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RECORD HOLDER

ED files charge sheet against Lalu Yadav's family members

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI):

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday filed its first charge sheet in the railways land-for-jobs linked money laundering case, naming as accused RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and their MP daughter Misa Bharti among others, official sources said.

Yadav's another daughter Hema Yadav (40), an alleged "close associate" of the Yadav family Amit Katyal (49), railway employee and alleged beneficiary Hridayanand Chaudhary, two firms A K Infosystems Pvt. Ltd. and A B Exports Pvt. Ltd., through their common director Shariqul Bari, have also been named in the charge sheet.

The complaint, with over 4,700 pages including annexures, has arrayed seven accused. It was filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Delhi that has listed the matter for January

RAILWAYS LAND-FOR-JOB-CASE

Vendetta politics: Jha

The Enforcement Directorate's charge-sheet in the railways land-for-jobs linked money laundering case against RJD leaders is "vendetta politics", party MP Manoj Jha said on Tuesday as he accused the BJP of using probe agencies against opposition parties. The case was closed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), but it was reopened to target the RJD, he alleged at a press conference here.

Targeting the BJP, Jha said agencies are being used against all opposition parties. "In states where the BJP is weak, agencies are working on strengthening it. This is politics of harassment and torture," he said.

The BJP is using agencies against parties it is unable to



fight politically, the RJD leader alleged. On the ED charge-sheet, Jha said, "This is the biggest example of vendetta politics." "The case was registered in 2008, 16 years ago. Did the railway consider it a scam? No. The CBI closed the case in 2021 on the grounds that no case had been made out of the allegation," he said.

Lalu Prasad Yadav was summoned by the agency but is yet to depose. However, his son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav had deposed once before the agency. He has been asked to appear again be-

fore it. The agency is expected to file supplementary charge sheets in the case.

Rabri Devi (68), RJD Rajya Sabha MP Misa Bharti (47), and two other daughters of Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi - Chanda Yadav and Ragini Yadav - have been questioned in this case by the ED. The alleged scam pertains to the period when Lalu Prasad Yadav was the railway minister in the UPA-1 government.

It is alleged that from 2004 to 2009, several people were appointed to Group "D" positions in various zones of the Indian Railways for which they transferred their land to the family members of the then railway minister Yadav and a linked company named A K Infosystems Private Limited as bribes.

A K Infosystems Private Limited is allegedly a "beneficiary company" in the case and its registered address in south Delhi's New Friends Colony was being used by Tejashwi Yadav, the ED had said earlier.

Bees saal aabaad!

Amul From Vibrant Gujarat

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RLYS EXAM PAPER LEAK

CBI registers case against Mumbai-based Aptech Ltd

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI):

The CBI has registered a case against Mumbai-based Aptech Limited and others for the alleged leakage of question paper of the General Departmental Competitive Examination (GDCE) conducted by the Railway Recruitment Centre, Mumbai, in which over 8,600 candidates had appeared, officials said on Tuesday.

The computer-based test, which took place on January 3, 2021, at 28 examination centres across six cities such as Ahmedabad,

Indore, Rajkot, Surat, Vadodara and Mumbai was marred by allegations that papers were leaked to the aspirants through WhatsApp messages and physically before the commencement in return for hefty payments, they said. "It is alleged that Aptech Limited was appointed as the Exam Conducting Agency. The candidates appearing in the GDC exam were supplied with question papers along with answers prior to the commencement of the exam and after payment of premium money," the CBI FIR said.

Three Naxalites arrested in Sukma

Sukma, Jan 09:

Three Naxalites, allegedly involved in an attack on a CRPF team last month, were arrested in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district, police said on Tuesday.

The trio were apprehended from Pandumeta Hills under the Jagargunda police station limits, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an area domination operation on Sunday, an official said.

Personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), its elite unit Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), Special Task Force (STF) and district police force were involved in the operation, he said. The accused, Madkam

Handa (35), Midiam Podia (38) and Korsia Dhurva (21), were allegedly involved in the attack on a CRPF team last month, in which an officer was killed and a constable injured, the official said.

They were members of Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Mazdoor Sangthan (DAKMS), a frontal wing of outlawed CPI (Maoist), in the Jagargunda area, he said. "They were allegedly involved in the attack on a team of the CRPF's 165th battalion when it was out on an anti-Naxal operation in the Jagargunda area on December 17 last year CRPF sub-inspector Sudhakar Reddy was killed and a constable sustained bullet injuries in the attack," the official said.

BRIEF

PM Modi welcomes President of UAE Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his arrival for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit, at Ahmedabad airport, Tuesday.

Rename

Ghaziabad: The municipal corporation on Tuesday passed a proposal for renaming Ghaziabad, officials said. Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) mayor Sunita Dayal said the three names -- Harmandi Nagar, Gaj Prastha and Doodheshwernath Nagar -- will sent to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who will take a final call. However, any such change of name will ultimately require the Centre's nod.

NEET-PG exam

New Delhi: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Postgraduate examination has been rescheduled to July 7 this year, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences said on Tuesday. The cut-off date for the purpose of eligibility for the exam this year is August 15.

Weather

High 28 Low 15

MARKET

NIFTY 21,544.85

SENSEX 71,386.21

BULLION

GOLD 62,304

SILVER 72,307

MAKAR SANKRANTI PREPARATIONS



An artist paints a 'rangoli' on the wall of her house on the eve of the festival Makar Sankranti, in Lankamura village of Agartala, Tuesday.

RAM TEMPLE CONSECRATION

All UP educational institutes to close on Jan 22

No sale of liquor

Lucknow, Jan 09 (PTI):

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday declared a holiday for all educational institutions in the state on January 22, the day of the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Termining the occasion as a "national festival", Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that liquor shops in the state should be closed on that day.

"Considering the significance of the consecration ceremony of the eagerly awaited new idol of Shri

Ram Lalla in Ayodhya Dham, the CM has declared holiday in educational institutions on January 22," an official release issued here said.

During his visit to Ayodhya on Tuesday, the chief minister held a meeting with officials of the temple trust -- Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust -- and was informed about the vedic rituals for the Pran Pratistha (consecration ceremony), which would start after Makar Sankranti. Chief Minister Adityanath also directed officials to extend all necessary cooperation to the

trust in making security and other arrangements for the ceremony, the release said.

He emphasised that after January 22, devotees of Lord Ram from across the globe and country will visit Ayodhya, it said.

For their convenience, the chief minister said, multilingual signages should be installed throughout the city. These should cover all languages from the 8th Schedule of the Constitution and the six official languages of the United Nations, Adityanath directed officials, according to the release.

2023 was world's hottest year on record

Washington, Jan 09 (AP):

Earth last year shattered global annual heat records, flirted with the world's agreed-upon warming threshold and showed more signs of a feverish planet, the European climate agency said on Tuesday.

In one of the first of several teams of science agencies to calculate how off-the-charts warm 2023 was, the European climate agency Copernicus said the year was 1.48 degrees Celsius (2.66 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times. That's barely below the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit that the world hoped to stay within in the 2015 Paris climate accord to avoid the most severe effects of warming.

Sena (UBT) moves SC over speaker-Maha CM meeting

Mumbai, Jan 09 (PTI):

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said his party has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court objecting to a meeting between Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar before the verdict on disqualification petitions against Sena MLAs including Shinde.

Narwekar is scheduled to deliver his ruling at 4 pm on January 10.

"If the judge (Narwekar) is going to meet the accused, what should we expect from that judge," Thackeray asked, speaking to the media at his residence 'Matoshree' here.

The affidavit before the SC was filed on Monday, he said. Thackeray's ally and Nationalist Congress



Party president Sharad Pawar too said that when someone who is hearing a case meets the person against whom the case is being heard, it "leaves room for doubt".

Hitting back, Narwekar said Thackeray, a former chief minister, should know for what purposes a speaker could meet a chief minister.

"If he still levels such allegations, then his motive is very clear. There is no rule that a speaker, while hearing disqualification pleas, cannot do any other work," Narwekar said.

Woman to break 32-year-long 'Maun Vrat' after Ram temple inauguration

Dhanbad, Jan 09:

An 85-year-old woman from Jharkhand will break her three-decade-long 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) after her dream comes true on January 22 with the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Saraswati Devi started her vow on the day Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, promising to break it only when the Ram temple was inaugurated, her family claimed.

The Dhanbad resident left for the temple town in Uttar Pradesh aboard a train on Monday night to witness the inauguration of the temple. Devi, who is popularly known as



'Mauni Mata' in Ayodhya, used to communicate with family members through sign language but wrote down complicated sentences. Though she took a break from 'maun vrat' and spoke for an hour at noon every day till 2020, she went completely silent the day the foundation for the temple was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The day Babri Masjid was demolished on

DRDO launches fully indigenous assault rifle 'Ugram'

Pune, Jan 09 (PTI):

'Ugram', an assault rifle developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with a private firm was launched on Monday, officials said.

The weapon, developed at the Armament Research and Development Establishments (ARDE), the DRDO's Pune-based laboratory, is designed to meet the Indian Army's "GSQR" (General Staff Qualitative Requirement) of a rifle weighing less than four kg, said a release. The operational prototype of the 7.62 x 51mm assault rifle was unveiled by Dr S V Gade, director general (Armament & Combat Engineering Cluster) in the presence of A Raju, director of ARDE.

December 6, 1992, my mother took a vow to observe silence till the Ram Mandir was constructed in Ayodhya. She has been jubilant ever since the date of consecration of the temple was announced," 55-year-old Hare Ram Agarwal, Devi's youngest child, told PTI.

"She left for Ayodhya on Monday night aboard Ganga-Sutlej Express from Dhanbad Railway Station. She will break her silence on January 22," Hare Ram, a resident of Bhowra in Baghmara block, said.

He said Devi has been invited by disciples of Mahant Nriya Gopal Das to participate in the Ram temple inauguration event.

Over 19 kgs cannabis seized from eight peddlers



Bhilai, Jan 09:

Durg Police conducted a special campaign across the district and arrested eight ruffians involved in smuggling / peddling of cannabis. 19 kgs of weed worth Rs 78000.

Cash Rs 48000 and a motor cycle worth Rs 35000, total worth Rs 160000 were seized.

On the directions of SSP (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg, police are taking action against the people involved in illegal trade of narcotics and drugs. Jio Khulkar De-addiction Campaign is being conducted under the supervision of Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (City, Durg) and Anant



Sahu, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural, Durg). A total of 08 accused were arrested from different police station areas and a total of 19 kg was recovered from their possession on Monday. Cannabis and its plants, worth Rs 78000, cash Rs 48000 and a motor cycle used in the crime, worth Rs 35000, were seized from the accused. Action has been taken against the accused under the Narcotics Act and they have been sent to jail on judicial remand. Police

Station Mohan Nagar arrested Dilip Yadav (53) son of Shivprasad Yadav a resident of New Deepak Nagar, Jain Temple, Durg was arrested with 1.080 kg Ganja worth Rs 8000. Police Station Bhilai Nagar arrested the accused Deepak Hiyal alias Golu (23) son of Shyamal Hiyal, a resident of Servant Quarter Sector-09; Pawan Sona (21) son of Chhotu Sona, a resident of Ward 2 Muslim Para, Dhamdha was arrested with 02 nos Ganja plant weighing 10.680 kg worth Rs 20000.

Sector-09. 2 kg marijuana worth Rs 12000 was seized from them. Police Station Newai arrested the accused Santosh Sahu (30) son of Dinesh Sahu, a resident of Station Maroda, HSCL Colony; and Mohammad Shabbir (26) son of Mohammad Qayyum a resident of Ganjpara Shatti Chaura, Durg. Three kgs weed worth Rs 18000 and cash Rs 48000 as well as a motor cycle worth Rs 35000 were seized from them.

Police Station Patan arrested the accused Lavkush Verma (45) son of Late Pancharam Verma a resident of Village Soram was arrested with 02.297 kg Ganja worth Rs 20000 and Rs 500 cash. Police Station Dhamdha arrested the accused Mahfooz alias Raj Khan (19) son of Humayun Khan a resident of Ward 2 Muslim Para, Dhamdha was arrested with 02 nos Ganja plant weighing 10.680 kg worth Rs 20000.

Geet Vitan Kala Kendra collects 38 National Awards

Bhilai, Jan 09: Geet Vitan Kala Kendra, the school of Performing Arts Ruabandha has encouraged the students of its institution to participate in Dipti Dev Memorial International Cultural Festival-2023 which was organised by Jadavpur Navrang Art & Culture Centre supported by Ministry of Culture Government of India Kolkata. Various Competitions like dance, singing, recitation, Instrumental and drawing were conducted at DrBidhan Chandra Roy Institute's Auditorium, Shealdah. The students showcased their talents in different fields with full enthusiasm. 38 prizes were bagged by the participants of Geet Vitan Kala Kendra Bhilai. Many participants from far and near, performed in these competitions. The performers were from Delhi, Nagpur, Kolkata, Cuttuck, Pune, Jharkhand, Assam and Chhattisgarh. Performers from Bangladesh also participated. It was the most prestigious moment when The Director, Shipra Bhowmick of Geet Vitan Kala Kendra was honoured 'Saraswati Samman' and The Dance Director and Choreographer Nriyita Shiromani Mithun Das was also



honoured 'Nriyita Acharya Samman' by the organiser Dr Nandita Dev. 40 students of this institution performed in various competitions. Rabindra Sangeet group song secured second position and the group song based on folk song bagged the first position. The second position was secured by Instrumental group. 14 students received first prize in singing competition. Second third and best performer award were received by the students in the competition. In dance competition there were first, second and best performer award achieved by the

students. 3 students excelled in drawing by securing first, second and best performer award. 3 first and second prizes were received by the participants of guitar, tabla and mouthorgan and second prize in recitation. A dance was marvelously performed by Nriyita Shiromani Mithun Das. His pupils with their superb dancing skills, performed their dance based on 'Bhanu Singh's Padabali'. The artists of Geet Vitan were honoured in presence of the two judges, Pandit Vidyendu Ghosh Shastriya Nartak and Pandit Pramod Phatak (Sitar).

Outstanding performance of Dhananjay in NIC 2024

Bhilai, Jan 09:

The National Integration Camp of National Service Scheme for the year 2024 was organized and hosted by Hemchand Yadav University, Durg. The camp was held at Swami Atmanand Govt College, Somni Rajnandgaon. In this camp NSS volunteer Dhananjay Yadav represented to St Thomas College, Ruabandha, Bhilai. Various NSS volunteers had participated in the camp from 14 states of the country. In the NSS unit of Hemchand Yadav University, Dhananjay Yadav performed in cultural, project work and various activities and finally he was felicitated as Unit



Leader in the camp. Manager Bishop His Grace Alexios MarEusebius, and Administrator Rev Fr Dr Joshi Varghese gave their

blessings to Dhananjay Yadav on this achievement. Principal Dr M G Roymon congratulated Dhananjay and said that students of St Thomas College always brings the Laurels by participating in various activities at national and international level. NSS program officer Mahendra Ikhar congratulated Dhananjay for this milestone and expressed a sincere gratitude to Dr RP Agrawal Program Coordinator, NSS Hemchand Yadav University and Dr Vinay Sharma NSS District Coordinator, Durg. All the professors and employees congratulated Dhananjay for successful completion of National Integration Camp.

