of all is a priority.

Delving into the relevance of philosophical traditions in contemporary times, Aun Sao pointed out the crucial role these teachings play in guiding nations through their economic, social, and political transformations. He highlighted the current leadership of India in contemporary times quoting Swami Vivekananda's thoughts resonating the concept of 'V a s u d h a i v a Kutumbakam.'

Concluding the lecture with a powerful message to the youth, the Dy CM Aun Sao urged them to embody the principles of Swami Vivekananda in their lives. By being bold, taking responsibility, and avoiding the pitfalls of

blame, the youth can indeed shape a world that reflects the ideals of this great saint.

Dr. Avinash Samal, Dean, Student Welfare delivered the welcome address and Dr. Vipan Kumar, Registrar (I/c) delivered the vote of thanks. The programme was seamlessly anchored by Ms. Garima Panwar, Assistant Professor.

The 3rd Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture is a part of HNLU's ongoing annual tradition, initiated in 2022, to honor and disseminate the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. This series of lectures have become a cornerstone in HNLU's efforts to inspire and educate future leaders in the principles of enlightened governance and leadership, as espoused by Swami Vivekananda.

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Chronicle

Shortage of teachers in three schools resolved on CM's initiative

Students and parents expressed gratitude to Chief Minister

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 13: The initiative of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has brought great relief to the children and their parents who have been troubled for a long time due to shortage of teachers in three schools of Jashpur district. Following the instructions of the Chief Minister, teachers have been appointed immediately to maintain the education system in these three schools of the district. Parents have expressed gratitude to Chief

Minister Vishnu Deo Sai for this initiative.

There was a shortage of teachers for Geography, English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Science and Mathematics subjects in the high school of Raikera village of Bagicha block of Jashpur district. The parents of the school students informed about the problem to the CM residence in Bagiya and said that due to absence of teachers, the education of the children is being adversely affected. Parents said that the Board of Secondary Education has declared the time table of the board examinations. In such a situation, there is a possibility of children's future getting spoiled due to absence of

teachers. On receiving this information, Chief Minister Sai took the problem of the parents seriously and instructed Jashpur Collector Dr. Ravi Mittal to remove the shortage of teachers in Raikera School. Collector Dr. Mittal took immediate action and ordered to complete the teaching work by the end of the session, attaching 6 teachers to this school.

Similarly, Mr. Roshan Lal Raote, teacher at Fokatpara Primary School in Farsabahar, has been attached. Ms. Anupama Kindo, a female teacher of Kardega School of Duldula Block, has been relieved of the charge of the District Library and posted back to

the parent institution, so that the education of children in Kardega School is not affected.

It is noteworthy that after Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai became the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, people from all over the district are reaching the CM residence in Bagiya of Kansabel block of the district with their problems. Here these problems are being resolved quickly.

It is notable that Chief Minister Sai has instructed the officials to work on priority in the field of education and health. However, students and their parents are very happy with the removal of teacher shortage in schools.

Ramotsav to be celebrated with great pomp on Jan 22

Raipur, Jan 13: Chandkhuri in Chhattisgarh is believed to be the home of Lord Ram's maternal grandparents. Keeping this in mind the state government has decided to organize a grand devotional cultural program across the state in view of the "Shri Ramlala Pran Pratistha-Ramotsav" in Ayodhya on 22 January 2024. The said event will be organized in three levels-divisional, district and development block level.

Endowment, Culture and Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal has given instructions to the department to organize a grand and large-scale cultural programme in Chhattisgarh on the occasion of "Shri Ramlala Pran Pratistha-Ramotsav" in Ayodhya on 22 January 2024.

After making an action plan, instructions have been issued to all the collectors of the state.

It has been decided by the Manas Mandalis are to be included in the said event. About 4700 active Manas Madlis are registered with the Office of Culture and Official Language in every district of the state. As per the announcement of the state government, it has been decided to provide an amount of Rs 5000/- to each of these Manas groups as an incentive. According to the above decision, the district wise list of Manas Mandalis and the allocation of funds accordingly is being made available directly to each collector by the Directorate of Culture and Official Language.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Devotees take part in a 'Nandi Dhwa' procession during the Siddheshwar Mandir Yatra, in Solapur, Saturday.

N-E no longer 'last line' for development: Himanta

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13 (PTI):

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday asserted that the Northeast has undergone a sea change in the last decade from being the "last line" for developmental activities to emerging as the "first line" for growth as India seeks to do more business with Southeast Asia.

"I am 54 years old now. In our childhood days in Assam, during social encounters, discussions were held on how to stage demonstrations or block the CRPF's way. I could not go to school for two years as it was closed due to violence," he said. Sarma said that though the Assam agitation started in a democratic manner, later it took a violent turn. "Soon, people who did not raise a hand on anybody had AK-47s in their hands. We lost many precious lives due to unrest. Tribal militancy also started in Assam. The situation was similar in Manipur and Nagaland," he said.



Himanta Biswa

ple did not know what their fate would be if they went to Nagaland. In Arunachal Pradesh, there was pressure from China on one hand, whereas the then Indian government had a notion that border areas should not undergo development," he claimed. "There were days when Assam and the Northeast felt abandoned," he added. However, things changed rapidly from 2014 and a people now feel there is a gov-

ernment in Delhi that looks after issues of the Northeast, Sarma said. He said many youths, who had taken up arms, have returned to the mainstream and the region has been on a growth trajectory. "An AIIMS has been established, a refinery has come up and talks are underway for setting up semiconductor industry. Assam has been registering a growth of 17 per cent," he claimed. "Tripura airport is three times bigger than Bhubaneswar airport. The picture of Northeast has gradually changed. It is sometimes hard to believe that this is the same region that has been undergoing such massive development," Sarma said. He said the country's overall development is directly linked with the progress of Assam, Odisha, West Bengal and Northeast.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I Akshay Gautam, S/o Praveen Singh Gautam, resident of H.No. F-3, Sales Tax Colony, Khamhardih, Shankar Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) 492007 have changed my old Name Akshay Gautam, so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is Akshay Singh Gautam, S/o Praveen Singh Gautam in all government and other Documents.

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'Love, Not Lust': Court grants bail to man accused of raping 13-year-old

Mumbai, Jan 13:

The Bombay High Court has granted bail to a Maharashtra man who was arrested for raping a 13-year-old, saying that they had an affair and the sexual relationship was out of love, and not lust. Justice Urmila Joshi-Phalke observed that the girl was a minor but had told the police that she voluntarily left her house and stayed with the accused Nitin Dhaberao. While granting relief, the court observed that Dhaberao was also "of the tender age of 26 years".

they come together," Justice Joshi-Phalke said in her order. "It seems that the alleged incident of sexual relationship is out of the attraction between the two young persons and it is not the case that the applicant has subjected the victim to a sexual assault out of lust," the court added. In August 2020, the girl's father had filed a missing complaint.

IndiGo flight, diverted to Dhaka due to bad weather

Guwahati/Mumbai, Jan 13 (PTI):

A Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight from Mumbai, which was diverted to Dhaka in Bangladesh due to bad weather, landed at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport here on Saturday, officials said. The flight, scheduled to arrive here on Friday night, landed at 11.10 am, they said. It had departed from Dhaka at 10.54 am (Bangladesh time). The IndiGo flight 5319 had to be diverted to Dhaka due to bad weather

in Guwahati and "initially Kolkata and Bhubaneswar were considered for landing", an airline spokesperson said. "It was not possible to land in Kolkata due to bad weather, while in Bhubaneswar there was runway closure and the flight had to be diverted to

Dhaka," she said. An alternate set of crew was arranged to operate the flight from Dhaka to Guwahati, she said. "The passengers were kept informed of updates and were served with refreshments on board. We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused," the airline said.

Suraj Singh Thakur, All India Congress Committee delegate, who was on the flight, said on X: "Finally landed in Guwahati. After a 12 hour flight, I would have hoped to reach Europe but I'm happy to be in Guwahati. Mera

Desh Mahaan. Thanks @IndiGoE". The former state Youth Congress working president had earlier posted on X: "I took IndiGo flight 6E 5319 from Mumbai to Guwahati. But due to dense fog, the flight couldn't land in Guwahati. Instead, it landed in Dhaka.

Indian Overseas Bank

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Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Loan Account No., Name of the Account, Description of the property mortgaged, Date of demand notice, Amount, Possession Date. Contains details for multiple loans and properties.

SC Pradhan receives 'Bharat Gaurav Ratna Shri' award

Pithora, Jan 13:

Area educationist Sameer Chandra Pradhan (Principal - Swami Atmanand Government English Medium English Hindi Medium Excellent School Pateva) has been jointly awarded Bharat Gaurav Ratna Shri Samman Council (Approved by Ministry of Corporate Affairs Government of India) and World Human Rights Protection Commission. 'Bharat Gaurav Ratna Shri Samman'.

The certificate mentions that Pradhan is an active member of the Council, and the Council recognizes his commitment to the development of social work worldwide. By the same council, Sameer Chandra Pradhan has also been awarded the National



'Ashoka Samman' for his extraordinary achievement and notable role in education and social upliftment.

Along with this, as an international honour, Sameer Chandra Pradhan was also given "International Fee Achievement Award" by

IPAAC for his outstanding achievement and notable role in promoting girls' education.

This honor was given to Sameer Chand Pradhan at the hands of District Education Officer Mita Mukherjee at the District Education Office, Mahasamund, as he could

not travel to Delhi to take the award. While presenting the honour, Mukherjee described it as a moment of unprecedented pride for the Education Department and congratulated Pradhan for his continuous achievements.

On this occasion, Assistant Director Mr. Satish Nair, Sudhir Pradhan (Provincial Convener Chhattisgarh TA), Narayan Chaudhary (President Chhattisgarh TA, District Mahasamund), Nandu Sahu (Secretary Chhattisgarh TA) District Mahasamund), Vinod Yadav (Block President Chhattisgarh TA Bagbahra), Mahendra Chaudhary (Block President Chhattisgarh TA Pithora), Harsh Chandrakar and many others were present.

Khairagarh district seeks improvement in administrative efficiency

■ Needy landowners await single window system for land sales

Khairagarh, Jan 12:

Despite being established as a district over one year ago, Khairagarh faces lingering challenges in delivering essential administrative services. Local residents have been grappling with unmet needs, and one particular concern is the absence of a single window system, which has not yet been implemented in the district headquarters.

The absence of a functioning single window system, even after 15 months, has hindered compliance with government regulations, making it difficult for individuals in need to sell their land. Pratibha Rajesh Mishra, a real estate business owner, shared her experience, stating that she



has personal land in Khamriyakhurd, Ward No. 3, Khairagarh. Despite receiving permission from the Municipal Corporation in accordance with government rules, she has spent the last 15 months navigating administrative offices to sell her land legally.

Officials at the Khairagarh Collectorate revealed that the state government's single window system has not yet been implemented in the district, leading to the inability of people to sell their land in accordance with established regulations. Administrative functions are currently being managed by the Urban Development Department

of Rajnandgaon district, even after the creation of the Khairagarh district.

This situation has forced many residents to travel from Khairagarh to Rajnandgaon for their administrative needs. Previously, some landowners discussed this matter with the former Collector, Gopal Verma. Journalists also raised concerns and requested the initiation of a single window system. At that time, Collector Verma explained that following the establishment of the new district, several departments were facing challenges in operating in Khairagarh. However, he expressed confidence that the administrative system

would gradually strengthen as governance processes evolved.

Pratibha Rajesh Mishra, deeply affected both financially and mentally due to the halted sale of her private land, shared her distressing situation. With her daughter studying in Kota, Rajasthan, she has been forced to take a loan due to the inability to sell her land. Unfortunately, many landowners find themselves in similar circumstances, unable to sell their land due to administrative obstacles that have persisted since the district's formation.

However, there is renewed hope as the newly appointed Collector, Chandrakant Verma, takes charge. The community anticipates swift action and resolutions to address these longstanding issues, bringing relief to the landowners and enhancing administrative efficiency in Khairagarh.

Collector conducts inspection of Anganwadi and schools

■ Of remote village Samundpani

Khairagarh, Jan 13:

With the aim of improving the performance of educational institutions, the newly appointed Collector of the district Chandrakant Verma conducted a surprise inspection of Anganwadi centers and schools of remote village Samundpani of Chhuikhadan development block. During this, instructions were given to the departmental officers for better conduct of attendance, cleanliness, uniform and educational activities and regular monitoring.

