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BRIEF



President Droupadi Murmu being presented a memento by Union Minister Arjun Munda during an interaction with the participants of the 75th Republic Day parade, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Quake

Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 4.0 magnitude hit Gujarat's Kutch district on Sunday evening but there is no report of damage to property and life, officials said. The epicentre of the earthquake was located near Bhachau in Kutch district, as per the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR). The tremor was recorded at 4:45 pm on Sunday with its epicentre around 21 km north, northwest (NNW) from Bhachau, the ISR said in its latest update.

Water supply

New Delhi: The water supply will be affected in several areas on January 29 and 30 due to interconnection of water line by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), a notice from the Delhi Jal Board said on Sunday. The water supply will be shut down for 16 hours beginning 10 am on January 29 to 2 am on January 30 in Kewal Park and the adjoining areas.

Praise

New Delhi: Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has praised sculptor Arun Yogiraj, saying Ram Lalla's idol crafted by him was heart touching and that it would inspire millions of people. "Namaskar @yogiraj_arun ji. You are truly blessed by Lord Vishwakarma. Your sculpture of Bhagwan Ram Lalla is heart touching for me as an Artist. May (the) blessings of Prabhu Ram be always with you. Jai Shri Ram," Pattnaik said in a post on X.

Shot dead

Pune: A 26-year-old woman IT professional has been shot dead allegedly by a male friend with whom she was in a relationship in Maharashtra's Pune district, police said on Sunday. The incident took place at a lodge in Hinjawadi area of Pimpri Chinchwad on Saturday and the police got the information on Sunday morning, they said, adding the motive behind the killing was yet not known. According to a senior police official, the accused has been identified as Rishab Nigam and detained in Mumbai.

Weather
High 28 Low 13

CHANGE OF GUARD

Nitish back as CM for 9th time, with BJP backing

Patna, Jan 28 (PTI):



JD(U) president Nitish Kumar on Sunday took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for a record ninth time after a dramatic volte-face, ditching the Mahagathbandhan and the opposition bloc INDIA and forming a new government with the BJP, which he had dumped less than 18 months ago. Kumar was sworn in by Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar at Raj Bhavan in the presence of senior leaders including BJP national president J P Nadda, hours after he resigned from the post, saying "things were not working well" for him in the Grand Alliance and the opposition bloc. BJP leaders -- Samrat Choudhary and former Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha -- were among those who took oath of office. The two are named as Deputy Chief Ministers. Earlier, Choudhary and Sinha were named as leader and deputy leader, respectively, of the BJP

legislature party. They thanked the party's top leadership for the opportunity and vowed to "protect Bihar from the jungle raj unleashed by Lalu Prasad's RJD". JD(U) members Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Vijendra Yadav and Shrawan Kumar also took oath apart from former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustan Awam Morcha's Santosh Kumar Suman and independent legislator Sumit Singh. Congratulating Kumar and his two deputies,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that the newly sworn-in NDA government in Bihar will leave no stone unturned for the state's development and to fulfil people's aspirations. In a post on X, Modi said he is confident that the new government in Bihar will serve the people with full dedication. Notably, no leader of the RJD, the single largest party in the assembly, was present at the ceremony. Prasad's son Tejashwi

Two Deputy CMs and four others...

BJP leaders -- Samrat Choudhary and former Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha -- were among those who took oath of office. The two are named as Deputy Chief Ministers. Earlier, Choudhary and Sinha were named as leader and deputy leader, respectively, of the BJP legislature party. They thanked the party's top leadership for the opportunity and vowed to "protect Bihar from the jungle raj unleashed by Lalu Prasad's RJD". JD(U) members Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Vijendra Yadav and Shrawan Kumar also took oath apart from former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustan Awam Morcha's Santosh Kumar Suman and independent legislator Sumit Singh.

Yadav, who was the Deputy CM until Kumar walked out of the alliance, said: "The JD(U) will be destroyed in the upcoming assembly polls". "The game is not over for us. The game has just begun", said the young leader. His elder brother Tej Pratap Yadav, also a former minister, and Singapore-based elder sister Rohini Acharya came out with a flurry of posts on X, lampooning the JD(U) president, whom they likened to a "chameleon". The CPI(ML) Liberation, which supported the Mahagathbandhan gov-

ernment from the outside, launched a blistering attack on Kumar, accusing him of "betrayal". In an acerbic Facebook post, the party's general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya alleged that Kumar, "who has had the longest stint as CM", will be used by the RSS-BJP combine "as its pawn". Political strategist turned politician Prashant Kishor also took a swipe at Kumar, saying: "Switching sides has become part of his politics" and added that the BJP might end up paying "a huge price" for supporting the JD(U) chief who had ditched it in August 2020.

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RECORD HOLDER

Naxal attack suspect dies in police custody

Probe on

Dantewada, Jan 28:

A suspect in a big Naxal attack died a few hours after he was taken into custody by police in Dantewada district, a senior official said on Sunday. Podia Madvi (40) was taken into custody at 5 pm on Saturday for interrogation in connection with the Arampur IED (improvised explosive device) blast in April last year that killed ten police personnel and a civilian driver, he said. "Suddenly, Madvi suffered fits. Police shifted him to the district hospital, where he died at around 00:30 hrs on Sunday," he said.

Three Naxalites surrender

Sukma: Three Naxalites, including two women, have surrendered in Sukma district, police said on Sunday. One of the women was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, they said. The Naxalites turned themselves in before police and officials of the CRPF's 50th battalion here on Saturday evening, citing disappointment with the "inhuman and hollow" Naxal ideology, a senior police official said. Those who surrendered have been identified as Dudhi Sukdi (53), Dudhi Deve (38) and Madvi Hadma (26), he said. Deve, who was active as head of the Tumalpad Krantikari Mahila Adivasi Sangthan (a frontal wing of Naxalites), was carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh on her head, the official said.

RELIEF FOR TOURISTS



Tourists amid light snowfall at ski resort Gulmarg, in Baramulla district, Sunday.

'Governance of Lord Ram source of inspiration for Constitution makers'

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya brought crores of people together, and asserted that the collective strength of the country was visible around the time of the event. In the first Mann Ki Baat broadcast of this year, Modi said the governance of Lord Ram was a source of inspiration for Constitution makers. "And that is why on January 22 in Ayodhya I had talked about 'Dev to Desh' and 'Ram to Rashtra'," he said. The consecration ceremony in Ayodhya has brought crores of people of the country together, he said. "Everyone's feeling is



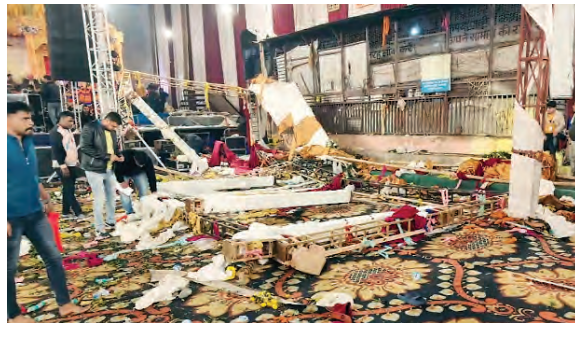
the same, everyone's devotion is the same. Ram is in everyone's words, Ram is in everyone's heart," Modi said. During this period, many people sang Ram bhajans and dedicated them to Lord Ram, while on January 22 evening the whole country lit 'Ram Jyoti' and celebrated Diwali, he noted. "During this time, the collective strength of the country was visible which also forms the basis of our pledge of a developed India," he said.

One killed as stage set up for 'jagran' collapses

At Delhi's Kalkaji temple

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

A 45-year-old woman died and 17 people were injured when a stage set up for a religious function at the Kalkaji temple here collapsed in the early hours of Sunday, police said. The tragic incident occurred around 12.30 am, they said, the deceased has been identified as Tina, a resident of Tughlakabad extension. According to police, a 'jagran' (religious function) was organised at the Mahant Parishad of Kalkaji temple on Saturday and around 1,600 people attended it. The temple management had hired event plan-



A collapsed platform at Kalkaji Mandir, in New Delhi, Sunday.

ners to organise the jagran. No arrests have been made so far, police sources said. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condoled the death of the woman and wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. "The accident that happened last night during a 'jagran' at the Kalkaji temple is tragic. A woman has died,

may her soul rest in peace. I wish for the speedy recovery of the 17 injured people," Kejriwal said in a post on X in Hindi. "I appeal to people of Delhi to take special care of safety standards in any kind of big event and make arrangements in such a way that no untoward incident happens," he added.

SCIENTISTS CONFIRM

'Ram temple in Ayodhya can withstand once-in-2,500-year quake'

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Ayodhya Ram temple, which has been drawing devotees in huge numbers, is designed to withstand the biggest earthquake that occurs once in 2,500 years. The CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CSIR-CBRI) - Roorkee conducted a series of scientific studies of the Ayodhya site, including geophysical characterisation, geotechnical analysis, foundation design vetting, and 3D structural analysis and design. "The scientific study was done to ensure the structural safety of the temple for the Maximum Considered

Earthquake, equivalent to a 2,500-year return period," Debdutta Ghosh, a senior scientist at CSIR-CBRI, told PTI. Ghosh and Manojit Samanta -- coordinators of the Centre of Excellence for Conservation of Heritage Structures at CSIR-CBRI -- led the teams in reviewing the foundation design and monitoring, conducting 3D structural analysis and design of the Ram mandir. The pair was guided by CSIR-CBRI Director Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla and his predecessor N Gopalakrishnan. Ghosh said the geophysical characterisation process

involved a Multi-Channel Analysis of Surface Waves (MASW) to estimate primary wave velocity, along with electrical resistance tomography to identify anomalies, water saturation zones and water tables. These findings served as crucial inputs for a site-specific response for underground investigations and estimation of seismic design parameters, he said. The CSIR-CBRI also vetted soil investigation schemes, foundation design parameters, excavation schemes and recommendations for foundation and structure monitoring. Ghosh said the structural design was rec-

ommended after simulating more than 50 computer models and analysing those under different loading conditions for its optimal performance, architectural appeal and safety. The entire superstructure has been constructed using Bansi Paharpur sandstone, embodying a dry jointed structure with no steel reinforcement, designed for a lifespan of 1,000 years, he said. The superstructure material -- Bansi Paharpur sandstone -- has been tested at the Centre to evaluate the engineering properties that was used as input for structural analysis.

MAJOR MILESTONE

BRO achieves breakthrough of 700-meter long Naushera tunnel

On Jammu-Poonch highway

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Border Road Organisation on Sunday achieved a major milestone by breaking through Naushera tunnel on the highly strategic 200 kilometers long stretch which connects Jammu with Poonch border district, officials said. The line and level of the tunnel were precisely achieved during the breakthrough which was executed by conducting a blast under the supervision of Border Road Organisation (BRO) Director General Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, they said. The Jammu-Poonch,



Engineers and workers during breakthrough ceremony of Naushera tunnel project, in Jammu & Kashmir, Sunday.

the "Golden Arc road", is a very old and highly strategic 200 kilometers stretch, which connects the important border districts of Akhnoor, Rajouri and Poonch, a defence spokesman said. There are four major tunnels -- Kandi tunnel, Sungal tunnel, Naushera tunnel and Bhimber Gali tunnel -- in this stretch.

Stuntbaaz bikers taken into custody

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: Durg Police on Saturday detained four youths and one juvenile for performing dangerous stunts on a motorcycle. The stuntbaaz bikers shot videos of their gimmicks and posted them on social media. The youth performed the stunts on January 26 and shared the video on social media. Soon the video went viral and reached to the cops.

Taking cognizance of the viral video, Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg directed his subordinates to take immediate action. Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Vishwa Deepak Tripathi, the team of Supela Police Station led by Inspector Durgesh Sharma examined the viral video and searched for the addresses



of the youth performing stunts. Five stunt bikers were rounded up and brought to the police station for questioning. During interrogation, they confessed to their crime. Thereafter, an FIR was registered in Supela Police Station and the bikes were confiscated. 04 adults and 01 minor were detained. After counselling, the bikers pledged not to perform any such bike stunt in future.

Supela Police Station seized 05 vehicles under

Section 279 and took action against the bikers under Section 183(1), 184, 189, 194(d), 37/177, 3/181, 5/180 of the Motor Vehicle Act. The bikers were identified as Raj Anuragi of Risali, Pradeep Prajapati of Sector 6, Sinta Sonu of Ghasidas Nagar, Sanjay Sonu of Sector 5 and a juvenile.

Police appealed to all parents not to allow their children to drive any modified vehicle and drive at high speed. In case of vio-

lation, Traffic Police would confiscate such vehicles in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Act. Under the new law, the license is being suspended after imposing a fine. If any common citizen comes across such bikers or modified vehicles, they can send the photo / video or details on WhatsApp number 9479192029 (Traffic Police) and 94791-92099 (Police Control Room). Police will take appropriate action against the violators.

DAV Hudco celebrates Republic Day with patriotic zeal

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: "Freedom in the mind, Strength in the words, Purity in our blood, Pride in our souls, Zeal in our hearts, Let's salute our India on Republic Day", with this thought, DAV Public School Hudco, Bhilai celebrated the 75th Republic Day with great éclat, solemnity and grandeur.

We Indians celebrate this red colour day on the 26th January because on this very day the Constitution of India came into existence making India a Republic Nation. So to commemorate this day, the whole campus reverberated with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm and was bedecked in the colours of the Tiranga.

The ceremony began with the unfurling of the National tricolor by Prashant Kumar (Principal cum Deputy



Regional Officer C.G. Zone A) followed by the National Anthem to pay tribute to our motherland and it was followed by the Preamble and the March past.

Further, to mark the importance of this day, a small cultural programme was organized which incorporated poems, dance, music, and speech (English and Hindi) by the students of both the Senior and Junior wing

highlighting the importance of constitution filling the hearts of each and every one with patriotic fervor and with emotions of pride, love, and respect for the country.

The auspicious day commenced with the address to the students by the Principal Prashant Kumar. His address underscored the venerable status of the constitution of India highlighting the sig-

nificance of the Republic Day and encouraged students to become the harbinger of a new India.

He also underlined the legacy of the Indian constitution as the voice of the world's largest democracy encouraging students to uphold the sanctity of our constitution. The colourful program concluded with the rendition of Shanti Path and sweet distribution to the tiny tots.

Juveniles nabbed with stolen booty worth Rs 9 lakhs

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: Police arrested two juveniles on charges of theft at a mobile store in Padmanabhpur. 17 nos expensive mobiles and accessories worth Rs 9 lakhs were recovered from the possession of the accused. They were nabbed by a joint team of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Padmanabhpur.

On January 20, the victim Sunny Waswani, a resident of Pantakar Colony, Durg, lodged an FIR at Police Station Padmanabhpur regarding theft at his shop locat-

ed at Kasaridih Chowk. On the intervening night of January 20, some unknown thieves trespassed into his shop and burgled mobiles and accessories. Police lodged an FIR under section 457, 380 of Indian Penal Code and launched investigation.

Taking a serious note over the incidents of thefts, Senior Superintendent of Police Ramgopal Garg gave instructions to trace the accused and recover the stolen goods. Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Dr

Anurag Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Mani Shankar Chandra, a joint team led by ACCU in-charge Inspector Naresh Patel, Inspector Santosh Mishra and Inspector Anil Sahu (SHO, Padmanabhpur) was formed.

The team collected footage from CCTV cameras installed on the roads around the crime scene and examined them minutely. The team maintained vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers was also activated. The team noticed a suspicious person in the

CCTV footage at the time of the incident.

Soon the suspect was identified as a juvenile, who was taken into custody from Maharaja Chowk. Initially, he kept misleading, but on continuous and factual interrogation, he confessed to committing theft with another juvenile friend on the intervening night of January 19-20.

The second accused was arrested from Kasaridih Chowk. The team seized 17 new and old mobiles, mobile headsets, pen drives, mobile chargers and power bank chargers of different companies, etc total

worth Rs 9 lakh from them. Further action is being taken from Padmanabhpur Police Station.

ASI Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Santosh Mishra, Pradeep Rajput, Chandrashekhar Banjee, Constable Sanat Bharti, G Ravi, Chitrasen Sahu, Balmukund Sahu, Narendra Sahare, Tileshwar Rathore, Komal Rajput, Jagjit Singh, Khursid Khurram Baksh from ACCU and Head Constable Mahfooz Khan from Padmanabhpur Police Station played a vital role in arresting the accused.

R-Day celebration at St Thomas College, Kailash Nagar

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: St Thomas College, Kailash Nagar witnessed the celebration of the 75th Republic Day on 26th January 2024. Students and staff filled with a feeling of patriotism and dedication gathered in front of the college building. The celebration started with the address of Principal Dr Mariam Jacob under the chairmanship of Administrator Fr Dr Joshi Varghese. In the address she emphasised the importance of our freedom fighters and constitution makers. She highlighted the



importance of the constitution and its unique features such as Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic and Republic enshrined in the preamble of the constitution. She also gave an insight on the various accomplishments achieved by college and

motivated the crowd for bringing more laurels for the college through their accomplishments. The hoisting of the national flag was done by Administrator Fr Dr Joshi Varghese and Principal Dr Mariam Jacob followed by the national anthem.

MGM celebrates 75th Republic Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: Republic Day honours the date on which the constitution of India came into effect on 26th January 1950. This red-letter day was celebrated with great zeal, spirit and éclat by MGM Senior Secondary School Sector-6, Bhilai on 26th January 2024.