Collector distributes responsibilities for R-Day function

Bhilai, Jan 09:

Republic Day function on January 26 will be organized with dignity and enthusiasm in the district at Ravi Shankar Stadium. The program will begin at 09:00 hrs. Flag hoisting will be done in all government offices at 08:00 hrs. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary has given department-wise responsibilities for organizing Republic Day. She has directed to start rehearsals of the parade. District Police, Special Forces, Central Industrial Security Force and Home Guards will participate in the parade. Similarly, the District Education Officer has been asked to form a committee for cultural programs and start preparations for the events of school children. The



Public Works Department will conduct the barricading and seating arrangements at the venue. The Municipal Corporation Durg / Risali will make arrangements of cleanliness, drinking water, toilets, chairs, loudspeakers etc. Public Works Department will make necessary arrangements for the special guests. The Public Works Department and Reserve Inspector have been given the re-

sponsibility for making arrangements for platform construction, flags etc at the event venue. The Horticulture Department will make stage decorations and the Electrical and Mechanical Department will arrange electrical connections, generators etc. The officer in charge of Protocol will arrange reception of the guests and Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue will arrange for releasing

colourful balloons in the sky after the flag hoisting. Responsibilities have been given to the Industries Department. The responsibility has been given to the Police Department for arranging vehicles for the chief guest to inspect the parade, the Public Relations Department will arrange booklets for reading the Chief Minister's message, and the Education, Environment and Tribal Development

Department for the conducting the programme. Municipal Corporation Durg-Bhilai have been given the responsibility for broadcasting patriotic songs and music at major traffic squares, Public Relations Department and Mineral Department have been given the responsibility for video and photography of the programme. The responsibility of arranging for the flag hoisting by the chief guest at the Ravi Shankar Stadium has been given to the Superintendent of Police, Durg and the Public Works Department. District Panchayat CEO, Senior Clerk Branch and Protocol Branch has been entrusted with the responsibility of printing and distribution of invitation letters as per protocol.

GP Singh receives QCFI's Best Director Award

Bhilai, Jan 09: GP Singh, Secretary of Bhilai Chapter, and a distinguished four-time Director of Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI), was bestowed with the prestigious "QCFI Best Director Award" during the National Convention on Quality Concepts-2023. The convention, organized by QCFI, took place from January 04 to 07, 2024 in Nagpur and brought together over 12,000 participants and 2200 Quality Concepts teams from more than 650 institutions nationwide. QCFI, a renowned organization with 35 chapters across the country, introduced the "Best Director Award" this year to acknowledge the



significant contributions of its 22 Board of Directors. The announcement of GP Singh as the first recipient of this esteemed award was met with jubilation among Quality lovers. The award was presented to GP Singh

during a Megha ceremony in Nagpur, given by Avinash Mishra, President of QCFI, and DK Srivastava, Executive Director of QCFI and a distinguished Quality Guru of India. GP Singh's remarkable achievements

and innovative contributions were evaluated under the prescribed methodology for the "QCFI Best Director Award." Known for his leadership and inventive approach, Singh played a pivotal role in introducing new traditions and concepts, such as the pioneering Safety Circle, within QCFI. In addition to his leadership in Bhilai Chapter, GP Singh contributed significantly to the establishment of the Bhubaneswar Chapter and the revival of the Nagpur Chapter. His international participation in the International Convention on Quality Control Circle (ICQCC) in China and Japan showcased his commitment to

global quality standards. With six patents and three copyrights to his name, GP Singh has been honoured with the National Vishwakarma Award four times for his creative works and recognized as the recipient of the Most Innovative Manager Award. KK Singh, Chairman of QCFI Bhilai Chapter, VK Chaudhary, Treasurer, SK Trivedi, Training Incharge, and Satyawani Nayak, PRO, SS Mohanty, Chairman of Bhubaneswar Chapter, Ram Shankar Das, Secretary along with officials from various chapters, joined in congratulating GP Singh on this well-deserved honour.

Youth arrested with psychotropic drugs



Bhilai, Jan 09: Police arrested a youth on charges of peddling psychotropic drugs to the addicts near Supela Square. Drugs and car worth Rs 1,58,950 were seized from him. On Monday, police received a tip regarding a person who was illegally selling drugs to youth in a Chevrolet car on the road near Supela Square. Police team swung into action and rounded up the car bearing registration number CG 07 M 5010. The youth in the car was identified as Vikas Thakur (25) son of Rajkumar Thakur, a resident of

Quarter No 2-B, Street 37/C, Sector 7, Bhilai Nagar. Police recovered a green bag kept in the car containing 40 wrappers (320 tablets) of Spascor Von Plus capsules. The accused Vikas Thakur (25) son of Rajkumar Thakur was arrested under NDPS Act and sent to jail on judicial remand. Supela Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma (SHO, Supela), Sub Inspector Yogeshwar Verma, Head Constable Amar Singh, Constable Shyamji Mishra, Ajit Singh and Surendra Giri played a vital role in arresting the accused.

Truck rams into boundary wall; driver killed

Bhilai, Jan 09: A rashly moving truck - trailer rammmed into a hoarding pole and thereafter into a boundary wall at Jamul on Tuesday morning. The truck driver suffered fatal injuries in the mishap and died on the spot. Jamul Police informed that the incident occurred around 09:00 hrs on Tuesday. The driver lost control over the speeding vehicle near the Liquor Shop and rammmed into a hoarding pole. After hitting the pole, the vehicle collided with the boundary wall. Truck cabin was badly damaged in the incident and the driver got trapped inside the cabin. On information, a police team reached the spot and the driver was rescued. He was rushed to Supela Hospital where he was declared brought dead. The deceased was identified as Arvind Manhar (35) a resident of Singhpali, Sarangarh. He was staying in Bhilai and worked as a truck driver. Police have lodged a case and investigations are on.

Obituary GC Srivastava



Bhilai: GC Srivastava, resident of 648 M, Street-37, Smriti Nagar, Bhilai, left for his heavenly abode on Monday. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed on Tuesday at Ramnagar, Muktidham. He is survived by (wife) Shivmohini Srivastava, son Prakhhar Kumar, and daughters Parul Srivastava, Preeti Srivastava and their families.

Vandit Jain clears CA final exam with AIR 20

Bhilai, Jan 09:

Vandit Jain, son of Durg resident CA Harsh Jain (Sankhla), has brought glory to Chhattisgarh by securing 20th position in the entire country in the CA final exam. Vandit has created this record by passing Group 1 and Group 2 simultaneously in the first attempt itself. Also, he passed CFA (US) two levels with high marks.



Vandit gives complete credit for his success to his parents. Vandit said that at the age of just 13, he had decided that he would become a CA. To achieve his dreams, he made efforts with determination and worked hard. The entire family is excited after the declaration of result on the website of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India this morning. All the CAs and Advocates of Chhattisgarh congratulated Vandit and wished him for his bright future.

Jubilant Annual Day celebrations at SNGVB Sector 04

Bhilai, Jan 09: SNGVB celebrated its '47th Colourful festia' at SNG auditorium on January 05, 2024 amidst great splendour, zeal and resplendence. The event commenced with the arrival & reception of the Chief guest along with lighting of lamp followed by Saraswati Vandana. Felicitation of Chief Guest DrSipi Dubey Founder of Saakhi Brand, Correspondent TU Sunil, Treasurer PS Suresh, Vice president (Education) Vinay Peetambaran Principal E Bharati, Vice Principal Rupesh Chaudhary and other Executive Committee members and other eminent dignitaries were welcomed with floral greetings. The students presented a mesmerizing welcome song. The Guests were escorted to seats with utmost respect and were warmly welcomed by the



school Council members. The School Principal in her address presented the annual report which featured the school awards and outstanding accomplishments of the students in various academic and co-curricular events. TU Sunil, SNGVB, Correspondent addressed the gathering and encouraged the students to raise the bar with better performances in future and Vice



president Education Vinay Peetambaran addressed and motivated the parents to spend high quality time with their children, avoiding more usage of mobile phone and exhorted the students by engaging them with better performance for excellent future. The most memorable moments of the function were marked by the precious words of advice, by Chief Guest during her address

was how to spend time with children by balancing both in their personal life as well as with their daily working schedule. The academic toppers and endowment awards were given to the students by the Chief Guest. The Cultural programme commenced with a series of thematic performance ranging from devotion to family love, Technology, parental love, social issue, jungle theme and many more. The audience was awestruck with the talent and skill which revealed in each performance. The Vote of thanks was proposed by Vice principal Rupesh Choudhary expressing gratitude for making the event a resounding success. The event came to an end with National Anthem. The programme was coordinated by Bhumi (class XI) and Middhat Khan (class IX).

BJP forms 7 Committees for Lok Sabha polls

Ajay Chandrakar appointed Convenor of committee to induct new members into party-fold

Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: Giving momentum to the preparations for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, the newly-appointed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Kiran Deo on Tuesday constituted seven committees

to strengthen the Organization. Senior MLA Ajay Chandrakar has been appointed Convenor of the campaign committee to induct new members into the party whereas former Ministers Ramsewak Paikra and Mahesh Gada as well as Pradeep Gandhi have been appointed as Co-convenor of the committee. Similarly Prabal Pratap Singh has been appointed Convenor of the campaign committee

for Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in which Shalini Rajput, Laxmi Rajwade, Bhawna Bohra and Kishore Mahanand have been appointed Co Convenors. Former MLA Narayan Chandel would head the Gaon Chalo campaign with Raipur Rural MLA Motilal Sahu, MLA Gonti Sai and Bharat Matiyar as the Convenors. Senior MLA Dharmmal Kaushik has been nominated as

Convenor of Shree Ram Mandir Darshan committee whereas Sanjay Shrivastava has been entrusted with the responsibility of Booth strengthen campaign and PM Vishwakarma Yojna Committee would have P Vishwanathan as Convenor and Pradeep Singh and Purushoottam Dewangan as Convenors. Deo further informed that all the above exercises have been taken to ensure victory in all the 11 Lok Sabha seats of Chhattisgarh.

Collector inspects Anganwadi and health centers

Takes information about facilities from patients in the health center and checks the expiry date of medicines

Show cause notice issued to Anganwadi helper for being absent in Anganwadi



Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: Collector Dr Gaurav Kumar Singh today inspected the Anganwadi and health centers of village Khorpa and Chandhi in the district. During inspection, he took information about various facilities being provided in Anganwadi and health centres.

The Collector met the children present in the Anganwadi centre of village Khorpa and talked to them. He asked the children how long they have been coming to Anganwadi, what they get for food and how they feel coming to Anganwadi. He tasted the nutritious food provided in the Anganwadi and instructed the officials to

take care of the nutrition and quality of the children's diet. The Collector directed to follow the nutrition chart to ensure nutrition in Anganwadi centres. Singh also inspected Community Health Center Khorpa and Health Wellness Center Chandhi. He met the family members of the women and small children present

there to know about their well-being and inquired about the facilities. He checked the expiry dates of the medicines available in the store room of the hospital. The Collector also reached the Anganwadi center of village Chandhi where the Anganwadi helper was found absent. On this, the Collector instructed to issue a notice explaining the reason for her absence. The Collector also visited the Gynecological Ward of the Health Center Khorpa. Dr. Gaurav said that the mother and child should be given breakfast and food as per the prescribed chart. He instructed for Sukanya Samridhi Yojana accounts for daughters born in health centers to secure their future.

Senior IAS Officer Basavraju posted as Secretary to CM

Sai to have two IAS Officers as Secretary in his CMO

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 09: Senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer of 2007 batch Basavraju S has been posted as Secretary to the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. According to the order issued here from the General Administration Department (GAD) Secretary Dr Kamalpreet Singh, the senior IAS Officer Basavraju would also continue to hold the

charge of Secretary Food & Civil Supplies, Consumer Protect as well as Secretary Urban Administration. Basavraju is the second senior IAS Officer after P Dayanand who has been posted in the Chief Minister Officer (CMO) for effective execution of the various responsibilities in the state government. Basavraju's name was on cards for the CMO and now he has been entrusted with the above responsibility after the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had recently changed the portfolios of 88 IAS Officers in a major administrative reshuffle.

Nineteen miscreants involved in creating nuisance arrested

Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: Police have arrested 19 miscreants who created a ruckus in Bhanpuri on Monday evening under Khamtarai police station of the capital. The arrested miscreants with hands holding ears were paraded by the police on Tuesday afternoon. A huge crowd of people was seen when miscreants were paraded. People were seen encouraging the police officers and raising slogans in praise of Police. Miscreants, armed with sticks had gone berserk in Bhanpuri area on Monday evening vandalizing many vehicles. After this incident the atmosphere in the area became tense. Angered by the violence of the miscreants, the local residents gheraoed the Khamtarai police station

and raised slogans against the police administration. Residents alleged that miscreants also molested the girls. On receiving information that a huge crowd of people had gathered in the police station premises, Police officers reached the spot and tried to control the situation. Meanwhile Pankaj Kushwaha and Inderjit Singh, the masterminds of the incident in ward number-4 of Bhanpuri, were arrested in the night by the joint police team of Cyber ??Cell and Khamtarai police station. Both of them had reached the railway station in an attempt to escape from the city. Remaining miscreants involved in the incident were arrested on Tuesday.

JCC (J) chief Amit Jogi meets Amit Shah



Speculations rife over merger with BJP

Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) supremo Amit Jogi on Tuesday called on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) heavy-weight and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Meeting resulted in speculations of merger of JCC(J) into BJP ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, the senior leaders and office-bearers of JCC(J) are anxious over the new political development and are waiting for the official statement from the party president Amit Jogi. It is notable that the JCC(J) performed below par in the recently held Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly polls with several senior leaders including former MLA Dr Renu Jogi also losing the electoral fray. Above meeting is considered to be an attempt of Jogi to find his political future. However, the BJP would only gain marginally.

CM Sai offers floral tribute to Late Nandkumar Baghel



Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: CM Vishnu Deo Sai visited Patan Sadan in city and offered floral tributes to Late Nandkumar Baghel, father of ex-CM Bhupesh Baghel. On this occasion Sai met former CM Bhupesh Baghel and his family members and ex-

pressed his heartfelt condolences and prayed for peace to the departed soul. On this occasion VS Speaker Dr Raman Singh, Dy. CM Arun Sao, MLA Kiran Singh Dev also offered condolences to Late Nandkumar Baghel.

Man commits suicide by hanging himself

Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: A young man committed suicide by hanging himself in the capital. Police have recovered a suicide note from the youth. In the suicide note, he stated that he was troubled by debt. The police have sent the body for post-mortem and started investigating the case. According to the information received, the de-



ceased youth lived in street number 7 of

Telibandha police station area. The name of the deceased youth is Neeraj Kamrani. It is being told that Neeraj was very much upset over his debt burden. Eventually he could see no other alternative but to commit suicide by hanging himself from the fan in the room of his house. A suicide note was found from the spot, in

which it is written 'I am hanging myself today, please do not trouble my family members. If I am dying today, I am dying only because of debt'. Two women are also mentioned in the note. At present the police have recovered the suicide note and are investigating the matter. It is also being ascertained what kind of debt the deceased had.