While directing the teachers of primary school Samundpani, the Collector instructed that along with teaching the curriculum, they should



provide general information about great men to the students. When the collector asked the names of the photos of great men displayed in the class room, the children could not answer. The Collector also gave instructions to the teachers regarding improving the attendance in schools, educational use of blackboards, uniforms and improving the teaching system. The Collector

also gave instructions to improve the attendance, cleanliness and quality of nutritious food of children in Anganwadi centres. During the surprise inspection, Deputy Collector Tankeshwar Sahu, SDM Renuka Ratre, Tehsildar Amardeep Anchal, Dr. Maqsood along with school head, teachers, Anganwadi workers and other officers and employees were present.

Stringent measures taken against illegal mineral activities

Bilaspur, Jan 13:

The dedicated efforts of Bilaspur's mineral officials in curbing illegal mineral excavation and transportation have yielded positive results, with two cases registered on January 10.

Taking swift action in response to complaints and information received through various channels, authorities cracked down on illicit excavation and transportation activities in Dhoibhat (Amamuda), Sodhakhurd, and the surrounding regions under the Kota area.

In Dhoibhat (Amamuda), an investigation revealed that individuals were clandestinely extracting and transporting mineral sand during the night under the pretext of daytime dam construction. To address this issue, a case of illegal sand excavation was promptly registered. One poklane machine was seized, and two

highway vehicles were secured at the Belgahna police station to prevent further unlawful activities.

Similarly, in the Sodhakhurd area, another case of illegal sand excavation was registered, resulting in the sealing of one poklane machine and the seizure of one highway vehicle, which were also safeguarded at the Belgahna police station. Stringent actions are being taken against the seized vehicles in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Act. The mineral department remains vigilant, conducting continuous inspections in all areas, including restricted zones, to combat illegal mineral excavation and transportation. If any additional instances of unlawful mining and mineral transportation are detected, appropriate legal actions will be initiated, including filing FIRs and complaints in court.

Sacred Akshat Kalash arrives in Joratarai from Ayodhya

Anwari, Jan 12:

A grand procession marked the arrival of the Akshat Kalash from Ayodhya in the village of Joratarai. The rural residents gathered at the Shri Temple to offer prayers and participate in this joyful occasion.

The procession was enriched with traditional dances, including the vibrant Raavat Naach, which added a cultural touch to the festivities. Notably, a significant number of rural women proudly carried the Akshat Kalash as they paraded through the streets, contributing to the lively atmosphere.

Prominent figures such as Sant Devkar Saheb, Motilal Jain from Rajasthan, Pardeshi Ram Sahu, Ram Swaroop Sahu, Sudama Ram Sahu, Banshilal Sahu, Govind



Singh Rajput, Ashok Pal, Tekram Sahu, Bhikhari Sahu, Ganpat Nishad, Bishnu Tarak, Balmukund Sahu (Peshu), Nathu Sahu, Jugal Kishore Sahu, Bhoj Tarak, Kisan Sahu, and Rakesh Pal were among the many attendees.

Addressing the gathering, Saint Devkar Saheb emphasized the significance of the celebration and its resemblance to a festival. He emphasized the upcoming event

scheduled for January 22nd when Shri Ram Ji will be ceremoniously seated in Ayodhya. Saint Devkar Saheb encouraged every household in India to participate in the festivities, akin to Diwali celebrations. He suggested lighting up homes with rangoli, lamps on rooftops, bursting firecrackers, exchanging congratulations, and sharing sweets to unite people across the nation in this joyous occasion.

Four accused arrested with 34.800 kg Ganja

Jagdalpur, Jan 13:

Bastar Police arrested the accused while transporting Ganja from three places in separate cases. In this Bastar police station of the district received tip from an informer that the Ganja is being transported illegally by 4 persons. All four accused are going to reach village Deurgaon Chowk from Orissa and then would go to Raipur.

On receiving this information, the police reached Deurgaon Chowk along



with its accompanying staff and cordoned off the area. The accused Dharmendra Sahni, Ravi Kumar Sahni, Manish Kumar Chaudhary, Sanjay Sahni were arrested. When the police conducted search of all four accused, a total of 34.800 kg of Ganja was recovered from them. After seizing the recovered illegal ganja, the act of the accused was found to be a crime under Section 20(B) of the NDPS Act and the crime was registered by arresting 4 accused.

Active role of villagers is necessary for project's success: Dayaram

Jagdalpur, Jan 12:

Collector Vijay Dayaram K. inspected the stop dam and lift irrigation work in Ganesh Bahar Nullah by the Water Resources Department in village Tiepadar of the district on Thursday. During this, the Collector, while discussing the action plan of lift irrigation with the villagers, said that the active role of the villagers is necessary for the success of the project. Informing the villagers about the benefits of the irrigation scheme, he asked them to win the trust of the administration by constructing drains employing labour work from storage tanks for irrigation, so that other development works can be speeded up on the demands of the villagers. He said that all the beneficiaries in the irrigated areas benefited from this lift irrigation can get benefits by cultivating cash crop sugarcane. Collector said that for this scheme, since 2010, Professor Dr. Puneet Singh of Bengaluru has contributed his valuable contribution and his own money for irrigation in this area, apart from this, necessary resources have been deployed by the ad-



ministration. The community should make better use of the project built at such a huge cost and help in creating resources for the coming generations.

The Collector inspected the stop dam established in Ganesh Bahar Nullah of Tiepadar, the turbine installed for lift irrigation and the storage tank and held a detailed discussion with the officials of the Water Resources Department. During this, instructions were given to speed-up the work of lift irrigation installed in Sukma and Jashpur districts. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, Richharia of Water Resources Department, District CEO Amit Bhatia and other officials were present.

It may be noted that this scheme, being built at a cost of about Rs 6 crore and has an action plan to irrigate 40 hectares of land in village Tiepadar, provide drinking water to the village and produce small hydro power. In which turbine installation and other construction work has been speeded up. The work to supply water to the storage tank has been completed and inspected.

Katghora TI holds meeting with drug sellers



Korba, Jan 13:

On receiving instructions from Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla to take strict action against illegal liquor, ganja and illegal drugs, under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Verma (RPUSE), SDOP Katghora Pankaj Thakur, a meeting of drug sellers and medical store operators of Katghora area was held with police station in-charge (TI)

Katghora Tej Kumar Yadav. In which the drug sellers were directed that the medicines which are used for intoxication should not be sold to the people without a doctor's prescription. Also, inform the police about those people who buy these medicines in excess so that they can know whether these medicines are being misused by them. The operators have also agreed to fully cooperate with the police in their campaign against illegal drugs.

Collector conducts surprise inspection of Karanpur PPC

■ Wish for the prosperity of the district by visiting Rampal temple

Jagdalpur, Jan 13:

Collector Vijay Dayaram K. during his inspection tour on Thursday, conducted a surprise inspection of Karanpur Paddy Procurement Center (PPC) of Jagdalpur development block. He took cognizance of the moisture content of the paddy through a paddy moisture measuring device. The procurement in-charge took stock of the number of registered farmers, the situation of selling paddy by the farmers, the status of area surrender, availability of gunny bags and the status of lifting of paddy. Collector also discussed with the villagers regarding the paddy yield and the condition of blackness in the paddy.

During the inspection of the procurement centre, the villagers of Rampal told that there is an old temple in their village and if he ever gets time, he must visit it. On this



the Collector Vijay readily agreed. Along with the villagers, he reached Lingeswar Shiv Temple in Rampal and offered prayers in the temple and wished for the prosperity of the district. Describing the history of the temple, the priest of the temple said that Shri Ram and Sita Mai had spent some time in this village dur-

ing his exile. He told that a bell of the year 1806 was also found by the villagers during mining in the village. Presently the restoration work of the temple is being done with public cooperation. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, District CEO Amit Bhatia and other officials were present.

Korba Police launches surprise checking campaign

■ To take stock of the security of banks

Korba, Jan 13:

Under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla and guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Verma, a campaign of surprise security audit has been conducted in banks. Police station and outpost in-charges ensure security of the banks operating under their police station area, which includes security alarm system installed in the bank, CCTV, checking of security guards, checking of suspicious persons in the bank premises, giving information about financial fraud to the bank customers.

After discussing the se-



curity with the branch managers and staff of the banks, the police team was asked to install CCTV cameras to focus inside, outside and on the road of the bank and to save the CCTV footage. The police team also took stock of the sirens of the banks and the fire prevention equipment in the banks.

Resolve to make a developed India has to reach every citizen: Kumar

It Secy, Gol and Collector appeals all to take advantage of the schemes

Developed in village Kurudih through schemes developed by villagers under VBSY



Joint Secretary inspected the stall

Joint Secretary of the Gol, Sanjay Kumar and Collector Ajit Vasant visited the camp organized under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra. He also provided nutrition kits to women and children in the stall of the Women and Child Development Department. Other cultural programs including Sua dance were also presented by the school students in the camp.

Korba, Jan 13: Under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), a program was organized today in village Kurudih of Korba development block. Sanjay Kumar, Joint Secretary to the GoI, attended the program as the chief guest. During this, he saw the activities of the camp and visited the stalls set up by various departments. Addressing the villagers present in the camp, chief guest Sanjay Kumar said that the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to make India developed by 2047. This work is possible with the cooperation of the Central Government and the State Government including the district administration. Along with providing information about beneficiary oriented schemes, needy beneficiaries are to be benefited through the camp. Therefore, you should take advantage of all the schemes and become a partner in building a developed India. He said that the resolve of a developed India has to reach every citizen and by keeping our thinking and belief positive, we have to move ahead in the path of development along with improving the lifestyle. During this programme,

Schemes are made for you, take advantage: Collector

Korba: Addressing a large number of villagers present in the camp, Collector Ajit Vasant said that it is important to know about the schemes before availing the benefits of any scheme. These schemes have been made for you, you should be aware and take advantage of the schemes and play your important role in building a developed India. He said that information about GoI and State Government schemes is being provided in

the camp through officials. The objective of the camp is to benefit the needy families from the schemes. Apart from this, the objective of the program is also to connect other needy families with the scheme through my story, my words. While giving instructions to the officers to provide information about the schemes to the villagers coming to the camp, the Collector also gave instructions for scheme-wise registration.

Collector Ajit Vasant, Additional Collector Pradeep Sahu, Sarpanch Savitri Markam and other public representatives were present.

In the VBSY program organized in village Kurudih, information about schemes under Modi's guarantee was provided to the villagers through promotional chariots and departmental stalls. In the camp, Joint Secretary Kumar

also said that it is our endeavor that people of urban and rural areas should get information about the schemes through the yatra. In the camp, along with giving information about other schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Card Scheme, Security Insurance Scheme, Jeevan Jyoti Insurance Scheme and

Villagers happy after getting Ayushman, KCC

On one hand the villagers are getting information about the schemes through VBSY, on the other hand they are also getting the benefits of many schemes on the spot. In this series, in the camp organized in Kurudih village today, rural farmers Arun Kumar and Rameshwar Prasad were given Kisan Credit Cards on the spot. Ayushman card was given to Kera Bai Kanwar and Gurusvarin Bai Kanwar, soil testing card was given to Lalaram Rathiya and Patwari Sushma Singh was given a certificate of appreciation for her excellent work in the Digital Land Records Scheme. In the camp, farmer Lakheshwar Kashyap, through my story in my own

words, talked about getting benefits from crop insurance and through this scheme, farmers do not have to worry about anything and feel happy due to ease in farming. Giving information about getting assistance from the government for livelihood, Secretary of the Self Help Group, Medni Bai Kanwar said that her group had received a loan of Rs. 4 lakh, out of which Rs. 1 lakh was spent on setting up a rice mill and a flour mill for 10 to 15 years. Earning an income of thousand rupees. With this, she is moving forward on the path of self-reliance. In the camp, health check-up of the villagers was done and medicines were also provided.

Kisan Credit Card, people are being asked to avail its benefits. He said that needy families can also avail the benefits of the schemes by contact-

ing the authorities. Along with this, they can provide information about the schemes to the needy families around them.

India, the center of global intelligence: Prof. Chakrawal



Swami Vivekananda Jayanti Celebrated as National Youth Day

Vivekananda established India's glorious intellectual tradition on the global stage with excellence, even in challenging circumstances.

Bilaspur, Jan 12: Swami Vivekananda Jayanti was celebrated as National Youth Day on January 12, 2024 at 10 am in Guru Ghasidas University (a Central University). The chief guest of the program was Shri Rajneesh Singh, former MLA, Beltara Assembly. The program was presided over by Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal.

The Chief guest of the program, Rajneesh Singh, former MLA Beltara Assembly said that the youth should take inspiration from the life of Swami Vivekananda ji. Youth should study literature related to Swami Vivekananda for success and guidance in life. He said that our culture, values and thinking make us world leaders.