Rev Fr Shaji M Baby, Vice President of the school, Rev Fr Shinu Cherian, Assistant Vicar MGO Cathedral, Church and School Managing Committee Members, Shaji Chacko Principal In Charge, Shift Incharges, parents and students witnessed the program on the glorious day.

The program commenced with school prayer. The National Flag was unfurled by the Chief Guest Rev Fr Shaji M Baby



and the other dignitaries followed by the National Anthem. In the cultural move some very inspiring songs were sung followed by stirring speeches and rhythmic dance performances. In his address Shaji Chacko, Principal Incharge highlighted the fundamental duties and rights.

Children are the future of the nation. They should

know their duties and rights. They should understand the responsibilities, perform their duties and contribute to the society and country.

Mementoes were distributed to the state level players who brought laurels to the school. Sweets were distributed among the students. The program concluded with the national song.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: To make common citizens aware about the new laws introduced by the Central Government and to make the people aware about traffic rules and cyber frauds, the Durg Police had put up a display at the Parade Ground in Durg on 26 January.

A tableau was prepared by Durg Police with the aim of making people aware about traffic rules, cyber frauds and new laws. In the Republic Day parade at Durg, the tableau of Durg Police got the third prize. A selfie zone was also created for common citizens.

In compliance with the instructions of Police Headquarters Nava Raipur, the team of Durg



Police led by Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg participated in the republic day celebrations at Pt Ravishankar Stadium in Durg.

The banners related to the new law introduced by the Central Government were displayed at the Parade Ground in Ravi Shankar Stadium Durg on the oc-

casation of Republic Day. Posters were prepared and put on display. A tableau was also made with the aim of making people aware about traffic rules and cyber crime.

In this tableau, a doctor was seen treating a minor who met with a road accident while driving. The main objective of displaying such a tableau was to urge the



families not to give vehicles to minors. The tableau gave the message of wearing helmets while driving a two-wheeler as in case of a road accident, the helmets can prevent serious head injury, which is the prime cause of deaths in road accidents.

Also, the Durg Police is trying to protect people from cyber crime.

Various awareness programs are being conducted. During the Republic Day event, tableaux were prepared by various government departments in which the tableau made by Durg Police was awarded with the third prize. This tableau will be displayed by the traffic police in various rural areas during the Road Safety Month.

Durg Police tableau wins third place

MVN celebrates 75th Republic Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: 75th Republic Day was celebrated at Maitri Vidya Niketan, Risali with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour in the gracious presence of President MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran; Director MECA, S Sajeev; Director and Principal Dr Sajitha Thambi, Principal Bhilai Maitri College Dr Surekha Patil, Vice Principal Dr Beena Sajeev, Dr D Lakshmi (HOD Education Maitri College), teachers and students.

The celebration started with a march-past by the scout and guide students displaying troupes namely Maharani Laxmi Bai troupe, Shivaji troupe and Subhash troupe generating thoughts of pride. Republic day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's



transition to a Republic on January 26 1950.

President MECA, Rajam Sudhakaran unfurled the tricolour along with other dignitaries followed by the National Anthem. Head Girl Anjali Kurre administered the pledge to the students.

Principal MVN Dr Sajitha Thambi in her address wished everyone a Happy Republic day and reminded all with pride that our country is progressing rapidly in all fields as we witnessed Chandrayaan-3, 5G etc. Progress is only possible

when its citizens are responsible and knowledgeable and lead a decent life.

Hence all of us must try and become worthy citizens which would help India as a nation to grow and have a good position in the world. She urged children to imbibe moral val-

ues within and learn all the subjects in school by enjoying them to give knowledge for life.

The program had a wonderful display of patriotic songs, dance and speeches performed by enthusiastic students of all wings and Maitri College. The prize distribution for various co-curricular activities was done which was organised by Vice Principal Dr Beena Sajeev and eventually Tagore House was declared as the best house for the session 2023-24.

The program concluded with sweet distribution to the students leaving everyone reminiscing about the function. The program was jointly anchored by Himanshi Verma, Himansha Yadav students of class XI and Srishti Pradhan, Monika Sahu and Anirban Mukherjee of class IX.

Glorious 75th Republic Day celebrated at Krishna Public School, Durg

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 28: Krishna Public School, Durg celebrated the 75th Republic Day with immense patriotic fervour and zeal. A plethora of activities were organised to infuse the spirit of unity, brotherhood and patriotism among the students.

The program began with the flag hoisting ceremony. The students of the Pre Primary wing presented soulful songs and dance to celebrate the monumental day. The cultural celebrations included dance, music and skit by the students of Primary and Pre Primary Wing.

The students of Middle and higher wing showcased the history and significance of Republic Day followed by a skit highlighting the duties & rights of citizens. A beautiful dance was also performed by



the students of classes VI to XI to commemorate the Republic Day.

The Director, Mayank Sharma and Principal, Itri Sharma inspired the students with their motivational words and told all the students to abide by the constitution of their motherland

and fulfill their duties as responsible citizens.

The program was anchored by Priyanka Sahu and Anvesha Bhattacharya. The vote of thanks was proposed by Deepshikha Chakraborty. Overall the program ended on a positive note with distribution of sweets.

'CM expresses gratitude to PM on behalf of the people of Ch'garh'

For mentioning the devotion of Mata Shabari in his speech at 'Shri Ramlala Praan Pratishtha' ceremony in Ayodhya Dham CM Sai writes a letter to PMi Narendra Modi

Chief Minister further stated that the entire nation, especially the people of Shri Ram's Nanihal i.e. Chhattisgarh, are overjoyed on such magnificent accomplishment of 'Shri Ramlala Praan Pratishtha' at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya Dham. Your determination and prayers of crores of Ram devotees and hundreds of sacrifices has turned this dream into reality.

Further in the letter, Chief Minister has stated that as Chhattisgarh is the 'Nanihal' of Shri Ram, the joy and fervour of people here knows no bounds. This date was celebrated as Ramotsav throughout Chhattisgarh.

On this occasion, I decided to observe the Pran-Pratishtha program from the holy abode of Mata Shabari, Shivrinarayan. When you consecrated Shri Ramlala in the auspicious moments of Abhijeet Muhurta, it was a moment of joy and pride for all of us.

Sharing his views regarding the Prime Minister's address, the Chief Minister wrote that the speech was powerful and dignified and it was an inspiring experience for all of us to listen.

You particularly mentioned the patience and devotion of Mata Shabari in your speech.

Mata Shabari, a tribal woman who lived in a remote hut in forests of Chhattisgarh, patiently waited for a long time for Shri Ram to arrive. The narration of her faith, her devotion and her pure affection for Shri Ram rejuvenates our faith. Sharing the sentiments of Shivrinarayan and the entire state, the Chief Minister wrote that these beautiful words of yours have moved thousands of people of Shivrinarayan Shabri Dham, crores of people of Chhattisgarh and a large number of forest dwellers living across the country. We express our gratitude to you from this Dham of Mata

Shabari. These forest dwellers have established the cherished image of Shri Ram in their minds for hundreds of years. Ram is a part of their consciousness. By respecting mothers like Shabari and respecting the friendship of Nishadraj, Shri Ram has established the ideal of Ramrajya for all of us. Under your guidance and inspiration, we are rapidly extending the benefits of the schemes started by the Central Government to the tribal groups.

Concluding the letter, the CM wrote that we express our gratitude to you again on behalf of the Nanihal of Shri Ram, the abode of Mata Shabari. On behalf of millions of devotees of Shri Ram and Mata Shabari, I express my heartfelt thanks to you for the historic work of Shri Ramlala Pran-Pratishtha and for remembering the virtues of Mata Shabari on this occasion.

Cong will field 4 women candidates in Ch'garh: Lamba

Raipur, Jan 28: Mahila Congress National President Alka Lamba today said that Congress will field four women candidates in Chhattisgarh for upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Alka Lamba, who reached Chhattisgarh with the aim of strengthening the Mahila Congress organization while talking to the media questioned action of the central investigating agencies and said that the ED was continuously targeting Congress leaders. Rahul Gandhi was also interrogated for 55 hours, but Congress is not afraid, she said. She alleged that attempts were being made to harass



Congress leaders through ED, CBI, IT. ED reached Chhattisgarh before the elections, she said, adding that wherever elections are taking place, ED is reaching there.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, she said that Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will be taken out in Chhattisgarh for a total of 5 days. It will pass through 7 districts of the

state, she said. She said that the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra had had a good start but as soon as it reached Assam, BJP tried to create a situation of controversy. Rahul Gandhi was stopped from going to the temple and was not even allowed to meet the students, she said adding that the students themselves came out and met Rahul Gandhi. The Yatra was completed in Assam on the strength of

the people of Assam, she said. Attacking the Central Government, the Mahila Congress President said that the PM remained silent on issues like unemployment, falling economy, rape etc. in the country. Why doesn't the PM answer the rape case in Varanasi? she asked. Showing posters of BJP leaders accused of rape, Lamba said that no action was being taken against them. BJP is upset with the formation of India Alliance, she said. 'Our two allies Shiv Sena and NCP were torn apart', she said. Those whom BJP was calling corrupt have today become ministers, she added.

Girl loses Rs 10 lakh in crypto currency trading

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: A girl, residing in New Puraina Mahavir Nagar was cheated of Rs 10 lakh on the pretext of getting a profit of lakhs in crypto currency online trading. According to information available Monica Yadav (26) lodged complaint of fraud with New

Rajendranagar police station.

Monica lives with her family and does a private job. New Rajendranagar police station in-charge Archana Dhurandhar said. On August 13, 2023, a call came on her mobile from the number 27624354139. Caller claiming to be Ankita Nayak, offered her to join the

Telegram group to do business in online trading through WhatsApp. Believing caller's words, Monica joined the Telegram group.

Ankita promised her daily income of Rs 6,000 and monthly income of Rs 1.80 lakh through online trading. Ankita sent a Telegram link and asked her for money to

join the group and invest in trading. Accordingly Monica deposited Rs 10 lakh in different bank accounts and UPI mentioned by Ankita between 13 August 2023 and 16 September 2023. After suspecting fraud, when Monica asked to return the money Ankita told her to send more money to get the refund.

Ch'garh's 1st Ayurveda University to open in Raipur: Brijmoohan



Ayurveda Alumni Meet 'Swarna Kumbh' inaugurated

Raipur, Jan 28: The first Ayurveda University of the state will open in the capital Raipur. State Education Minister Brijmoohan Agrawal made this announcement while inaugurating the two-day Ayurveda Alumni Meet "Swarna Kumbh" at Shri Narayan Prasad Awasthi Government Ayurveda College on Saturday. He also honored doctors who graduated from college and are serving in the country and abroad.

According to Agrawal Ayurveda is a part of our way of life. The kitchen of our homes is an Ayurvedic medicine center in itself, he said, adding that by knowing one thing, a per-

son can use them properly and get a healthy body. According to him Ayurveda has been around since ancient times. Even when Shri Lakshman ji had fainted in Lanka, Vaidyaraj Sushen had saved his life through Ayurveda and at that time there was no sign of allopathy, he said. But since the British era, the Indian medical system was marginalized, he added.

He also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again promoted Ayurveda and AYUSH. Ayurveda has now got a different identity in the whole world, he said, adding that Ayurvedic Kadhas and medicines saved the lives of lakhs of people during the Corona period. Agrawal also suggested to bring awareness

about Ayurveda among the people.

The Education Minister said that everyone would have got the opportunity to refresh the memories of their student days by meeting old friends in the program.

'You might have also met such people who had struggled a lot to give Ayurveda the status equal to Allopathy', he said.

Former MP Dr Bhusanlal Jangde, poet Dr Surendra Dubey, Principal Dr GR Chaturvedi were present in the program. A large number of dignitaries including Joint Director, AYUSH Dr Sunil Kumar Das, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Dr Patanjali Diwan, Dr Shiv Narayan Dwivedi, Dr Harendra Shukla were present.

Spirit of sports leads to success: Dewangan



67th National School Baseball Competition inaugurated

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jan 28: The 67th National School Sports Competition 2023-24 began today with a colorful cultural program and attractive marchpast at the CSEB Football Sports Ground in Korba. Chief guest Commerce, Industry and Labor Minister Lakhanlal Dewangan inaugurated the five-day event. According to him sports is part of life that encourages one to move forward in the path of success apart from ensuring physical and mental develop-

ment.

One can gain popularity by performing well in sports apart from studies in school, he said. He gave everyone a pledge to play the game in the spirit of sportsmanship and not to get disappointed on losing, to move ahead and work hard to achieve success again with good performance. Baseball players from 12 states and two units are participating in the competition.

The Minister Dewangan, while thanking the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister for organizing a national level sports event, said that it was a matter of great pride to organize a national level sports event in Korba district. This is a medium where players

get a better opportunity to showcase their talent as well as move forward, he said, adding that players also get a chance to learn and understand the culture and languages and dialects of different states through such events.

According to Collector Ajit Vasant sports and studies have special importance in student life. Welcome speech was given by District Education Officer GP Bhardwaj.

International baseball player Neha Jaiswal of Korba district was honored by the guests in the program. Teams from Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, including Vidya Bharati and CBSE and host Chhattisgarh are participating in the baseball competition for boys and girls under 14 and 19 years of age. All the teams took out an attractive march past. A cultural program was also presented.

Ministry of Finance
Government of India

SPECIAL AMNESTY SCHEME FOR CONDONING DELAY IN FILING GST APPEAL

Who can apply under this Amnesty Scheme?

- ➡ The taxable persons who could not file an appeal, within the specified time period, against the demand order passed by the proper officer on or before the 31.03.2023, and
- ➡ The taxable persons whose appeal against the said order was rejected solely on the grounds that the said appeal was not filed within the specified time period

To avail this Amnesty Scheme, you can now file an appeal in Form GST-APL-01 against the said order on or before 31.01.2024, subject to the payment of:

- ➡ Admitted liability (tax, interest, fine and penalty) arising out of the impugned order
- ➡ A sum equal to 12.5% of the remaining amount of tax in dispute, out of which at least 20% should have been debited from electronic cash ledger

Please Note

- ➡ No refund shall be granted on account of this amnesty scheme till the disposal of the appeal
- ➡ No appeal under this amnesty scheme shall be admissible in respect of a demand not involving tax

Seize the moment!

An exclusive chance awaits taxpayers who may have missed the appeal deadline.

For details please refer,
Notification No. 53/2023-Central Tax dated 02.11.2023

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

Chairman Dayanand hoists flag at Power Company

● Announces to give dearness allowance, Diwali bonus to electricity workers

Raipur, Jan 28:

Chairman P. Dayanand (IAS) brought jubilation to employees and pensioners during the Republic Day celebration at the Chhattisgarh State Power Company Headquarters. As he hoisted the national flag, Dayanand shared significant news with the attendees. He reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of the state, underscoring the pivotal role played by the Chhattisgarh State Power Company in this endeavour. One of the key announcements was the increase in dearness allowance for all officers and employees, rising from 42 percent to 46 percent, effective from July 1, 2023. Additionally, he delighted everyone by disclosing an enhanced ex-gratia bonus of Rs 11 thousand and an increased conveyance allowance. Dayanand emphasized the company's dedication to providing affordable and accessible electricity to the state's 62 lakh 64 thousand consumers. He proudly mentioned the state's economic



growth and its initiatives in renewable energy, including five locations identified for power generation through pumped storage technology. Furthermore, he revealed plans for a proposed 1,320 MW supercritical thermal power project in Korba West, valued at

approximately Rs 13,000 crore, which promises to significantly impact the state's energy landscape. The Republic Day event at the power company's Dangania headquarters witnessed the presence of industry leaders, including Manoj Khare,

Lead the way in energy sector

The Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company has achieved an outstanding Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 83.08 percent, surpassing the national average of 68.06 percent, securing the top position in the country. This accomplishment aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, who aim to revolutionize the energy sector. The Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company ensures seamless power supply, expanding high-pressure transformers by 8 percent to meet the demand. Moreover, the distribution company tirelessly serves 63 lakh consumers, including farmers and industries, fueling the state's economic growth.

Advances towards a bright future

Chairman P. Dayanand has outlined a promising path for the power sector's future in Chhattisgarh. The state is set to embark on a journey towards the installation of smart meters, with the support of the Government of India, under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). This initiative involves an investment of Rs 4,089 crore for smart meters and Rs 3,544 crore to reduce line losses. To enhance customer service, the power company has introduced the Mor Bijli mobile app, enabling consumers to access information about power outages, bill payments, and new connection requests. Over 20 lakh consumers have embraced this technology. Moreover, the Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company prioritizes its employees' well-being, offering a cashless health scheme benefiting 10,000 regular employees, 11,000 pensioners, and their eligible dependents. This initiative has facilitated prompt and hassle-free medical treatment for beneficiaries.

Managing Director of the Transmission and Distribution Company, and S.K. Katiyar, Managing Director of the Generation Company. Chairman Dayanand also participated in the parade, inspecting the troops and rendering a salute. The

event featured a traditional march past by the Vigilance and Security Department personnel and an enchanting performance by the Power Company's band, captivating the audience with the tune 'Saare Jahan Se Achha'.

Technology, mobile app selected for InvenTiv-2024

● From IIT Bhilai

Raipur, Jan 28:

Our technology titled "Smart vertical farming framework with sensor network and mobile application for real-time monitoring and control" was selected for exhibition at InvenTiv-2024. InvenTiv is the first-of-its-kind, mega R&D fair, where all IITs, NITs and other top Institutions in the country come together to showcase the R&D happening there. The event was graced by Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, GoI. Our students Ms. Ankita, Ms. Asta and Ms. Roshni, B.Tech students from the Electrical Engineering Department demonstrated the live prototype of the technology in the event. The minister personally visited the stall and understood the functioning of the technology.