Ch'garh boxing team awarded best disciplined team trophy

Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: The 10th Federation Cup National Thai Boxing Championship, organized by the Madhya Pradesh Thai Boxing Association under the auspices of the Thai Boxing Indian Federation (TIF), concluded on a high note at Guru Gobind Singh Stadium, Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh) from January 6 to 8. The championship was held in memory of Thakur Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi. Maharashtra emerged as the champions of the championship, securing the first position with a remarkable 127 points. The Orissa team stood strong at second place, accumulating 85 points,



while the Delhi team captured the third position with 65 points. These teams were honored with the Overall Champion Trophy, First Runner Up Trophy, and Second Runner Up Trophy respectively. The Chhattisgarh boxing team, despite standing

fourth in the medal table with a total of 10 medals (including 8 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze), was awarded the trophy for the "Best Disciplined Team" among 14 participating states. This recognition was a testament to the excellent discipline displayed by Chhattisgarh's players

and officials throughout the championship. Approximately 400 players/officials from 14 states participated in this prestigious championship. Notably, Chhattisgarh athletes shone brightly, securing a total of 10 medals, including an impressive haul of 8 gold medals, 1 silver medal, and 1 bronze medal. Two exceptional athletes, Priyanka Sahu from Raipur and Janhavi Chandrakar from Durg, not only performed brilliantly in the fights but also excelled in solo performances in the musical form. They made the state proud by winning two individual gold medals each.

Ch'garh reach 177/7 against TN in CK Nayadu Cricket match



SPORTS ROUND-UP
Central Chronicle News
Raipur, Jan 09: Ayush Pandey scored 77 runs to help Chhattisgarh reach 177 for 7 at close of play on day 3 against Tamil Nadu in the Col CK Nayadu Trophy Cricket match being organized under the

claim maximum 4 wickets for Chhattisgarh. In reply, the Chhattisgarh team was battling hard at 177 runs for 7 wickets in first innings. While Ayush Pandey scored highest 77 runs for the team, Pratham Jachak also scored 26 runs for the team. VP Diran and P Vidyuth claimed three wickets each for TN.

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State govt releases calendar



On theme of Shri Ram temple construction and Modi's guarantee

Raipur, Jan 09: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai released the government calendar for the year 2024 at the State Guest House (Pahuna) here. Based on the theme Sunrise of Good Governance, the main page of this calendar has

the photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. In the month of January, the newly constructed Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya has been shown with the picture of Lord Shri Ram with the concept of re-establishing the cultural pride of India.

There is picture of Lord Shri Rajeev Lochan at Triveni Sangam in Rajim in the month of February,

Mahtari Vandan Yojana in the month of March and resolution to provide houses to 18 lakh eligible families under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in the month of April has been shown.

Modi's guarantee empowers the workers in the month of May of the calendar, Modi's guarantee for 10 thousand rupees per standard bag on green gold tendu leaves of tribals in the month of June,

birth of girl child in BPL family under 'Rani Durgavati Yojana' in the month of July. Guarantee letter of Rs 1 lakh 50 thousand, rich tribal culture of Chhattisgarh in the month of August and PM Vishwakarma Yojana in the month of September have been prominently shown. In the month of October, the internationally famous Bastar Dussehra, in the month of November, the historic purchase of 21 quintals of paddy per acre for Rs 3100 as a guarantee by Modi and in the month of December, the grand Jaitkham (Giraupuri Dham), a symbol of truth, has been paid homage to.

On this special occasion of release of Government Calendar 2024, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Vijay Sharma, Secretary to the Chief Minister P. Dayanand and Commissioner Public Relations Mayank Srivastava were present.

'No one is safe in the capital'

Raipur, Jan 09: Bhavani Singh Markam, Raipur City District President of Adivasi Congress, voiced growing apprehension over the security situation in the capital,

stating that "no one is safe" in the capital since the inception of the BJP government. The Adivasi Congress expressed deep concern about the surge in criminal activities within just one month of BJP's rule. Incidents of murder, robbery, and assaults have been on the rise, extending from the heart of Raipur to the entire state of Chhattisgarh. The capital itself has witnessed shocking incidents, with a young man being publicly stabbed to death and another young man being chased down and killed by criminals. In Jora, a person was shot, in an unfortunate incident.

Markam issued a stern warning, asserting that if such incidents persist, Adivasi Congress will stage a protest outside the Home Minister's residence.

BIS, Raipur celebrated the 77th Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 09: Bureau of Indian Standards, Raipur celebrated the 77th Foundation Day on 06th January 2024 at Hotel Shamrock Greens, Raipur. The program was attended by 300 participants representing leading industries, faculties from engineering colleges, Principals and Teachers from schools.

In his opening address Sumit Kumar, Head, Raipur Branch Office, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) brought out the importance various activities of BIS in providing traceability and tangibility benefits to the national economy. He also informed about the recent initiatives taken by BIS for promoting quality consciousness in the country including establishing of standard clubs in educational institution, sensi-

zation training for District Level Officials and President & Secretaries of Gram Panchayats, various online portals of BIS, MoUs with leading with engineering colleges for promoting co-operation in research and standardization.

The special dignitaries of the function included Dr. A K Tripathi, Dean of College of Dairy Science and Food Technology; Dr. Alok Sahu, Director, Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering and Technology, Raipur and Dr. Prabhat Diwan, Dean (Research and Consultancy), National Institute of Technology, Raipur. In their special address, the importance of Standards for educational and research institutions was highlighted by the dignitaries.

On this occasion, colour-

ful cultural program and skits were presented by the students from schools and colleges. The felicitation of 45 school students for excellent performance in the regional level quiz competition on science and standards was done on this occasion. The felicitation of 28 BIS licensees who have achieved zero failure in the product samples tested by BIS since April 2021 was also done on this occasion. In the technical session, Prabhu Nath Yadav, Joint Director, BIS and Shri Emanuel Abhishek Murmu, Deputy Director, BIS gave presentation on Standardization activities of BIS and Indian Standards relating to educational equipment and instruments. Technical discussion was held on Draft Indian Standard on "Metric steel scale for engineers-Specification".

IIM Raipur inaugurates certificate program

In Global Supply Chain Management on Jan 4

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 09: IIM Raipur witnessed a momentous occasion on January 4th, 2024, as the inaugural ceremony of the Certificate Program in Global Supply Chain Management in collaboration with the Directorate Resettlement Zone (Central), Ministry of Defence, Government of India, symbolizing the commencement of an enriching journey for all participants.

The inauguration commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by distinguished dignitaries present, setting the stage for an auspicious beginning. The esteemed Chief Guest, Brigadier Bikram Heeru, ADG, DRZ (Central), was felicitated by Prof. M Kannadhasan, Program Director, in recognition of his significant contributions. Prof. Anand Kumar extended a warm welcome and briefed about the program outline, and Col. (Dr.) Harindra Tripathi shared insightful thoughts with the gathering.

Prof. Ritu Gupta, Chairperson of the

Executive Learning & Development Committee, highlighted the importance of the program, emphasizing its impact on professional growth. Prof. Satyasiba Das, Dean External, addressed the audience, underlining the institute's commitment to fostering excellence in education. The Chief Guest, Brigadier Bikram Heeru, delivered an inspiring address, sharing valuable insights and motivating the participants. The ceremony concluded on a convivial note with a high tea, providing an opportunity for all, including Navy Officers, to network and build connections.

Tenth state-level UCMAS Abacus and Mental Arithmetic competition held

Raipur, Jan 09: The weather in Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh went bizarrely hot last Sunday when on the 7th of January, 2024. UCMAS kids heated up the city with confidence, speed and concentration. It was the 10th State Level UCMAS Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Competition at Bramhavidya Global School, Bhatagaon, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. In the Competition, about 700 students competed for supremacy in the 10th State Level UCMAS Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Competition 2024. The contestants aged between 5 to 13 years, from the entire Chhattisgarh state participated in the competition and attempting to solve 200 mathematical sums in merely 8 minutes. Starting from 8 am in the morning, the competition was con-



ducted in 7 Rounds consisting of Visual, Listening and Flash competitions. In all the three kinds of competition, the students attempted to solve the mathematical questions with the help of abacus which is a specialized tool used for brain grooming of kids. The sight of the energy, patience and focus of these UCMAS students energized the parents and the guests who were

there to witness the event. The Guests, which included the principals of major schools of Chhattisgarh state praised the organizers for their efforts in the preparation of the students. These students and their talent became the talk of the town. On this occasion, the presence of Dr. Snehal Karia, Chairman and CEO of Omnisoft Technologies Pvt Ltd, UCMAS India & Nepal,

Joint President of UCMAS Canada & USA, JOE - India, O'Botz Global, Kenken India and many other business ventures and also the Indian of the Year - 2017 was present to encourage the participants of this State Level Competition of Chhattisgarh. He not only was a highlight of the competition but was a special source inspiration to the UCMAS Chhattisgarh team but especially to the little UCMAS Participants.

A special Graduation Ceremony was also organized for the kids who had completed all the 8 levels of UCMAS abacus program and cracked an International Grading Exam (IGE). They were given a chance to be on the stage in graduation robes and a medal was given to these students. The audience and the

students enjoyed the moment just as much when the students hurled their caps in delight.

The prize distribution was held on the same day and various prizes were given to the kids including Champions for each group and 2 Champion of Champions from the senior and junior category. Master Laksh Gupta scored the senior Champion of Champions award and while Master Rudrapratap Singh bagged the Junior Champion of Champions trophy and both were awarded with a beautiful mountain cycles among other bunch of gifts.

Vote of thanks was given by Mr Piyush Jain who thanked the esteemed guests and the participating franchisees and above all, the parents and the students who were present.

'One-day round table conf organized for Annual Survey of Inds'

Raipur, Jan 09: To sensitize the industrial units about self-compilation of Annual Survey of Industries returns on the web portal, a Round Table Conference was organized by National Statistical Office, Regional Office, Raipur today on January 09, 2024 in the Mini Conference Hall of Circuit House, Civil Lines, Raipur. The program was presided over by Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, National Statistical Office, Raipur. The participants of the program were welcomed by Ashutosh Awasthi, Deputy Director, National Statistical Office, Raipur. The program was inaugurated by Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General by lighting the lamp.



While presiding over the program, Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, National Statistical Office, Raipur, while highlighting the importance of this survey, said that Annual Survey of Industries is conducted every year by the National Statistical Office accord-

ing to the Collection of Statistics Act 2008 and the Rules 2011 made under it. Under this, important data related to capital, turnover, value addition, fuel and raw materials and input-output etc. are collected from industrial units during the reference period. Apart from this, data related to employment, number of working days and social security benefits are also collected. The data obtained is used for estimation of national income and estimation of

Gross Domestic Product. Roshan Lal Sahu, Deputy Director General, called upon the representatives of the industrial units present to self-compile all the information in the return and submit it on the web portal. He requested the entrepreneurs present to provide correct data.

Addressing the conference, Anil Nachrani, President, C.G. Sponge Iron Manufacturing Association stressed the authenticity of industrial data and the use of technology in data collection. Vikram Jain, General Secretary of Urla Industrial Association, present in the program, stressed on the awareness of survey in micro, small and medium enterprises. Manish Dhuppad, General Secretary, C.G. Mini Steel Plant Association while explaining the contribution of the industrial sector in G.D.P., emphasized on the awareness of industrial units towards data.

At the end of the inaugural session, R.K.

Srivastava, Senior Statistical Officer delivered vote of thanks to the representatives and officials of all the industrial organizations present in the program.

In the second session of this program, Senior Statistical Officers Yasin Ali, RK Srivastava, OP Sahu, RN Soni, Vijay Rakhonde and Roshan Kumar gave training to the representatives of industrial organizations for self-compilation of returns on the web portal.

Along with representatives of various industrial organizations and high priority industrial units of the state viz. Bhilai Steel Plant, Jindal Steel & Power, Bajrang Power & Steel, Sarda Energy & Minerals, Godavari Steel & Power, J.K. Lakshmi Cement, Navbharat Group and 40 other units, Shri C.P.S. Markam, Assistant Director of National Statistical Office, Raipur, Durga Barla and Plabani Das, Senior Statistical Officer from Bilaspur office, Alok Singh, Senior Statistical Officer from Ambikapur office and all the Senior Statistical Officers from Raipur office participated in this conference.

The Annual Survey of Industries is conducted every year by National Statistical Office (Field Operations Division), Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India. Under this, the annual returns are filed by the selected industrial units and submitted to National Statistical Office.

Ch'garh College officers, Professors meet Higher Education Minister



Raipur, Jan 09: A delegation of the Association of Chhattisgarh College Officers and Professors met Higher Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal. The delegation led by association's state president Dr KK Bindal welcomed the Minister and raised their grievances before him.

Action was requested for payment of deposit arrears of the seventh pay scale, promotion from professor to principal, assistant professor to professor, increasing the retirement age of sports officer and li-

brarian from 62 to 65 years and prompt resolution of pension cases.

Present on the occasion were Dr KK Bindal, Dr Subhadra Rathore, Dr DK Pandey, Dr Ashok Sharma, Dr Preeti Sharma, Dr Abhya Joglekar, Dr Nanda Guruwara, Dr AK Parsai, Dr Tapeshchandra Gupta, Dr Rashmi Minj, Dr Vasu Verma, Dr SN Verma, Dr Rajesh Shukla, Dr Ravindra Nath Mishra, Dr Vipin Chandra Sharma, Dr Ramanand Yadu, Dr Pramod Mene, and Rupendra Singh Chauhan.

Embrace science over superstition: Dr Mishra

Raipur, Jan 09: Dr. Dinesh Mishra, Shradha Nirmoolan Samiti and a the President of the Andhra

renowned eye specialist, delivered a compelling address to the residents and students of Government College Abhanpur in the village of Sakri, located near the capital city. Dr. Mishra emphasized the critical need for fostering a scientific mindset among the general populace to combat the prevalent superstitions and social issues that often lead to the suffering of innocent individuals. In his enlightening speech, Dr. Mishra highlighted the adverse consequences of superstition, which often leaves people in a state of confusion regarding right and wrong. He asserted that these beliefs are



mere illusions of the mind, and the path to success lies in diligence, honesty and hard work. Despite advancements in the 21st century, ancient traditions and superstitions such as witchcraft, sorcery, sacrificial rituals, and child marriages still persist, caus-

ing harm to countless lives each year.

Dr. Mishra stressed the urgent need to promote scientific awareness and logical thinking as a means to combat superstitions effectively. He called upon the society to unite in the fight against harmful practices, urging students to play an active role.

Discussing the influence of superstition on healthcare decisions, Dr. Mishra noted that rural communities often resort to magical remedies and exorcisms based on traditional advice, leading to inadequate treatment of illnesses such as viral fever, malaria, and diarrhea. He emphasized that each health issue requires a unique approach, emphasizing the importance of informed decisions in healthcare.

Dr. Mishra used relatable examples

to illustrate his point, comparing the futile act of attempting to repair a damaged motorcycle or radio with superstitious practices like wearing amulets to resolve personal issues. He emphasized that, like machines, the human body requires specialized care from experts when facing health challenges.

Addressing the impact of fear-based superstitions on children, Dr. Mishra advised against scaring them with tales of ghosts and witchcraft. Instead, he encouraged nurturing self-confidence and fearlessness. He stressed that those with confidence and courage in their hearts remain unfazed by superstitions and external obstacles.

Highlighting the prevalence of cases related to witchcraft, tantra-

mantra, and harassment in the country, Dr. Mishra condemned the wrongful accusations and physical and mental torture faced by innocent individuals, particularly women. He emphasized that attributing illnesses or misfortunes to witchcraft is unjust and inhumane. Dr. Mishra cited statistics revealing thousands of cases of witchcraft-related violence and deaths in various states, underscoring the urgency of addressing this issue.