Presiding over the program, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that the youth should imbibe the ideals of Swami Vivekananda in life. He further said that Swami

Professor Chakrawal emphasized that the university is embracing a global identity, as reflected in its name. He encouraged students to introspect and study the book "Rajyoga" by Swami Vivekananda, offering strength to those who undertake self-reflection and self-study. He believed that this book would not only bring positive changes in the lives of young people but also make them more determined and self-confident.

Prior to this, in the program held in Hall-1 of the Rajat Jayanti Sabhagar, guests lit lamps and offered flowers to the images of Goddess Saraswati, Baba Guru Ghasidas Ji, and Swami Vivekananda. The university band then presented enchanting renditions of Saraswati Vandana and the university Kulgeet. Subsequently, guests were welcomed with saplings, and the welcoming address was delivered by the coordinator of the program, Professor Shailendra Kumar.

During the program,

winners of various competitions organized on the occasion of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti were awarded by the guests. The guests in the program were honored with presenting shawls, auspicious shripal, and mementos. Dr. Bhaskar Chaurasia, Assistant Professor in Rural Technology and Social Development Department, conducted the program and the vote of thanks was delivered by Professor Manish Srivastava, the Registrar of the University. The event was attended by deans of various Schools, department heads, faculty members, officers, staff, research scholars, and students.

National Service Scheme volunteers carry out rally

The volunteers of National Service Scheme carried out a rally on the occasion of National Youth Day. The rally was organized by the National Service Scheme Unit of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, and the esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, commenced the rally with the green flag. On this occasion, various unit program officers and volunteers enthusiastically participated alongside Dr. Dilip Jha, the Coordinator of the NSS program.

The NSS volunteers portrayed the roles of Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, and Sharada Devi during the rally. The Registrar, Professor Manish Srivastava motivated the volunteers, expressing his wishes for their bright future.

Three youth die as uncontrolled bike collides with a tree



Jagdulpur, Jan 13: Three youth Rajuram Nag, Ganesh Nag and Kheer Sagar Kashyap have died in a road accident that took place late on Thursday night near Dabpal turn under Baranji police station area of the district. All three residents were residents of village Baranji. The three friends were returning home late at night after seeing a fair from a nearby village. Meanwhile, the bike went out of control

on the way and collided with a tree on the roadside. After the accident, no one saw the youth who met with the accident due to darkness at that place. Today on Friday morning all three youths were seen dead.

According to the information received, youth Rajuram Nag, Ganesh Nag and Kheer Sagar Kashyap had gone to a nearby village on Thursday night to watch a fair. Then at midnight these three youths

were returning home on bike. Meanwhile, near Daabpal turn, his bike went out of control and collided with a tree on the roadside. The accident was so severe that all three youths were thrown a great distance, due to which they suffered serious injuries. After this, all three youths died on the spot. Due to darkness and forest, no passerby passing by that route could see them. In the morning some people saw the dead bodies of all three. Then this information was given to the police and the families of the deceased. The police reached the spot with the help of the villagers and sent the bodies of the three youths to Lohandiguda Hospital for postmortem on Friday. After the post-mortem proceedings this afternoon, the body was handed over to the relatives.

Commissioner inspects polling stations of Keshkal area



Jagdulpur, Jan 13: Commissioner Shyam Dhavde, during his inspection tour, took stock of the polling stations of Keshkal area on Friday. He inspected the polling booths of Government Higher Primary School Gulbapara, Government Pre-Secondary School Bahigaon and Government District Primary School Bahigaon. He took stock of the basic facilities required in the polling stations. During this, he took information about voter population ratio, total number of voters, voting percentage and other necessary information from the BLO of the

concerned polling station. During this, he also took information about the work related to adding names of new voters, correction and removal of errors in the voter list under the special brief revision program for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections-2024 and also gave necessary instructions for correcting the electoral roll.

During the inspection of the school marked as a polling station, the Commissioner discussed with the school children and teachers regarding studies. He also stressed upon the teachers to provide better teaching by making the children write the word 'Imaala' assessed their writing and intellectual abilities. On this occasion, SDM, Tehsildar and other officers of the area were present. Instructions were also given to the revenue officers to issue caste certificates of school children.

Social life of forest dwellers and tribals is the philosophy of life of Hindu culture: Kashyap

Jagdulpur, Jan 13: Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said that the tribal communities of Bastar have woken up to protect their tradition and culture. The society has come to know about the people who have come from outside. Now they are exposing their conspiracy and giving a befitting reply. Their main agenda is to convert the tribals, but the tribals have understood this trap. Our culture and tradition is the real root, we have to stay connected to it.

Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said that our heritage is our tribal tradition, which has been going on from generation to generation. We do not need people from outside to understand the culture. As long as you remain connected to the roots, you will remain strong like a Banyan tree. We have to be wary of outside elements attacking our culture. We have to un-



derstand every conspiracy of the forces trying to break the society and work for our own people. He said that we are worshippers of nature. Our lifestyle is considered the basis of Hindu culture. Gods and ancestors are invoked in all tasks, from growing to harvesting crops in the fields. Bastar's Dussehra, Mauli Fair, Mai Danteshwari Temple are the culture here, and it is world famous. I have got the opportunity to represent such an area. It is a matter of pride for me.

Kedar Kashyap told the people attending the program that we have progressed in the field of edu-

cation. The people of our Bastar region are progressing in every field. Similarly, it is our social responsibility that we all be conscious about our culture and traditions. Let us remain in our culture without being influenced by outside ideas and people. He said that organizing the Aya Ke Guhar Maa Danteshwari Ke Dwar Yatra is a commendable initiative to protect the tribal tradition and our age-old culture. I feel proud among my loved ones by participating in the program organized by the Tribal Security Forum. He also extended best wishes to the people participating in the yatra.

Weapons, explosive materials recovered

During an encounter between police and Maoists in Pusnar forest

Dantewada, DRG Bijapur and CRPF 85 had set out on an anti-Maoist operation.

During the search operation afternoon, in the encounter between police and Maoists in the forest of Pusnar, the police was successful in killing Jan Militia Commander Toya Potam alias Somlu, S/o Bakka, age 30 years, R/o Pusnar police station, Gangalur, carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh, who was killed in the encounter. Weapons, explosive material and other items of daily use were recovered from the spot.

On Jan 11, on the information about the presence of Gangalur Area Committee Secretary Dinesh Modiam and other 20-25 armed Maoists in the forests of Pusnar under Gangalur police station area, a joint team of DRG

Superintendent of Police Bijapur.

It is noteworthy that the said Maoist had kidnapped the father of the same family in the month of April 2023 and the mother and daughter in the month of August 2023, after murdering them, their bodies were drowned in the river. Four crimes have been registered against the slain Maoist in Gangalur police station under sections of murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping, which are currently pending investigation. Apart from this, 4 permanent warrants issued by the Honorable Court are pending in cases of murder, attack on police party, explosion etc. Intensive patrolling and searching operation is going on in the area.

Bemetara, Jan 12: The Swami Vivekananda birthday was celebrated on Jan 12 at Allons Public School as the National Youth day to promote the values, principles and beliefs of Swami Vivekananda among the youth. The theme of this year's festival is "Vikshit Bharat @ 2047; Yuvakeliye, Yuvakedwara". The program was started by lighting a lamp in front of the portrait of swami Vivekananda and worshipped him by Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal, teachers and all the students.

Samresh Mohanty from class III, Vinita Pongare from class VIII, Sakshi Singh from class XI, Banani Kar, Talina and Hariom Soni deliv-



ered their speeches on the role of Swami Vivekanand. Dr. Satyajit Hota, Teachers and students prayed in front of the immortal soul of Swami Ji to get the right path and strength for getting developed India.

Dr. Satyajit Hota, Principal called Swami Vivekananda as the true source of inspiration for the young generation of

India. He told to have a universal tolerance and acceptance. He called Swami Vivekananda as an Indian Hindu monk, philosopher, author, religious teacher, the messenger and youth icon of Indian Vedanta and the chief disciple of the Indian mysticism. Swamiji was a well-known legendary and spiritual master of the

true Vedanta. He had touched the height of worshiping and penance. He had unwavering faith in God that whatever he used to speak was all Veda's sentences. His memory power was so sharp that whatever he read once, he used to get completely photographic memory and also did a lot of work in less time of his life, which will be remembered by the whole world for ages.

Principal Hota advised the students to have good character. He suggested to follow the teachings of Swami Vivekananda for learning to live together with share, care, love and smile. He took a pledge with the students and teachers to follow the teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Citing

words of Swami Vivekananda, he said, "we are responsible for what we are, and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves. If what we are now has been the result of our own past actions, it certainly follows that whatever we wish to be in future can be produced by our present actions; so we have to know how to act."

The program aroused the ambition of the students to bring universal tolerance, universal acceptance and equality for seeing our country as a developed country.

Kamaljit Arora, Chairman, Pushkal Arora, Director, Sunil Sharma, Director and teachers witnessed this memorable event.



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Atal Setu

A Bridge to Prosperity

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu, previously known as the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), has been inaugurated, marking a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development journey. With a length of 21.8 kilometers, this bridge stands as a testament to the commitment of our government towards creating a more developed and connected India. The importance of this colossal project cannot be overstated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly referred to it as an integral part of our government's 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp', a resolve to transform India into a developed nation. This bridge, which was inaugurated more than seven years after its foundation stone was laid in December 2016, has been constructed at a cost of Rs 17,840 crore. Its impact on the nation's transportation landscape is set to be transformative. The most striking feature of the Atal Setu is its potential to drastically reduce travel times. Commuting between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, which previously consumed a cumbersome two hours, will now be accomplished in a mere 20 minutes. This newfound efficiency extends to travel times between Mumbai and other prominent destinations like Pune, Goa, and South India. Additionally, it promises to enhance connectivity between Mumbai Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port, facilitating smoother trade and economic growth. What truly makes this bridge remarkable is not just its length but also the magnitude of employment it has generated. Over 17,000 laborers and 1,500 engineers contributed their skills and dedication to its construction. In doing so, they not only propelled this ambitious project forward but also created numerous employment opportunities in the transport and construction sectors. This monumental achievement reflects the government's unwavering commitment to infrastructure development. PM Modi emphasized that the allocation for this sector has seen a significant increase, from a mere Rs 12 lakh crore in the 10 years before 2014 to an impressive Rs 44 lakh crore in the past 10 years under the current government. Maharashtra alone has witnessed a plethora of infrastructure projects, totaling approximately Rs 8 lakh crore, that are either completed or in progress. These initiatives are not only improving connectivity but also driving economic growth and fostering employment. It is worth noting the pivotal role played by Japan in supporting the construction of the Atal Setu. PM Modi expressed gratitude for their invaluable assistance and highlighted the initial discussions with the late Shinzo Abe, former Japanese Prime Minister, who envisioned this bridge. This collaborative effort between nations showcases the importance of international cooperation in the pursuit of monumental infrastructure projects. While celebrating this achievement, PM Modi also took a moment to reflect on the inefficiencies of past governments. He noted the delay and cost overruns that plagued projects during previous administrations. For instance, the Bandra-Worli sea link, a significantly smaller undertaking, took over a decade to complete, with costs escalating several-fold. In contrast, the Atal Setu project, which had been in the planning stages for years, finally saw the light of day under the current administration's proactive approach. In addition to inaugurating the Atal Setu, PM Modi also unveiled a range of other development projects, encompassing road and rail links, water supply initiatives, and projects related to women empowerment and gems and jewelry development. These endeavors collectively underscore the government's commitment to holistic progress and inclusive development. The Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu is not merely a bridge of concrete and steel but a symbol of India's determination to forge ahead on the path of progress. As it stands tall, spanning land and sea, it represents the resilience, innovation, and collective effort of a nation working toward a brighter future. With this remarkable addition to our infrastructure landscape, we take a bold step forward in building a stronger and more connected India.