The developed technology helps the farmers to provide an optimum environmental condition to the crops through automated monitoring of farm conditions through a network of sensors and to make autonomous decisions. This minimises the manual effort to be put by the farmers, simultaneously enhancing productivity. The team is headed by Dr. Jose Immanuel R., Assistant Professor in the depart-



ment of Mechanical Engineering, and financially supported by TIH-IoT, IIT Bombay. Pradhan appreciated the idea and efforts put by the team. The technology was well received by the attendees of the expo and few companies have expressed their interest to support in commercialising the technology.

AIIMS Delhi, jointly with IITI DRISHTI Foundation has organised a STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE (SETU-2024) program at AIIMS Delhi. The objective of this program is to bring major researchers working on medical technologies and the healthcare professionals for Accelerated Commercialisation in Digital Health Technologies. The team from IIT Bhilai led by Dr. Jose Immanuel R. from IIT Bhilai, and Dr. Pugazhenthian and Dr.

Manish Raghani from AIIMS Raipur participated in the event with two of their technological innovations: (1) an IoT enabled smart solution to alleviate Trismus (student members: Mr. Dhananjay from B.Tech Mechatronic Engineering, Mr. Bhavik from B.Tech Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, Ms. Shweta, Ms. Anjali and Ms. Mansi from B.Tech Mechanical Engineering); (2) A software-hardware duo to solve TechNeck problem among youths and adults (student members: Ms. Ankita, Ms. Asta and Ms. Roshni, B.Tech students from Electrical Engineering). The event was graced by Directors of various AIIMS from across the country. The delegates appreciated the work demonstrated by the students and encouraged them towards establishing startups and commercialising their technologies.

Elaborate programme held on R-Day event



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: The 75th Republic Day celebrations were held at NH Goel World School, Raipur with much pomp and vigor with the unfurling of the Tricolor by Director-Administration SK Tomar, Principal Dr Avinash Pandey and Vice Principal Ms Preeti

Sharma followed by the National Anthem and the 'Jhanda Geet' sung by the students. The Principal also addressed the youth of the school with a power-packed speech.

This was succeeded by an elaborate program where students showcased their talents on stage with a dance and instrumental music performance.

Exchange programme students from Sri Lanka also displayed their mettle with a lyrical performance accompanied by their teachers. Later, students and teachers of the school who had shown outstanding performances in their respective fields were felicitated by the dignitaries in the arena of Academics, Culture and Sports.

License seminar and 'Manak Manthan' program organised by BIS

Raipur, Jan 28:

Licensing Seminar for promoting participation in Certification, Standardization, Testing and Standards Promotion activities and a 'Manak Manthan' program was organised on the 'Specification' draft product 'Steel Tubes for Idlers of Belt Conveyor' was organized by Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur on January 25th, 2024 at Hotel Shamrock Green, Raipur. In this seminar, Dibyendu Chakraborty, Scientist-G and Deputy Director General (Eastern Region), Sumit Kumar, Scientist-D/Deputy Director General and Head Raipur Branch Office, Alok Sahu, Director, Central Institute of



Petrochemical Engineering and Technology (CIPET) Raipur and Sudhir Ramakrishna, General Manager, Bhilai Steel Plant were present. More than 200 licensees of Bureau of Indian Standards participated in this program. Sumit Kumar, Head, Raipur Branch Office, Bureau of Indian Standards, welcomed the delegates to the workshop and apprised them of the various activities of the Bureau of

Indian Standards. The Chief Guest of the program, Dibyendu Chakraborty, Scientist - G and Deputy Director General (Eastern Region) congratulated the Bureau of Indian Standards for the significant efforts made in helping the States in bringing simple and comprehensive regulations integrating various important safety parameters. He urged the delegates to fully utilize the opportunity to understand the draft regula-

tions and suggest improvements, if any. Dibyendu Chakraborty elaborated on the salient features of the document as well as the contents of various chapters of the draft rules and urged the participants to critically examine the document and share their valuable feedback with the Bureau of Indian Standards. During the program, the license holders of Bureau of Indian Standards were given information about various

portals of Bureau of Indian Standards and were also told how to participate in the standardization process. Also, the license holders were given information about the changes in the certification procedures of the Bureau of Indian Standards and various problems were resolved. 'Manak Manthan' was organized in the second session of the program. In which 'Specification for Steel Tubes for Idlers of Belt Conveyors' (IS 9295), Mild Steel Wire for General Engineering Applications (IS 280:2006) and Filler Gauge Specification (IS 3179) were discussed and given by the participants. The comments made were sent to the Technical Committee.

YC leads Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra sticker drive

Raipur, Jan 28: In a remarkable endeavour to foster economic, social, and political justice across India, the esteemed leader Rahul Gandhi embarks on a 6700-kilometer Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra, spanning from Manipur to Mumbai. To amplify this noble mission, Chhattisgarh State Youth Congress, under the guidance of Akash Sharma and Palak Verma, is spearheading a vibrant sticker campaign led by Nawaz Khan, the Executive President of Raipur North Assembly Youth Congress. Distinguished figures including Chhattisgarh State Congress In-charge Sachin Pilot, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel,



and Indian Youth Congress In-charge Krishna Allavaru have passionately joined this cause. Nawaz Khan, the driving force behind the campaign, expressed immense excitement as Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra approaches Chhattisgarh, generating unprecedented enthusiasm among the state's youth.

75th Republic Day celebrations at Shree Shankara Sen Sec School

Raipur, Jan 28: Shree Shankara Sen Sec School marked the 75th Republic Day with grandeur and patriotic fervor. The day commenced with an escorting march by the students, symbolizing unity and strength. The highlight of the event was the flag hoisting ceremony, graced by esteemed Chief Guest, RNS President Adv. B. Gopakumar. Following the hoisting of the tricolor, a solemn lamp lighting ceremony took place, signifying the enlightenment of knowledge and wisdom. Principal Ashish Aadiya Pandey delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of developing leadership qualities among the youth, as they are destined to lead the world in the future. Addressing the gathering, President of RNS shed light on



the significance of the constitution, emphasizing its fundamental rights and duties. He encouraged all students to acquaint themselves with the essence of our great constitution. Distinguished dignitaries pres-

ent at the event included Vice President, RNS, Rajendra Kumar Pillai, Treasurer, RNS, K. Vishambharan Nair, Joint Treasurer, RNS Manmohan Pillai, among others. The celebration continued with stirring patriotic song and dance performances by the students, reflecting the spirit of unity and patriotism. The event culminated with the distribution of prizes to the winners and runner-ups of the sports week and science exhibition, further adding to the jubilation of the day followed by vote of thanks by Vice principal Shweta Mehta. The 75th Republic Day celebration at Shree Shankara Sen Sec School was indeed a resounding success, fostering a sense of pride and camaraderie among the students and faculty alike.

CAIT CG Chapter celebrates 75th Republic Day

Raipur, Jan 28: National Senior Vice President of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Malu, Amar Gidwani, State President, Jitendra Doshi, Working President Vikram Singhdeo, Parmanand Jain, Vasu Makhija, General Secretary Surinder Singh, Working General Secretary Bharat Jain and Treasurer Ajay Agarwal, informed that the country's largest trade organization, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), CG Chapter celebrated 75th Republic Day in the state office of the CAIT. In which businessmen including officials of business organizations participated. The chief guest of the 75th Republic Day program was Amar Parwani, National Senior Vice President of CAIT. National Senior Vice President of CAIT Mr. Amar



Parwani and State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi informed that today we are celebrating the 75th Republic Day. He further said that first of all CAIT State President, Jitendra Doshi garlanded the picture of Bharat Mata and after offering prayers, hoisted the flag. After that the national anthem and slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' were raised. Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi extended hearty congratulations and best wishes to the people of the state including all the officials of the chapter and youth team, unit in-charge and all the CAIT members on the 75th Republic

Day. The office bearers mainly present includes Amar Parwani, Jitendra Doshi, Parmanand Jain, Vasu Makhija, Surinder Singh, Bharat Jain, Ajay Agarwal, Jairam Kukreja, Vijay Patel, Ajay Tanwani, Sunil Dhuppad, Pawan Wadhwa, Mahesh Khilasia, Vijay Jain, Mahendra Bagrodia, Satish Srivastava, Mohan Varlyani, Parmanand Jain (Cycle Association), Vikrant Rathore, Mukesh Motwani, Nagendra Tiwari, Naresh Makhija, Ameet Gupta, Naveeh Bajaj, Harish Santwani, Ameet Kumar, Gopichand Motwani, Satish Sharma and Monesh Sahu.

OBITUARY Prabhat Verma

Raipur: Prabhat Verma, breathed her last on Sunday. She was wife of NP Verma (of Durga College), Raipur. She was mother of Nitin Saxena and Neeraj Saxena. The family did a remarkable work of donating her body to AIIMS Raipur, informs a press release.

GSS celebrates 75th R-Day



the office bearers of GSS in presence of the heads of three schools. NCC Junior Division, Scouts and Guides presented an attractive parade which was

inspected by the invited guests. A melodic bhajan in honour of Ram Temple consecration at Ayodhya was presented by the students of English Medium. This bhajan was prepared by music maestro duo Vijay Shankar Jha and Rupendra Shrivastava. The students of all three schools gave patriotic speeches and it was followed by the speech of Narayan Bhai Patel, president of GSS executive

committee. Anis Menon, Principal of Shri Gujrati Hindi Medium H S School proposed vote of thanks. Apart from the office bearers of GSS, principal of Shri Gujrati English Medium H S School Dr Shailesh Sharma, VP S V Chandra Shekhar, Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma and other faculty members apart from students of all the three wings were present.

Jayesh wins gold in Regional Pickleball championship



Raipur, Jan 28: Jayesh Asfalia from Chhattisgarh won gold medal in the 50

years plus category in the 2nd Eastern Region Pickleball championship held at Patna in Bihar. Jayesh defeated Virendra Kumar with the score of 11-2, 11-7 in the final match to win the gold medal in the tournament, informs a press release issued here by the Chhattisgarh Pickleball Association General Secretary Rupendra Chouhan.

Cultural prog on 'An evening in the name of martyrs' held

Shabari Mahila Shakti Vikas Sanstha organized the prog

Konta/Sukma, Jan 28:

The presentation of a program filled with patriotism and patriotism enthralled the audience late on Friday evening in Konta town of Sukma district. The occasion was a colorful cultural program organized under the aegis of Shabari Mahila Shakti Vikas Sanstha, Konta, on the eve of Republic Day. This program organized at the High School Football Ground was inaugurated by educationist Rajshekhhar Rai Sir, M. Satyanarayan, Block Education Officer P Srinivas Rao, senior BJP leader Uday Prakash Singh (Lala Mama), Venkataramana Reddy, Rajgaru Babu, NSUI leader Namir Ali and



Konta. All the journalists and Annu Ghosh, President of Shabari Mahila Shakti Vikas Sanstha jointly lit the lamp. Addressing the program, retired teacher M Satyanarayana encouraged the students from various schools of the city. He said that the special interest of the students in cultural programs is also commendable. He said that Republic Day further strengthens the feeling of patriotism in the minds of all of us. He wished the students all the best for their bright future and moving forward with determination. He congratulated all the members of

School, second prize was given to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and DAV Public School and third prize was given to Jyoti Carment and Darbhaguda Ashram. The awards were selected according to the numbers obtained by the judges. Also, all the participating teams were given special prizes. The most unique presentation in this entire program was from Kasturba Gandhi Residential School, Konta, who tried to show global solidarity through dance with the aim of saving the Hasdev forest and danced to save the tree. President of Shabari Mahila Shakti Vikas Sanstha Konta, Annu Ghosh, Satyavati Nag, P Vijayalakshmi, Divyarani, B Vijaya, Mamta Thakur, Usha Thakur, Pratibha, Pramila, Vimla Dhruv, Ruksana Khatoon, Asif Khan of Young Team and his team were present in this program.

Bastar Division marks R-Day with unity

Security camps foster peace in Naxal-affected areas

Jagdalpur, Jan 28:

Republic Day celebrations were held with great pride and without any fear, with the tricolor being hoisted across the entire Bastar division. Local police and security personnel, in the presence of villagers, led the flag hoisting ceremonies, emphasizing the significance and glory of Republic Day.

Peace prevailed in sensitive Naxal-affected regions of the Bastar division, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the joint police forces. Over the past six months, from August 15, 2023, to January 26, 2024, a total of nine new security camps were established to counter Naxal activities.

These security outposts were strategically placed in Palanar, Dumri Palanar, Chintavagu, Kavadaagaon, Khan of Young Team and his team were present in this program. Additionally, new security



camps were set up in Muler, Paria, Salatong, Mukrajakonda, and Duled, all contributing to the enhanced security landscape in Sukma district.

These camps serve as integrated development centers, emphasizing the importance of fostering both security and development in the region.

As a gesture of goodwill, sweets were distributed to the local residents, and children received chocolates and sweets. Notably, during this period, there were no reports of untoward incidents or Naxalite activities in Bastar division.

Bastar IG Sunderraj P expressed his satisfaction with the continuous efforts of Bastar Police and the central security forces in maintaining peace and security, in alignment with government guidelines and local administration coordination.

Bilaspur station's FOB nears completion

Final girder installed

Bilaspur, Jan 28: The final girder has been successfully installed in the construction of a 209-meter-long end-to-end through foot overbridge at Bilaspur station. This achievement marks a major milestone in the ongoing infrastructure enhancement efforts by the Railways.

The foot overbridge project, aimed at improving traffic flow and passenger convenience at Bilaspur station, has seen the completion of girder launching work. This vital infrastructure project has been carried out with great efficiency, ensuring the safety and convenience of passengers throughout. The last girder, measuring 26 meters in



length, was installed ahead of schedule with the assistance of a 400 metric tonne capacity road crane. The operation was executed meticulously, adhering to all safety standards and guidelines, and was closely supervised by Divisional Railway Manager Praveen Pandey. Despite the technical challenges posed by the final girder installation, the railway employ-

ees, under the leadership of dedicated officers, displayed remarkable alertness and vigilance. Passenger train operations were minimally impacted during this crucial phase.

Upon completion of the foot overbridge, commuters at Bilaspur station will benefit from improved and secure transportation facilities at both ends.

Mann Ki Baat is a non-political inspirational prog: Kashya

Jagdalpur, Jan 28:

Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap was present today in the 'Mann Ki Baat' program of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's on radio being organized at Kardola booth number 241 of Bastar district under Narayanpur assembly. Giving information regarding the programme, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said that 'Mann Ki Baat' is an inspirational program for the entire countrymen.

He said that Mann Ki Baat is a non-political programme. In this the Prime Minister presents the inspirational work and achievements of the people of the country before the entire country. The people of the country get inspired to do some better work for the soci-

- More and more people are joining it
- PM told that information regarding elephants is given through 'Hamar Hathi Hamar Goth' radio

ty through this program. It will be our endeavor that more and more people join this programme.

Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the listeners in Mann Ki Baat that information regarding elephants is broadcasted through 'Hamar Hathi Hamar Goth' radio program in Abikapur, Bilaspur, Raipur, Raigarh of Chhattisgarh. Describing it as an exemplary initiative, the Prime Minister



said that in which area is the elephant herd passing? How many are there? People get this information through radio. Due to which the people of the area become alert. The Prime Minister said that such an experiment can be done in other states of

the country. Kedar Kashyap told that at one time people's credibility towards National Awards was waning in the country. In the last ten years, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi worked to find those great

personalities from every corner of the country. Who, according to his capacity, worked to give a new direction to the society through sacrifice and penance. Vaidyraj Hemchand Manjhi of Narayanpur assembly constituency has been awarded Padma Shri in the field of traditional medicine.

This is a matter of pride for our region and the entire state. He said that people are taking initiative in the field of organ donation. The Prime Minister said that now within a year, more than 15 thousand people are donating organs across the country. The Prime Minister praised those families whose family members accept the decision of the person to donate their organs.

District administration triumphs in R-Day cricket

Manendragarh, Jan 28:

Republic Day witnessed a display of sportsmanship and unity as the District Administration and MCB Press Club clashed in a friendly cricket match at the District Headquarters in Manendragarh. In a thrilling contest, the District Administration emerged victorious, securing the coveted winning trophy.

The match's inauguration was a moment of excitement, with Public Health and Family Welfare Minister Shyambihari Jaiswal setting the tone by striking a powerful shot off the ball bowled by MCB Collector D. Rahul Venkat at the Amakherwa Ground. Minister Jaiswal conducted the toss in the presence



of District Administration Team Captain Collector and MCB Press Club President Ranjit Singh, where the MCB Press Club team won the toss and chose to bat first.

The Press Club had a challenging start in the scheduled 12-over match, but the partnership of Sunil Sharma and Surjeet Singh rescued their innings, guiding them to a respectable score of 84

runs. The District Administration team, on the chase, got off to an impressive start and effortlessly reached the target of 85 runs while losing 5 wickets.

The match was officiated by umpires Govind Kumbhkar and Kemendra Sahu, with Sumit Kumar Jaiswal handling the scoring duties, and Sanjay Srivastava providing commentary. The trophies

were presented to the winning and runner-up teams by the match's special guests, Manendragarh Municipal President Prabha Patel and Nagar Panchayat Nai Leatheri President Saroj Yadav.