Dr. Mishra also revealed that investigations into supposed miracles often revealed scientific explanations or fraudulent activities. He called for a critical examination of beliefs in ghosts and supernatural occurrences and urged the public to question such narratives.

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Contractor transporting stones from mine without TP and driver license

Tehsildar took action

Konta/Sukma, Jan 09:

On Monday, Konta Tehsildar Param Mandavi seized a tipper on the illegal stone mine being run by contractor Shailendra Singh Bhadauria (Prمود Rathore) in Konta block of Sukma district, the last end of Chhattisgarh state, and took action against the concerned department and district. The report has been sent to the Collector. In the said tipper, action has been taken after repeated complaints against the contractor arbitrarily blasting the stone from the quarry mine in village Dhondhara for the crusher operated in village Injaram and carrying the goods without filling the tipper and overloading it. The said tipper has been seized and kept in Konta police station. The same Tehsildar said that on



Saturday, when we raided and stopped the tipper filled with stones and wanted to see the copy of TP, driver's license and other important documents, no important documents were found on the spot. After which the Tehsildar searched the said vehicle illegally. After finding that

stones were being loaded and transported against the rules, the vehicle was seized along with the goods and the Mineral Department was informed for appropriate action.

While talking to the media, Param Mandavi said that complaints and information were being re-

ceived for many days that the stones were being transported arbitrarily by the contractor without TP and overloaded. On which the above action has been taken. Sukma District Collector has also been informed about this.

For the crusher plant operated in Injaram, the gov-

ernment leased a mountain in village Dhondhara to the contractor as per the rules for ballast. After the blast, the said raw stones had to be taken to the Injaram crusher plant. For this, the contractor deployed 6 tippers and filled the Injaram day and night with arbitrary overload, exceeding the capacity of the tippers. During this time, the said vehicles were being driven at high speed after being overloaded with goods, which was causing fear to the pedestrians and residents. The influence of contractor Shailendra Bahadur Singh is so much that the drivers of the said goods carrying tippers do not even have a license nor do they have any necessary documents. In such a situation, it remains to be seen what action the Administration and Mineral Department takes after this action.

Kalash yatra brings joy and unity in Khauna village



Ahead of Lord Shri Ram's Foundation Day

Kharora, Jan 09:

The village of Khauna in Kharora recently witnessed a heartwarming spectacle as it extended a grand welcome to the Kalash Yatra travelling from Ayodhya. The enthusiastic villagers adorned the path with colorful rangoli designs, filling the air with the resounding chants of 'Jai Shri Ram.' Their jubilant celebration aimed to invite neighboring villages to join them in commem-

rating January 22nd, a day that holds immense significance as the foundation day of Lord Shri Ram, akin to the festive spirit of Diwali.

The spirited event saw active participation from various community groups, including the Gram Samast Seva Samiti, Ramayan Mandali, and women's groups. The core organizers of the Akshat Kalash Yatra, Mandal Bangoli Anil Nayak, and co-in-charge Vice President of Youth Morcha Kharora, Durgesh Chandel, along with esteemed individuals

like former district member Kharak Yadu, former Sarpanch Neelkanth Verma, Dukalu Nishad, Panch Shekhar Yadu, former Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Budeni Mati Meena Verma, Manoj Thakur, Jayant Thakur, Shambhu Dayal Sen, Naresh Bhatt, Nirmal Verma, Devendra Yadav, Rohit Dhiwar, and a host of villagers including Chandra Shekhar Bhargava, Radhe Sahu, Ravi Verma, and Netram Sahu, made the event a memorable celebration of unity and tradition.

Van of VBSY will reach local ground of Bemetara district today

Bemetara, Jan 09:

Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) will reach local ground of the district on Jan 10. Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra will be organized from 10.30 am. Stalls of various departments will also be set up. In the camp, the departmental officers will give information about the government schemes and will also provide the benefits of the scheme quickly at the camp site to the eligible beneficiaries who have come to avail the benefits of the scheme. Aadhar card and Ayushmanya card will also be made in the camp. The health department will also provide testing facilities for health check-up of villagers. Under the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra, camps are being organized continuously as per the action plan in the designated places of all the districts of the district with the aim of providing information about the schemes of the Government of India to the common citizens and to benefit from the public welfare schemes of the government. Tents and necessary seating arrangements have been completed to welcome the chariot in the Basic School grounds.

Dr. Mamta Chandrakar pays courtesy visit to Governor

Khairagarh, Jan 09:

Vice Chancellor Dr. Mamta Chandrakar of Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh, joined a group of distinguished Vice Chancellors in paying a courtesy visit to the esteemed Governor of Chhattisgarh, Vishwabhushan Harichandan, at Raj Bhavan on January 7th.

This visit, which was filled with camaraderie and goodwill, further strengthens the bonds between academia and the state leadership. It is worth



noting that Vice Chancellor Dr. Chandrakar had the pleasure of meeting the Governor's wife, Suprabha Harichandan,

during her recent visit to Khairagarh. Registrar-in-charge Prof. Dr. Neeta Gaharwar also graced this gracious occasion.

Young minds transform Scrap into intricate models

GHS Ilda hosted a captivating Science Fair

Kharora, Jan 09:

Government High School Ilda hosted a captivating Science Fair, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of students who showcased remarkable creations crafted from scrap materials. The event not only demonstrated the ingenuity of young minds but also encouraged a passion for science and innovation.

A diverse array of models took center stage, captivating onlookers. Among the notable attractions were the Ram Mandir Nuclear Plant and the future Mangalyaan mission set to embark on a journey to Ayodhya. Additionally, students crafted models encompassing various subjects, including mathematics, geometry, and



the Pythagoras theorem. Other eye-catching exhibits featured themes such as solar energy, steam engines, heart rate monitoring, and electromagnetism. Environmental issues also found representation through captivating models designed to raise awareness. The institution's Principal-in-Charge, Chandni Yaduvanshi, and lecturer Kumari

Manju Ausar provided invaluable guidance to the students throughout the model preparation process. The judging panel, comprised of esteemed educators Khuman Sahu, Dipti Sahu, and Santoshi Yadav, meticulously assessed all the models, ultimately selecting the most outstanding creations for first, second, and third place honors.

Team of experts will count tigers in Indravati Tiger Reserve

Jagdarpur, Jan 09:

After Indravati Tiger Reserve lagged behind in the latest ranking of tiger reserves across the country, a fresh census of tigers is about to start here. About 80 member team of Forest Department is being trained for counting tigers in Indravati Tiger Reserve Park, a Naxal infested area. Apart from this, 50 local villagers from about 25 nearby villages are also being prepared for the tiger census.



According to the park management, this count will start from the last week of January and continue till the last week of February. Along with this, a team of experts from Wildlife Dehradun is also arriving to count the tigers. At present there are 08 to 10 tigers confirmed in

this national park. DFO of Indravati Tiger Reserve Sandeep Balga said that the work of counting tigers will be started in Indravati Tiger Reserve from the last week of January. All preparations are being made for this. For this, teams of experts are arriving from many places in the country. With this calculation, very soon the number of tigers in Indravati National Park will become clear. He told that to count the

tigers in Indravati Tiger Reserve, the team will work with the villagers by going to the area where tigers live in the forest. Apart from this, the team will work on a formula according to which the area where the tiger roared, its feces and claw marks will be detected and where claw marks have been found in the trees. Apart from this, it can be calculated by installing cameras for 21 days in the area where tigers are likely to be present.

Mazdoor Sangh office bearers meet Collector

Kondagaon, Jan 09:

The newly appointed Collector of Kondagaon-District, Kunal Kudawat, was welcomed today by the officials of Mazdoor Sangh of the District who reached the Collector's office and presented him with a bouquet. Meanwhile, the office bearers urged the district collector to provide the benefits of the schemes being run by the government for the benefit of the workers. The district collector while appealing the office bearers of the labor union said that the primary effort of the district



administration is to implement the public welfare schemes of the government. Meanwhile Mazdoor Sangh District President Sanjay Lala,

Block President Mangu Sori, Neer Korram, Bhuvan Markandey, Munna Korram, Kalam Khan and other members were present.

Public facilities like roads, electricity, drinking water expanded

In Patelpara, Mudiyapara, Gadmepara of Chandameta area
Collector took stock of the development works done in the interior areas

Jagdarpur, Jan 09:

Public facilities like roads, electricity, drinking water have expanded in Patelpara, Mudiyapara, Gadmepara of Chandameta area, which once had a distinct identity as highly sensitive areas of the district. Collector Vijay Dayaram K took stock of the development works done in the interior areas on Monday. It may be known that Collector Vijay had visited Koleng, Chandameta area and met the villagers on the third day of his appointment in Bastar district about eight months ago. Based on the demands of the villagers, roads, electricity, drinking water, schools and Anganwadis were established. The road construction work

from Chandametta to Patelpara was completed by the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Vikas Nigam before the rains. The work of electricity expansion in Patelpara, Mudiyapara, Gadmepara and Tondrapara has also been done two months ago. The villagers are happy to get electric light in these areas after so many years. Apart from this, Solar Tap Water Scheme has also been established under the provision of drinking water.

The Collector discussed with the villagers regarding road, electricity and tap water system. Patelpara resident Ura Kunjam said that when the power line was not extended, they used to provide light by lighting lanterns or lamps with kerosene oil or had only the help of fire light. Now that the light has come, let's light the bulb. He also informed about charging his mobile. The Collector asked Oora to take better care of his pregnant wife and get the delivery done at Koleng Hospital. Piso of Patelpara told that due to Solar Tap Water



Scheme there is no need to drink drain water now. Earlier they used to use water from

drain or Jhiriya which sometimes worsened their health. He also told that the light in

my house also comes from the electric line. Sarpanch of the village, Ayata said that earlier the residents of Patelpara used to face a lot of problems due to lack of road. The construction of the road provides convenience to all the citizens. Collector said that while giving pace to the development work, arrangements are being made to provide basic facilities to the citizens of the area. Children are being educated by establishing a school in Koleng. Two youths of the village are being employed as guest teachers. Anganwadi was also inaugurated on Monday. Caste certificate has been made for the children studying in the school. On the same lines, caste certificate for the children of Anganwadi will also be made in the coming days. After discussing with the villagers of Koleng, they appealed to send the children to regular schools and Anganwadi centres. During the inspection, the Collector gave instructions to construct about 100 meter access road for Koleng Kanya Ashram in coordination with

MNREGA. He directed the concerned officers to fulfill their needs of the Ashram. Instructions were given to complete the construction work of Koleng Bazaar shed soon. It may be noted that during his first visit to Koleng area, the Collector had given instructions to organize Koleng market. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, Sub-Divisional Officer Revenue Tokpal Subrata Pradhan, Darbha District CEO, Assistant Commissioner Chandel, Mr. Poyam of Electricity Department, Mr. Rahul of PMGMV and other officials were present. **Koleng Anganwadi center was inaugurated by children** The Collector inaugurated the Koleng Anganwadi Center with the children. He inaugurated the center by taking the child in his lap and cutting the ribbon of the center and distributing biscuits to the children. District Panchayat CEO, SDM also took the children in his lap and ushered them in. **Inspection of PHC of Koleng** The Collector took stock of

the status of institutional delivery at the Primary Health Center (PHC) of Koleng. He took detailed information about the children born in the last month here and in case of normal delivery, it is mandatory to monitor the health of the mother and child for 48 hours after birth. He instructed to keep the hospital organized and clean. He also instructed to give clarification to the RMA who was absent at the place of duty during the inspection. Instructions were given to get cleanliness around the hospital premises and to use the ambulance kept in the premises. He instructed for construction department to complete the remaining work of the hospital soon. **Testing of paddy was done with moisture measuring device in PPC** During the inspection of Koleng area, the Collector got the moisture of the paddy brought by the farmer for sale tested using a moisture measuring device at the Koleng Paddy Procurement Centre (PPC). He discussed the quali-

ty of paddy with farmers. He gave instructions to get the paddy kept in the collection center lifted soon. Instructions were also given to take action on surrender of land area by farmers. **CSC center inspected** The Collector discussed with Santosh Verma, the operator of the Customer Service Center, regarding the services provided by it and the financial transactions. Director Mr. Santosh told that its transaction capacity is up to two lakh rupees. Earlier, he used to run CSC in his house from which he used to earn an income of two thousand rupees per month. In the last June, during the visit of Collector Shri Vijay to Koleng, he has been allotted a government shop in which he works as a bank branch and other financial works of government schemes. The work of distributing the amount to the beneficiaries is underway. Apart from this, being the only CSC center in Koleng area, other online work related to governance is done by Santosh. The Collector appreciated and encouraged Santosh's work.

Imran Khan arrested in connection with attack on Pakistan Army headquarters

Islamabad, Jan 09 (PTI):

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan was on Tuesday arrested in a case related to the attack on the Pakistan Army headquarters in Rawalpindi on May 9 last year, soon after his release warrant was issued in the cipher case.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi had summoned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who is already behind bars in cipher and graft cases, in May 9 cases on Tuesday. However, Khan attended the court's proceedings via video link as he could not be produced in the court by Adiala jail authorities owing to security concerns.

Judge Ijaz Asif of the Anti-Terrorism Court Rawalpindi conducted hearings of at least 12 cases linked with the May



9 riots against Khan and others. During the proceedings, police chief of the Royal Artillery Bazar Police Station, which is in the vicinity of the General Headquarters (GHQ), informed the court that Khan was arrested in the GHQ attack case as he was nominated in the case. Police also requested for 71-year-old Khan's physical remand but the judge turned down the plea and

asked police to meet him at the jail for probe. On Monday, the special court formed to hear cases under the Official Secrets Act had issued his release orders in the cipher case. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain issued the release order of Khan, stating that the former premier's bail had been approved and he shall be released if not wanted in any other case. Despite having the re-

lease order, Khan remains behind bars due to being arrested in the Toshakma and 190 million pound Al-Qadir Trust scandal.

On May 9, 2023, violent protests erupted after the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad. Over 20 military installations and state buildings, including the army headquarters in Rawalpindi, were damaged or torched in the violent protests that followed Khan's arrest in a corruption case.

The party ran into trouble after the May 9 violence by its supporters. Hundreds of rioters were arrested in the days after the attack and booked on various charges.

Khan and several of his party leaders have been facing numerous cases since the ouster of the party from power in April 2022 and later in the wake of the May 9 violence.

INS KABRA



Indian Navy's Fast Attack Craft INS Kabra being welcomed upon arrival in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Rajnath Singh kick starts UK tour with visit to Gandhi memorial

London, Jan 09 (PTI):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh kick-started his UK tour with a visit to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Tavistock Square in central London on Tuesday.

Singh's visit comes after a gap of 22 years, with the last one by an Indian defence minister to the UK dating back to January 2002.

Accompanied by Indian High Commissioner to the UK Vikram Doraiswami and members of his delegation, Singh paid floral tributes to the Father of the Nation at the memorial which dates back to the 20th century.

The iconic sculpture of Gandhi in a meditative pose is the site of Gandhi Jayanti and Martyr's Day commemorations by the diaspora.