Maharashtra's Complex Political Scenario

Yash Pal Raihan



Maharashtra's political landscape has taken a perplexing turn, leaving all political parties scrambling to adapt their strategies for the upcoming parliamentary elections. The recent decision by the speaker of the Maharashtra assembly, Rahul Narwekar, has thrown the state's politics into disarray. The speaker's ruling stated that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led faction is the authentic Shiv Sena and dismissed the demand for the disqualification of Shinde and his MLAs. This decision has not only given a stamp of approval to Chief Minister Shinde but also intensified the ongoing power struggle within the Shiv Sena. The heart of the matter lies in the rebellion of 37 out of the party's 55 elected members against Chief Minister Shinde. The speaker's argument is that with this level of dissent within the party, Uddhav Thackeray cannot be considered the party chief. According to the speaker, since Shinde had the majority support of the party's MLAs at the time, he automatically assumed the role of "paksh pramukh" or the party leader. Consequently, Thackeray does not have the authority to remove Shinde from that role. The Thackeray faction had relied on a 2018 amendment to the party's constitution, but the speaker dismissed it, as there was no organizational election held that year, and the 2018 amendment was not on record with the Election Commission of India. Instead, the speaker upheld the party's 1999 constitution, which considered the national executive as the highest party body. As per the 1999 rule, the paksh pramukh had to make party decisions in consultation with the national executive. This ruling leaves Chief Minister Shinde in a favorable position, securing his status as the head of Shiv Sena. However, the Supreme Court will have the final say on the disqualification issue, as the Thackeray faction intends to challenge Narwekar's verdict in the apex court. The implications of the Supreme Court's decision are significant. If Shinde wins the legal battle, he may lead the alliance in both Lok Sabha and state assembly elections. However, a loss in court could mean stepping down as chief minister and facing a competitive rival faction led by Uddhav Thackeray in the assembly elections. The legal battles don't end there, as the Supreme Court is also hearing a petition from the Thackeray faction challenging the Election Commission of India's decision to grant the Shiv Sena party and symbol to Shinde. The outcome of this petition could further impact the political landscape. For Thackeray's faction, the speaker's verdict isn't surprising, and they are relying on the Supreme Court's decision on the disqualification issue. The delay in the apex court's verdict may force them to use Narwekar's ruling to generate sympathy and portray Shinde as acting in cahoots with the BJP. This ongoing feud within Shiv Sena could have repercussions for the INDIA bloc, which includes Congress as a major constituent. The decision by Congress to boycott the Ram Temple inauguration on January 22 could set a precedent, possibly prompting other parties to follow suit. This may dent the electoral prospects of the INDIA bloc and create challenges for Shiv Sena, given its historical involvement in the Ram Temple agitation. Furthermore, the issue of seat sharing among the INDIA bloc partners remains unresolved, adding to the complexity of the situation. Maharashtra's political episode has certainly become more intricate, and its repercussions will be closely watched in the coming months.

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 CELEBRATION



Sindhu Sena activists with a child dressed as Lord Ram show kites depicting pictures of Ayodhya's Ram Temple before their distribution ahead of the Makar Sankranti, in Bhopal, Saturday, Jan. 13.

Makar Sankranti: One nation numerous celebrations



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



Makar Sankranti is an auspicious day in Indian culture and is dedicated to the almighty Surya. This day has historical, spiritual as well as scientific significance. It is set by the solar cycle and corresponds to the exact timing of the astronomical events of transition (Sankranti) of Surya into Makar Rashi (Capricorn). This day marks the termination of cold & harsh winter season and the beginning of longer & warmer days with the onset of spring season. It usually falls on 14th January of the Gregorian calendar and on 15th January in the case of leap years. Most of the Sanatan Dharma festivals are based on lunar events. Makar Sankranti is one of the rare Indian festivals, which is based on a Solar event. The Gregorian year 2010 observed the special occasion when solar event coincided with the lunar event of Amavasya and had witnessed a great Surya Grahan (Solar eclipse). Makar Sankranti is the festival to thank nature for its abundant resources and has a special time for farmers as it marks the beginning of the harvest season. Farmers across the country pay their

gratitude to Surya Dev and wish for a good crop. As cows and bullocks are the centre of farming families, they are also worshipped in different parts of the country. This festival has no gender-centric rituals and signifies equal importance to every individual in nature. Before this day the Sun shines on the Southern Hemisphere, i.e. Dakshinayan; due to which the nights are longer and days are shorter. The period from Karka Sankranti to Makar Sankranti is known as Dakshinayan. From Makar Sankranti the Sun begins its journey towards the Northern Hemisphere i.e. Uttarayan journey, resulting in longer days and shorter nights. According to religious scriptures, Dakshinayan is the night of Devi-Devatas and signifies negativity, whereas Uttarayan is said to be the day of the Devi-Devatas and a sign of positivity. Makar Sankranti is the beginning of the month of Magh, hence the Mela held on this day is termed as Magh Mela. Many Melas are held on this auspicious day in different parts of the country, the most significant being the Kumbh

Mela and the Ganga Sagar Mela. Kumbh Mela is held every 12 years at four sacred locations Haridwar, Prayag, Nashik and Ujjain. People take ritual bath in rivers or other nearby water courses, worship Surya Dev and chant the Gayatri Mantra. The day holds special importance for Indians, particularly the Sikh sect, as two elder sons and forty Shishya/Sikhs (Chalis Mukte) sacrificed their lives to protect Guru Govind Singh Ji Maharaj from huge Mughal Army. Maghi Mela is organised in Muktsar in the memory of these patriots. In the Mahabharat Dharma Yuddha, severely injured Bhishma Pitamah waited for his death till the day of Uttarayan of Surya Dev for Mokshaprapti. There are one nation numerous celebrations on Makar Sankranti as it is observed all over the Indian sub-continent with various other provincial names such as Maghi/Bhogali Bihu (Assam), Maghi (Punjab), Sakarat (Hariyana), Til Sakarat (Bihar), Uttarayan (Jammu, Gujarat), Shishir Sankrant (Kashmir), Pongal (Tamilnadu), Maghra Volaku (Kerala) etc. In foreign countries it is known as Maghe Sankranti (Nepal), Poush Sangkranti (Bangala Desh), Songkranti (Siam/Thailand), Thingyan (Burma), Mohan Songkranti (Cambodia). This day is observed with Mela (Magh Mela), Patangbaji (Kite Flying), bonfires, dances etc. Dahi-Chura, Gud, Bhura, Tilkut, Tilwa, Til Laddoo or Anarsa, Kangsubi, Khichdi, Pitha of boiled rice etc. are the traditional dishes of the day. The Til consumed is said to purify the soul. As per

Bharatiya Panchang (calendar), this day marks the end of Kharmaas and resumption of all auspicious events or ceremonies such as engagement, marriage, Namankan Sanskar, Mundan, Grih-Pravesh (House warming), purchasing new vehicle/property, laying foundation stone etc. The immunity of the body increases by the consumption of the food items such as Chuda, Curd, Jaggery, Sesame, Groundnut etc. eaten on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. The protein present in sesame provides full strength and energy to the body and metabolism works well. Jaggery has the ability to purify the blood and keeps the digestive system healthy. Curd acts as an antioxidant and balances the cholesterol level of the body. Due to the high fiber in Chuda, it makes the digestive system smooth and there is no problem of constipation. Calcium and Vitamin-D are found in sufficient quantity in groundnut. In this way, the food eaten during Makar Sankranti increases the immunity of the human body. A festival is said to be a binding force between communities. It infuses new energy in people's life and facilitates them to move forward with great enthusiasm. Makar Sankranti, with different names but having same rituals and objectives, is celebrated across the length and breadth of the country and it signifies the unity among the diversity of our culturally rich civilization. (The author is a technocrat & educationist)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shiv Sena vs Shiv Sena

The Maharashtra Speaker concluded that the Shinde faction represents the real Sena by considering the legislative majority - the Shinde faction has 40 MLAs whereas the Thackeray group has 16 members. The Shinde faction may stake claim to the Sena legacy, but can it win over the cadres since the party's inheritance is the memory of Bal Thackeray? The Sena has been an extension of the Thackeray personality; can a new leadership set aside the claims of the Thackeray family and pitch for the party's legacy? That's the big battle both factions will be waging in the near future. However, the Sena battle should serve as a warning for all individual/family-centric political parties to set their house in order and streamline functioning, including holding organisational elections.

Karan Singh, Chennai

Hasina Swears as PM

Sheikh Hasina was on Thursday sworn in as the prime minister of Bangladesh for the fifth term, days after her Awami League won an overwhelming majority in the general elections boycotted by the main opposition BNP and its allies. President Mohammad Shahabuddin administered the oath of office to 76-year-old Hasina at a ceremony joined by politicians, foreign diplomats, civil society figures and senior civil and military officials at presidential palace here. She will serve as the 12th prime minister; her 4th straight term and 5th overall term. The governments of India and Bangladesh, under Hasina, have worked to strengthen diplomatic ties and her fifth term as PM will ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific.

Jahangir Shaikh, Mumbai

World in Crisis

The world remains in turmoil as the Russia-Ukraine conflict enters its second year with no resolution in sight. Thousands have lost their lives, and extensive property damage has occurred. Simultaneously, a devastating three-month-long battle rages between Israel and Hamas, claiming countless lives, including innocent children and women. Infrastructure like schools and hospitals has been obliterated. Efforts to halt these wars have proven fruitless, leaving many yearning for leaders like Mahatma Gandhi or Nelson Mandela to guide humanity toward peace and happiness. The destructive nature of war must be recognized, and nations must seek peaceful solutions for the well-being of their citizens and the world.

MK Nair, Raipur

Strained Diplomacy

The derogatory remarks made by three Maldivian government ministers aimed at the Indian Prime Minister have soured relations between the two nations. Both the Indian government and its citizens disapprove of the ministers' immature comments. Should a significant portion of India choose to boycott Maldives' tourism, the Maldivian economy, heavily reliant on this sector, would suffer. The Maldivian government must recognize that a strong relationship with India provides economic and strategic stability. Diplomatic decorum is crucial; leaders who choose respectful discourse avoid public backlash and prevent their governments from facing scrutiny.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

Change, Yet No Change

Kajal Chatterjee

Darjeeling Hills was then under the unchallenged dominance of Subhash Ghisingh of Gorkha National Liberation Front as Chairman of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. West Bengal was then administered by Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, at the helm of the seemingly "unconquerable" Left Front Government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was reigning as the Indian Prime minister. Raisina Hills was then graced by K.R.Narayanan. The Indian cricket team was then at the safe hands of Sourav Ganguly. On the personal front, my first marriage anniversary was still more than 1 month away! My service was then yet to get permanent. Fast forward to the current times. Ghisingh is not only long dead since 2015; but prior to it, he was even compelled to leave the Hills in 2008 and had to live in political hibernation till his last breath in the plains with

his GNLFF almost rendered to a spent force today! Bhattacharya had lost the post of Chief minister more than dozen years ago and is currently leading a secluded life in deteriorated health condition. And the Left Front now "boasts" a tally of Zero in West Bengal Legislative Assembly! Vajpayee had lost the Prime ministerial seat almost two decades ago and passed away to another world 5 years earlier. However, compared to the Vajpayee-led BJP government (dependent upon allies), today's BJP is in full control over the Central state of affairs for almost a decade! Narayanan had left the Raisina Hills 2 months later with his passage to heavenly abode having completed as many as 18 years. Ganguly's captainship was snatched 18 years ago with he getting forced to call it a day after passage of further 3 years! Thereafter he had assumed multiple roles - TV commentator, CAB president, BCCI President and now posi-

tioning himself as team director of an IPL franchise. In the meantime, my job has gotten permanent with regular promotion as well; my son had also taken birth, got enrolled in school and thereafter left the nest for higher studies in college also located thousands of km away. And yes, my baldness is also on the path of attaining the maximum height possible. In the meantime so many close relatives, neighbours, colleagues, favourite well-known personalities have passed away. So many new relations have cropped up with marriages, birth in extended family and infusion of fresh entrants in office. Access to newspapers was limited within Kolkata publication only with letters to editor sent via envelopes and postal department or physical visit in respective offices. In contrast, today all newspapers of the world are at the tip of our fingers and opinions can be sent to the editor of the furthest point of the world within a second with bright chances

of getting it published the next day itself. While the last time I ventured with a non-digital camera in tow thinking twice whether I would click this sight or not, now mobile is sufficient enough to snap whatever I like without caring about any sort of limitation. As I was reminiscing about my last visit to Darjeeling by sitting upon the bench of the elegant Mall, I was wondering how amazingly more than 21 years and 6 months have passed away like a blizzard or in the blink of an eye. Also I was surprised to note what a massive change has undergone in the world country state society and personal life as well. But the Hills are exactly residing in the same place in physical and cultural terms. Not only Mt.Kanchenjunga or Tiger Hill, Darjeeling station or Ghoom station; but also the Mall with its iconic Oxford Book Store and the aroma of Momo, the sky-kissing Pine trees to the lush green tea estates, whiteness of the Peace

Pagoda to the steeple of St. Andrew's Church, Batasia Loop to the cute British-era cottages/hotels - - - all are exactly at the same place without any sort of distortion in the name of "development". The Hill community also retains the same self-respect, dignity and humility. Perhaps the only change getting witnessed remains in the replacement of phone booths with ATMs (just like any place in the world). So what is the take following this revelation. That time waits for none! Just like the speed of light, it is fast moving on; providing us simply no luxury of remaining complacent! So necessary duties and responsibilities are required to be accomplished without any fail and in appropriate time. But our basic character must not change (at the most change for the better) with humanity, ethics, sanity, tradition (which is good), a sense of beauty and respect towards history kept intact despite the passage of centuries.