Adarsh Singh of the District Administration received the well-deserved Man of the Match award. Additionally, accolades were extended to the Best Batsman, Sunil Sharma, Best Bowler, Suleman Khan, and Best Fielder, Ramnik Gupta.

The event also honored the emerging talent Shreyash Sinha, who brought glory to the MCB district in the Vijay Merchant Trophy organized by Under 16 BCCI, with a special memento, celebrating his remarkable achievements in cricket.

BJP Minority Cell will make 10000 Modi friends

In Ch'garh

Jagdalpur, Jan 28:

Bharatiya Janata Party has started concrete preparations for the Lok Sabha elections. BJP Minority Morcha will reach out to the minority community in all the 11 Lok Sabha seats of the state and establish dialogue and make Modi friends by publicizing the public welfare works done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

BJP Minority Morcha has set the target of making 10 thousand Modi friends in Chhattisgarh. The first Lok Sabha level meeting of BJP Minority Morcha was organized in BJP District Office. In which officials and work-



ers of BJP Minority Morcha from all the five districts falling in Bastar Lok Sabha constituency participated. State President of BJP Minority Morcha Shakeel Ahmed was present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, BJP Minority Morcha State President Shakeel Ahmed said that Lok Sabha elections are near. Every worker of BJP

Minority Morcha should work diligently with the resolve to ensure BJP's victory in all the 11 Lok Sabha seats of the state. The aim is to make Modi friends by establishing affectionate dialogue with the minority community along with the work and schemes done under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

State President Shakeel Ahmed said that only BJP

can develop the minority community. Congress has cheated the minorities by doing vote bank and appeasement politics. In the Modi government, everyone has got the direct benefits of Prime Minister Housing, Ujjwala Gas, Jan Dhan Account and other schemes. Workers should gear up for BJP's victory in the Lok Sabha elections.

State General Secretary Shahid Khan, Makhboor Iqbal, State Minister Rafiq Khan, Razia Khan, Yogendra Pandey, Ramashray Singh, Sheikh Siddiq, Aziz Khan, Hameed Hussain, Mohd. Ashraf, Abdul Rahim, Chanda were prominently present in the Lok Sabha level meeting of BJP Minority Morcha. Bano, Sheikh Jameel, Dilawar Kapadia etc. were present.

Tableau of Veterinary dept awarded

Konta/Sukma, Jan 28:

On the occasion of 75th Republic Day celebrations, the flag hoisting program was completed in the Mini Stadium, District Sukma under the chief guest of Neelkant Tekam MLA Keshkal. After the flag hoisting, attractive tableaux focused on the promotion of departmental individual schemes were taken out by the Livestock Development Department, District Sukma. In the tableau display by the Government of India, the facilities provided in the urban and rural areas of Sukma district through the veterinary unit vehicle run under the "Livestock Health and Disease Control Scheme" were shown and backyard poultry farming, breed im-



provement. Supply of male goat and State Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Schemes were given a live display through tableaux.

Under the leadership of Dr. S. Zaheeruddin, Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, District Sukma, under the leadership of Chief Guest Neelkant Tekam, Animal Husbandry was imparted

to the beneficiaries of poor class through health protection of livestock, animal promotion, advanced animal breeding and development of cattle, poultry, sheep, goat etc. Appreciating the economic benefits provided through this, the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services was rewarded with a shield as a result of securing second place in the tableau.

Jamwal, Sai hold meeting with state office bearers

Kondagaon, Jan 28:

BJP regional organization Minister Ajay Jamwal and Organization General Secretary Pawan Sai, and BJP National Vice President held a meeting with the BJP office bearers of seven districts of Bastar division today at the auction hall located in the Kondagaon district headquarters in view of the Lok Sabha elections. They held talks with all the office bearers and said that Lok Sabha elections are to be held in the coming days and for this all the office bearers should fold up their sleeves. They further said that the state government has conducted many public welfare schemes and there should be target to pass on the benefits of those schemes to the poor-



est of the poor. Similarly, the central government has launched many public welfare schemes for the common people of the country in the last 9 years and its benefit too should reach the last person. BJP's public welfare schemes have to be taken to the masses. Former BJP National Vice President Lata Usendi said that BJP government is to be formed at the Center only then there will be a double engine government. The BJP government at the Center has made the country one of

the developed countries of the world today and their only goal is to serve our people. During this, the national office bearers also gave tips on election preparation for LS to the BJP of office bearers present and urged them to come together to plan the work. The District President of the district, the in-charges of the Vidhan Sabha, the organizers, the office-bearers of the state and the office-bearers of all fronts of the BJP from seven districts of Bastar were present on the occasion.

न्यायालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी, राजनांदवांव (छ.ग.)	
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उपरोक्त विषयवर्तगत आवेदक प्राधिकारी, टाटा कैपिटल हाउसिंग फाइनेंस लिमिटेड, शाखा प्रथम तल, पुजारी चैम्बर्स, एन.एच. 43, रायपुर छा दारा सरफेसी एक्ट-2002 की धारा 14 के तहत प्रस्तुत आवेदन जिसमें उनके द्वारा आपके स्वामित्व की संपत्ति-खसरा क्र. 441, 442/1, प.ह.नं. 36/24, वार्ड क्र. 39, मौजा ग्राम कोरिनमांडा, आवासीय भूमि पर बना बहुमजिला बिल्डिंग के चतुर्थ तल पर बना फ्लैट क्र. 404, क्षेत्रफल 1008 वर्गफीट, रा.नि.मं. कोरिनमांडा, तहसील व जिला राजनांदवांव का भौतिक कब्जा पुलिस की सहायता से प्राप्त किये जाने बाबत मांग किया गया है, जिस पर दिनांक 14.02.2024 को प्राप्त 11:30 बजे न्यायालय में सुनवाई नियत है।	
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अतः सूचना	जिला दण्डाधिकारी राजनांदवांव (छ.ग.)

Republic Day celebrated in Bharat Dewangan Government School

Kharora, Jan 28:

Republic Day was organized in Bharat Dewangan Government Excellent Hindi and English Medium School, Kharora in a joyful atmosphere. Flag was hoisted, followed by an impressive march past by the students of the school. Chief Guest of the program was Rameshwar Singh Thakur while Sitaram Yadav, Govind Ram Verma, BK Dewangan, Ramsingh Gilhare, Suresh Sahu, Narendra Thakur, Gulab Singh Tikriha, Bharat Pansari, Jaggi Saluja, Sumit Sen, Sunil Naik Devendra Sharma, Gurjeet Kaur Bhatia were present as special guests. Rahul Dewangan, Anees Sen, Ariba Ali presented



the speech, while Garima Nirmalkar, Apoorva Dewangan, Muskaan Dewangan presented poetry. Similarly, Digesh Dewangan, Kanha Mishra, Vaishnavi Verma presented poem, while

Surabhi and group and Sadhana and group presented group song. On this occasion, students representing the institute at state and national level were honoured. Sarpanch Mithilesh Sahu of the in-

stitute presented souvenirs to the institute and subject experts as well as 54 students were also honored by presenting souvenirs and Vice Principal Harish Dewangan expressed gratitude.

Republic Day ignites patriotism in Bhedikala



■ Sarpanch hoists flag and spreads cheer

Rajnandgaon, Jan 28:

The spirit of Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and pride in Bhedikala, where various locations including Panchayat Bhawan, Government High School, Middle School, Primary School, English Medium

School, and Tiranga Chowk Gayatri Temple, Anganwadi, joined in the festivities.

Sarpanch Krishna Sahu of Gram Panchayat Bhedikala proudly hoisted the national flag, extending heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the entire village and surrounding areas on this significant occasion. In reverence of the special day, garlands adorned the oil paintings of Ram Lalla,

Mahatma Gandhi, and Bharat Mata. The village's young talents also organized a captivating cultural program on the school stage, showcasing their talents.

The event saw the presence of the Gram Panchayat family, Panchgan members, and villagers, all coming together to celebrate the unity and diversity of India on the holy festival of January 26.

Collector Janmejaya Mahobe hoists tricolor at collectorate



Kawardha, Jan 28:

In a symbolic gesture of national pride, Collector Janmejaya Mahobe raised the national flag at the Collectorate office on Republic Day. Before this significant moment, he paid heartfelt tributes with floral offerings at the statue of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, situated within the campus. Collector Mahobe extended his warm wishes and congratulations to all the officers and employees gathered on this momentous occasion. During a meeting held in the district office, he urged everyone to work diligently in the service of the state and the nation, emphasizing the importance of their duties. Additional Collector Inderjit Burman, District Panchayat CEO Sandeep Kumar Agarwal, Deputy Collector Rituraj Singh, and Lekha Ajagalle also addressed the officers and employees, underlining the significance of the Constitution of India in their roles. The event witnessed the presence of District Magistrates and employees from various departments, marking a celebration of unity and dedication on Republic Day.

Folk culture of Ch'garh is very rich and pure: Soni

Rajim, Jan 28:

The Bhakha dialect and folk culture of Chhattisgarh is very rich and pure and people of India and abroad listen attentively to the songs produced here, and we should also maintain its purity and avoid vulgarity in words and speech while composing and singing the songs, said famous singer Sunil Soni, who had come to present a folk art stage in Chaubebandha village adjacent to the city.

It is by the grace of Lord Kuleshwarnath that I am getting the privilege of coming here and I have in my mind to present a bhajan on Bhagwan Rajivlochan in the form of a story, which should re-



fect the complete characteristics of Dharmanagari, he said. He told that apart from Chhattisgarh, I have also sang songs in languages like Gujarati, Oriya, Bengali; Marathi etc.

And I have full hope that Chhattisgarhi language will definitely get the status of official language in the Eighth Schedule of the

Constitution. Chhattisgarhi has seen big dreams regarding culture, dialect, language and development. Producers, directors, artists of the industry are all working with all their heart and soul. Media friends are conveying our message to the government and there is complete trust in the government, he said.

In response to a question, Mr. Soni said that I focus more on entertaining the audience and the family on the stage. I like to eat thethri, khurmi, pickles and ice cream and talking on staying awake all night to perform folk art stage, he said that initially there was a lot of difficulty but now I have become accustomed to it.

District Artists to participate in AICS short play competition

■ Mahasamund Team Selected to Represent Maharashtra

Mahasamund, Jan 28:

A group of talented artists from Mahasamund district is set to make their mark in the All India Civil Services Music, Dance, and Short Play Competition scheduled to take place from January 29 to February 2 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The district's team secured their place in the prestigious competition after excelling in the selection trials organized by the Directorate of Culture Department on January 19



at the Culture Department Auditorium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The Mahasamund artists, led by Naresh Sahu, showcased their skills with a captivating short play titled "Yug Ki Pukar" (written and directed by Naresh Sahu). This inspirational performance, presented

under the banner of Disha Natya Kala Manch Mahasamund, featured the talents of Bharat Singh Sahu, Shankarlal Sahu, Draupati Sahu, Manju Mamta Sahu, Tarakeshwar Sahu, Chhovaram Sahu (BEO Office Mahasamund) and Dr. Devendra Sahu Health Department have per-

formed brilliantly and have been selected for the national competition.

Their outstanding performance earned them the honor of representing Maharashtra at the national level. Collector Prabhakar Malik extended his heartfelt congratulations to the district's participants, recognizing their remarkable achievement.

The district's education and sports officials, including District Education Officer Mita Mukherjee, Sports Officer Manoj Dhritalhare, Assistant Sports Officer Anjali Barmal, and others, also conveyed their best wishes to the talented artists.

Mother buried newborn girl in rats hole, people saved her

■ FIR filed against the mother

Jagdalpur, Jan 28:

In a village in the Kodenar police station area of the district, a 1-day-old newborn girl was thrown into a rat hole by her mother. Hearing her crying, people reached the spot, took the girl out of the hole and brought her to the hospital. The newborn girl has been referred to Medical College Jagdalpur after first aid and where the child's condition is said to be improving. A woman who became pregnant during a love affair gave birth to a baby girl. She committed this shameful incident with the intention of hiding her child and the Kodenar police has filed an FIR against her and investigating into the case.



According to the information received from the police, a girl became pregnant during a love affair with a young man. She gave birth to a baby girl at midnight on 22 January. After which she informed this to her lover young man. He refused to adopt the girl and her baby girl. After which on January 23, the girl planned to kill the newborn. Then the girl was buried in a rat hole near a eucalyptus tree in

the village itself. It is being told that when the newborn was pressed to the ground by his mother, sometime after that, some people of the village had reached near the Nilgiri tree and heard the sound of crying.

After which the newborn girl was safely taken out from the rats' hole. Police has filed an FIR and is interrogating the girl's mother and her family.

Paddy procurement faces challenges in Kasdol



Kasdol, Jan 28:

In the Paddy Production Center Mohtara, efforts to meet the paddy procurement target have encountered obstacles. While 34,932 quintals have been purchased, a significant 10,872 quintals remain to be acquired within the next three days. Since January 13, a noteworthy issue has arisen, as there has been no DO (Delivery Order) cut, not only in Mohtara but across paddy production centers in Balodabazar district. This has resulted in 11,802 quintals of paddy being stuck, well beyond the buffer limit's storage capacity of

2,500 quintals. With storage exceeding four times the capacity, it becomes challenging to purchase the remaining 10,802 quintals in such a short time frame. Moreover, some areas face waterlogged fields, causing the entire paddy crop to become wet. This excess paddy accumulation poses difficulties for both employees of the society and farmers. The procurement target has been increased from 1,600 quintals per day to 3,600 quintals per day, but the situation remains challenging due to delayed paddy lifting and unwarranted interruptions in harvesting by the government.

R-Day begins in Khairagarh with 51 feet tricolor hoisting

■ By Dilip Rajak and family

Khairagarh, Jan 28:

Like every year, Bajrang Hotel, which has become an example of human service by selflessly providing free tea and biscuits to the patients in Khairagarh Government Hospital for years in the spirit of "Hamar Khairagarh Hamar Tiranga", at Sangeetnagar at Ambedkar Chowk, started its festivities of celebrating the Republic Day.

The flag was hoisted by director Dilip Rajak and his family and on this occasion, Municipality Vice President Abdul Razzaq Khan, social worker Madhukar Chokhandre, Suryakant Yadav, Councilor Sumit Tandia, former Alderman Ratan Singh, Iqra Foundation President Khalil Qureshi



were present. Under the program, a painting competition was organized under the aegis of Nagrik Ekta Manch and this year 140 children displayed their creative skills, with their colorful and varied presentation of their skills on the topic Chandrayaan 3. Convenor Kishore Sharma said that painting competitions on various subjects are organized from time to time to provide a platform to the hidden talents of children and to encourage them.

The jury of the painting competition included Dr. Ravi Narayan Gupta,

Graphics Department, Sandeep Kindo, Painting Department and Dr. Chhagendra Usendi, Sculpture Department, Assistant Professor, Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh and Anand Vaishnav. Uttam Kumar Bagde, Shamshul Hoda Khan, Satendra Verma, Umendra Patel, Nitesh Jain, Govind Soni, Lakshwar Janghel, Dolly Verma, Mehndi Verma, Rajkumar Borkar, Brahm Kumar Bhatt, Ramesh Yadu, Rajkumar Dubey, Kamlesh Bomle were present among the committee members.

Backward Baiga tribe should benefit through PMJY: Pandey

Kawardha, Jan 28:

A meeting of the District Level District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee "Disha" was organized in the conference room of the District Collectorate office under the chairmanship of MP Santosh Pandey. The MP said that keeping in mind the concepts of overall development of Kabirdham district, District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee "Disha" has been formed at the district level and he described the coordination and monitoring com-



mittee formed for the development of the district as important.

He said that as per the intention of the govern-

ment, we all should work with coordination in the monitoring committee in the Disha meeting and naturally this will lead to

progress in the area and we will be able to work in the field of development. He also said that Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana is a special scheme beneficial for backward tribes through which all their basic needs will be fulfilled and Special backward tribes should be aware of this scheme and promote it as much as possible.

The MP also gave instructions to provide training to farmers and conduct tours for technical agriculture under the government scheme for advanced agriculture, construction of culvert in village Dengurjam and construction of road from

Padhi main road to Pandaripathra, road and culvert from Kandwani to Dengurjam in the Janman Yojana.

Public representatives informed about the irregularities in the construction work done with the amount of 15th Finance in village Rauha. In the meeting, District Panchayat President Sushila Bhatt, Roshan Dubey, Chandrakumar Soni, Kiran Choubey, Hemant Thakur, Bhagwani Sahu, Jethuram Nirmalkar, Ratiram Bhatt, Additional Collector Inderjit Burman and district level officers were present.

Two bookies arrested with cash worth Rs 7200

Jagdalpur, Jan 28:

The Police Station Kotwali of the district got information from the informer that some persons are playing gambling and betting in Itwari Market and Sanjay Market by placing winning or losing bets on numbers through mobile WhatsApp messages. After identifying the suspects on information, raid was conducted and two accused Firoz Khan alias Raja resident of Indira Ward and Suresh Gupta resident of Metguda Jagdalpur were arrested. Five Android mobiles



were seized from the accused. In which online gambling and betting was found by placing winning bets on rupees through WhatsApp. Five separate mobile phones, Rs 7200 in cash and 20 betting slips have been seized from

their possession. A crime was registered against the accused in the police station under Section 6(a) (71) of the Gambling (Prohibition) Act. After the proceedings, both the accused were sent on judicial remand.