The minister then made his way to Whitehall to inspect a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Horse Guards Parade before a bilateral meeting with his UK counterpart, Defence Secretary Grant Shapps. The two leaders are expected to cover a wide range of defence, security and industrial cooperation issues.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi, in Tavistock, London.

Later on Tuesday, Singh will visit the Ambedkar Museum in north London to pay tributes to the Dalit rights activist and architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar, before offering prayers at the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple, known as Neasden Temple in London.

Singh, accompanied by a Ministry of Defence delegation of senior officials

from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Service Headquarters, Department of Defence, and Department of Defence Production, arrived in London on Monday night on a three-day visit. Besides a dialogue with Shapps, he is expected to call on British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and hold a meeting

with Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

On Wednesday, the Raksha Mantri will interact with defence industry leaders at a roundtable event and later meet representatives of the Indian community at a reception organised by the High Commission of India in London.

"In substantive terms, the visit will seek to deepen military cooperation and defence industrial partnerships with the UK by building on the November 2023 Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting in Delhi at the level of Secretaries and the inaugural meeting of the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue at the level of Joint Secretaries in October 2023," said Rahul Roy-Chaudhury, Senior Fellow for South and Central Asian Defence, Strategy and Diplomacy at the London-based think tank International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

The defence analyst believes that through the ministerial-level dialogue, the British government could seek to provide an "enabling environment" for British companies to pursue these objectives in India.

Two injured in protest outside gurudwara in Canada

Ottawa, Jan 09 (PTI):

At least two persons were injured when violence broke out during a protest in front of a gurudwara in the northeast Calgary district of Alberta province in Canada.

Calgary police said officers were called to Gurdwara Sahib Boulevard at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday when about 50 to 100 people were involved in a fight.

Officials said there were two previous calls for service at the Dashmesh Culture Centre earlier that day,

each for different disturbances between the protesters and the building's occupants.

"At approximately 1:15 p.m., officers were initially dispatched for reports of a disturbance regarding individuals who were believed to be protesting at the location. Shortly after, a second call came in reporting the protesters had moved inside the building. Officers worked with the involved parties to de-escalate the situation," Calgary Police Service said in a statement.

It's believed no weapons were involved in

the fight and there were no arrests, police said.

Calgary police have not released any details about what sparked the assault or if anyone has been charged.

Gurpartap Baidwan, one of the protest organisers, said some of the Gurudwara congregation gathered in opposition to the temple's elected leadership committee.

"(We were meeting) to oppose their various bylaw violations and a series of wrongdoings and grievances," he told CTV News. Baidwan said the leadership was not following the rules of their faith

or obeying the governance of the Sikh religion.

"They are required to abide by the Sikh Rehat Maryada that is issued by the Akal Takht, which is kind of like our Vatican," he said.

"The issue that we're having is that this committee that has come in is acting outside those parameters. They are not just violating the Sikh Rehat Maryada, which is the Sikh code of conduct, but they are also violating the institution's bylaws as prescribed under Alberta law in the form of being a non-profit organisation."

Sri Lanka to join US-led naval operations against Houthi rebels in Red Sea

Colombo, Jan 09 (AP):

Debt-ridden Sri Lanka's navy is preparing to join a US-led operation to protect merchant vessels sailing in the Red Sea against attacks by Houthi rebels, a Sri Lankan navy spokesman said on Tuesday.

The attacks by Houthi rebels have targeted commercial shipping vessels transiting through the critical Bab el-Mandeb Strait that links markets in Asia and Europe following the October 7 attack by Hamas and Israel's subsequent war against the militant group in Gaza.

The US and its allies launched Operation Prosperity Guardian to protect ship traffic, and warships from the US, France, and the UK are

patrolling the area.

No date has been set for sending the Sri Lankan ships and the area they will patrol has not been finalised, said navy spokesman Capt. Gayan Wickramasuriya.

The decision to send the ships drew criticism from opposition lawmakers in the island nation. Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa blamed the government for spending LKR 250 million (USD 777,000) to send ships to fight Houthi rebels in the Red Sea when Sri Lankans are experiencing severe economic hardships at home.

State Minister of Defense Pramitha Tennakoon defended the move, saying the government wants to fulfill its "global responsibilities" and noting that "Sri

Lanka is against any form of terrorism".

He added that Sri Lanka would incur no additional costs by joining the operations, as the country's ships are already patrolling its vast maritime area in the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka is struggling to get through the worst economic crisis in its history.

The country declared bankruptcy in April 2022 with more than USD 83 billion in debt more than half of it to foreign creditors.

Its economy was plunged into crisis, with severe shortages of food, fuel and other necessities.

Strident public protests led to the ouster of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The

IMF agreed in March last year to a USD 2.9-billion bailout package.

Sri Lanka hopes to restructure USD 17 billion of its tens of billions of outstanding debt.

Over the past year, severe shortages of essentials like food, fuel and medicine have largely abated, and authorities have restored power supplies.

But public dissatisfaction has grown over the government's efforts to increase revenues by raising electricity bills and imposing heavy new income taxes on professionals and businesses.

Last week, the government increased the rate of the valued added tax and extended it to cover many essential items, including cooking gas, fuel, medicine and others.

China congratulates Awami League for victory in Bangladesh polls

Beijing, Jan 09 (PTI):

China on Tuesday congratulated the ruling Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League party in Bangladesh for winning the general elections, saying it wants to strengthen the bilateral strategic partnership with Dhaka and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

"China congratulates Bangladesh for holding general elections as scheduled and we congratulate Awami League on winning the elections," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson

Mao Ning said. "As a friend and neighbour, China supports Bangladesh in advancing the post-election political agenda in accordance with the law," she said.

"We are ready to work with the new Bangladesh government based on mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs to carry out the traditional friendship and deepen BRI cooperation and strive for new progress of our strategic partnership of cooperation," she said.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग मुंगेली, जिला - मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

// निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश //

प्र क्रमांक..... / व.ले.स./2023-24 मुंगेली, दिनांक.....

मुख्य अभियंता हनुमन्त कछार जल संसाधन विभाग बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के ज्ञाप क्र. सा-1-43 का-2023/2978/बिलासपुर, दिनांक 13.12.2023 के परिपालन में इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा सूचना क्र. 06/व.ले.सि./2023-24 दिनांक 12.07.2023, सिस्टम नं. 14467 (षष्ठम आमंत्रण) "मुंगेली के ग्राम करही/धरमपुरा में स्थित शासकीय मृगि में संभागीय कार्यालय एवं 2 नग जी टाईप क्वार्टर एवं 1 नग एफ टाईप क्वार्टर मय बाउन्ड्रीवाल का निर्माण कार्य" (लागत रु. 162.71 लाख) की निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से "निरस्त" किया जाता है।

जी. नं. - 03200, दिनांक 13.07.2023

कार्यपालन अभियंता
मनियारी जल संसाधन संभाग
मुंगेली, जिला - मुंगेली (छ.ग.)

G-06988/2 "जल ही जीवन है!"

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

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

IN NIT No. 17/SAC/2023-24, Machadoli, Dated 19-12-2023 System Tender No. 150077 (1st Call) Whose G.No. is 06845/1 Dated /01/2024 following amendments are made-

S. No.	Particulars	Previous Published Date	Amendment Date	Time
1.	Bid Start date & time (The date and time from which bidders start preparation / submission of their bid response, before this bidder's action will not be allowed.)	26-12-2023	10-01-2024	17.31
2.	Bid Due date & time (The last date & time for submission of bid response, after which no bids can be submitted.)	09-01-2024	24-01-2024	17.30
3.	Bid Open, Start date & time (The date of opening of Envelope-A & B online)	10-01-2024	29-01-2024	11.30

Note: All other terms and conditions of NIT will remain unchanged.

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

G-06976/1 Minimata (Hasdeo) Bango Project, Bilaspur (C.G.)

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता
स्व. श्री लखीराम अग्रवाल स्मृति,
शास. चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय रायगढ़ (छ.ग.)
(वेबसाइट- www.gmcrailgarh.edu.in ई-मेल gmcrailgarh.2013@gmail.com)

क्रमांक/शा.चि.व./स्था./2024/317 रायगढ़, दिनांक 08/01/2024

वाइड ब्याज/आया पद के सीधी भर्ती हेतु अभ्यर्थियों के पात्र-अपात्र सूची पर दावा आपत्ति की सूचना

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता, शा.चि.व. रायगढ़ द्वारा जारी संशोधित विज्ञापन क्र. - 4594/19.09.2017 द्वारा विज्ञापित वाइड ब्याज/आया के 42 पदों पर सीधी भर्ती हेतु अभ्यर्थियों के दस्तावेज सत्यापन उपरान्त पात्र-अपात्र सूची क्रमांक/शा.चि.व./स्था./2023/9656 दिनांक 06.10.2023, जारी कर दावा-आपत्ति आमंत्रित किया गया था तथा समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन हेतु जनसंपर्क संचालनालय को प्रेषित किया गया था। विधानसभा निर्वाचन-2023 हेतु दिनांक 09.10.2023 से आदर्श आचार संहिता प्रभावशील होने के कारण दावा-आपत्ति की सूचना, समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित नहीं हो पाया था, अतएव उक्त दावा-आपत्ति को कार्यालयीन पत्र क्रमांक-9971/17.10.2023 द्वारा तत्काल स्थगित किया गया था।

व्ययन समिति की संज्ञान में यह पाया गया कि कि उक्त पात्र-अपात्र सूची क्रमांक/शा.चि.व./स्था./2023/9656 दिनांक 06.10.2023, विज्ञापन क्रमांक - 4594/19.09.2017 की कड़िका-21 के अनुसार नहीं है। अतएव व्ययन समिति की बैठक दिनांक 12.12.2023 में सर्वसम्मति से लिये गये निर्णय अनुसार विज्ञापन की कड़िका-21 में "लिखित परीक्षा / कौशल / दक्षता परीक्षा में एक या एक से अधिक अभ्यर्थियों के समान अंक प्राप्त होने की दशा में उनके आवश्यक शैक्षणिक अर्हता के प्राप्तांक के आधार पर अंतिम मेरिट सूची तैयार की जावेगी। आवश्यक शैक्षणिक अर्हता के अंक भी समान होने पर जन्मतिथि के बरिफता के आधार पर अंतिम मेरिट सूची जारी की जावेगी।" उल्लेखित अनुसार पात्र-अपात्र सूची क्रमांक/शा.चि.व./स्था./2023/9656 दिनांक 06.10.2023 को संशोधित करते हुए अभ्यर्थियों के 08वीं कक्षा के प्राप्तांक को शामिल कर मेरिट क्रम में पात्र-अपात्र सूची पुनः जारी की गई है, जिसका अवलोकन www.gmcrailgarh.edu.in तथा नोटिस बोर्ड से किया जा सकता है।

उक्त पात्र-अपात्र सूची के संबंध में दावा-आपत्ति शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़ में दिनांक 25.01.2024 तक प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है। दिनांक 25.01.2024 के पश्चात् दावा आपत्ति स्वीकार्य नहीं होगा तथा व्ययन समिति का निर्णय अंतिम एवं सर्वमान्य होगा।

अधिष्ठाता
शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, रायगढ़

G-06986/1



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Maldives Dispute

Balancing Nationalism and Diplomacy

Three deputy ministers from the Maldives found themselves suspended from their positions due to their derogatory remarks against India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. On the surface, this may appear as a necessary disciplinary action, but the implications run deeper, calling into question the state of bilateral relations between the Maldives and India. The Maldivian government, led by Mohamed Muizzu, has swiftly distanced itself from the ministers' comments, asserting that their personal views do not reflect the nation's official stance. However, for New Delhi, this response may not suffice. The Ministry of External Affairs summoned the Maldives High Commissioner, signaling India's growing concern over the anti-India sentiment implicitly conveyed in the now-deleted social media posts. President Muizzu's known proximity to China further complicates the situation, as one of his initial moves after taking office was to demand the withdrawal of Indian military personnel from the Maldives. This incident marks a troubling low point in the historically warm bilateral relations between the two nations. The aftermath has witnessed a wave of Indian tourists, including celebrities, announcing the cancellation of their Maldives trips. Even a prominent home-grown travel company has taken the unusual step of discontinuing bookings for the Maldives, citing the prioritization of nationalism over personal interests. While this response may be viewed as an overreaction by some, it underscores the importance of delineating acceptable behavior in diplomatic relations and acknowledges the significance of Indian tourists in the global travel industry. Indian tourists, known for their affluence and willingness to spend, constitute a substantial portion of the Maldivian tourism sector's revenue. However, the fallout from this incident has brought to light certain segments of the Maldivian population who perceive Prime Minister Modi's visit to Lakshadweep as an attempt to divert tourists away from their nation to the detriment of their economy. Healthy competition can indeed be beneficial for both tourist destinations and visitors, but it is crucial to remain grounded in reality. Lakshadweep, in comparison to the Maldives, currently lacks the necessary infrastructure and framework to meet the demands of a surge in tourism. Moreover, preserving the delicate ecological balance of Lakshadweep is of utmost importance. India's strong objection to Male's actions is not without merit, but the ultimate goal should be the normalization of diplomatic ties that benefit both nations. In this era of interconnected global economies, diplomatic disputes have far-reaching consequences that extend beyond political realms. Tourism, as a significant contributor to both the Maldivian and Indian economies, should not become collateral damage in this dispute. It is imperative that both countries engage in constructive dialogue and find a middle ground that safeguards their diplomatic ties while respecting the sovereignty of each nation. As the Maldives row unfolds, it serves as a stark reminder of the complexities of managing international relations in a world where personal sentiments and national interests often collide. Navigating these challenges with prudence and diplomacy will ultimately determine the course of future interactions between the Maldives and India, ensuring that both nations continue to thrive as vibrant and prosperous neighbors in the Indian Ocean region.

Ban display of caste symbols

Sujit De

A few days ago, three persons allegedly molested an 18-year-old Dalit girl in Baghat, Uttar Pradesh when she was working at a cauldron of a jaggery-making unit. When she protested, the accused allegedly threw her into the hot cauldron and hurled casteist words at her. The girl sustained serious burn injuries and has been undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi. The above incident is just the tip of the iceberg. The latest National Crime Records Bureau's data show the crimes against Dalits increased from 50,744 in 2021 to 57,428 last year. The graph has been going up since 2013. There were 15,368 crimes against Scheduled Caste persons last year in Uttar Pradesh, while Madhya Pradesh ranked first in crimes against Scheduled Tribes from 2020 to 2022. The administrations in these two double engine states need to be more efficient in dealing with crimes against Dalits. However, caste hatred towards Dalits by the upper caste members of the same religion is not confined to those two states only but all over India. Many parents follow teach them young mantras regarding educating their children about caste differences. In some schools in Tamil Nadu, students wear colour-coded wristbands to show their caste identity. Those children may or may not wear their hearts on their sleeves. But they definitely wear their castes on their wrists! The following incident would reveal what 'caste educated' little children could do. A teacher from a lower caste was appointed in a school in Tamil Nadu where majority of the students belonged to upper castes. A student threw a firecracker at her when she had been taking a class. It ruptured her eardrum and she was forced to leave. On the other hand, a young student was killed in Rajasthan in August 2022 for not getting enough education on untouchability. The student touched a drinking pot and as a result he was beaten to death by his teacher in Surana village of Rajasthan's Jalore district. As per the India Human Development Survey (IHDS-2) in 2011-12, 27 per cent respondents across India said that they had been maintaining the practice of untouchability in their daily lives. According to the Studies conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research in 2016, about 5% of the marriages in India are inter-caste marriages. Caste identity cannot be changed with the change of class or in other words with the help of money power. One in four Indians who practices untouchability will not touch even a well-off Dalit. On the other hand 95 among 100 Indians continue to avoid marrying even rich Dalits. There is a long list of atrocities against Dalits like thrashing them for - sporting a moustache or riding a horse or drinking water from a public tap or getting a haircut at a barber's shop or entering a temple or taking water from a well or sitting in a row in a feast etc. The story is the same as that of "Sadgati" which is not just a Munshi Prem Chand's short story or a Satyajit Ray's film. As a matter of fact, this is a never-ending story of caste hatred in our country. This made Ambedkar embrace Buddhism and Vemula write in his suicide note, "My birth is my fatal accident." And this makes the school-dropout-rate in Dalit children generally high in our country. The UN report says that there is a widespread discrimination against Dalits throughout the entire educational system in India. This is a threat to equality, to our national unity and more importantly to humanity. More often than not, history witnessed what Tagore wrote in his famous poem, Apamanita (Insulted), "Whom you push down will pull you down" or in other words Newton's third law "for every action in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction". Students should be taught in schools why caste inequality is an ugly blot like sati that needs to be erased from our society. Moreover, a display of any kind of symbol of one's caste identity must totally be banned.