BRIEF**Export curbs**

New Delhi: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said there is no proposal before the government as of now to lift export curbs on wheat, rice and sugar. He also said there is "no plan and no need" to import wheat and sugar. "There is no proposal as of now to remove export restrictions on wheat, rice and sugar. And India will not import wheat and sugar," Goyal told reporters. India had banned wheat exports in May 2022, non-basmati rice exports from July 2023 and extended curbs on sugar exports beyond October 2023, as part of measures to control rising domestic prices. photo Meghwal

Rupee strengthened

New Delhi: Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday said the Indian rupee has strengthened during the tenure of the Narendra Modi government. He also credited the role played by B R Ambedkar in taking on the then British rulers who tried to weaken the currency. Talking to reporters here after attending a seminar on the journey of the Indian rupee in the last 100 years, he said during the tenure of PM Narendra Modi, the Indian rupee has gained currency.

New showrooms

Mumbai: Jewellery retailer Kalyan Jewellers on Saturday said the company is planning to strengthen its footprint in Bihar by opening three new showrooms this month. The showrooms will be launched in Buxar, Hajipur and Purnia, in Bihar this month, Kalyan Jewellers said in a statement. Currently, Kalyan Jewellers has its presence in key markets such as Patna, Arra, Kishanganj and Begusarai, to name a few and these three new showrooms will take up its store count in the state to 13.

India likely to clock 6.9-7.2 pc GDP growth in FY'24: Deloitte

New Delhi, Jan 13:

India is expected to clock a GDP growth in the range of 6.9-7.2 per cent in the current financial year on the back of improving economic fundamentals, Deloitte India said in an update to its quarterly outlook. As per the first advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the Indian economy is estimated to grow by 7.3 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal, against 7.2 per cent

a year ago, mainly due to a good show by mining & quarrying, manufacturing and certain segments of services sectors.

Deloitte India's recent economic outlook report said there is an underlying momentum that is building up in the Indian economy, as seen in the improving economic fundamentals. India's current account deficit (CAD) was at 1.9 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 and is expected to be further lower in 2023-24, it said. Further, foreign ex-

change reserves remain at a comfortable level of Rs 568 billion which is equivalent to over 10 months of import cover. At present inflation stands at 5 per cent which is albeit high as per the reserve Bank of India's target range, but much lower than what it used to be a decade back, it added.

"Improving economic fundamentals have buoyed our outlook and we expect India to grow between 6.9 per cent and 7.2 per cent over FY2023 24 in our base-

line scenario, followed by 6.4 per cent and 6.7 per cent over the next year. "And, while the global economic scenario remains modest and will impact the Indian economy, the country will be able to navigate uncertainties better than the rest of the world," said Runkhi Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India. However, she remains concerned about persisting inflation which recently moved back to 5.6 per cent after showing signs of easing in the previous month.

"High inflation is expected to persist till H2 FY2024, due to high food and volatile oil prices and will soften thereafter," opined Majumdar. Referring to India's 10-year growth story, Deloitte said India has emphasised on building of new know-how and capabilities that have had strategic implications on how businesses, industries, governments, and citizens interact with each other and come together to make complex products, services, and solutions

FM seeks greater participation from French financial institutions

New Delhi, Jan 13:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday met French President Diplomatic Advisor Emmanuel Bonne and sought greater participation from French financial institutions and operations in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City.

"They discussed approaches for further enhancing collaborative positions on climate actions, strengthening international financial institutions and addressing the debt vulnerability in low-and-middle-income countries," the finance ministry said in a post on X. Recognising the synergy be-



tween Indian UPI and French Targeted Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), they explored avenues for closer financial integration, it said. "Finance Minister Smt. @nsitharaman encouraged greater participation from French financial institutions and corporations in pathbreaking initiatives and operations in IFSC at @GIFTCity," it said.

Timely, proactive regulatory measures of RBI in last 4-5 yrs led to banking system turnaround: Das

Mumbai, Jan 13:

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has credited timely and proactive prudential regulatory measures by the central bank in the last four-five years for the "dramatic turnaround" in the banking system. The country's banking sector was beset with a host of issues with record high bad loans as of March 2018, gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) were around 11 per cent and returns on assets and equity were in the negative, Das said. He was addressing a seminar on banking and financial system organised by financial daily Mint here on



Thursday. Eleven banks were under prompt corrective action as of June 2018 but today none, he said, adding that the timely and proactive policy and regulatory measures helped them come back with healthy balance sheets. Citing "multiple crises" - the fall of IL&FS in October 2018, the pandemic, and the

Ukraine war from February 2022, Das said, "In the past five years, the RBI has taken a series of initiatives on the regulatory and supervisory fronts, while banks themselves, to their credit, responded to these challenges by strengthening their internal defence mechanisms. As a result, there has been a gradual and consistent turnaround in the banking system." All key indicators of banks - capital adequacy, asset quality, and profitability have improved in the past four years, he said, adding that credit growth is now broad-based and backed by strong fundamentals of banks and also non-banks.

India cruising along on path to become a global maritime leader: Sonowal

Gandhinagar, Jan 13:

India has made significant strides in the global maritime arena and the country will soon become a world leader in the key sector, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said. He highlighted the importance of port-led industrialisation in employment generation and overall development. Sonowal was addressing dignitaries and experts at a seminar on 'Port-Led City Development' at Mahatma Mandir convention centre in Gujarat's capital Gandhinagar on the second day of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2024.

Civil aviation sector on upswing, 75 airports built in 10 years, says Scindia

Nagpur, Jan 13:

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday said 75 new airports have been built in the last 10 years as part of the Narendra Modi government's vision to bring air travel within the reach of a vast number of common citizens, and asserted the key sector was on the upswing and still holds a lot of potential. The government plans to raise the number of airports in the country to 220 from the present 149 in the next 5 to 7 years, he said.

Earlier people only heard about airlines getting shut down in India, but now things have



changed and new air carriers are being established to make flying accessible to citizens, he said. Scindia was speaking at the formal inauguration of the aircraft Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) facility of AAR-Indamer at Mihan SEZ in Nagpur. He said the

facility's inauguration was a very important event in the history of MRO evolution in India. "This event is significant in many ways as it signifies the coming of age of civil aviation in India. Civil aviation has enjoyed a historical journey in India and the sector is over 100 years old. But, it is now that the sector has assumed tremendous scale and offers vast opportunities," said the minister.

He said India's civil aviation sector had only 400 aircraft 10 years ago, but the number has grown to 713 planes at the last count and more will be added going forward.

Govt acts against Indian co, individuals for undisclosed links with Chinese group

New Delhi, Jan 13:

Cracking the whip for hiding the beneficial ownership links to a Chinese group, the Registrar of Companies (RoC) has slapped penalties totalling more than Rs 21 lakh on an Indian company and its related individuals as well as entities. Besides, the Indian company Metec Electronics Pvt Ltd has

been directed not to enter into fresh agreements with entities of Metec Group of Companies in China and Hong Kong. An official in the know on Friday said Metec Electronics Pvt Ltd had portrayed itself as a standalone entity, with shareholdings held by two foreign nationals -- Chen Feiyan and Yang Wen -- and an Indian national. The company had denied any

relationship with China's Metec Group of companies and claimed that the relationship was limited to buying goods only, the official said. However, the official said the company was "actually operating as a group company of the Metec Group of companies of China". For the violations, RoC, NCT of Delhi and Haryana have imposed penalties on the company

and various entities, including individuals. RoC comes under the corporate affairs ministry. Under Section 89 of the companies law that pertains to the declaration of beneficial interest in shares, the RoC has slapped penalties totalling Rs 10,21,600 on China's Metec Electronics and three individuals -- Chen Feiyan, Yang Wen, and Vikash Bhardwaj.

Country confident gateway to developed India passes through Gujarat, says Amit Shah

Gandhinagar, Jan 13:

The country is today confident that the gateway to a developed India passes through Gujarat, and it is our responsibility to maintain this trust, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said at the valedictory function of the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here. When Narendra Modi took over



as prime minister (in 2014), India was the world's 11th largest economy, while it is the fifth largest

now, whereas it will become the third biggest when he becomes PM for the third time, Shah asserted. "The result of the beginning made from Gandhinagar in 2003 made India the fifth largest economy. Today, with this event, a new beginning is being made to realise the sankalp (promise) of a developed India before 2047," Shah said.

Investors richer by Rs 6.88 lakh cr in 4 days

New Delhi, Jan 13:

Investors' wealth surged Rs 6.88 lakh crore in four days of market rally, where the Sensex reached its lifetime high of 72,720.96 on Friday, taking the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies to a record peak of Rs 373.29 lakh crore. Rallying for the fourth day running on Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 847.27 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at a new closing high of 72,568.45, driven by a sharp rally in IT stocks. During the day, it jumped 999.78 points or 1.39 per cent to reach a new intraday record of 72,720.96. In four days, the BSE benchmark has jumped 1,213.23 points or 1.70 per cent. During this time, in-

vestors' wealth went up by Rs 6,88,711.19 crore to a record Rs 3,73,29,676.27 crore. On Friday, the BSE Information Technology index jumped 5.06 per cent, the most among the sectoral indices. Teck also climbed 4.40 per cent. Infosys jumped nearly 8 per cent after the company's December quarter earnings came in line with market expectations. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) climbed nearly 4 per cent after the largest software exporter reported an 8.2 per cent growth in net income for the December quarter at Rs 11,735 crore, driven by a massive growth in the home market that offset to a large extent the impact of a 3 per cent decline in the US market.

Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2024 ends, MoUs for Rs 26.33 lakh crore investments inked

Gandhinagar, Jan 13:

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for 41,299 projects with investment proposals worth Rs 26.33 lakh crore were signed during the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGGS) 2024, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said, as the curtains came down on the three-day mega meet on Friday. Patel made the announcement about MoUs in a post on social media site X at the conclusion of the biennial summit, which saw participation from more than 61,000 delegates from over 140 countries.

बंगाली

वर चाहिये

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अगवाल

वधु चाहिये

सोनी अगवाल- 13.08.1975 बोकाम रियल
इस्टेट इन्कम 60 लाख रायपुर, मोनू अगवाल-
06.1.1985 बोकाम छड़ सोमेट टेक्रेटरी रायपुर
इन्कम 40 लाख, पूजा गुला- 14.11.1998
बीए, रानी सोनी- 1-9-1994 एमए, सुचि जैन-
10-1-1991 बीए, वीनू गुला- 2-7-1990,
12वीं, शीतल गुला- 1-8-1984 बोकाम रायपुर
मारावाड़ी वर-वधु चाहिए फोटो बंगोडाटा भेजिए
कन्याओं के विवाह हेतु नि:शुल्क, सेवाएं.
संपर्क-9039321951. (253367)

सामान्य

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए जाति बंधन नहीं अपना व्यवसाय
साल का कमाई 500000/- महिला 41/
5'7" बी.कॉम, पी.जी. बी.ई. रंग गेहुआ
जल्दतम फोन करें. सभी को प्राथमिकता-
9685404563, 9754918238. (55395)

वधु चाहिए-खत्री (पंजाबी) 27/5'11", बी.ए., खुद का बिजनेस, मिडिल क्लास फैमिली, दिल्ली (निवासी), स्मार्ट लड़के के लिए पढ़ी-लिखी सुयोग्य वधु चाहिए. संपर्क करें-मो.-08595057291.

गुजराती

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- गुजराती 44/ 5' 11", स्वयं का व्यवसाय इनकम 40000 मासिक, युवक हेतु कन्या चाहिए, उच्च जाति बंधन नहीं. संपर्क करें- मो.-98271-14645, 91311-39179. (253367)

वधु चाहिए

गुला अगवाल

प्रतिष्ठित परिवार के स्मार्ट 29 वर्ष, 165 सेमी, बी.टेक, एमबीए, उममी (आय सात अंकों में) रायपुर छत्तीसगढ़ निवासी लड़के के लिए शिक्षित, सुन्दर, सुशील, सुयोग्य वधु चाहिए। संपर्क करें: 9009522201

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- विश्वकर्मा (लोहार) 17.09.1980/ 6' एम.बी.बी.एस, अविवाहित, डॉ. प्राइवेट क्लिनिक मासिक आय पांच अंकों में हेतु शिक्षित अविवाहित सजातीय अपस्कार, मध्यम वर्गीय वधु चाहिए. व्यो.क्षमा. मो.- 9131453175. (55449)

आवश्यक सूचना

पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर-वधु के स्तर, आय, आय संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किये गये दावों और वर्णनों के लिये यह समाचार पत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

Wipro's net profit falls 12% to Rs 2,694 cr in Dec qtr

Projects negative or flat growth in Mar qtr

New Delhi, Jan 13:

IT company Wipro on Friday posted a nearly 12 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,694.2 crore in the third quarter ended December 2023 amid a "cautious" demand environment and clients making conservative investments. Wipro's competitor Infosys posted a 7.3 per cent decline in net profit, while Tata Consultancy Services and HCL have reported an 8.2 per cent and 6.2 per cent



Technologies CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte, COO Amit Choudhary, CFO Aparna C Iyer and Chief Human Resources Officer Saurabh Govil during a press conference to announce the Q3 financial results of the company in Bengaluru.

increase in consolidated profit in the December 2023 quarter. The consolidated revenue from operations of

Wipro also fell 4.4 per cent to Rs 22,205.1 crore during the December quarter, as against Rs 23,229 crore a year ago.