Revolutionary changes taking place in India-US relationship: Amb Sandhu

Washington, Jan 28 (PTI):

Revolutionary changes are taking place in the India-US relationship, the outgoing Indian Ambassador here, Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said, stressing that the bilateral ties have only covered the tip of the iceberg and are going to go far and wide.

Addressing a gathering of Indian Americans at the Republic Day celebration here, Sandhu said it is important that their second generation remains connected to India.

"I only wanted to tell you that today revolutionary changes are taking place in India, also in US-India relations," he said, "And therefore it is important that your children and your families are aware of India, stay connected with India," Sandhu, who retires later this month from the foreign service after more than 35 years, said.



India's Ambassador to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu with Virginia Lt. Governor Winsome Sears during celebrations of India's 75th Republic Day, in Virginia, USA.

As international capital and multinational companies move into India, all the young Indian Americans will be uniquely placed to get most of those job opportunities, Sandhu said.

"So therefore, not only for emotional, cultural, and so many other reasons but also for economic and commercial reasons, pay attention, stay connected with India," Sandhu said.

The event in McLean, Virginia was organised

by the National Council of Asian Indian Associations. The outgoing ambassador was also felicitated by the community leaders for his role in strengthening the India-US relationship.

Sandhu speaking at another farewell reception

Iran launches 3 satellites into space

Jerusalem, Jan 28 (AP):

Iran said on Sunday it successfully launched three satellites into space with a rocket that had multiple failures in the past, the latest for a programme that the West says improves Tehran's ballistic missiles.

The launch comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, sparking fears of a regional conflict.

While Iran has not intervened militarily in the conflict, it has faced increased pressure within its theocracy for action after a deadly Islamic State suicide bombing earlier this month and as proxy groups like Yemen's Houthi rebels conduct attacks linked to the war. Meanwhile, Western nations remain worried about Iran's rapidly expanding nuclear programme.

Footage released by Iranian state television showed a nighttime launch for the Simorgh rocket. An Associated Press analysis of the footage showed that it took place at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province.



This photo released by the Iranian Defense Ministry on Sunday, Jan. 28 claims to show Simorgh, or 'Phoenix,' satellite carrier before being launched at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in Iran's rural Semnan province.

"The roar of the Simorgh (rocket) resonated in our country's sky and infinite space," said Abbas Rasooli, a state TV reporter, in the footage. State TV named the launched satellites Mahda, Kayhan-2 and Hatef-1. It described the Mahda as a re-

search satellite, while the Kayhan and the Hatef were nanosatellites focused on global positioning and communication respectively. Iran's Information and Communications Technology Minister Isa Zarepour said the Mahda had already sent signals back to Earth.

9 Pakistani labourers shot dead in Iran

Pakistan seeks comprehensive investigation

Islamabad, Jan 28 (PTI):

Pakistan has sought a comprehensive investigation into the killing of nine of its nationals in a brutal attack in Iran that occurred days after the tensions between the two nations following a tit-for-tat cross-border fire.

Nine Pakistani workers were gunned down and three others were injured by unidentified attackers who opened indiscriminate fire on them in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province near the border with Pakistan on Saturday.

Iran's Mehr news agency reported that "according to witnesses, unknown armed men killed nine non-Iranians in a house in the

Sirkan neighbourhood of Saravan city" in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

No group or individual immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistan's Foreign Office has demanded a comprehensive investigation into the attack and swift prosecution of those responsible for it.

"We are in touch with Iranian authorities and have underscored the need to immediately investigate the incident and hold to account those involved in this heinous crime," FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said and condemned the "horrifying and despicable" attack.

She said Pakistan's consul in Zahedan was en route to the hospital to assist the injured and was expected to arrive within a few hours due to the considerable distance and security challenges.

R-DAY CELEBRATION IN BANGKOK



Artists perform during a recital of Ramayana in fusion style during India's 75th Republic Day celebration, in Bangkok.

Corrupt officials stole \$40mn meant to buy arms: Ukraine

Kyiv, Jan 28 (AP):

Employees from a Ukrainian arms firm conspired with defense ministry officials to embezzle almost USD 40 million earmarked to buy 100,000 mortar shells for the war with Russia, Ukraine's security service reported.

The SBU said late Saturday that five people have been charged, with one person detained while trying to cross the Ukrainian border. If found guilty, they face up to 12 years in prison.

The investigation comes as Kyiv attempts to clamp down on corruption in a bid to speed up its membership in the European Union and NATO. Officials from both blocs have demanded widespread anti-graft reforms before Kyiv can join them. Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy was elected on an anti-corruption platform in 2019, long before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Both the president and his aides have portrayed the recent firings of top officials, notably that of Ivan Bakanov, former head of the State Security Service, in July 2022, as proof of their efforts to crack down on graft.

Security officials say that the current investigation dates back to August 2022, when officials signed a contract for artillery shells worth 1.5 billion hryvnias (USD 39.6 million) with arms firm Lviv Arsenal. After receiving payment, company employees were supposed to transfer the funds to a business registered abroad, which would then deliver the ammunition to Ukraine.

Commonwealth observer group to visit Pakistan to assess Feb 8 elections

Islamabad, Jan 28 (PTI):

Ahead of general elections in Pakistan on February 8, a 13-member Commonwealth observer group led by former Nigerian President Dr Goodluck Jonathan will be deployed to offer an independent and comprehensive assessment of the country's electoral process.

The general elections in Pakistan will be held on February 8, and there are approximately 128 million eligible voters.

On election day, members of the Commonwealth Observer

Group (COG) will observe and consider all aspects of the election process across Pakistan, from the opening of polling stations and the voting process to the counting of ballots and the announcement of results.

The observer team, which has been selected by the Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, comprises multi-disciplinary experts from across the Commonwealth nations and would be chaired by former Nigeria president Jonathan.

"A 13-member Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) is due to ar-

rive in Islamabad on February 1 and will remain in the country until the electoral process is completed. The observer group will offer an independent and comprehensive assessment of the electoral process," a statement from the Commonwealth Secretariat Media and Public Affairs division said.

Commenting on the visit of the delegation, the Secretary-General said: "The Commonwealth is pleased to support Pakistan's democratic journey. We look forward to peaceful and fair elec-

tions".

"I am grateful that former Nigeria president Dr Goodluck Jonathan has once again accepted our invitation to serve as chair of an election observer group. The team of observers will assess the conduct of the process as a whole and, where appropriate, make recommendations for the further strengthening of the electoral system," she added.

Patricia said that she was hopeful that the recommendations would benefit the people and government of Pakistan in strengthening their electoral processes.

Netanyahu is defiant after UN court ruling

Rafah, Jan 28 (AP):

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday pushed back after an International Court of Justice ruling to limit death and destruction in the military's Gaza offensive, declaring that "we decide and act according to what is required for our security" and vowing to press on until complete victory. Witnesses said three Palestinians were killed earlier Saturday in an airstrike that Israel's military said was targeting a Hamas commander in southern Gaza.

Israel's military is under increasing scrutiny now that the top United Nations court has asked



Palestinians flee Israeli ground offensive in Kahn Younis, Gaza Strip.

Israel for a compliance report in a month. The court's binding ruling on Friday stopped short of ordering a cease-fire, but its orders were in part a rebuke of Israel's conduct in

its nearly 4-month war against Gaza's Hamas rulers.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the main organization aiding Gaza's population amid

the humanitarian disaster, saw more countries suspend its funding following allegations that a number of Gaza staff members participated in the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that sparked the war. Britain, Italy and Finland joined the United States, Australia and Canada in placing aid to UNRWA on hold.

The Israel-Hamas war has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, destroyed vast swaths of Gaza and displaced nearly 85% of the territory's 2.3 million people. The Hamas attack in southern Israel killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and about 250 hostages were taken.

UN chief calls on countries to resume funding Gaza aid agency

Rafah, Jan 28 (AP):

The secretary-general of the United Nations on Sunday called on countries to continue funding the main agency providing aid in Gaza after several of its employees were accused of taking part in the Hamas attack on Israel that ignited the war four months ago.

The dispute engulfing the biggest provider of vital aid to Palestinians came as U.S. officials said negotiators were closing in on a cease-fire agreement. The emerging deal would bring a two-month halt to the deadliest ever Israeli-Palestinian violence, which has stoked instability across the Middle

East. Antonio Guterres warned that the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, would be forced to scale back aid to more than 2 million Palestinians as soon as February. The coastal enclave is in the grip of a severe humanitarian crisis, with a quarter of the population facing starvation.

"The abhorrent alleged acts of these staff members must have consequences," Guterres said in a statement. "But the tens of thousands of men and women who work for UNRWA, many in some of the most dangerous situations for humanitarian workers, should not be penalized. The dire needs of the desper-

ate populations they serve must be met," he added.

He said that of the 12 employees accused of taking part in the attack, nine had been immediately terminated, one was confirmed dead and "the identity of the two others is being clarified." He said all would be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution. UNRWA has 13,000 staffers in Gaza, nearly all of them Palestinians.

It provides basic services, from medical care to education, for Palestinians families who fled or were driven out of what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation - a majority of Gaza's population.

Climate change figures prominently in Pakistan political parties' manifestos

Islamabad, Jan 28 (PTI):

After Pakistan was by catastrophic floods in 2022, two major political parties in the country have prominently highlighted the importance of dealing with climate change-related issues in their manifestos ahead of the February 8 general elections.

Ranked as the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change according to the Global Climate Risk Index, a UN report has warned that Pakistan will experience increasingly severe extreme weather events. The total damage from the devastating floods

in 2022 that hit 33 million people in Pakistan is estimated at PKR 3.2 trillion (USD 14.9 billion), with a total loss of PKR 3.3 trillion (USD 15.2 billion).

But not just annual, large-scale floods, Pakistan has faced melting glaciers in the north triggering Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), record-breaking heat waves, droughts, forest fires in various regions and cyclones in the southern parts that have been exacerbated by the changing climate in recent years. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif-led Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan

Peoples Party (PPP) with Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as its head, released their manifestos on Saturday and promised a multitude of things to their voters.

One common thing in both was the emphasis on climate change-related issues and the promise of many mitigation and adaptation measures. While the PML-N mentioned the measures under the section Building a Climate Resilient Pakistan, the PPP had a separate chapter Green New Deal: Climate Resilient Futures in its manifesto.

The third prominent party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) headed by in-

carcerated Imran Khan, has not released any manifesto as yet, however, given its track record of implementing Billion Tree Tsunami as part of the party's Green Growth Initiative, it is known that climate change is part of their discourse.

Before it was replaced by a caretaker administration in August, Pakistan's outgoing government had approved a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in July 2023. It sets out how Pakistan will deal with challenges brought by climate change. However, there are a whole lot of things that need to be done vis- vis climate change.

India to assist in rescue of Sri Lanka fishermen captured by Somali pirates

Colombo, Jan 28 (PTI): India has pledged to assist in the rescue of six Sri Lankan fishermen captured by the Somali pirates, Sri Lanka Navy spokesman Gayan Wickremasuriya said on Sunday.

The multi-day fishing trawler Lorenzo Putha-4 set sail from Dikowita fishing harbour in Sri Lanka on January 16.

Wickremasuriya said the UN's central maritime command was alerted by Sri Lanka on Saturday on the six fishermen and their trawler being captured by the Somali pirates 840 nautical miles southeast of Mogadishu.



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ICJ's Bold Move

Urgent Measures for Gaza Crisis

The ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) demanding that Israel take action to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza has sent shockwaves through the international community. In a decisive 15-2 majority vote, the ICJ ordered Israel to not only prevent acts of genocide but also allow humanitarian aid to flow into the region. This landmark decision, while falling short of an immediate ceasefire as requested by South Africa, represents a significant step towards addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. South Africa's petition, supported by more than 75 countries, garnered widespread international backing, mainly from the developing bloc. However, India's conspicuous absence from this coalition raises questions about the stance of one of the world's largest democracies. The ICJ's interim ruling is a stern rebuke to Israel and its closest allies, including the United States and Germany. While the court did not explicitly call for an immediate ceasefire, the fact that it voted for emergency measures aligning with most of South Africa's requests underscores the gravity of the situation in Gaza. The court's order mandates that Israel must take all necessary measures within its power to prevent acts that fall within the scope of Article II of the Genocide Convention. This includes actions aimed at preventing genocide and protecting the civilian population of Gaza. Additionally, Israel is required to report back to the ICJ within a month, detailing the steps it has taken to comply with the court's directions. However, it's important to note that the ICJ's ruling, while significant, lacks a mechanism for enforcement. Israel may choose to disregard the order without facing immediate consequences. This underscores the ongoing challenges in holding nations accountable for their actions on the international stage. The ICJ expressed deep concern about the fate of hostages in Gaza and called upon Hamas to immediately release them without conditions. This aspect of the ruling highlights the broader humanitarian issues at stake in the region. South Africa's argument before the ICJ, stating that Israel's relentless attacks were causing the "destruction of the population" of Gaza, adds a poignant dimension to the court's decision. It underscores the urgency of addressing the plight of civilians caught in the crossfire of conflict. The ICJ's ruling serves as a reminder of the critical role that international institutions play in addressing global conflicts and humanitarian crises. While the immediate impact of the order remains uncertain, it sends a powerful message that the international community is closely monitoring the situation in Gaza and expects all parties involved to take meaningful steps to protect human lives and prevent acts of genocide.

Unity and Collaboration

Imperatives for INDIA to Counter the BJP

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee



In the ever-evolving landscape of Indian politics, the formation of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was seen as a significant step towards consolidating opposition forces and presenting a formidable challenge to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, recent internal rifts within the alliance have raised doubts about its ability to maintain unity and effectively counter the BJP's dominance on the national stage. The recent discord surfaced during seat-sharing discussions, a crucial aspect of any pre-election coalition. While these discussions are typically characterized by negotiation and compromise, they have instead led to discord within the INDIA alliance. Two prominent Chief Ministers, Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Bhagwant Mann of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), from West Bengal and Punjab, respectively, have made it clear that they are willing to go it alone in their respective states. The response from the central leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC) to these developments has been telling. While they have reacted differently to the belligerent allies in West Bengal and Punjab, it raises questions about the overall cohesion and strategy of the alliance. Such internal divisions, if not addressed promptly and effectively, can jeopardize the INDIA bloc's chances of presenting a united front against the BJP. Furthermore, there are indications that similar challenges may arise in other states. Bihar, for instance, has traditionally been a state with a complex political landscape. If Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, decides to return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), it could deal a severe blow to the unity of the INDIA alliance at the national level. The seat-sharing struggles in Kerala between the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] only add to the concerns. Additionally, in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena (led by Uddhav Thackeray) has demanded a significant number of seats, indicating the desire of these regional parties to maximize their representation in their stronghold states. It's evident that these parties forming the INDIA bloc are eager to contest as many seats as possible in their respective strongholds. Their goal is to maximize their tally of Members of Parliament (MPs), which would provide them with substantial bargaining power in potential post-election scenarios. However, the question that arises is whether this approach will effectively counter the Modi-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) or if it will instead dilute the INDIA alliance's strength. The risk of losing winning seats to the NDA is real, and the opposition's inability to present a united front may only benefit the ruling party. A cohesive opposition is essential for the health of any democracy. Without a strong and united opposition, the ruling party can potentially wield disproportionate power, leading to a less balanced and equitable political landscape. In this context, it is imperative for the Congress and its president, Mallikarjun Kharge, to take proactive steps to foster unity within the INDIA alliance. While challenges exist, and questions surround certain political figures, the broader goal of countering the BJP's influence should remain the top priority. This requires a commitment to collaboration, compromise, and strategic alliances that prioritize the interests of the nation over individual ambitions.

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

LOKRANG MAHOTSAV



Artists from Madhya Pradesh perform during Lokrang Mahotsav at Ravindra Bhawan, in Bhopal.

Reassessing Balochistan: A Shared Challenge for Iran and Pakistan



PRIYANKA SAURABH



The Baloch tribe is a group of people from the Balochistan region and the region is divided into three regions. The northern part is in present-day Afghanistan, the western region is called the Sistan-Baluchistan region in Iran and the rest is in Pakistan. This area remained the center of power struggle during and after British rule. Pakistan took control of the region in 1948 and the accession agreement led to the first rebellion for autonomy, which resulted in systemic repression of the independence movement with violence in Balochistan. The Balochis believe they were colonized or annexed by Pakistan during partition and the ethnic group is distinct from the dominant Punjabis, Sindhis who have dominated Pakistan's politics. The association of the Pashtun region with Afghanistan and the Balochis demanding independence has become an 'Achilles Heel' for Pakistan. Fifty-two years ago, the call for independence in East Pakistan led to the creation of Bangladesh. Baloch armed groups were formed to "liberate" the region and there have been several clashes between the Pakistani army and the militants. The groups have also targeted infrastructure to disrupt projects in the region and create a state of fear. There is a shared feeling of subordination among the Balochis on both sides of the border.

It has given rise to a sense of Balochi nationalism aimed at independence and is also a hub for drug and arms trafficking due to the power vacuum and growing hostility between the state and the people. There have been instances in the past when Iran has fired mortars to attack terrorist camps in Balochistan. A fence along the Iran-Pakistan border now separates families and tribes, which is still in place. Despite its strategic importance, Balochistan has been ignored by Pakistan's central leadership, leading to an independence movement that began after it acceded to Pakistan in 1948. The recent attacks have drawn attention to two things – the airspace of a nuclear-armed nation being violated by missile and drone attacks and the instability in Balochistan and power politics involving regional and global powers.