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.

WINTER IN NADIA

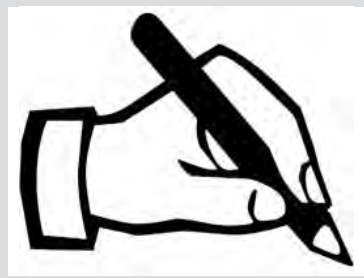


A woman with her child during a cold winter morning, in Nadia, Tuesday.

Origin and Development of Hindi Journalism



PRABHAT KISHORE



"Udant Martand" was the first Hindi newspaper. The journey of the era of Hindi newspapers in India begins with this weekly paper published from Kolkata on 30th May 1826. Published under the editorship of Shri Yugal Kishore Shukla, "Udant Martand" was the luminary in the form of news, which illuminated and guided the path of Hindi journalism. The notable verse printed on this paper was: *Dinkar Kar Pragat Dinhin Yah Prakash Ath Yam Also Ravi Aab Ugaun Mahi, Jehi Sukh Ko Dham. Aant Kamalani Vigsit Karat Badhat Chav Chit Vaam Let Nam Ya Patra Ko Hot Harsh Aru Kam.* The 'Bangdoot' weekly was brought out from Kolkata itself on 10 May 1829. Published in collaboration with Raja Ram Mohan Roy and under the editorship of Nilratna Haldhar, this paper was originally in Bangla, which was also printed in Hindi as required. The verses quoted above the Hindi part of 'Bangdoot' were - *Bhulal Ki Yah Rit Bahut Thode Mein Bhakhe Logan Le Bahu Lag Hoye Yahi Te Lakhe Bangala Ki Doot-Poot Yahi Vayu Ko Jano Hoye Vidit Sab Desh Klesh Ko Lesh Na Mano.* The life journey of 'Bangdoot' ended on July 30, 1829, after the release of only twelve issues. The weekly "Banaras Akhbar" was the first newspaper to come out of the Hindi region. In 1845, the paper came out from Kashi under the editorship of Shri Govind Raghunath Tathate. In 1846, "Indian Sun" was published from Kolkata in five languages like "Bengal Herald" and "Bangdoot". It had ten pages and each page had five columns. The name of its Hindi edition was "Martand". "Sudhavarshan" was the first Hindi daily, which came out in the year 1854 from Bada Bazar in Kolkata. Originally it was a bilingual paper, with the first two pages in Hindi and the remaining two pages in Bengali. Its editor was Shyam Sundar Sen. The "Pyame Azadi" was taken out from Delhi in 1857 by Shri Ajimullah Khan, the leader of the freedom movement. Earlier it used to come out in Urdu, but soon it started coming in Hindi also. The idea was to bring out its edition from Jhansi as well. The first famous Indian national anthem of 1857 was published in this paper, the opening lines of which were - *Ham Hain Esake Malik Hindustan Hamara Baat Vatan Hai Kaum Ka Janmat Se Bhi Pyara.* Mirza Bedar Bakht, the editor of "Pyame Azadi", was hanged by the British rulers. Simultaneously, an injunction was issued by Mr. Henry Cotton that whoever found the copies of "Pyame Azadi" would be liable to the death penalty. This is probably the first incident in the history of newspapers when the entire family of the readers of a newspaper has been sentenced. In 1859, "Dharmaprakash" from Ahmedabad and in 1863 "Mrit Lokhit" from Ara by missionaries was published. The publication of "Marwad Gazette" started in 1866. In 1867, a bilingual paper "Vidya Vilas" in Hindi and Urdu came out from Jammu and Kashmir. The period of 1826-67 is the period of emergence and development of Hindi journalism in India. The newspapers and magazines, that came out during this period, worked to make way for Indian journalism. Later, with the debut of Bharatendu Harishchandra in the world of journalism, journalism got a new dimension, a new form and a new direction and in the true sense, the foundation of a new era was laid.

dimension, a new form and a new direction and in the true sense, the foundation of a new era was laid.

Bharatendu Era
The development journey of the era of Hindi journalism had started with "Udant Martand", which continued through daily, weekly and monthly medium till the Bharatendu era. The Bharatendu era (1867-1885) is considered to be the second era in the history of Hindi journalism, starting from the year 1867. In the same year Bharatendu Harishchandra started the publication of a monthly magazine named "Kavi Vachan Sudha". This magazine was considered by the French writer Tasi as a "Distinguished Newspaper". The Bharatendu era was poetry-oriented and the price of "Kavi Vachan Sudha", etc. was also printed in verse.

Sat Mudra Pahale Diye Vaarsh Bitaye Saat
Sath Chandrika Ke Lye, Dasaven Dou Mil Jaat.

Bharatendu Harishchandra, the pioneer of Hindi journalism, was born on 9th September 1850 and went to heaven on 6 January 1885 at the age of 35. He took up literary creation as a mission and started monthly "Kavi Vachan Sudha" from Kashi in 1867. After publishing some issues, it was made fortnightly. In 1873 itself, Bharatenduji started publishing the monthly magazine "Harishchandra Magazine" and worked to popularise modern Hindi.

Vyasji considered him an immortal gift of Hindi journalism. In 1874, this magazine became "Harishchandra Chandrika" and was published for eight years. This was the third magazine to come out of Kashi. In 1884, he started the publication of his new "Harishchandra Chandrika" and continued it till the last moment of his life. He also brought out a Vaishnavism-oriented magazine called "Bhagvat Toshini", which lasted for a year. Another example of Bharatendu era being poetic is the "Brahmin" paper. Its editor Pratap Narayan Mishra, tired of asking for the donation of the paper, sometimes had to plead through the verse - *Aath Maas Bite Jajman. Aab To Karo Dakshina Daan.*

The motto of "Kavi Vachan Sudha" was - *Nitya-Nitya Nav Yah, Kavi Vachan Sudha Sakal Ras Khani. Piahun Rasik Aanand Bhari, Param Raag Jiya Jaani. Sudha Sada Surpur Basay Se Nay Tumhare Jog. Taso Aadar Dehu Aaru Piahun Yahi Budh Log. When "Kavi Vachan Sudha" was a monthly paper, then the works of*

ancient poets edited by Bharatendu ji were published in it. When it became a fortnightly, political and social essays started getting published. According to the Uttar Pradesh Gazette, a total of 250 copies were printed, out of which 100 copies were taken by the British government and 150 copies were consumed by the public. This was the time when only two or four copies of some papers could reach the public.

The area of "Harishchandra Chandrika" was very vast. Literature, science, religious articles, archaeology, book reviews, drama, novels, history, poetry, gossip, humor and satirical were published in the newspaper. So many subjects could not have been conceived then. Bharatenduji believed that for the progress of the country, not only the indigenous thing, but also its own language is essential. He hated the teaching of slavery. His motto was - *Nij Bhasha Unnati Yaha Sab Unnati Ki Mool. Bin Nij Bhasha Gyan Ke Mitay Nahiy Ko Sool.*

Every writer or poet of the Bharatendu era was the editor of some paper. These papers gave strength to the reformist movement and gave impetus to the art of essay. But in spite of all this, no paper could last long due to lack of education and interest.

During Harishchandra's lifetime, 25 magazines came out, in which three papers "Bharat Mitra" (Fortnightly, 1872), "Sar Sudha Nidhi" (Weekly, 1887) and "Uchit Vakt" (Weekly, 1880) were published from Kolkata. Its motivator and director was Durga Prasad Mishra.

The story of weekly "Matwala" published from Kolkata is interesting. The verse printed on its front page explains the spirit and objectives of the newspaper. *Amiya Garar Rashi Sikar, Rivkar Ram Viram Bhara Pyala. Pite Hain Jo Sadhak, Unka Pyara Hai Yah Matwala.*

Dr. Ram Vilas Sharma has written in relation to the Bharatendu era that despite not having a tradition of Newspaper-literature, the progress he made in a short time was the passion of the writers. Despite the harsh conditions, he proved himself to be tenacious.

If the writers of that era had not shown this zeal and arrogance, they would surely have been crushed under the prevailing circumstances. Bharatendu ji's journalism was non-partisan, fearless and in favour of justice. His journalism was discussed and praised everywhere not only in the country but also abroad. Undoubtedly, he was a prolific journalist. (Author is a technocrat & educationist.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Watershed moment

India's space endeavor, Aditya-L1, signifies a groundbreaking achievement in the nation's space exploration journey. It demonstrates India's technological prowess and the unwavering dedication of its scientists. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) masterfully positioned the spacecraft in the halo orbit around Lagrange Point 1 (L1), its designated perch for five years of uninterrupted Sun observations. L1 is the ideal spot in the Earth-Solar system where gravitational forces balance. Aditya remains stationary relative to the Sun and Earth, its instruments trained on the Sun, unveiling new scientific horizons. This triumph heralds a new era in Indian space exploration.

Karna Singh, Chennai

Caste Bias

Caste discrimination within prisons remains an unfortunate reality, with lower-caste inmates often relegated to cleaning duties, as recent media reports reveal. This persistence of caste discrimination, more than 76 years post-independence, is deeply disheartening. While society has evolved since the inception of the caste-based system, remnants of discriminatory attitudes persist. While urban areas may show some progress, rural regions continue to lag behind. In modern Indian prisons, the practice of assigning cleaning tasks to lower-caste inmates while providing cooking facilities to upper-caste prisoners reflects outdated thinking. The Supreme Court's intervention by notifying 11 state governments is a ray of hope to eliminate this regrettable caste discrimination within prisons.

N Ashraf, Mumbai

Cervical cancer is preventable

Cancer of Cervix is one among the few cancers that can be prevented by education, awareness, screening and vaccination. The WHO has set itself a lofty ambition of globally eliminating cervical cancer by 2030. Many developing countries including India are showing a downward trend in the incidence of cervical cancer. Since cervix is an accessible organ, and symptoms are relatively manifested early, great deal of work has been done in prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Right from the Papanicolaou (Pap) smear screening examination to the Human Papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine administration, considerable volume of effort have ensured early diagnosis of the disease and protection. Strain 16 and 18 are the causative agents for majority of cervical cancer patients through sexual intercourse, and HPV vaccine protects the women from being affected by these strain.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Eco-conscious Lifestyle: An Urgency for a Sustainable Society

Rasmita Panigrahi

Climate change or climate crisis is one of the extreme intimidating situation that the whole world is facing now. As per United Nations, "Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Such shifts can be natural... But since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas." Besides, deforestation, excessive usage of plastic, rapid industrialization and inorganic farming, are some of prominent reasons behind climate change and global warming, though a number of causes are behind this crucial problem. Here the question arises that why and how climate change is so critical! Climate change has numerous bad impacts on humans as well as non-humans like extreme heat waves, more draught in draught prone area and more flood in flood inclined place, shortage of food and water also new diseases. Even relocation and death of wild animals as well as aquatic animals for vulnerable weather condition and wild fires, ocean heating and ocean acidification respectively are some of the consequences of climate crisis. Additionally, increased greenhouse

gases in the atmosphere, rising of sea levels due to melting of glaciers and ice sheets are the effects of global warming. Unfortunately, for this climatic imbalance, we, the Earthlings, are widely responsible. At this instant the question rises that in what way we can get rid of this impend. In this regard, eco-conscious life style can be a doorstep solution which can serve an impactful result. Eco-conscious life style is nothing but an approach towards an ecologically sustainable living pattern. A life in which to live in and to love the 'Nature', leaving behind the inhuman approaches. Though we celebrate World Environment Day (WED) on 5th of June every year since 1973, yet we are far from our actual goal of saving planet earth, our biodiversity, moreover ourselves. In this 50 years of journey, contrary to progression, the condition is deteriorating in terms of environmental parameters. And it is really high time to work on this crucial issue. Providentially, there are some simple steps that can help us not only in maintaining an eco-friendly life style but also support to upkeep and build a sustainable society. The first and primary footprint is to spread awareness about climate change and the consequences of climate change among the common

people. Secondly, we must acknowledge and realise the inhumane approaches that we are practising such as creating concrete jungles, using excess chemical fertilizers, unreasonable use of natural resources like fossil fuel, oil, fresh water etc. so that we can rectify and work for a green, happy and healthy environment. Third and the foremost step is to practice of 5 R's - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle to decrease the non-degradable waste materials and to keep our surrounding clean, pure and beautiful. Presently many industries try to be a part of this 5 R's process. However, the purpose of this method can only be achieved if it is also practised by individuals in day to day life. All we need to do is to gradually minimize using non-eco-friendly resources. By 'Refusing' means refusing to plastic, specifically single-use plastic items, chemical pesticides and solvents that we are using every day. As alternatives, we can use cotton bags, organic compost and cleaners in our homes. Likewise, by 'Reducing' the usage of non-renewable natural resources like fossil fuels and fresh water, as only 1% of the earth's water is freshwater, we can progress towards an ecologically sustainable world. By reducing the use of person-

al motor vehicles, using public transport and cycles instead can be a good notion that already some of climate conscious individuals are doing. But most of us are still not serious about this. Cycling is one of the best concept not only for the personal fitness but also for fuel saving. Similarly, by reducing the usage of wooden furniture and wooden floorings may help us to keep a safe environment for our future. 'Reuse' is a key mantra for managing hazardous waste. As the process of 5 R's is inter-dependent, by 'reusing' plastic bottles and bags in a safer way, we can 'reduce' the usage of plastics. We can also replace single use plastics, paper plates and cups, tissue papers with reusable substitutes. 'Repurpose' is a gate way to creativity. Now-a-days, people want to do gardening even in a tiny balcony, they wish to craft a cosy-green place. In this regard, 'repurpose' or 'up-cycle' can be a great idea. There are ample of concepts and designs in internet that can help to make a portion of the house or roof top more appealing with zero cost by using waste materials. One can use plastic bottles and plastic mugs as plant and flower pots also as 'eco-bricks' to design any corner or place of home or garden. 'Best out of waste' is a bridge between 'Human and Eco-friendly

society'. Last but absolutely not the least, 'recycle' is one of the most important strategies for an environmentally healthy society. Though recycling is a scientific process but with resourceful ideas, we can recycle some items like old clothes to organic compost, old food waste to new quilt or few door mats and old newspapers as new paper boxes and bags. Onion peels, ripe banana peels and used tea leaves are some widely known organic fertilizers. Furthermore, old unused bench, rusted iron chairs and containers can be transformed in to beautiful flower and plat stands and holders through an artistic idea. Spreading climate consciousness among common people, working together for the betterment of our environment such as creating new jungles, saving fresh water, utilization of solar panel instead of electricity, limiting the use of electronic items like air conditioner, refrigerator etc. and primarily following the 5 R's methods in daily life are some of strategies of climate solution. Moreover, engaging you and encouraging others to live an 'eco-conscious lifestyle' must be the mantra for an ecologically sustainable society. (Writer is a Research Scholar (English))

BRIEF

New inauguration



Guwahati: Projects worth Rs 168 crore were inaugurated by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Karbi Anglong district on Monday. The projects range from infrastructure development to beautification work, an official statement said. Speaking on the occasion, Sarma lauded the Karbi society for maintaining their rich socio-cultural traditions and remaining firm in their ancient belief system. Noting that the history of the Karbi community dates back to 3000 BC, he said they have been moving forward through the practice of Honghari faith, the traditional belief system based on clan and ancestors.