This is the fourth straight quarter when Wipro recorded decline in its IT services revenue. Wipro said it expects de-growth or almost flat growth in revenue in the next quarter, thereby indicating a lower growth for the company for the fiscal on a year-on-year basis. Wipro had reported a profit of Rs 3,052.9 crore in the quarter ended December 31, 2022.

The company's IT Services segment revenue dropped 4.5 per cent on a year-over-year basis to Rs 22,150.8 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 23,196 crore during the same period of 2022.

यादव

वर चाहिये

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नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल

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	One Sunday	Two Sunday	Three Sunday	Four Sunday
All C.G. + Odisha	1100	1800	2400	3000
All C.G. + Odisha + MP + MH	1320	2200	2800	3500

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Bhilai : 0788-2294181, 98934-00617

Korba leads statewide crusade against illegal paddy sales

- Seizes 1686 quintals of paddy in 47 cases
- Chief Secretary reviews paddy procurement and takes action against irregularities

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jan 13: Korba district has taken the lead in the state's efforts to combat illegal paddy sales, with the seizure of a substantial 1686 quintals of paddy in 47 cases. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain brought this significant achievement to light during his review of paddy procurement and distribution processes via video conferencing.

Collector Ajit Vasant briefed the Chief Secretary on the progress of paddy procurement in the district and the actions taken against middlemen and brokers involved in illegal sales. As of January 12, in the Kharif marketing year 2023-24, coopera-

क्र.	जिला	निर्मित प्रकल्प	पक्का धान मात्रा (मि.टन में)	पक्का वाहन
1	कोरबा	47	1686	0
2	समस्तीपुर	33	1183	10
3	सुपौल	33	1264	0
4	कन्नौज	25	1232	2
5	गौतम बुद्ध मठवादी	24	1500	2
6	बुधिया	21	135	0
7	समस्तीपुर	18	1288	2
8	समस्तीपुर	17	479	1
9	समस्तीपुर	17	770	8
10	समस्तीपुर	16	678	11
11	समस्तीपुर	15	732	13
12	समस्तीपुर	15	422	11
13	समस्तीपुर	9	314	7
14	समस्तीपुर	9	1341	9
15	समस्तीपुर	8	220	0
16	समस्तीपुर	8	179	0

tive societies in Korba district cultivated a vast area spanning 1,89,083 hectares. Notably, 98 percent of the DOs for paddy purchases have been issued, amounting to 1,84,584 metric tonnes.

Of these issued DOs, 65 percent, totaling 1,20,423 metric tonnes, have been directly lifted from the procurement centers, while 68,660 metric tonnes remain stored in these centers. To address this, the District Marketing Officer and Food Officer have been tasked with devising an ac-

tion plan for the timely removal of the remaining paddy.

In a concerted effort to prevent the illegal sale of paddy through intermediaries, the district has established monitoring committees and appointed nodal officers for all 65 paddy procurement centers. These committees will engage in continuous oversight and investigation, comprising officials from the Revenue Department, Food Department, Cooperative Department, and Market

guidance of Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue Administration). Remarkably, the district leads the state with the highest number of cases registered under the Mandi Act for illegal paddy sales, totaling 47 cases, as of January 12.

To further ensure transparency, a rigorous physical verification process of tokens issued to farmers for paddy sales is underway, led by the investigation team. This process has already revealed irregularities, leading to the

cancellation of 569 quintals of paddy tokens. Farmers are urged to bring their quality paddy to the procurement centers and obtain tokens based on their actual yields, ensuring a smooth and trouble-free sale at the support price.

All nodal officers and monitoring committees have been directed to maintain their vigilant efforts throughout the paddy procurement period, emphasizing the importance of fair and legal practices in the agricultural sector.

Police crack down on anti-social elements

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Jan 13: In a commendable display of proactivity, the Kharora police swiftly responded to an incident involving anti-social elements in the market near the new bus stand in Nagar Kharora. Their prompt action led to the apprehension of three suspects, with efforts underway to locate others involved.

The incident began when a group of individuals with questionable intentions allegedly harassed a young girl in the bustling market area. When her brave brother intervened, the situation escalated into a physical altercation, with knives drawn.

As the confrontation unfolded and the young man faced a beating, concerned citizens, including women, voiced their objections. The criminals, however, did not hesitate to attack them as well before fleeing the scene, leaving the young man injured. A formal complaint was filed with the local police station, prompting a rapid response.



The police swiftly arrived at the scene, identified the culprits, and established a cordon to ensure public safety. Three individuals were apprehended and identified as Sahil Khan (19 years old), Tikeswar alias Chhotu Pal (23 years old), and Sonu Kandara (20 years old). All three are residents of Kharora.

On Friday, Kharora police took a proactive step by organizing a road show within the city, parading the arrested criminals. This action served as a clear message that anti-social elements who flout the law and engage in bullying will face consequences.

The incident had sent shockwaves through the Kharora tehsil area, which relies heavily on the market for its daily needs. However, the decisive response from the local police station instilled confidence in the community. In-charge KK Kushwaha emphasized that the police are committed to addressing such cases with strict measures and ensuring the safety of the residents. This road show serves as a reminder that no matter who the perpetrator may be, they will be held accountable for their actions, reinforcing the commitment to maintaining law and order in Kharora.

Municipal Corporation launched anti-encroachment drive

- Clears VIP road in Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jan 13: In a bid to reclaim the VIP main road of Budhwari Bazar in Korba city and nearby areas from encroaching vegetable vendors, the Municipal Corporation, in collaboration with the police, launched an extensive anti-encroachment campaign. Initially, the joint team faced significant resistance, with one woman causing quite a commotion during the operation on Budhwari main road. She had positioned herself under a JCB machine, protesting the demolition of an additional encroachment being built outside her house.

The standoff continued for hours until women police officers were called in to re-



solve the situation, allowing the encroachment to be removed. Following this incident, the Municipal Corporation team proceeded to Budhwari market, where vegetable vendors had been disrupting the traffic flow. To alleviate the congestion caused by their stalls along the main road, the team relocated the vendors inside the market premises. This action came after a series of complaints had been lodged with the Municipal Corporation about the traffic disturbances caused by these vendors.

Yogesh Rathore, in-charge of the Municipal Corporation's demolition squad, expressed concerns over the dangerous conditions created by the vendors' street-side shops. He stated that pedestrian safety had been compromised, and the risk of accidents had surged, leading to the enforcement of these measures. Despite previous interventions by the Municipal Corporation, the vendors had repeatedly returned to the road. It remains to be seen if this latest action will bring a lasting improvement to the situation.

Two masked suspects apprehended in jewellery shop robbery

- Stolen necklace recovered

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Jan 13: The Bhakhara cyber team and local police successfully arrested two masked individuals responsible for a daring jewellery shop robbery. The incident came to light after Tarun Soni, the owner of Durga Jewellers in Bhakhara, reported the crime.

According to Soni's account, an unidentified male and female, both masked, entered the shop and carried out a brazen robbery at gunpoint. They made off with the highly valuable Rani Haar (Queen's Necklace). The Bhakhara police station promptly registered this incident under



Crime Number 02/2024, section 392, and initiated a thorough investigation into the matter. Based on the report Superintendent of Police Prashant Thakur immediately issued crucial directives to track down and apprehend the unidentified culprits. Working in close coordination, Additional Superintendent of Police Madhulika Singh, under the guidance of Police Sub-Divisional Officer Kurud



K.K. Bajpayee, spearheaded the joint efforts of the cyber cell technical team and the Bhakhara police station to trace and locate the suspects. Following the incident the robbers fled with a valuable Rani Haar (Queen's Necklace), law enforcement sprang into action. Over 200 CCTV cameras spanning from Bhakhara to Raipur city were meticulously scoured for evidence, marking an



impressive technological feat. Thanks to an informant's tip on January 12, the elusive culprits were tracked down in Laxmi Nagar Colony and arrested. They were identified as Arpit Lal Markam and Priyanka Israni, who confessed to the crime. Notably, the stolen necklace and a locally-made pistol were recovered during their apprehension, along with an X Plus Sport motorcycle bear-

ing license plate CG 04 MT 4710. This successful joint operation, spearheaded by the Bhakhara cyber cell technical team and local police, highlights the commitment of law enforcement to swiftly solve crimes and bring culprits to justice. Arpit Lal Markam and Priyanka Israni have been booked under Section 392 of Bhakhara police station, and they are now awaiting judicial proceedings.

Devotees gathered to hear glory of Goddess

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Jan 13: In a spiritual gathering that resonated with devotion, devotees gathered in Birgaon Municipal Corporation, Raipur, to immerse themselves in the divine glory of Goddess Devi through an enchanting Katha.

The event commenced with a grand Jal Yatra and a procession of ancient stories, brought to life as a Jal Yatra. The audience and devotees turned out in remarkable numbers, enhancing the grandeur of the Shobha Yatra.

Anita Sahu, the organizer of the event, orchestrated a captivating storytelling session. Her husband, Upendra Sharma, a

seasoned storyteller, took the stage to narrate the saga of Goddess Mahima. Pandit Upendra emphasized that the magnificence of Goddess Devi remains an enigma that no one has fully comprehended to date.

Devi, as Adi Shakti, transcends time and form, residing within every soul. When this intrinsic power diminishes, it is then recognized as Shakti. This omnipresent energy empowers beings both small and great, and that is why the world venerates the Goddess. Devi manifests herself in countless forms and weaves endless tales of



her divine exploits. In a world where other deities often take precedence, Pandit underscored the significance of dedicating time to listen to the glorious narratives of Devi Mata. She stands as the ultimate creator, preserver, and destroyer of the universe, bestowing her power upon the triumvirate of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Pandit emphasized that even these divine entities

are subservient to Devi's authority. Without her boundless strength, they too would be rendered powerless.

It is, therefore, crucial for humankind to recognize that Devi's primordial power surpasses all. Brahma's act of creation is guided by her. Vishnu's nurturing is under her watchful eye, and Shiva's destruction is carried out under her influence. Understanding this pro-

found truth, humility becomes the virtue, as all power emanates from Devi Shakti.

Pandit further elucidated that the world relies entirely on diverse forms of energy, and Devi, known as Mahamaya or Adishakti, is revered with unwavering devotion during the special Navaratri festivals celebrated in the months of Ashwin and Chaitra.

These festivals involve illuminating her divine presence and conducting elaborate rituals. Devotees firmly believe that worshipping Devi fulfills their desires, for she is Jagadamba, the Mother of the World, and her divine influence remains eternal.

CNDA meets collector

Central Chronicle News



Korba, Jan 13: The representatives from the Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association visited the newly appointed Collector, Ajit Basant, presenting him with a bouquet of flowers and extending warm New Year greetings. The meeting also provided an opportunity for dis-

cussions regarding the association's ongoing commitment to supporting various developmental initiatives undertaken by the administration. The meeting saw the presence of key figures, including Vinod Sinha, the State President of the Chhattisgarh Newspaper Distributors Association, Vipendra Kumar Sahu,

District President for Korba, Jai Netam, the Secretary, Lakshmi Rathore, the COSA President, and Tapeshwar Rathore, the Convener. This collaborative exchange fosters positive relationships and reinforces the dedication of the newspaper distributors to contribute to the region's growth and progress.

Harshi Vedvyas College celebrates National Youth Day

Inspiring youth with Swami Vivekananda's timeless wisdom

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 13: The spirit of youth and the teachings of Swami Vivekananda took center stage at Harshi Vedvyas Government Post Graduate College in Bhakhara as the institution celebrated 'National Youth Day' with fervour.

In accordance with the directives of the Chhattisgarh Government and the National Service Scheme Cell at Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur, Dr.

Sanjay Sharma, the Principal of Maharishi Vedvyas Government Post Graduate College, Bhakhara, led the event. Under his guidance, the program featured the broadcast of the honorable Prime Minister's address to youth across the nation.