Recent events have put relations between Iran and Pakistan in the spotlight, with missile attacks, drone strikes, and territorial disputes increasing tensions between the two neighboring countries. The Baloch population living on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border share deep cultural, ethnic, and linguistic ties. Baloch communities have been marginalized in both countries, giving rise to separatist movements. Baloch insurgents operate across the open border, targeting military and civil-

ian targets, complicating relations. Baloch insurgents in Iran often have a religious bent, while insurgents in Pakistan lean toward secular ethno-nationalism. Before Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, both countries were allied with the United States and were part of the Baghdad Pact (later CENTO), a military alliance based on NATO. Iran provided material and arms assistance to Pakistan during its wars against India in 1965 and 1971. Iran became a staunch enemy of the United States after 1979, while Pakistan moved closer to the US, especially as differences emerged during the "War on Terror" after 9/11. Recent cross-border attacks and tensions between Iran and Pakistan underscore the fragility of their relations, which are complicated by historical, sectarian, and geopolitical factors. The involvement of Arabs, Israelis, and Iranians in the Balochistan issue reflects broader regional power politics. Balochistan's location at the mouth of the Gulf makes it an integral part of geopolitical strategies. The Balochistan issue, regional power dynamics and India's emerging role in the Middle East are challenging established assumptions about security in the region. As Gulf conflicts spill over to the Baloch border, a weakened Pakistan could find itself embroiled in a broader Middle East conflict, demanding a reassessment of regional strategies.

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Tehran's harsh treatment of the Baloch has fueled Sunni fundamentalism in Sistan-o-Baluchistan. Even before the Iranian Revolution, ethnic Baluch from Iran migrated to Balochistan and Karachi and became involved in political activities against the Shah of Iran. Pakistan has a complicated relationship with its Baloch population due to the increase in Baloch insurgency over the past few years. Baloch society is organized

along tribal lines, and infighting among the Baloch population has contributed somewhat to the group's lack of political power, as it has been subject to various empires for centuries. Baloch separatist movements have been part of the political fabric of the region for decades, with a presence in both Pakistan and Iran, where about 20 percent of the Baloch population lives (about 70 percent are in Pakistani territory). The increasingly porous and poorly policed border between the two countries has meant that drug trafficking and many different insurgent groups have had the opportunity to flourish, with Vale particularly noting cooperation between the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan IS, which wants to overthrow the Pakistani government and has carried out several deadly attacks by Baloch militants. Due to Gwadar and Chabahar, the economic interests of both countries as well as changes in extremist ideology, Pakistan's increasing cooperation with Gulf countries and the United States, and challenging conditions along the long border have increased tensions between the two countries. Ultimately, the current conflict between Iran and Pakistan has more to do with the internal politics of each country. It is a continuation of a long-running conflict against an ethnic insurgency that has troubled them both for decades. Iran's involvement – particularly its decision to attack Pakistani territory as well as targets in Iraq and Syria – reflects its battlefield capabilities as well as its concern about recent attacks on its people. The situation is likely to remain tense unless both countries reconsider their treatment of their Baloch populations.

(Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poetess, Independent Journalist and columnist. Views re personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Iran Pakistan conflict

The complicated relationship between Iran and Pakistan seems to be in an alarming state after Iran's strikes against Jaish Al Adl in Balochistan, a Sunni group that has carried out attacks in Iran earlier. In retaliation, Pakistan too carried out attacks in the Sistan-Baluchistan region to neutralize "Pakistan-origin terrorists." Both countries have a group of minorities living on the fringe, devoid of socio-political rights. These people are becoming the soft targets of militant organizations. In this time of escalating violence, both countries should act with maturity, as the former is already engaged in multiple proxy wars in West Asia and the latter has unstable militarized borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan and is submerged in a deep economic crisis.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur One Nation, One Election

The proposal for simultaneous elections for parliament and state assemblies seems to be gaining momentum with the high-level committee appointed by the government actively pursuing it. 'One nation, one election' is a rigid framework that prevents the natural play of politics in a country where democracy is still evolving. However, the electoral system should be in agreement with its large political and social diversities, else it will amount to manipulating the electoral system for an undemocratic end.

Mohammad Taurik,
Bettiah, Bihar

Controversy in Assam

Himanta Biswa Sarma is making all efforts to keep away the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from Assam while he has been a part of Congress ever. However, Himanta commits such acts to remain in social media. It is undeniable fact that BJP got rattled by the "grand success" of the yatra last year. So they are trying to stop it early here. But the crowd of people can be seen supporting this Yatra. They want to share their problems, huge unemployment, price rise and massive corruption. Therefore, whatever the CM is doing is not in his own favour but in fact, helping the yatra get more publicity.

Tauqueer Rahmani,
Mumbai

Directionless Opposition

The opposition has yet not decided seat sharing properly. One of the top leaders is busy on yatra. TMC and AAP are delivering twins jolts for INDIA alliance. The rest fighting for petty issues forgetting greater cause for which they have come together. This opposition is directionless and also clueless of how to take on BJP in the hustings.

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai

Melting Permafrost: A Chilling Threat from the Polar Regions



Arka Goswami

In the ever-warming world of climate change, a new and chilling threat has emerged from the polar regions. Scientists are sounding the alarm about the potential dangers lurking within the melting permafrost of the northern hemisphere. As these ancient frozen landscapes thaw, they could unleash dormant pathogens, giving rise to another pandemic that has the potential to devastate our civilization.

The Peril of Ancient Pathogens
Permafrost, characterized by soil preserved at sub-zero temperatures for thousands of years, covers roughly 20% of the Northern Hemisphere. These frozen layers, kept in darkness, cold, and oxygen-free conditions, have acted as a natural freezer for countless millennia. They preserve not only soil but also the remnants of ancient life, including viruses that have been dormant for ages.

Among the most concerning discoveries are strains of Methuselah bacteria, ominously referred to as "zombie viruses." These ancient pathogens have the potential to cause a medical emergency of unprecedented proportions if unleashed. As climate change continues to accelerate the thawing of permafrost, there is a growing fear that these long-dormant viruses may awaken and pose a grave threat to human health.

The Race Against Climate Change
Researchers and scientists worldwide are now racing against

time to better understand the potential risks and consequences of this permafrost thaw. A dedicated Arctic monitoring group has been formed to identify instances of contaminated organisms and monitor the spread of potential pathogens. While our focus has primarily been on addressing the pandemic originating in the southern regions, the lesser-explored northern zones present significant potential for disease transmission.

Leading virologist Marion Koopman from the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam confirms that the risk of a northern outbreak is not to be underestimated. In 2014, a group of scientists, led by Jean Michel Cleavie, unearthed living viruses in Siberia that had been encased in permafrost for nearly 40,000 years. Although the specific virus they discovered was incapable of infecting humans, it raises a haunting possibility that other ancient viruses, currently frozen in time, could still be viable and infectious.

The Double Threat

The permafrost crisis is further compounded by the rapid disappearance of Arctic sea ice, bringing with it increased maritime traffic. Massive mining operations, aimed at extracting valuable resources like ores and oil, threaten to drill deep into the permafrost, potentially releasing untold numbers of preserved germs. As miners venture into these areas, they may unknowingly inhale these ancient viruses, raising the specter of unforeseen health consequences.

The consequences could be dire. Our immune systems may be ill-equipped to combat infections from pathogens that have been dormant for millennia. The prospect of ancient diseases resurfacing poses an alarming global health concern that cannot be ignored.

Preparing for the Unthinkable
To address this looming threat, it is imperative that an

international collaborative effort is established in polar regions. This network should focus on setting up quarantine facilities, offering medical services capable of early detection, and providing treatment for potential cases. Timely identification and containment of these ancient pathogens are crucial steps in mitigating the risk posed by melting permafrost.

The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated. Climate change has set in motion a series of events that demand immediate attention and cooperation from the global community. As we confront the ongoing challenges of the modern world, we must not forget that nature, in all its ancient complexity, still holds secrets that can shape our destiny in unpredictable ways. It is our responsibility to act swiftly and decisively to safeguard our civilization from the potential perils lurking within the melting permafrost.

BRIEF

Cooperative sector



Nashik: Union minister BL Verma on Saturday said the Centre will provide all help for the development of the cooperative sector in Maharashtra. The Union minister of state for cooperation was speaking at the Maharashtra State Urban Cooperative Banks Conference (MSUCBC) 2023-24 being held here.

Largest economy

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the initiatives of Customs department like Faceless Assessment and Single Window Clearance need to evolve with the overall objective of growth of trade as every partner needs to collaborate to help India's GDP surpass USD 5 trillion by 2027-28. In a written message on the occasion of 'International Customs Day 2024'.

Patents granted



New Delhi: The Indian Patent Office has granted a "record" 75,000 patents in the last 10 months and it reflects India's ability to innovate, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. Interacting with innovators and entrepreneurs on the eve of the 75th Republic Day here, the minister also said that 40,000 compliances have either been eliminated or simplified to ease the burden on entrepreneurs.

Huge potential

NEW DELHI: Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Friday met Airbus Global CEO Guillaume Faury and discussed collaboration opportunities for manufacturing and designing of aircraft. India is one of the key markets for Airbus, which received orders for more than 700 planes from IndiGo and Air India last year. Also, IndiGo, the country's largest airline, has only Airbus aircraft in its fleet.

PNB raises profit guidance

New Delhi: Enthused by a stellar performance in the third quarter, state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has raised its profit guidance to Rs 7,000-7,500 crore for the current financial year. Earlier, the second largest lender had set a profit estimate of Rs 6,000 crore for the ongoing fiscal. With a 253 per cent jump in the net profit in the third quarter, the bottom line of the bank in the three-quarters of FY24 crossed Rs 5,230 crore.

Govt working on SEZ reforms: Barthwal

Kolkata, Jan 28:

The government is working on reforms in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) domain so that movement of goods between domestic tariff area (DTA) and SEZ space is carried out smoothly without affecting the competitiveness of goods in the export markets, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Saturday. During the pandemic two years ago, many office spaces in the SEZ areas had been vacated due to 'work from home' practice initiated by the occupants. Barthwal said this had led to the demarcation of SEZs into SEZ and DTA spaces. "Scale economies have become very important nowadays. Reforms in the SEZ are in the offing so that movement of goods from SEZ to DTA and vice-versa are not affected rendering goods produced become less competitive",



Barthwal said at a symposium organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce. The official said that the foreign trade policy (FTP) of the government had been framed keeping in mind the global value chain. "Our FTP has been designed for exporters to take advantage of the global value chain. The industry, which had always sought protection in the past, will now have to integrate with the global value chain and look at where the competitive advantage lay", he added.

Stating that the target of achieving USD two trillion exports by 2030 is possible, Barthwal said that USD one trillion will be forthcoming from merchandise exports and another USD one trillion from services. "Services appear to be intangible, but there is a huge scope to grow. We should look at the impediments which are preventing the growth of the services sector", he added. Barthwal said with external trade becoming an important part of the growth engine, both the industrial and foreign trade policies are now intertwined. He said that there is an increasing demand by countries to ink free trade agreements (FTAs) with India. In bilateral and multilateral agreements, the most important aspect is to understand the policy of 'give and take'. If one has to take something, he also has to give something, he said.

Customs 2.0 in offing; to provide fully automated stakeholder service: Revenue Secy

New Delhi, Jan 28:

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said the customs department is developing a fully automated trade interface system, Customs 2.0, which would also help in improving its score in the World Bank's ranking. Speaking on the International Customs Day 2024 celebrations, organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Malhotra said technology is going to be the main driver in improving customs processes. "The World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023, which was released in April last year, had ranked Customs processes at 47th spot, down from 40th position in 2018.



"India is on course to become the third largest economy surpassing GDP of USD 5 trillion. Yet we are ranked 47th out of 139 countries in the World Bank report. There is a huge scope for improvement for us not only in terms of score but also in terms of ranking, Malhotra said.

Goa should be showcased as intl investment destination for new-age industry: Srinivas Dempo

Panaji, Jan 28:

Goa should be showcased as an international investment destination for the new-age industry including warehousing, logistic, IT and others, renowned industrialist and President of Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry Srinivas Dempo has said. Talking to PTI ahead of the Invest Goa 2024 summit scheduled to be held on January 29 in Panaji, Dempo said the new-age industry offers huge opportunities for the youth of the state. The 'Invest Goa 2024 Summit' is a collaborative effort between the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (Goa-IDC) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), serving as the National Partner. Dempo said that Goa cannot attract very heavy industry as "there is a lot



of opposition regarding polluting industries." "I think it is the need of the hour that through IDC, Goa is showcased as an international investment destination for the new-age industry. We can talk about warehousing, logistics, we can talk about IT industry, ITES, medical devices, electronic industry where the land size required is not very large," he commented.

Foxconn Chairman Young Liu conferred with Padma Bhushan



New Delhi, Jan 28: Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn Group CEO and Chairman Young Liu was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award, on the eve of 75th Republic Day. As per an official announcement made on Thursday, Liu is the only foreigner among the list of 17

Padma Bhushan recipients. Under his leadership, Foxconn started making iPhones in India in 2019 after he took over the reins as CEO and chairman from Terry Gou in June 2019. Apple started making iPhones at the Wistron plant in Bengaluru which has now been acquired by Tata Group. Foxconn employs over 40,000 people and has plans to double its workforce this year. The group has a turnover of over USD 10 billion in India and it has invested over USD 8 billion in the country till date. Under Liu's leadership, Foxconn has joined India Semiconductor Mission through which the country is aspiring to set up a semiconductor ecosystem in the country. Foxconn is in the process of setting up an out-sourced semiconductor assembly and test joint venture with HCL Group.

Justdial Business Excellence Awards distributed

Bhopal, Jan 28: Raipur witnessed a momentous celebration of local business excellence as Justdial, India's leading hyper-local business search engine, hosted the Justdial Business Excellence Awards on January 23, 2024. The event served as a significant platform uniting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Raipur, creating opportunities for growth and fostering collaborative networks. The event commenced with an informative and engaging session on business growth and how the local businesses can become the top 1% business by utilizing digital platforms.

BRAVERY AWARD



Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari with CEO, Food Delivery, Zomato Rakesh Ranjan and COO - Food Delivery, Zomato, Rinshul Chandra presents bravery award for emergency services to delivery partner Indu Sarapu from Hyderabad during the Zomato's 'First-Responder Training Program' at Talkatora Stadium, in New Delhi.

Youth should strive to become job providers instead of job seekers: Pradhan

Mumbai, Jan 28: The youth should focus on becoming entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities as envisioned by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 instead of job seekers, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. "The youth must not be satisfied by becoming job seekers, but strive to be job providers, as envisioned by the NEP 2020. "This is an opportune time to focus on entrepreneurship and creating new unicorns," Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan said while addressing the first convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai. The minister



said the youth must not be satisfied by becoming job seekers, but strive to be job providers, as envisioned by the NEP 2020. "This is an opportune time to focus on entrepreneurship and creating new unicorns," he added. Pradhan urged everyone to work towards creating an ecosystem to facilitate ideas that will

transform into unicorns of the future. The 'GenZ' are the catalyst of socio-economic change and have the responsibility to be the solution providers on global and societal issues for the next 25 years, Pradhan said. Further, the minister added that a record improvement has been witnessed in the participation of poor, underprivileged communities and women in education, which is an indicator of a knowledge-driven society. In July 2023, the Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a bill for the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) in Mumbai to become the 21st Indian Institute of Management, Mumbai.

Baweja Studios IPO opens Jan 29

Mumbai, Jan 28: Baweja Studios Ltd, a legacy content production studio known for its dynamic quality of film-making and innovative storytelling practice is planning to raise up to Rs. 97.20 crore from its SME public issue. The company has received approval to launch its public issue on NSE Emerge Platform of National Stock Exchange. The public issue open for subscription on January 29 and closes on February 1. The Proceeds of the public issue will be utilised to fund company's expansion plans including meeting working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. Fedex Securities Pvt Ltd is the book running lead manager of the issue. The initial

public offering of 54 lakh equity shares of face value Rs. 10 each comprises of a fresh issue of 40 lakh equity shares and an offer for sale of 14 lakh equity shares. Company has fixed price band of Rs. 170-180 per equity share for the public issue (including a premium of Rs. 160-170 per equity share). The company plans to raise up to Rs. 97.20 crore from the public issue at the higher price band of Rs. 180 per share. Minimum lot size for the application is 800 shares which translates in to investment of Rs. 1.44 lakh per application. Retail investor and HNI quota for the IPO is kept at not less than 35% and 15% of the issue respectively while QIB quota is kept at a maximum 50% of the issue.

Galaxy S24 series gets off to a great start

Gurugram, Jan 28: Samsung, India's largest electronics company, announced that its recently-launched flagship Galaxy S24 series has secured record pre-bookings, making it the most successful S series ever. More than 250,000 customers in India have ordered a Galaxy S24 smartphone since pre-bookings opened in the country three days ago on January 18. For comparison, Samsung had secured 250,000 pre-bookings for its Galaxy S23 series over a three-week period in India. "Galaxy S24 series, powered by Galaxy AI, ushers in a new era of mobile revolution and puts the power of AI in the hands of consumers to open up new possibilities.