Foundation stone



Bhubaneswar: Union ministers Parshottam Rupala and Sarbanand Sonowal on Monday jointly laid the foundation stone of a project to modernise and upgrade the Paradip Fishing Harbour in Paradip, Odisha. This Fishing Harbour Project will be implemented by Paradip Port Authority with a completion period of 18 months, said Rupala who is the fisheries minister.

Trade Show

Gandhinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024 on the eve of the main summit. The show is an exhibition spread across 2 lakh square metres in multiple halls at the Helipad Ground Exhibition Centre here. A total of 20 countries are participating in the show, which was inaugurated ahead of the tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. The summit will also be inaugurated by the prime minister Modi, who is on a three-day visit to his home state, arrived at the venue at 3 pm and undertook a tour of stalls with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and other dignitaries.

Govt, multilateral bank coffers don't have trillions of dollars: Banga

New Delhi, Jan 09:



World Bank President Ajay Banga on Tuesday batted for removing barriers to private sector investment, saying it is key to tackling challenges before the global economy as neither the governments nor multilateral banks have trillions of dollars in their coffers. Speaking to World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab in a podcast ahead of the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos next week, Banga said the immediate challenges before the world are conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine as also the debt situation in several emerging markets. In the longer term, the major challenges re-

main poverty and inequality as also those related to the environment, the former Mastercard chief said. Banga, also a member of the World Economic Forum's Board of Trustees, will be among the key global leaders at the five-day WEF Davos summit beginning January 15. Asked what could be the solutions to the problems of inequality and

poverty, Banga said, "the best way to solve, aside from creating better access, is a job because jobs give you not just earning and breaking out of the cycle but also dignity."

"And I think dignity is a part of human development, not just economic development, that we have to pay a great deal of attention to," he said.

He also said that technology is a great enabler. "I think if you go back in time, and when I was younger ... you wanted to learn about something different, you had to buy the Encyclopedia Britannica. That was expensive. And then comes Google and search, and, all of a sudden, knowledge is democratised and available to every-

one," he said. Banga said that technology, and now data and AI, are great enablers to breaking through the power of incumbency if done the right way.

"We have to put guardrails around how these work, but done the right way, this could be very helpful," he added. Talking about the role of the private sector, Banga said the big challenges before the world cannot be solved without the private sector. "If you look at the estimates just for renewable energy in the world, they run into trillions of dollars every year that need to be invested to make the necessary change in the way in which our future growth can be less energy emissions-heavy.

Commerce ministry sets up task force to resolve trade barrier issues for exporters

New Delhi, Jan 09:

The commerce ministry has set up a task force to identify and resolve trade barriers being faced by exporters in other countries, a move which would help provide greater market access to domestic goods, an official said. The development assumes significance as many times India's exports suffer from these barriers such as time taking prior registration requirements and unreasonable domestic standards/rules in many countries. "We have constituted a task force within the ministry where we will be looking at the trade barriers, and technical barriers. The ministry has been focusing on how to improve systems, and improve standards," the official said. The ministry is also looking at improving mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with differ-

ent countries so that product standards are as per the requirements of the importing countries. Standards for goods and services should help in promoting global trade and not act as non-tariff barriers, the official added.

According to a report of the economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India needs to act in a fast-track manner for removal of non-trade barriers (NTBs), being faced by domestic exporters in different countries like the US, China and Japan, to achieve one trillion dollar outbound shipment target for goods by 2030. It has asked for upgrading domestic systems, in cases where Indian products are rejected due to quality issues; and retaliating if unreasonable standards or rules continue to obstruct exports from New Delhi.

Modi meets top CEOs, discusses made-in-India vehicles to green hydrogen

Gandhinagar, Jan 09:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met some of the top global CEOs on the sidelines of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit as he lured investments across sectors to boost the economy and create jobs. A day before inaugurating the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit on January 10, the prime minister met executives of Suzuki Motor Corp, Micron Technology and AP Moller and discussed industry issues and investment opportunities.

Modi and Toshihiro Suzuki, Representative Director & President, Suzuki Motor Corp, "discussed Maruti Suzuki's plans to make India a strong player in the global automotive market by exporting Made in India vehicles, along with deploying global best practices related to vehicle scrap-

ping and vehicle recycling into India," the Prime Minister's Office said in a post on X. Maruti Suzuki is looking to set up a second car manufacturing plant in Gujarat. This will be the firm's fifth plant in the country.

"Mr. Sanjay Mehrotra, the President and CEO of Micron Technology, held a meeting with PM @narendramodi in Gandhinagar. They discussed Micron's efforts to enhance the semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem in India," the PMO said in a separate post on X.

US chip making giant Micron has started construction of a USD 2.75 billion semiconductor factory in Sanand, about 40-km from Ahmedabad. The plant, which will focus on transforming wafers into ball-grid arrays (BGA) integrated circuit packages, memory modules and solid-state drives, is ex-

VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL TRADE SHOW



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos-Horta, Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the inauguration of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show, in Gandhinagar, Tuesday, Jan. 9.

AI-Vistara merger expected to be complete by mid-2025: Vinod Kannan

New Delhi, Jan 09:

Full-service carrier Vistara's proposed merger with Air India is expected to be completed by mid-2025, and all legal approvals for the transaction are anticipated by the middle of this year, a top executive said. Asserting that it is going to be a "merger for growth", Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan said it would look to take the airline's consumer-focused services, operational excellence and staff into the merged entity. In November 2022, the Tata Group announced the merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. Vistara, a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines, currently has a fleet of 67 planes and operates around 320 flights daily. It expects to have three more planes, including a Boeing 787, by April this year and that will



take its total fleet size to 70. The airline, which will be completing nine years of operations on January 9, is financially doing better than last year, Kannan said at a briefing. "We broke even in the last quarter of last year (2022-23). From October 2022 to July 2023, we were in the black but then like for most other airlines, July, August, September and October were the weakest months, and we had to take some losses there... December has been a very strong month," he said. Kannan said the legal approvals for the merger are expected by the middle of 2024, and the operational merger is anticipated by early or middle of next year.

Market rebound loses steam in fag-end trade

Mumbai, Jan 09:

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty on Tuesday closed moderately higher after a fag-end sell-off minimised the handsome gains posted in early trading. Besides, investors opted for profit-taking ahead of the start of corporate earnings season and macroeconomic data announcements later this week, traders said. After rising sharply during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex trimmed most of the gains during the fag-end and ended marginally higher by 30.99 points or 0.04 per cent at 71,386.21. During the day, it jumped 680.25 points or 0.95 per cent to 72,035.47. The Nifty also gave up most of the intra-day gains and ended



31.85 points or 0.15 per cent up at 21,544.85. During the day, it climbed 211.45 points or 0.98 per cent to 21,724.45. Among the Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma and Tata Steel were the major gainers. On the other hand, Nestle, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

Maldives Tourism industry in damage control mode

Male, Jan 09:

Facing a backlash following the diplomatic row between India and the Maldives, the island nation's top tourism body has strongly condemned the derogatory comments made by some deputy ministers of the country against India and Prime Minister Modi after he visited Lakshadweep. "The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) strongly condemns the derogatory comments made by some Deputy Ministers on social media platforms, directed towards the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Narendra Modi as well as the people of India," MATI said in a statement here on Monday.

Airtel Business to power 20 million smart meters for Adani Energy Solutions

Gurugram, Jan 09:

Airtel Business - the B2B arm of Bharti Airtel, one of India's leading telecommunications service providers - today announced that it will power over 20 million smart meters for Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL). Airtel, through its robust nationwide communications network will deliver reliable and secure connectivity for all AESL's smart meter deployments. In addition, Airtel's transformative smart metering solutions that are powered by NB-IoT, 4G and 2G, will help AESL to ensure real-time connectivity and uninterrupted transfer of critical data between smart meters and headend appli-

cations. The solution will also come powered with Airtel's IoT platform - 'Airtel IoT Hub,' which enables smart meter tracking and monitoring with advanced analytics and diagnostic capabilities in addition to real-time insights and services that empower customers with enhanced control over their energy consumption. Adani Energy Solutions has an order book of over 20 million smart meters from the power utilities of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. Ganesh Lakshminarayanan, CEO - Airtel Business (India), said, "India's smart metering programme is one of the most significant policy reform measures under-

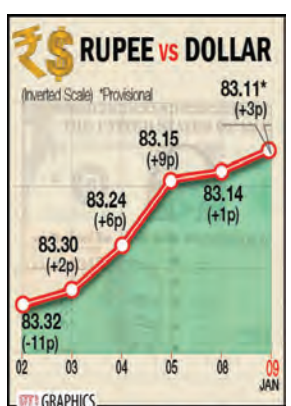
taken by the Government. These meters are critical building blocks for smart grids and fundamental enablers for the digitalization of the power sector. Airtel expects its NB-IoT technology to play a significant role in the Utilities space to connect and manage smart meters at scale with enhanced coverage, high reliability and security. We look forward to a long and fruitful association with the Adani Group, supporting them in their endeavours to digitize utilities". Kandarp Patel, CEO - Adani Energy Solutions Ltd., said, "India's ambitious Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is transforming the way we deliver power, and AESL is proud

to be at the forefront of this revolution. Our partnership with Airtel marks a critical step towards realising the vision of a smarter, more efficient grid for all. This strategic tie-up leverages the best of both worlds: our deep domain expertise in the T&D sector and Airtel's robust nationwide network and comprehensive suite of IoT offerings, including NB-IoT and 4G LTE. This powerful combination will enable us to seamlessly deploy our current order book of over 20 million smart meters across India, empowering millions of consumers with real-time consumption data and control, while simultaneously driving down inefficiencies in the distribution network".

Rupee gains 3 paise to settle at 83.11 against US dollar

Mumbai, Jan 09:

Rising for the fifth straight session, the rupee appreciated 3 paise to close at 83.11 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, tracking positive equity market and foreign fund inflows. Crude oil prices hovering around USD 77 per barrel and recent weakness in the US dollar also supported the domestic unit, forex traders said. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened strong at 83.07 and traded between the peak of 83.04 and the lowest level of 83.13 against the



greenback during the session. It finally settled at 83.11 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 3 paise from its previous close.

3 lakh visitors expected daily; Ayodhya being redeveloped after studying global examples

New Delhi, Jan 09:

In the coming years, more than three lakh people are expected to visit Ayodhya daily and the planning for the temple town has been done after studying similar examples abroad, including Vatican City, Cambodia, Jerusalem, as also places in India, such as Tirupati and Amritsar, according to Dikshu Kukreja, the master planner behind the project. Efficient land use, minimum congestion, a focus on dharamshalas (inns) and hostmays, upgrading the infrastructure while retaining the historical and cul-



tural character of the city are some of the highlights of the plan prepared by Kukreja, the managing principal of C P Kukreja Architects. "Ayodhya is anticipated to become a global tourism destination with a focus on spiritual, cultural,

heritage assets and events as the city is likely to grow manifold with a significant demand in hospitality and allied industries. "The city is envisaged to be developed as a mega centre for tourist, economic and religious activities. More than three lakh devotees are expected to visit Ayodhya daily within the next three-four years," Kukreja told PTI in an interview. "To accommodate the needs of a growing population and tourism, we designed modern infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, sewage systems and utilities, while ensuring that these developments did

not compromise the historical and cultural character of the city. We worked on designing a layout for the township that promotes efficient land use, minimises congestion and enhances the overall quality of life for the residents," he added. Kukreja, who has previously designed the Aerocity in Delhi and "Yashobhoomi" - the India International Convention Centre (IICC) in Dwarka - explained that his team studied existing temple towns across the globe as well as in India to understand the needs and drew inspiration from the best practices adopted there.

Gujarat has set target to become USD 500 billion economy by 2026-27: CM Patel

Gandhinagar, Jan 09:

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has said his government has set a target to contribute 10 per cent to India's GDP and become a USD 500 billion economy by 2026-27. At present, Gujarat, with five per cent of the country's population, contributes 8.3 per cent to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and in the previous year, the state accounted for 33 per cent of India's total merchandise exports, Patel said in an email interview to

PTI ahead of the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Wednesday. The summit will showcase Gujarat's futuristic projects and investments (DREAM City, GIFT City, Dholera SIR, Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail), encompassing new and emerging sectors such as semiconductors, renewable energy, electric vehicles, green hydrogen, aerospace and defence, plug-and-play parks, artificial intelligence, smart greenfield cities to name a few, he said.



Congress internal strife hampers basic services: Chandravanshi

BJP takes a stand to address employee salary issues



Kawardha, Jan 09:

In a bid to resolve the ongoing crisis at the Kawardha Municipality, BJP City Mandal President Chandraprakash Chandravanshi and BJP councilors have taken a proactive step to demand immediate payment of salaries to municipal employees. The municipality has been plagued by internal strife within the Congress party and allegations of commission embezzlement, leading to four years of service disruption

for the citizens of Kawardha. Chandraprakash Chandravanshi pointed out that the mandate to run the municipality was given to the Congress party, but infighting and alleged corruption among the Congress councilors have left the city's residents deprived of essential services. He emphasized that the responsibility for this situation lies squarely with the Congress councilors, particularly Parshads, who have neglected their duties and instead caused hardship for

the people of Kawardha and the municipality's employees. The situation has escalated to the point where the Municipal Corporation President has abandoned their post and offensive audio recordings have gone viral, further exacerbating the crisis. Ordinary citizens now find themselves forced to navigate a maze of bureaucratic hurdles for municipal-related tasks.

Chandravanshi also highlighted that the Congress councilors are entirely responsible for the problems faced by city resi-

dents due to the municipal dysfunction, which they have allowed to become a breeding ground for corruption.

Currently, the municipal employees have not received their salaries for the past two months, adding to their difficulties. A memorandum has been submitted to the Chief Municipal Officer (CMO) to address these pressing issues and urge the municipal administration to take swift action in disbursing employee salaries. In light of the dire state of Kawardha city and the Congress councilors' failure to fulfill their duties, there are calls for them to take moral responsibility and resign.