This special day was organized by the National Service Scheme Unit, aiming to impart the life philosophy, thoughts, and principles of Swami Vivekananda to the students. The proceedings

began with the lighting of lamps in front of statues honoring Mother Saraswati and Swami Vivekananda. Janendra Banjare, NSS Program Officer, provided insightful information about the celebration of National Youth Day, shedding light on the biography of Vivekananda. Since 1984, India has observed National Youth Day on January 12th each year.



Principal Dr. Sanjay Sharma encouraged students to embrace the profound thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing that such ideals could

pave the way to success. He urged the youth to stay focused on their goals, disregarding the negativity of critics. Dr. Kavita Vaishnav, Head of the

Hindi Department, emphasized that one's attire doesn't define their personality; it's their thoughts, conscience, and behaviour that truly matter. She inspired the youth to preserve their rich cultural heritage. Delving into Vivekananda's remarkable history, Dr. Arnavak R, Head of the Department of Zoology, recounted his iconic address at the World Religion Parliament in Chicago in

1893. He shared stories of Vivekananda's unwavering faith in Ramakrishna Paramahansa, further motivating the youth to achieve both personal and national goals while upholding their cultural legacy.

Ramkishore Yadav, Head of the Department of Political Science, encouraged students to accomplish their smaller goals, contributing to the greater cause of the nation. He stressed the importance of preserving their cultural heritage.

Chetanand, a second-year B.Sc. student, shared his perspective on Vivekananda's life philosophy on behalf of the volunteers. The program was masterfully conducted, and Janendra Banjare, NSS Program Officer, expressed gratitude on behalf of all participants.

The event concluded with the Principal's announcement, attended by college professors, lecturers, staff, and enthusiastic students, marking a day of reflection, inspiration, and cultural preservation.

Malaysia Open

Satwik-Chirag one step away from second Super 1000 title

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13 (PTI):

Asian Games gold medallists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Saturday beat world champions Korean pair of Seo Seung Jae and Kang Min Hyukdished in straight games to advance to the Malaysia Open Super 1000 men's doubles final in their first tournament of the season.

The Indian duo, ranked second in the world, scripted a remarkable comeback after being down and out in the second game, saving six game points during an eight-point burst to waltz their way to a 21-18 22-20 win over their Korean opponents in a thrilling semifinal clash.

Satwik and Chirag thus stood just one step away from their second Super 1000 title, having won the first one at the Indonesian Open in June last year.

It was the same Korean pair which the Indians had defeated in the semifinals last June. Overall, Satwik and Chirag now have a 3-1 head-to-head record against world no. 3 Seo and Kang.

The match was marked by short and snappy rallies as Satwik and Chirag showed better anticipation and execution to lead 9-5 in the opening game.

The Koreans made it 12-13 after pouncing on a few weak returns from the Indians, who, however, pulled away again to 17-13 with a thunderous smash from Satwik and a flick serve from Chirag.

Seo went for a flick serve to set up a point but went wide twice next to hand four game points to the Indians, who wasted two of them before Seo sprayed one into the net. In the second game, Seo and Kang were more alert with their defence and focused on placements and they found the gaps in more occasions. They also dominated the flat exchanges to move to 9-4. Some exciting fast paced rallies ensued but the Korean pair managed to hold on to a 11-6 lead at the interval.

If Seo looked the better player in the opening game, Kang stepped up in the second and soon the Koreans were six



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) and Chirag Shetty of India celebrate the victory in the Men's Doubles Semi Finals match against Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae of Korea.

points up at 17-11 in a jiffy as the Indians looked a tad subdued.

Chirag committed a few errors and soon, the Koreans grabbed six game points as a third game looked eminent but then there was a twist in the tale.

Down 14-20, Satwik and Chirag showed nerves of steel as the Koreans looked overcautious and sprayed into the net a number of times.

The Indians, on the other hand, rediscovered their touch just in time and they reeled off eight straight points to leave the Koreans stranded.

FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier

Germany beat Chile 3-0 in opener

Ranchi, Jan 13 (PTI):

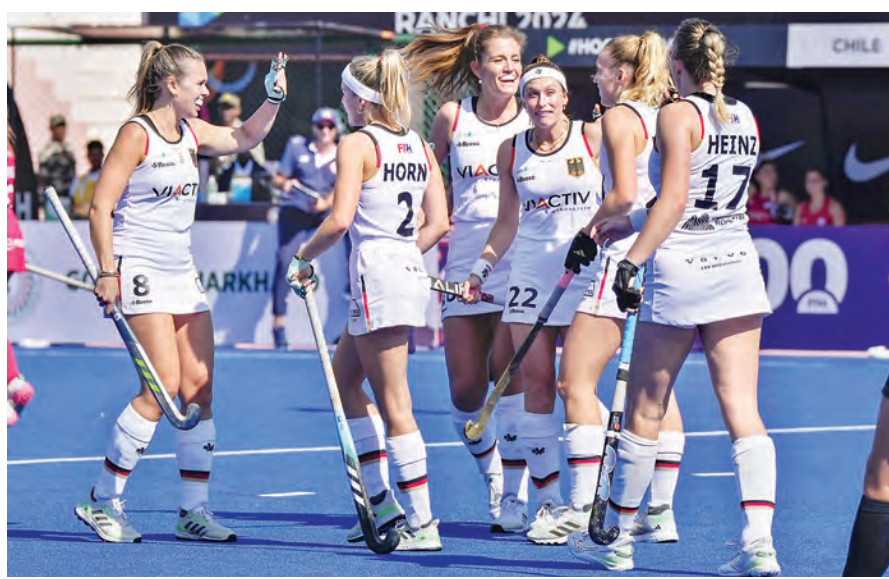
Pre-tournament favourites Germany produced a power-packed outing to defeat lower-ranked Chile 3-0 to open their campaign on a rousing note in the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier here on Saturday.

In the opening Pool B match, world No.5 Germany rode on goals from Selin Oruz (7th minute), Jette Flescutz (10th) and Lisa Nolte (38th) to secure an easy win over world No.14 Chile.

As expected, the Germans started aggressively and dominated most segments of the match with the Chileans showing sparks in patches.

Germany secured their first penalty corner in the second minute, but could not convert it. But they did not miss the next one as Oruz scored from a rebound after the initial flick was saved by Chile goalkeeper Natalia Salvador.

The Germans doubled their lead three minutes later through Flescutz who sounded the board with a fierce hit from top of the D. Germany earned another



German players celebrate after scoring a goal against Chile.

penalty corner in the 17th minute but wasted the opportunity.

Thereafter, Chile showed some sparks by breaking into the German circle on quite a few occasions and in the process earned two penalty corners but failed to find the net. The Germans got their act together in the third quarter and dominated the proceedings, earning back-to-back

penalty corners in the 37th minute but with no result.

Germany extended their lead in the next minute through a field goal by Nolte.

The Germans were markedly the better side as they created numerous scoring chances, including three consecutive penalty corners in the fourth quarter but failed to capitalise on them.

Japan beat Czech Republic 2-0

Former Asian Games champions Japan were made to toil hard by lower-ranked Czech Republic before they secured a fighting 2-0 win in their opening Pool A match of the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier here on Saturday.

Even though Japan, who won the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, controlled the

proceedings for a major part, they managed to breach the resolute Czech defence only twice. Miyu Suzuki opened the scoring for Japan in the fourth minute scoring from a rebound from their second penalty corner before Shihori Oikawa scored from the spot in the 40th minute.

Credit must also go to Czech Republic goalkeeper Barbora Cechakova for keeping her side in the hunt with numerous saves throughout the match.

Japan's dominance can be gauged from the fact that they earned as many as eight penalty corners in the entire 60 minutes as against their opponent's one.

It was expected to be a cakewalk for world No. 15 Japan against Czech Republic who are ranked 31st.

But it didn't turn out to be so despite Japan dominating the match. The Czechs sat back and defended their citadel while looking for counterattacks to surprise the Japanese.

The Czechs did manage to make a few circle entries but lacked in finishing.

Nothing new or foreign to me: Steven Smith

Sydney, Jan 13 (PTI):

Gearing up to open batting for Australia in Tests, Steve Smith on Saturday asserted that it was not a new role for him since he has the experience batting at No. 3 and he likes the challenge of facing the new ball.

Smith will be replacing now-retired David Warner as the opener for the upcoming home Tests

against the West Indies.

Warner played his final series earlier this month at home against Pakistan.

Although the likes of Cam Bancroft, Marcus Harris and Matt Renshaw were tipped to take Warner's spot, the former two were surprisingly omitted from the squad, while the latter has been named as a reserve in the team.

Yuvraj sees nothing wrong in Kohli, Rohit returning to T20I fold

Kolkata, Jan 13 (PTI):

World Cup-winning India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh sees nothing wrong in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli returning to T20I fold after a 14-month hiatus with an eye on the upcoming World Cup.

The duo was named in the ongoing three-match T20I series against Afghanistan, India's last

international assignment before the World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.

Their inclusion began a debate if it was a progressive step. Yuvraj was not impressed with the hullabaloo around the move and dismissed it by uttering the lyrics of famous Kishore Kumar-song: "Kuchh toh log kahenge, logon ka kaam hai kehna."

His response thus underscored the importance of disregarding critics and staying focused on the task at hand.

"It's because they play all the three formats, they are back after 14 months. You have to manage your workload if you play the three formats. It's a question for the selectors." Yuvraj hailed Rohit as the leader of the Indian team.

Vijayveer Sidhu clinches 17th Paris Olympics spot for India

Jakarta, Jan 13 (PTI):

India's Vijayveer Sidhu clinched a 17th Paris Games quota place for the country while winning a silver medal in the men's 25m rapid-fire event at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers here on Saturday.

The 21-year-old team bronze-medallist at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year, joins senior country-mate Anish Bhanwala in securing a Paris berth in the 25m rapid fire.

Anish had bagged the Olympic quota with a bronze medal in the Asian Championship in Changwon, Korea, last year. Vijayveer did not have to wait for a medal to secure a quota place. He earned it by qualifying for the final in fourth place with a score of 577. Four out of the six finalists on Saturday were eligible for quota places and the youngster, who hails



from Chandigarh, did it in style by shooting 28 in the elimination round to clinch silver behind Kazakhstan's Nikita Chiryukin, who shot 32 for the gold medal.

"I am very very happy. We trained very hard in the camps and also after coming here. The range is quite similar to the Delhi (Karni Singh) range. I am not too happy with my qualification score and we know the areas we need to work on after we come back, but very happy with the way I shot the finals.

"I want to dedicate this to my parents, family and friends and of course to my coaches for the support," said Vijayveer.

India eye series win over Afghanistan

Indore, Jan 13 (PTI):

A series win over Afghanistan is still not counted among the grandstand cricketing feats, but a clutch of players will be eager to achieve that here on Sunday in the second T20I as it can transform them into contenders from sidekicks.

India had won the first game at Mohali by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead.

It is then imperative for Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel to produce a defining effort against the Afghans to keep themselves within the selectors' sight as the move to find a perfect squad for the T20 World Cup has gathered steam.

That India will not play another T20I series ahead of the marquee event in June increases the gravitas around their performance against Afghanistan.

Jitesh has all the reasons



to place himself among the frontrunners as the wicket-keeper batter has overtaken Ishan Kishan in the pecking order since replacing the latter from the fourth T20I against Australia at Raipur last year.

The Maharashtra man has struck a couple of useful 30s down the order; but he would not have missed the need for a bigger knock to cement his claim. In the

often-fickle selection landscape of Indian cricket, Jitesh, at 30, would know very well that only constant performances can help him save that frontrunner status. Tilak Varma offers a very similar case. The left-hander had made an excellent start to his T20I career last year, making 39, 51 and 49 not out against the West Indies in an away three-match series. But since

Match starts at 7 PM.

then, Varma has tapered off. The next 13 innings have produced only one more fifty, against a below par Bangladesh in the Asian Games, with three 20-plus scores and one 30-plus knock dominating the rest of the outings.

However, it will be immature to take this Afghan side for granted. They have the wherewithal to hurt India on their day.

The young Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Azmatullah Omarzai and the experienced Mohammad Nabi can tear apart a bowling unit as mercilessly as any other.

Despite the absence of star spinner Rashid Khan, the Afghans have the services of Mujeeb ur Rahman, who was in good rhythm in the first match, Naveen-ul-Haq and Fazalhaq Farooqi.

If they can fire in unison, it will not be far-fetched to expect cracker of a contest.

We won't complain if pitches in India spin from ball one: Pope

London, Jan 13 (PTI):

England vice-captain Ollie Pope said his side won't complain if India offer pitches assisting spin from the first ball itself during their five-match Test tour beginning on January 25, as he believed that it was up to the host country to prepare tracks that suited their players.