Sitharaman to equal record of former PM Desai by presenting 6 budgets in a row

New Delhi, Jan 28:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will equal the record of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai when she presents her sixth straight budget on February 1. Sitharaman, the first full-time woman finance minister of the country, has presented five full budgets since July 2019 and will present an interim or vote-on-account budget next week. With the presentation of interim budget on February 1, Sitharaman will surpass the records of her predecessors like Manmohan Singh, Arun Jaitley, P Chidambaram, and Yashwant Sinha, who had presented five budgets



in a row. Desai, as finance minister, had presented five annual budgets and one interim budget between 1959-1964. The interim budget 2024-25 to be presented by Sitharaman on February 1, will be a vote-on-account that will give the government authority to spend certain sums of

money till a new government comes to office after the April-May general elections. As the Parliamentary elections are due, Sitharaman's interim budget may not contain any major policy changes. Speaking at an industry event last month, Sitharaman had ruled out any "spectacular announcement" in the interim budget, saying it would just be a vote-on-account before the general elections. A vote-on-account, once approved by Parliament, will authorise the government to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India on pro-rata basis to meet expenditure for the April-July period.

Budget: Income tax benefits, support to women entrepreneurs among expectations

Kolkata, Jan 28:

An increase in income tax exemption limits, support to women entrepreneurs, a long-term taxation policy and steps to boost consumption and savings are among the expectations of experts from the interim budget which will be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 ahead of Lok Sabha elections. They also demand for parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships. "This is going to be an interim budget but at least there may be some indications of full-budget benefits. There may be some concession to be offered to individual taxpayers under section 87A under which the overall

tax exemption limit may be increased to Rs 8 lakh from now Rs 7 lakh, inclusive of rebates," All India Federation of Tax Practitioners national president Narayan Jain said. Bharat Chamber of Commerce president N G Khaitan said there is a need for a long-term taxation policy and parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) for a level playing field for small and medium firms. MSMEs, which have a huge contribution to the country's GDP and employment generation, are subjected to higher taxation, he said. Khaitan also expects some actions to mitigate the burden on salaried persons with a reduction in the personal taxation front and boost consumption and savings.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce's fiscal affairs and taxation committee chairperson Vivek Jalan expected that a simplified "single hybrid scheme" for personal income taxation incorporating certain deductions could be rolled out. The government needs to prioritise its "Vasudeva Kutumbakam" (the whole world is one family) roadmap and India's leadership role in green manufacturing, the expert said. Jalan hoped that customs duty on capital goods and raw materials like lithium-ion cells for electric vehicles to propel green energy initiatives could be reduced. A government-facilitated settlement mechanism for customs disputes and a dedicated tribunal for handling GST-related cases may see the light of day.

Fabindia presents 'The Big Spring'

Mumbai, Jan 28: As the new year and the Spring season unfolds, Fabindia invites fashion and lifestyle enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a celebration of style, craftsmanship, and sustainability with the "Big Spring". Spring is all about freshness and what better time to launch the Spring campaign than at the beginning of the new year. It is a celebration where fashion meets traditional handicrafts and quality meets affordability. And it's all happening across their 350+ stores and online on fabindia.com and the fabindia App, from 9th Jan 2024 onwards. The Big Spring represents a fusion of tradition and elegance, offering a curated range that not only captures the vibrant spirit of spring but also echoes Fabindia's commitment to artisanal fashion.

Khairagarh celebrates 75th Republic Day with Zeal

Raipur Division TTE's remarkable act of honesty

Central Chronicle News

Raipur/Bilaspur, Jan 28: A Ticket Examiner in the Raipur division, exemplifying remarkable honesty, went above and beyond the call of duty, leaving everyone deeply touched. While conducting checks in the S4 coach of the Bhopal-Durg Express (Train No. 12854) on the night of the 26th, TTE Rajat Roy stumbled upon a sum of money near Shadol.

Without hesitation, he promptly collected the money and awakened a passenger in the upper berth to inquire about it. The passenger confirmed that the money belonged to him, and when fellow passengers vouched for his claim, TTE Rajat Roy asked the man about the amount.

The passenger accurately stated that it was around Rs. 4500/- without hesitation, TTE Rajat Roy returned the money to its rightful owner, leaving all onlookers in awe of his integrity and honesty.



the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the guests paid their respects to an oil painting of him on behalf of the grateful nation after saluting the tricolor at the historic Fateh Maidan. The skies above Khairagarh were

graced with the release of white pigeons and colorful balloons, symbolizing peace and freedom.

The occasion also saw the commendation of district administration officers and employees for their outstanding contri-

butions, with Collector Chandrakant Verma, SP Ankita Sharma, and representatives of martyr families and freedom fighters being honored with quinces and shawls.

The district-level Republic Day celebrations

featured captivating cultural programs presented by students from various schools in the district. Students from Sejas Vidyalaya Boys and Girls, Neeraj Milestone Public School, Kanya Vidyalaya, and Wesleyan Public School showcased their talents, while a mesmerizing presentation of Chhattisgarhi folk dance was delivered by students of Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya. A collective performance involving students from all district schools added to the festivities.

Wesleyan Public School earned the top spot with their outstanding cultural presentation, securing the first prize. Girls Higher Secondary School was awarded the second prize, and Milestone received the third prize, exemplifying the rich cultural tapestry of Khairagarh.

- MP Santosh Pandey leads patriotic celebrations
- Cultural extravaganza and honours mark festive occasion

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 28: The 75th Republic Day unfolded in Khairagarh with an abundance of patriotic spirit and fervour. Lok Sabha MP Santosh Pandey, leading the celebrations, hoisted the national flag at the Raja Fateh Singh Sports Ground and took the salute during the parade, evoking a strong sense of national pride. MP Pandey also conducted a thorough inspection of the parade and conveyed the Chief Minister's message to the public.

In a poignant tribute to

MLA Sahu explores new Rajim Fair site for upgrades

- Development plans underway for permanent fair venue

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 28: Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu, accompanied by Collector Deepak Kumar Agarwal, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the newly selected 65-acre site designated for the Rajim Kumbh Mela. The inspection took place in preparation for the upcoming two-week long Maghi Punni fair, commencing on February 24th and concluding on Mahashivratri, March 8th.

Sahu's visit to the site emphasized the urgency to devel-



op it permanently for the Rajim Mela. His vision involves tailoring the site's development to cater to the needs of devotees and incorporate suggestions from the local community. The goal is to create an inviting environment that will attract pilgrims. Sahu advocated for the construction of a four-lane road to the temple and a separate wide pedestri-

an pathway. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring a consistent water supply from the river. Additionally, the plan envisions relocating tents and shops from the river to this site in the future. During the inspection, Collector Deepak Kumar Agarwal provided detailed insights into the site's design and the ongoing infrastructure

construction, along with the approved budget allocation. The project encompasses the creation of essential facilities such as Dharamshalas, gardens, embankments, toilets, and temples.

Prominent local figures, including District BJP Vice President Mahesh Yadav, BJP Mandal President Kamal Sinha, MP representatives Rikesh Sahu, Raju Sahu, Likeshwar Sahu, Additional Superintendent of Police DC Patel, Additional Collector Avinash Bhoi, and Sub-Divisional Officer Rajim Dhananjay Netam, were present during the inspection, highlighting the community's support for these exciting developments.

Collector hoists tricolor in Collectorate

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 28: In a spirited Republic Day celebration, Collector Chandrakant Verma unfurled the tricolor at the Collectorate premises, symbolizing unity and patriotism.

Before the flag hoisting ceremony, he paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, by garlanding his statue within the campus. Gathering in the district meeting hall, Collector Chandrakant Verma extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the residents of the district on this auspicious day. In his address, he highlighted the rich cultural tapestry of Khairagarh, emphasizing its status as a hub of art,



music, and literature. Collector Verma urged departmental officers and city residents alike to embrace and showcase these diverse forms of art on the exterior walls of buildings, houses, and shops lining the main road of the city. Whether through paintings, sculp-

tures, musical renditions, or other artistic expressions, he stressed the importance of reflecting the essence of these arts throughout the city. The celebration continued with presentations of patriotic poems and songs in the district auditorium, evoking a strong sense of

nationalism. Notable participants included Additional Collector DS Rajput, Joint Collector Abha Tiwari, Project Director Jitendra Sahu, Deputy Collector Tankeshwar Sahu, Mokshada Dewangan, Dr. Maqsood, and Razia Begum, each reciting their self-composed poems. The event was graced by the presence of Joint Collector Dr. Jyoti Patel, Rajkumar Solanki, Raghuraj Singh, Bhuneshwar Chelak, Girish Dewangan, SP Sonwani, Prakash Taram, Chandrashekhar Mali, and other dedicated administrative and departmental officers and employees, enhancing the spirit of the Republic Day festivities.

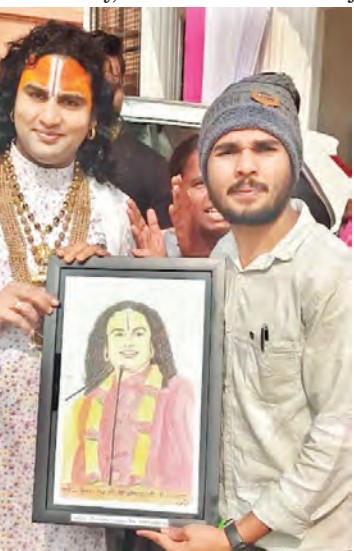
Talented artist Praveen Sahare charms all with vibrant sketches

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 28: The artistic genius Praveen Sahare, hailing from the village of Tilairwar (Tappa), has captured the hearts of many with his captivating sketches. This young talent, son of Natthulal Sahare, is making waves in the world of art, showcasing his innate skill and passion.

Praveen Sahare attributes his ability to create lifelike portraits of renowned personalities to the artistic influence of his parents. Residing with his family, Praveen's father is a respected grocery businessman in the

region. Notably, Praveen has re-



ceived widespread acclaim for his pencil sketches of the celebrated folk singer

Kanti Karthik Yadav and Rajnandgaon Mayor Hema Deshmukh. His attention to detail and artistic finesse have garnered him admiration from all quarters.

In addition to pursuing his M.Sc. in Biotechnology, Praveen is dedicated to nurturing young artists, sharing his knowledge and love for painting with children in his community. Praveen recently showcased his artistic prowess by creating a magnificent portrait during the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha event in Raipur (Gudhiyari), which he lovingly presented to Anirudhacharya ji Maharaj.

NTPC Sipat commemorates 22 years of service

Central Chronicle News

Sipat, Jan 28: NTPC Sipat, the pioneer of Super Critical Technology in India, a leading provider of reliable and sustainable energy, proudly commemorates 22 years of service to the nation and the community. NTPC Sipat is a priceless gem of the mineral rich state of Chhattisgarh. As on, 28 January 2024, NTPC Sipat Super Thermal Power Station boasts of a total installed capacity of 2980 MW with Stage I consisting of three units of 660 MW each and Stage II of 2 units of 500 MW each.

The foundation stone for the plant was laid by Former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 28 January 2002. Former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh dedicated the Plant to the nation on 19th September 2013. In its 22 years of service, the



colossal power plant has stood tall as a symbol of technological prowess and sustainable energy generation, powering seven states across the nation including Chhattisgarh. Stage-III 800MW Ultra Super Critical Unit expansion is proposed which will increase its ca-

capacity to 3780 MW. Committed to brilliance, NTPC Sipat recorded a monthly PLF of 95.70% in December 2023 and ranked 1st among all NTPC stations. Sipat Super Thermal Power Station has many accolades to its credit. In the year 2022-2023, NTPC Sipat was

awarded the CII ITC Sustainability Corporate Excellence Award 2022, CII National Award 2023 for Excellence in Energy Management and RLI NTPC Sipat received the Economic Times Future Skills Award 2023. Beyond power generation, NTPC Sipat is dedicat-

ed to empowering the communities in project affected villages and the society at large. Through numerous initiatives like Girl Empowerment Mission, Healthcare Programmes, Educational initiatives like Smart Class and STEM Labs, Integrated Livestock Development Mission, Sports Tournaments, Festive Celebrations and Skill Development Workshops, NTPC Sipat has touched thousands of lives and is striving for a brighter tomorrow.

Over the years, NTPC Sipat has remained steadfast in its commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainability. Through its technological prowess and environmentally conscious practices, the plant has contributed significantly to the nation's energy independence and environmental stewardship goals.

Badratola villagers radiate patriotism on R-Day

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 28: The spirit of patriotism soared high in the model and martyr village of Badratola as residents came together to celebrate Republic Day with unwavering enthusiasm. The entire village joined hands in commemorating the national festival, turning it into a joyous and meaningful occasion.

During the celebration, school children took center stage, presenting a captivating array of cultural performances dedicated to the brave sons of independence. Their colorful presentations added vibrancy to the festivities, paying tribute to the sacrifices made for India's freedom.



Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Hirendra Kumar Sahu, President of District BJP Kisan Morcha, Rajnandgaon, emphasized the significance of the

Constitution in governing the nation. He highlighted the pivotal role played by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his committee in implementing the Constitution on

January 26, 1950, which is now celebrated as a national festival.

Sahu also reminded everyone of the countless martyrs who laid down

their lives in the struggle for India's independence, urging all citizens to preserve the hard-won freedom. He commended the government's dedication to realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in building a prosperous and globally respected nation.

Prominent figures in attendance included the Principal in-charge of Higher Secondary, Makhani Lal Thakur, Digvijay Sahu, Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Usha Chandravanshi, Gopidas Sahu, Dilleshwar Kaushik, Khilavan Sahu, Tumeshwar Thackeray, Tumesh Sahu, Shobhan Sahu, Aktu Chandravanshi, Girdhari Thackeray, and Dropati Chandravanshi.

BTI celebrates grand 75th Republic Day

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 28: The 75th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour at the Government Training Institute (BTI) in Dongargaon. The event witnessed active participation from students, teachers, and the entire staff, making it a memorable occasion.



As part of the program, homage was paid to the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Students and teachers took the stage to express their thoughts and insights on the Constitution, delivering a remarkable presentation that included songs, poems, and inspiring speeches. In a symbolic gesture of environmental responsibility, a sapling was plant-

ed within the institution's premises by the Principal and all the teachers, emphasizing their commitment to a greener future. The event was graced by the presence of prominent figures from the institution, including Principal R.R. Deshlahre, R.K. Thakur, P. Sahu, N.R. Lenjhare, D.K. Jain, K. Dubey, Dewangan, and the dedicated student teachers.

Hartley hurts India as England win first Test

Hyderabad, Jan 28 (PTI):

The pushback started by incandescent Ollie Pope was given its perfect conclusion by debutant left-arm spinner Tom Hartley whose soul-ripping spell fashioned England's memorable 28-run win over India on the fourth day of the first Test here on Sunday.

India's chase of 231 went horribly south once Hartley (7/62) spun into India's top-order, igniting a rot that saw India getting bowled out for 202 in the final over of the day. England now lead the five-match series 1-0.

This is India's fourth defeat in home Tests since 2013 and India's approach during chase was in complete contrast to how Pope tackled Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with a lot of intent. The spin twins have never been lethal on surfaces which aren't exactly dustbowl and England's second innings batting



England's Ben Stokes and teammates celebrates the victory over India.

show won't do their reputation any good.

Earlier, Pope's brilliant 196 took England to 420 in their second innings, and gave them a substantial lead and genuine hopes of stretching

India. And England did way more than stretching the hosts.

In fact, this defeat will leave a deep burn in Indian hearts as they stumbled against a 25-year-old rookie

Lancastrian with a combined experience of three international matches on a pitch that did not hide any demons.

There was appreciable turn and variable bounce but nothing this set of

Indian batters could not have negated. Three dismissals showcased the travails of Indians on the day Shubman Gill (0), Yashasvi Jaiswal (15) and Shreyas Iyer (13) fell to their own ineptitudes.

Shamar beat injury to beat Aussies



Brisbane, Jan 28 (AP):

Shamar Joseph braved a toe injury and grabbed 7-68 as the young fast bowler inspired the West Indies to its first win in Australia in 27 years in a gripping conclusion to the day-night test at the Gabba on Sunday.

Joseph, who hobbled off the field late Saturday evening when he was struck by a searing Mitchell Starc yorker from

West Indies' memorable win. "I wasn't even going to come to the ground today, but the doctor did something to my toe. I don't know what he did, but it worked."

The 24-year-old Joseph, who made his test debut at Adelaide where the West Indies lost by 10 wickets inside three days, sprinted towards boundary in joy as he clean bowled No. 11 Josh Hazlewood and leveled the two-match series 1-1.

"I just stuck to the basics," Joseph said. "I feel like we win the entire series by winning this test... I cried for my five-wicket haul but I'm so happy now. I'm not even tired. I would have kept bowling."

West Indies had not beaten Australia in a test match since it won by 10 wickets at WACA in 1997, and Cameron Green and Smith well negotiated the first hour after they resumed the 216-run chase at 60-2 and raised Australia hopes of finishing the home test summer 5-0 after it routed Pakistan 3-0 and also won the first test against the West Indies in dominant style.

the final ball of West Indies' second innings, flattened Australia for 207 to give the West Indies a memorable win by eight runs.

Opening batter Steve Smith was left stranded with an unbeaten 91 off 146 balls as Joseph kept coming hard at the Australian batters with his pace. "Shout out for my teammates for their support," Joseph told broadcasters soon after masterminding

Fully fit Deepak Chahar sets sights on T20 World Cup



Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

A challenging phase on personal front behind him, which sidelined him for a few assignments, India seamer Deepak Chahar is ready for a comeback and has set his sights on the T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the United States and West Indies later this year. Chahar had to miss India's tour of South Africa in December followed by the home T20Is against Afghanistan after his father suffered a brain stroke, from which he has recovered now.