The 26-year-old Pope, a right-handed middle-order batter, did not shy away from the thought that the nature of pitches will be a hot topic of discussion during the series. "There will be a lot of outside noise. And pitches can be a massive talking point. But you have to remember the two teams are playing on the exact same wicket, so we just need to be as well-equipped as we can," Pope was quoted as saying by 'The Guardian'.

"In England, we might



leave more grass on the pitch to suit our amazing seamers, so it's no surprise if India do the same to suit their spinners," he said before England flew out to Abu Dhabi for a training camp ahead of the Test series.

India loses 0-2 to Australia in Asian Cup

Al Rayyan, Jan 13 (PTI):

India kept former champions Australia at bay till the 50th minute before eventually losing their AFC Asian Cup football tournament opening group match 0-2 in a gritty performance here on Saturday.

Australia were the overwhelming favourites to win the Group B match and nobody gave India a chance but Igor Stimac's men denied their mighty opponents any success in the first half and then five minutes into the second session, dishing out a superb defensive show.

The Indians, though, ran out of steam later on in the face of waves of attacks from the rampaging Australians, who won the title in 2015 and are ranked 25th in the world as against 102nd of Stimac's team.

Jackson Irvine (50th minute) and Jordan Bros (73rd) scored for Australia to take home full three points from the match at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium.



India's Vikram Partap, left, tries to stop Australia's Harry Souttar during the Asian Cup Group B soccer match between Australia and India at Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Saturday, Jan. 13.

India, however, did better than their 0-4 loss to Australia in a group match in the 2011 Asian Cup. The Indians would not be

too disappointed by the margin of loss. Perhaps, they would be happy to have conceded just two goals, which may prove beneficial later on when the third-place team is decided from the group.

The top two teams from each group, along with four best third-placed sides from across six groups, progress to the knockout round of 16. A knock-round berth will be a huge achievement for India.

Stimac had told his players before the Australia match to remain compact defensively and avoid giving away set-pieces if they want to deny the physically and technically much superior Australians from scoring goals.

His wards executed his plans to the 'T' in respect to the first instruction but was less successful in the second as the Australians got enough set pieces, though most of them were corner kicks, to score. But to the credit of the Indians, they did not concede any goal from the set pieces.

Patna, Jan 13:

Chhattisgarh has strengthened its hold against Bihar in the elite group match of Ranji Trophy. Playing ahead by 90 runs at the loss of one wicket in the second match of the four-day match, Chhattisgarh team has scored 211 runs for the loss of one wicket at stumps on Saturday. Unfortunately, a significant portion of the match was marred by bad light today. The prospects of Bihar staging a comeback in this contest now appear increasingly challenging.

Opener Rishabh Tiwari, who had already impressed on the first day of the match, continued his splendid form by relentlessly attacking the opposition bowlers. At the close of play, Tiwari remained unbeaten at 98 runs, while Ashutosh Singh, batting at number three, contributed an unbeaten 81 runs.

Their partnership of over 150 runs has proven to be a substantial foundation for Chhattisgarh. Despite Bihar's bowlers shining in a previous encounter against Mumbai, they have struggled to make an impact in this match. Chhattisgarh's bats-



Chhattisgarh's batters Rishabh Tiwari and Ashutosh Singh during the second day of the Ranji Trophy match between Chhattisgarh and Bihar, in Patna, Saturday, Jan. 13.

men held their ground and faced the bowling attack with resilience, making it a challenging day for the bowlers who toiled hard for breakthroughs but found none.

'No dispute in INDIA bloc over convenor's post'

'Consensus on Kharge's appointment as chairperson'

A consensus emerged on the name of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for appointment as the chairperson of the opposition bloc INDIA on Saturday, sources said.

Leaders of the bloc met virtually and discussed various aspects of the alliance and the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections, due in April-May.

Sources said leaders of the Trinamool Congress, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Samajwadi Party did not attend the meeting.

According to the sources, a consensus emerged on Kharge's appointment as the chair-

person of the bloc.

An official announcement on the appointment is awaited.

The leaders also decided to make Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) president Nitish Kumar the convenor of the bloc, but a final call will be taken after consulting the parties whose representatives were not present in the meeting, the sources said.

As many as 28 opposition parties have come together under the banner of the Indian National Developmental Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

several parties were coming together.

Pawar said he could not attend the entire virtual meeting as he had some other pre-scheduled engagements.

"Candidates (for the Lok Sabha elections) were not discussed... We will discuss seat-sharing. For the Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, seat-sharing was discussed and we will announce once it is finalised," he said.

The INDIA bloc meeting

discussed programmes, policies to be taken up. It was decided that a committee would be formed that will decide on holding joint rallies of the allies all over the country, he said.

On the Ram temple issue, Pawar said, "Nobody opposes the Ram temple in Ayodhya, but the political motive in holding the consecration ceremony in the temple whose construction is not yet complete is being questioned."

GANGASAGAR PILGRIMS



Pilgrims at the Sagar Island ahead of the Gangasagar Mela, in South 24 Parganas district, Saturday.

Prabha Atre: The Hindustani vocalist who defied stereotype, followed no tradition

New Delhi, Jan 13 (PTI):

She wanted to sing till her last breath and she did. Almost. Prabha Atre, the woman who could have been lawyer, scientist or doctor but became a globally renowned Hindustani classical vocalist instead, died in her Pune home on Saturday hours before she was to leave for a concert in Mumbai. She was 92.

In an era when few women ventured into academia or public life, Atre studied two varying disciplines she had a Bachelor of Science degree from



Ferguson College in Pune and one from the Law College in the university there. And unlike many artistes born into families where music was a generations-old tradition or those who trained since they were children, Atre found

melody somewhere along the way of life. The internationally renowned Hindustani classical music vocalist from the Kirana Gharana defied many a stereotype, had no musical background and didn't follow tradition blindly either. In fact, she would say quite simply that singing was better than dissecting frogs or defending criminals. "I was studying science and then law and never thought in my wildest dream that I would be a musician. My parents were into academics and in fact my mother's illness

brought music to our house. She used to learn the harmonium and I used to sit beside her. She left music but I continued." Atre told PTI in January 2022 after receiving the Padma Vibhushan, the nation's second highest civilian honour. It was the third in the series for the much feted singer who had received the Padma Shri in 1990 and the Padma Bhushan in 2002.

Music, said the artiste who was dubbed the swar-yogini, was her destiny. Right up till the end, as she had promised herself.

Guests to get Ram temple's soil as 'gift'

On consecration ceremony

Lucknow, Jan 13 (PTI):

All the guests coming to the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple on January 22 will be given 'Ramraj', the soil extracted during the temple's foundation laying, as a gift, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Saturday.

A member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be presented with a 15-metre-long picture of the Ram temple packed in a jute bag.

The soil of Ram Janmabhoomi will be packed in small boxes and gifted to the guests attending the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony along with motichoor laddos made of desi ghee as prasad, according to an official statement.

The trust member said more than 11,000 guests from across the country

have been invited for the consecration ceremony on January 22 and they will be given "memorable gifts" such as 'Ramraj'.

It is a matter of good fortune to have this soil in any house. They will be able to use this "sacred gift" in their home gardens or pots, he said.

Invitees who will not be able to attend the ceremony due to some reason will be given the Ramraj whenever they visit the temple in Ayodhya, the member said.

Meanwhile, Ayodhya Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal said arrangements have been made to seat 7,500 people in the temple premises for the ceremony.

Special guests coming to Ayodhya will be given a code and their seating arrangements will be made based on this code, he said.

Dayal also said the priest of Varanasi will conduct the 'Pran Pratishtha' programme. He will be accompanied by four trustees and four priests.

Asia's biggest ice-skating rink in Shimla cries for attention



People at an Ice Skating rink, a major tourist attraction of queen of hills, in Shimla, Saturday.

Shimla, Jan 13 (PTI):

Surrounded by construction material and shanties, Asia's biggest natural ice-skating rink, a major tourist attraction of 'queen of hills' Shimla, is crying for attention.

The ice-skating rink, which featured in numerous Bollywood movies in the past, narrates a "tale of neglect and unsustainable development" as construction activities in its vicinity

and global warming has taken its toll on the skating sessions, which have come down from 100-120 sessions every winter to 30-50 sessions, say old skaters. It has been a part of numerous Bollywood movies and was visited by several top dignitaries, but now it presents a picture of "unsustainable development and utter neglect", they add. "It is very unfortunate that the government is adamant on finishing the natural skating

rink, rather than restoring it or making an all season indoor rink for the residents as well as tourists," says Shimla Hotel and Tourism Stakeholders Association president M K Seth. This year, Shimla witnessed about 60 per cent tourist footfall, lowest in the last four decades on the New Year, which was on weekend, despite prediction of snow by the weather department. It is high time that the government finds a

way to promote tourism, and restoring the ice-skating rink is one of the initiatives that should be taken on priority, he told PTI on Saturday. A lift is being built outside the skating rink and construction material has been dumped at the site on the land of the sports department, said an old skater, Gurjot. The size of the rink has been reduced drastically due to the construction, he added. Even more annoying is the fact that the land of the sports department is being used to dump muck, debris and construction material, said another skater Parth, and added that the proposed construction of a bus stand and a lift would undermine the ecology and micro-environment of the area and jeopardise the rink's future. The parking area of the rink has been converted into shanties which house dhabas, rickety eateries, stores. Skaters, including women ferrying young kids, have a hard time parking, disembarking and other allied logistics, says another teenage skater Prachi Sood.

Sprouting desire in BRS to change party name to TRS

Hyderabad, Jan 13 (PTI):

After being trounced in the recent state assembly polls, there is a growing demand from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders and cadre to the high command to change its name to Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

According to party sources, several party workers voiced their suggestion to BRS Working President and son of the former chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, saying removal of "Telangana" from the name has ostensibly created a disconnect with the state.

Senior BRS leaders, including Rama Rao are currently holding a series of Lok Sabha constituency-wise preparatory meetings starting from January 3 eliciting suggestions from the cadres while brainstorming the reasons for the poll debacle.

"In every party meeting some leaders and cadres are asking the senior lead-

ership to change the name to TRS. They feel that without Telangana, the party name appears to have caused a disconnect with people," a senior leader of BRS told PTI.

Another leader said though they are averse to the name change, they could not voice their mind as Rao, also known as KCR is known for taking tough decisions and emerging indomitable.

The name change to TRS is one of the top five reasons being attributed for the party's defeat in the assembly polls, the leader added.

In 2022, KCR renamed the TRS as BRS to expand the party's footprint beyond Telangana but the failure in the Assembly election may derailed his plans and clarity would emerge in a few months.

The BRS (then TRS) was a formidable force even before the formation of Telangana in undivided Andhra Pradesh with its USP being the champion of Telangana's interests.

'Ram temple movement reclaimed secularism'

New Delhi, Jan 13 (PTI):

Veteran BJP leader L K Advani has said the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, whose primary objective was construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, also became a symbol of "reclaiming the true meaning of secularism from the onslaught of pseudo-secularism".

In an article, 'Shri Ram Mandir: Fulfilment of a divine dream', penned by Advani and shared by his office on Saturday, the BJP leader said a significant debate started during the movement around the difference between genuine secularism and pseudo-secularism.

Advani, who had launched the epochal Ram

Rath Yatra in 1990, said, "On the one hand there was a groundswell of popular support for the movement. On the other hand most political parties were shying away from supporting it as they feared losing Muslim votes. They succumbed to the lure of this vote-bank politics and justified it in the name of secularism."

"Thus, the Ayodhya issue, whose primary objective was the reconstruction of the Ramjanmabhoomi temple also became a symbol of reclaiming the true meaning of secularism from the onslaught of pseudo-secularism," the 96-year-old leader added.

In the run-up to the January 22 consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Advani



L K Advani

said, the atmosphere in the entire country has truly become "Ram-maya".

He said this is a moment of fulfilment for him, not just as a proud member of the RSS and the BJP but also as a proud citizen of India.

He said he felt blessed that he would witness the historic occasion in his lifetime. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi does the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Lord Ram's idol in Ayodhya on January 22, Advani said, he would be representing "every citizen of our great Bharat". "It is my belief and my hope that this temple will inspire all Indians to imbibe Shri Ram's virtues. I also pray that our great country not only continues to accelerate on the path of becoming a global power but also presents itself as a sterling example of dignity and decorum in all walks of life," he said. He said while a protracted legal battle went on to resolve the Ayodhya land dispute, he and every member

of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar continued working towards awakening the soul of Indians to realise this dream of restoring Ram Lalla in his rightful abode.

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