"For me, my father comes first. I am here only because of him. Whatever I have achieved is because of my

father. If I am not there for him in those situations, then obviously, what kind of son I am?," Chahar told PTI in an exclusive interview.

"If the series was in India, then I would have surely tried to play. You can come to the hospital if you need within 45 hours. But obviously, (from) South Africa it takes 2-3 days to come back. It was an easy decision to be with my father -- any son would do that," he added.

Chahar said while he did not get a lot of time to train apart from doing fitness-related work, he went to the NCA to work on his readiness as he eyes a spot in India's T20 World Cup squad.

Sinner beats Medvedev to win Australian Open title

Melbourne, Jan 28 (AP):

Jannik Sinner rallied from two sets down to take the Australian Open final from Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday and clinch his first Grand Slam title.

The 22-year-old Sinner was playing in a major final for the first time and got there by ending Novak Djokovic's long domination of the tournament in a semifinal upset.

He's the first Italian to win the Australian Open title.

For 2021 U.S. Open champion Medvedev, the loss was his fifth in six major finals. The third-seeded Medvedev set a record with his fourth five-set match of the tournament and time on court at a major in the Open era, surpassing Carlos Alcaraz's 23:40 at the 2022 U.S. Open.

Medvedev lost back-to-back finals here to Djokovic in 2021 and to Rafael Nadal after holding a two-set lead the following year. He won three



five-set matches to reach the championship match this time and had two comebacks from two sets down. Sinner only

dropped one set through six rounds in a third-set tiebreaker against Djokovic until his five-set comeback win on Sunday.

Arshin, Musheer take India to 326/5 against USA in U19 World Cup

Bloemfontein, Jan 28 (PTI):

Opener Arshin Kulkarni slammed a stroke-filled century while Musheer Khan continued his good run to help India pile on 326 for five against USA in the U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

Invited to bat, defending champions India expectedly dominated with the bat but lost a bit of steam towards the the fag end of the innings as USA bowlers chipped away wickets at regular intervals.

While the left-handed Arshin scored 108, his 118-run knock peppered with eight hits to the fence and three maximums, Musheer slammed 73 off 76 balls.

The 18-year-old, the younger brother of Sarfaraz Khan, stitched a vital 155-run partnership with Arshin.

Though Musheer, the most consistent batter in the India side, departed after hitting six boundaries and a lone six, Arshin kept going at his



flicking the ball through short fine leg for a boundary much to the delight of his parents who were cheering their son from the stands.

Spinner Rishi Ramesh managed to get USA back into the contest by dismissing Musheer, who was looking to clear the cover fielder but instead edged to short third in the 36th over.

A few overs later USA struck in quick succession, getting rid of skipper Uday Sharan (35 off 27) and set batter Arshin within the span of six balls.

Both batters were looking to accelerate. Sharan fell to a delivery by Arya Garg, Ateendra Subramanian got the prized wicket of Arshin, who slapped a short and slow ball straight to the fielder at long-off.

Cameos by Sachin Dhas (20), Priyanshu Moliya (27 not out) and Aravelly Avinish 12 not out took India over the 300-run mark.

end, anchoring the Indian innings.

Dropped on 16 in the 14th over, he brought up his century in style,

Hsieh Su-wei, Elise Mertens win Australian Open women's doubles

Melbourne, Jan 28 (AP):

Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan has become the second-oldest woman to win a Grand Slam doubles title after teaming with Elise Mertens of Belgium Sunday to win the Australian Open women's doubles.

The second-seeded pairing of Hsieh and Mertens beat 11th seeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia and Lyudmyla Kichenok of Ukraine 6-1, 7-5 in Sunday's final. It was Hsieh's seventh Grand Slam women's doubles title and Mertens' fourth, their second together.

The 38-year-old Hsieh follows Rohan Bopanna of India who became the oldest men's champion, at 43, when he won the men's doubles title Saturday with Matthew Ebden of Australia.

American Lisa Raymond was eight days older than Hsieh when she won the 2011 U.S. Open women's doubles. Martina Navratilova was



Taiwan's Su-wei Hsieh (R) and Belgium's Elise Mertens jump with the trophy after victory against Ukraine's Lyudmyla Kichenok and Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko during their women's doubles final match on day 15 of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on January 28.

49 when she won the mixed doubles at the 2006 U.S. Open with Bob Bryan.

Hsieh has the benefit of being coached by Australian Paul McNamee who won six Grand Slam doubles titles, including two Australian Opens and was the Australian Open chief executive until 2006. She already had taken out the mixed doubles at the current tournament with Jan Zieliński of Poland.

Mertens won the Wimbledon title with Aryna Sabalenka, who won her second straight singles title in Melbourne on Saturday. She also won the U.S. Open women's doubles in 2019. Mertens will return to the No. 1 WTA doubles ranking on Monday, a position she first held in May, 2021. She has spent 28 weeks in the top ranking spot.

All-India hockey tourney in Chhattisgarh from today

Rajnandgaon, Jan 28 (PTI):

The 80th edition of the Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Memorial all-India hockey tournament will be held from January 29 to February 7 at the international stadium here.

Many Olympians and hockey teams from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have participated in the tournament which was first held in 1941.

District Collector and Chairman of the Organizing Stadium Committee, Sanjay Aggarwal said that 24 teams from the country will participate in the tournament.

These include Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, Pampas Hostel, Air Force, Central Railway, Customs, Punjab and Sindh Bank, RCF Kapurthala, Bengal XI, Army XI, among others.

Matches will be played in knock-out-cum league basis. Knock out matches will be played in the first phase and league matches will be played in the second phase.

The final match will be played on February 7.

Hockey5s Women's World Cup India lose to Netherlands, finish runners-up

Muscat, Jan 28 (PTI):

India lost 2-7 to the Netherlands in the final to finish runners-up at the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup here.

Jyoti Chhatra (20th minute) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (23rd) scored for India in the summit clash on Saturday.

Janneke van de Venne (2nd, 14th), Bente van der Veldt (4th, 8th) and Lana Kalse (11th, 27th) struck a brace each for the Netherlands, while Sosh Benninga (13th) was the other goal-getter. For their exemplary performance in the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup, Hockey India has announced a cash award of Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh each for the support staff.

Both the teams probed for their chances after the start and it wasn't long before the Netherlands found an opening. Janneke van de Venne took a long-range shot which deflected off the Indian goalkeeper Rajani Etimarpu into the goal to hand Netherlands the lead.

Moments later, Bente van der Veldt found herself open in front of the Indian goal and smashed the ball into the net to double the lead. A period of Netherlands domi-

nance followed. Bente van der Veldt remained alert in front of the Indian goal as her quick overhead shot sailed past the Indian defence into the goal.

With four minutes to go in the first-half, Lana Kalse pounced on a loose ball and unleashed a powerful shot to make it 4-0 in Netherlands' favour.

Soon after, Sosh Benninga used a deft touch to bypass Rajani in goal and further extended their lead. As the Netherlands continued to put pressure on the Indian defence, Janneke van de Venne capitalised on an opening and scored to end the first half 6-0 in the Netherlands' favour. The Dutch dominance continued in the second-half, resulting in a challenge which was saved by Rajani.

India opened their account five minutes into the second-half as Jyoti found some space and struck a shot from distance to beat Netherlands' goalkeeper Kiki Gunneman. Rutuja then received the ball under pressure, turned on a sixpence and breached Netherlands' goal to make it 6-2.

As India started to pile on the pressure, a quick counter-attack goal from Netherlands' Lana Kalse restored their five-goal cushion.

Judiciary needs to begin 'difficult conversations': CJI

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The judiciary's ability to remain relevant as an institution requires it to recognise challenges and begin "difficult conversations", Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said on Sunday as he flagged issues like "adjournment culture" and long vacations. He also stressed on increasing the representation of marginalised sections and providing a level playing field to first-generation lawyers.

The CJI was speaking at a function organised by the Supreme Court on the occasion of the inauguration of the Diamond Jubilee Year of the establishment of the apex court in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest for the occasion.

The CJI also highlighted the demographic changes undergoing in India and



CJI DY Chandrachud

said that women, traditionally under-represented in the legal profession, now constitute 36.3 per cent of the working strength of the district judiciary.

CJI Chandrachud called for the inclusion of diverse sections of the population into the legal profession, noting the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes "is quite low both at the Bar as well

as on the Bench". Terming it as a "momentous occasion" in the history of the nation, CJI Chandrachud said that women can now be seen in important positions in India.

"There is a focus on greater inclusion of the marginalised sections of society. Equally inspiring is the confidence of the younger population to succeed in their professional lives," he said.

The Supreme Court of India came into existence on January 28, 1950. It initially functioned from the Parliament House before it moved to the present building here.

CJI Chandrachud said, "Traditionally, the legal profession was a profession of elite men. Times have changed. Women, traditionally under-represented in the profession,

now constitute 36.3 per cent of the working strength of the district judiciary."

The CJI also flagged the structural issues affecting the judiciary, such as pendency of cases, archaic procedures and the culture of adjournments, stressing that in the near future, these issues must be addressed.

"Our effort in our work as judges and administrators must be to ensure dignity to the district judiciary, which is the first point of contact for citizens.

"Our ability to remain relevant as an institution requires us to recognise challenges and begin difficult conversations," he said.

The CJI said there is an urgent need to emerge from the adjournment culture to a culture of professionalism.

R-DAY PARADE PARTICIPANTS



Artists who participated in the 75th Republic Day parade perform during a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Sunday.

'World continues to face same problems that have existed earlier'

Dibrugarh, Jan 28 (PTI):

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said despite the world's material progress, it continues to face the same problems that have existed for thousands of years.

He said the solution to all problems lies in the ancient Indian concept of 'dharma' or 'spiritual oneness'.

Bhagwat made these remarks at the inaugural session of the 8th International Conference and Gathering of Elders, organised by the International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), a non-profit organisation dedicated to spiritual masters of ancient traditions and cultures. The conference will continue till February 1.

Bhagwat pointed out that despite advancements



Mohan Bhagwat

in education and technology, wars still happen and there is a lack of peace both externally and internally. He highlighted the issues of ego, whether at an individual or community level, and the narrowness of mind. He also criticised those who claim to be above such tendencies but end up creating another group for themselves.

According to Bhagwat, efforts have been made to understand and resolve these problems, resulting in different theories and philosophies that primarily focus on material prosperity and survival of the fittest.

He also felt that religions have also failed in finding lasting solutions, at most achieving the ideal of maximum good for maximum people.

Ancient traditions, on the other hand, recognised the concept of 'spiritual oneness', known as 'dharma' in India, he said.

"These ancient cultures understood that everything is interconnected and that true happiness comes from within, rather than from external consumption," Bhagwat said, emphasizing the importance of this wisdom in finding true happiness.

JD-U blames Cong caucus for INDIA's fall in Bihar

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The JD(U) on Sunday blamed the Congress for the collapse of the INDIA bloc in Bihar, saying its leaders were interested in strengthening their party and not the opposition grouping.

Janata Dal (United) spokesperson K C Tyagi told reporters that a "caucus" within the Congress wanted to capture the INDIA bloc leadership and its president Mallikarjun Kharge's name was proposed as the chairperson of the grouping as part of the conspiracy.

The decision taken about Kharge at the INDIA bloc meeting earlier this month had shocked the JD(U), which believed that its president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would be named as the convenor

without being saddled with any chairperson, its leaders had then said.

Another JD(U) spokesperson, Rajib Ranjan, was more severe in targeting the Congress, alleging that it first sunk itself by trying to make a person who lacks any quality and harms the opposition alliance a prime minister. The comment was a likely swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

Ranjan described the Congress as "bhasmasur" (mythological demon whose touch would burn down anyone).

Hitting back at the Congress' charge of opportunism against Kumar after he walked out of the opposition alliance and rejoined hands with old ally BJP, Tyagi said it is the obduracy of the main opposition party that derailed the INDIA bloc.

'Haven't received any recognition from state'

Kolkata, Jan 28 (PTI):

Padma Shri recipient and folk singer Ratan Kahar has expressed gratitude to the Centre for recognising his efforts in preserving the tradition of Bengali folk songs but rued he was yet to hear anything from the West Bengal government.

Kahar, known for his chart-topping song Baroloker Biti Lo', revealed that many of his compositions have been lost forever, while lyrics of some others have in past been used by other musicians without his consent.

"I am happy that the Centre has considered honouring me with the Padma Shri for my work. It was beyond my expectations. Although the West Bengal government has not yet recognised my contributions,



Ratan Kahar

the Centre has stepped forward," Kahar told reporters outside his home in a village in Birbhum on Saturday.

Kahar expressed regret over the irretrievable loss of many of his compositions due to a lack of proper facilities. He explained, "I don't have enough space at home to store the papers, manuscripts, and lyrics. In fact, I didn't even have a proper roof over my head in the past. I

have faced numerous hardships, but no one has come to my aid. The countless songs I wrote during those days may never be recovered." On allegations that some of his songs been used by other composers, Kahar preferred to remain silent. Another Padma Shri recipient from the state, clay modeller Sanatan Rudra Pal, said receiving the civilian honour would inspire future clay modellers.

Pal mentioned that he wished to share this honour with his fellow artisans in the state, saying, "I am overwhelmed by the recognition from the Centre. I also hope that the elder sister of our household (Didi) will bestow an award upon me. Any recognition from someone at home would be highly valued."

ICCS PROCESSION



People from different countries take part in a procession on the occasion of the 8th International Conference and Gathering of Elders organised by International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), in Dibrugarh, Sunday.

Barhi Devkaali temple, associated with Lord Ram's birth, new attraction in Ayodhya

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 28 (PTI)

The Barhi Devkaali temple in Ayodhya, dedicated to 'Kul devi' of Lord Ram, has become a centre of attraction in the temple town after the consecration of Ram Lalla's idol at the newly-constructed grand temple on January 22. It is believed that after the birth of Lord Ram, his mother Kaushalya had visited the temple with her entire family. While the several decades old temple witnesses rush of locals on Kartik Purnima, Ram Navami and Navrataras, it was not very popular among devotees like the Hanuman Garhi temple.

"After the 'Pran Pratistha' ceremony, there has been a



Devotees on their way to the Ram Temple, in Ayodhya, Sunday.

surge in the number of devotees, who are visiting the temple. Before November 9, 2019, the average number of devotees who used to visit the 'Barhi Devkaali' temple stood at 50-

60 per day. The number went up to 500 per day post-November, 2019 when the Supreme Court decision paved way for construction of the Ram temple," chief priest of the 'Barhi

Devkaali' temple Sunil Pathak told PTI. "The rush of devotees has increased after the consecration ceremony. Arrangements are being made to handle the increasing rush," he added.

Throwing more light on significance of the temple, Pathak said, "Barhi Devkaali is a combination of three goddesses - Mahakali, Mahalakshmi and Mahasaraswati. The Goddess appeared in the dream of Raja Raghu, an ancestor of Lord Ram, and instructed him to conduct a 'yajna' to be victorious in a battle. Raja Raghu conducted the 'yajna' and emerged victorious in the battle. He then got the statue of 'Barhi Devkaali' installed here."

NTPC Limited certified as a Top Employer 2024

By the Top Employers Institute

New Delhi, Jan 28:

The 2024 Top Employers have been announced and NTPC Limited has been certified as a Top Employer in India by the Top Employers Institute. Dillip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), received the Award on behalf of NTPC at the Top Employers 2024 Certification Celebration Event held on 25th January, 2024, at Singapore.



Institute is the global HR authority on certifying excellence in HR best practices.

For over 33 years, the firm has been dedicated to accelerating the impact of HR strategies to enrich the world of work through certification, benchmarking, aligning and connecting Top Employers around the globe.

NTPC completed the following steps in order to qualify for the certification: HR Best Practice Survey, Validation and Audit.

NTPC's performance score was rated against an international stan-

dard and NTPC has achieved Top Employer status. The HR Best Practice Survey covers six HR domains consisting of 20 topics including People Strategy, Work Environment, Talent Acquisition, Learning, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Wellbeing and more.

The survey is based on an international standard so participants are measured against globally applicable best practice.

The process involved various stages of validation and rigorous assessment. Participants must successfully complete

the various stages in the Certification Process and achieve the required score for certification as an official Top Employer.

Being certified as a Top Employer showcases NTPC's dedication to a better world of work which is exhibited through its "People before PLF (Plant Load Factor)" approach and progressive HR policies and people practices which contribute towards the actualization of the organizational vision and creating positive organizational outcomes and enhanced employee engagement.

Two new mammalian species recorded in Kaziranga

Guwahati, Jan 28 (PTI): Two new mammalian species - Binturong or the bearcat and the small-clawed otter - have been recorded in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, taking the total mammalian species in the protected area to 37, an official said.

The two mammalian species were detected during the recent enumeration survey of water birds, park director Sonali Ghosh said.

The elusive Binturong (Arctictis binturong), also known as bearcat, is the largest civet in India and listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

It was detected and pho-

tographed by tour guide Chirantanu Saikia while participating in the bird census, Ghosh said.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी सेंटर
कॉस्मेटिक सर्जरी
 झुरियां, झाड़, दाग, तिल, अनचाहे बाल आदि (आधुनिक लेजर द्वारा), मुहांसे, दाग, नाक, होंठ, टोड़ी, बक्का, पेट आदि (प्लास्टिक सर्जरी द्वारा) तथा अंग कटने-जलने की अति विशेष चिकित्सा।
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