Councillors Umang Pandey, Pawan Jaiswal, Manharan Kaushik, Rinkesh Vaishnav, Pramod Sharma, Raja Tatia, Panna Chandravanshi, Deva Sahu, Neel Kamal, Manish Sahu, Yash Bhatt, and Harsh Khurana were all present during this significant event.

NSS volunteers inspire students on Savitri Bai Phule Jayanti

Dongargaon, Jan 09:

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of the local postgraduate college marked the birth anniversary of the visionary Savitri Bai Phule by engaging with students at the Government High School in Gram Panchayat Badgaon Charbhantha. Volunteers took this opportunity to enlighten students about the life and contributions of Savitri Bai Phule, born on January 3, 1831, to Khandoji Naivese and Lakshimibai. She later became the spouse of Jyotirao Phule in 1841. Savitribai Phule holds the distinction of being India's first female school principal and the



founder of the first school for farmers. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, a prominent figure in the social reform movement in Maharashtra and India, was her patron and advocate. Together, they championed the education of women and Dalit communities. Savitribai's mission encompassed facilitating widow

remarriage, eradicating untouchability, empowering women, and educating Dalit women. She was also celebrated as a Marathi poet. The program featured the presence of school principal Ratiram Rana, teacher Rita Gupta, along with school educators and senior NSS volunteers Daneshwar

Sahu, Satyam Vaishnav, Akash Borkar, Devnarayan Mali, Kewal Patel, and Yashwant Sahu. Village youth volunteers Rahul Dewangan and Ishwar Latia added their support, creating an inspiring occasion to commemorate the profound impact of Savitri Bai Phule's legacy on education and social reform.

MLA Lata Usendi meet CGPKS

Kondagaon, Jan 08:

The District Branch President of CG Pensioners' Kalyan Sangh (CGPKS) Kondagaon Pragna Putra Vaidya, Kavi Engineer, SP Vishwakarma, Srijeta, and pensioners office bearers and members reached the residence of MLA Kondagaon Lata Usendi and gave her flower bouquet and congratulated her. They also wished her a Happy New Year. The pensioners were wel-



comed by offering them sweets. During this, the pensioner officials and members expressed their curiosity to meet all the pensioners and urged

them to come to the Kondagaon Pensioner Bhavan and informed her that that on the 11th and 27th of the month, a meeting of Chhattisgarh

Pensioners Welfare Association will be held in their office from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. All the pensioner partners are also willing to meet her and so they urged her to spare some valuable time for them and it was warmly accepted by her. During this cordial meeting, Patron GG Devangan, Vice President SS Thakur, Joint Secretary PP Gondane, Nasir Ali, RC Sethia, Sangram Singh Yadav and other pensioners were present.

Students made people aware in NSS camp



Kondagaon, Jan 08: An awareness programme under the TB-Free India Mission was organized in the National Service Scheme camp organized at Gram Panchayat Banusri under the auspices of Dahikonga Government High School. Under this, a health discussion programme was organized on the fifth day by the children associated with the National Service Scheme (NSS) of the district.

On this occasion, students and villagers were interviewed on the topic of TB-free India through culture programme and intellectual discussion. In which it was discussed that the target of TB free India has been set by 2025. Under which the process of mak-

ing each panchayat of the country TB-free panchayat has started. It has been made mandatory to undergo sputum examination of thirty potential persons in a population of 1000. In the said test, if TB does not come out in any person then that Panchayat can be declared as TB-free panchayat. TB testing, treatment and medicines are all free. All the teachers and teachers of the school also expressed their views in the programme. Sarpanch Kustoram Kashyap, Principal of the school, National Service Scheme in-charge of the school, Shashi Burman from Piralam Foundation along with school students and villagers were present in this programme.

Kabaddi competition lights up Bagbahra with thrilling matches

Pendra Nagar Chhattisgarh women's Team and Mandal Kasturbod/Bhopal men's team emerge victorious

Bagbahra, Jan 09:

Bagbahra witnessed an exhilarating four-day spectacle as the semi-final and final matches of the Megh Khel All India Women's and Men's Pro Kabaddi competition unfolded late into the night. Thousands of enthusiastic spectators flocked to the city to savor the action, with the Mandal Kasturbod/Bhopal men's team and the Pendra Nagar Chhattisgarh women's team emerging as the deserving winners.

On the event's concluding day, the sports complex was overflowing with a sea of supporters from across the district, all eager to witness the thrilling final match.

MP Chumni Lal and industrialist Pawan Saraf presided over the event as chief guests. Prashant Tonu Agarwal, Prem



Sahu (Mandal President), Naresh Chandrakar, Shankar Tandil, Rajkumar Jain, Jagdish Bhai Pujara, Vikas Bagga, Naresh Jain, Manish Sri Mal, Rahul Agarwal, Shyam Lal Nayak, Hemant Tiwari, Abhishek Meghu Chandrakar, Dheeraj Agarwal, Sanjay Agarwal, Amol Sharda, Pitambar Sahu, Yogesh Gandecha, Dr. Ashok Sinha, Brijesh Gupta,

Lalit Chakradhari, Upendra Sahu, and Bajrangi Yadav graced the occasion with their presence.

MP Chumni Lal Sahu, in his address, commended the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by the organizers during the 37th grand event. He encouraged the players to focus on discipline and see sports as a means to develop their personalities, em-

phasizing that valuable life lessons can be learned through sports. Program Chairman Pawan Saraf lauded the organizing committee for orchestrating this prestigious event and extended his best wishes to the Megh Khel team for their outstanding efforts.

Teams from 10 states showcased their Kabaddi prowess in this highly competitive tournament.

Kabaddi legends honoured

Bagbahra: Bagbahra paid homage to its Kabaddi heritage by recognizing local legends and community champions. The ceremony celebrated former Kabaddi player Pritam Chandrakar, retired teacher Gaitram Yadav, and community influencer Lal Chand Jain. National-level Kabaddi stars Shyama Panuria, Nand Kumari, Sumrit Patel, and archer Navneet Kaur received well-deserved honors. Notably, Vikas Bagga, Pawan Saraf, Abhishek Chandrakar, Madan Devangan, and Hari Vastrakar were recognized for their exceptional contributions to social service.

The participating teams included Hathisra, Mahasamund, Haryana, Kasturbod, Thakuripali, Jabalpur, Pragati Raipur, Karpaha, Jamshedpur, Pendravath, Delhi, Indore, Maratha, Sidhi Madhya Pradesh, Raital, Pendra Nagar, Jhansi Jabalpur, GPM, and Rewa from Madhya Pradesh.

In the men's category, Megh Khel Mandal Kasturbod (Bhopal)

emerged victorious, with Adarsh Star Club Delhi and Mahasamund District's Star Academy Jabalpur claiming the runner-up positions. Meanwhile, in the women's category, Pendra Nagar CG secured the championship title, while the Indore Wonders from Indore and Rewa Madhya Pradesh, along with Sidhi Madhya Pradesh, clinched the runner-up positions.

Individual excellence shone through as well, with Ram Kakodiya from Bhopal awarded as the best defender and Deepak Malik as the best raider in the men's category. Kushal Iyer received the all-rounder accolade, and Arbir Singh from Delhi was recognized as the best catcher. Among the women, Kanchan from Indore was honored as the best raider, Shashi Kala from Pendra excelled as the best catcher, Karishma from Indore secured the best defender title, and Anamika from Pendra displayed all-around excellence.

Corporation commissioner issues notice to engineer



Jagdarpur, Jan 08: Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi reviewed the progressing works along with the construction works. Each task was reviewed in detail. During the review of the works of the Mayor's Fund, it was told by the engineers that many files have not yet been supplied by the old engineer. Reprimanding this, after taking information from Aman Netam regarding each and every work of Mayor Nidhi, it came to notice that some files are with him and some are not available.

Expressing displeasure on this, Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi has issued a show cause notice to Aman Netam, and within a week he has been asked to submit all the files of the Mayor's Fund and the individual works of the Mayor's Fund, based on the current status and the missing files he was instructed to submit reply soon.

Ch'garh's sporting renaissance: Challenges and aspirations

Mungeli, Jan 09: Despite initiatives like the Chhattisgarhi Olympics, the ground reality of sports in the state reveals significant challenges. Many government schools lack playgrounds, and there is no provision for Sports Officers at primary, middle, and college levels. Two National Games were held in 2022 and 2023, yet no incentive amount was announced for medalists. Over the last five years, the state has not honoured outstanding players, nor have Chhattisgarh's youth will participate in National Youth Day on January 12. The absence of departmental promotions, marathon races, and rural women's sports events compounds the issue. **New Sports Policy and its challenges** Chhattisgarh's government introduced a promising sports policy in October of the previous year, aiming to empower children and provide them with the opportunity to participate

in sports. However, the stark disparity between policy provisions and ground realities persists. The policy stipulates that schools lacking sports fields cannot be recognized, yet numerous schools, running in cramped rooms without playgrounds or parking, continue to operate. Encroachment issues and shrinking government school grounds further compound the problem. Despite the policy's intent, children find it increasingly challenging to receive outdoor sports training. **A lost sporting legacy** With Chhattisgarh's formation in 2000, the state held immense potential for children, teenagers, and youth to shine in sports. Until December 2018, Chhattisgarh's athletes excelled in various sports, including volleyball, handball, badminton, powerlifting, chess, cricket, and more. A favorable environment was created for sports, raising hopes for the state's athletic future. However, the elec-

tion of a Congress government in Chhattisgarh marked a turning point, overshadowing the state's sporting prospects. **The role of leadership in sports** The tradition of appointing the Chief Minister as President of the Chhattisgarh Olympic Association began in Chhattisgarh but lacked meaningful progress. The Chief Minister's commitment to advancing sports and understanding its importance became paramount. Unfortunately, the Congress Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh did not share this vision. The Youth Minister, who served for five years, made little contribution to sports development. Officers in the Sports Directorate struggled to comprehend the need for elevating Chhattisgarh's status in national and international sports. **The impact on sports institutions** Within the Sports Directorate, a State Service-level officer assumed the role of Sports

Officer for nearly five years, implying that sports activities were dependent on this individual. During this tenure, proactive officers who aimed to promote sports were transferred, exacerbating the challenges. Sports association officials faced unequal treatment, with some officials wielding undue influence and issuing arbitrary orders. Budget allocations were mired in allegations of favoritism, hindering progress. Overall, the Chief Minister's dual role as President of the Sports Association became a burden on Chhattisgarh's sports, players, coaches, and parents. **A glimmer of hope** While Chhattisgarh's sporting challenges persist, the new sports policy holds the promise of transformative change if effectively implemented. Addressing these gaps and embracing the policy's provisions can revitalize the state's sports landscape, offering budding talent the opportunity to flourish.

Ch'garh Electricity Employees Union celebrates New Year

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh promotes unity and celebration



Kurud, Jan 09:

The Chhattisgarh Electricity Employees Union Federation branch affiliated with Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Dhamtari/Kurud, organized a New Year family meeting on Sunday, January 7, at the Panchavati Colony Auditorium in Dhamtari. The event welcomed Arun Dewangan, a senior official of the All India Electricity Workers' Federation, along with special guests Harish Chauhan, the All India Electricity Workers' Federation secretary, Manoj Sharma, the National Treasurer, and former state president

P.R. Sahu. Lalji Sahu, President of Chhattisgarh Electricity Employees Union Federation Dhamtari, presided over the program, which commenced with a ceremonial lamp lighting and the guests' warm reception with shawls and Sripthal. In his presidential speech, Lalji Sahu emphasized the pivotal role of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, India's largest labor organization, in promoting the welfare of the nation, industry, and employees. He highlighted the annual family meeting in Dhamtari as a means of fostering connections among employees' families, an initiative

lauded by chief guest Arun Dewangan, who encouraged the empowerment of women. In addition to organizational activities, various recreational programs were organized for women and children, fostering enthusiastic participation in activities like chair races, Antakshari, and solo songs. Divisional Secretary Piyush Sinha expressed gratitude for the successful execution of the event, acknowledging the support and enthusiasm of dedicated workers like Namrata, Ekta Gaikwad, Vice President Ramakant Sahu, and others who contributed to the program's success.

NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS

Shami, para archer Sheetal draw rousing applause at ceremony

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI):

India's best-performing athletes were on Tuesday conferred with the national sports awards by President Droupadi Murmu in a regal ceremony where cricketer Mohammed Shami and para archer Sheetal Devi walked in to a rapturous applause at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Shuttlers Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were chosen for the coveted Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award for a breakout 2023, during which they won their maiden Asian Games gold -- a first for India in badminton --, while also clinching the Asian Championships title and the Indonesia Open Super 1000 title.

The duo is currently playing in Malaysia Open Super 1000 and therefore skipped the function.

The awards ceremony, usually held on August 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand, was deferred because of the Hangzhou Asian Games from September 23 till October 8 last year.

An atmosphere of gaiety pervaded the Rashtrapati Bhawan as 26 athletes and para-athletes were finalised for the Arjuna Awards this year, with teenager pistol ace



Awardees during the National Sports and Adventure Awards 2023 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi, Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Esha Singh the only one to miss the ceremony. The 19-year-old Esha is competing in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers in Jakarta and, on Monday, had qualified for the Paris Olympics after winning the individual and team gold in 10m air pistol. The imprint of the Asian Games last year, and India's record haul of 107 medals there, was evident in the ceremony as a majority of the athletes, who walked to the dais, were medal winners in Hangzhou.

The Durbar Hall rever-

berated with the claps of the dignitaries when para archer Sheetal Devi, winner of three gold medals at the Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, walked up to collect her Arjuna.

The 16-year-old is the only international para-archery champion without upper limbs due to a rare medical condition called Phocomelia. The President held Sheetal's award and the scroll as the teenager soaked in the atmosphere and the splendour of the hall.

Murmu then walked

down the podium to present the Arjuna to wheelchair-bound para-canoeist Prachi Yadav, winner of gold in Hangzhou, once again drawing a huge round of applause.

Shami, who is currently recovering from an ankle injury, was there to receive the honours and the crowd duly acknowledged his achievements by giving him and his art the pride of place with an ovation. The pace bowler took 24 wickets in seven World Cup games last year.

"My aim is to keep my-

self fit as far as possible, as the next two tournaments and series are big. I will focus on fitness," he told PTI at a sports ministry reception last night.

Also receiving a huge round of applause was the newly-crowned chess Grandmaster R. Vaishali, the elder sister of precocious chess talent R. Praggnanandhaa.

Vaishali was honoured for becoming the third woman from the country after Koneru Humpy and Dronavalli Harika to turn GM.

Srikanth shocks Christie to enter second round of Malaysia Open



Kuala Lumpur, Jan 09 (PTI):

India's Kidambi Srikanth progressed to the second round of Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with a come-from-behind win over world number 5 Indonesian Jonatan Christie here on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, who has been going through a lean phase for quite sometime, notched up a stunning 12-21 21-18 21-16 win over sixth seed Christie in the opening round match that lasted an hour and five minutes.

The former world no. 1 will face Hong Kong's NG Ka Long Angus next.

A 2021 world championships silver medallist, Srikanth has often strug-

gled to sustain the pressure in a three-game match to make a number of early exits but he looked in fine fettle on Tuesday as he kept attacking despite losing the opening game, to come out victorious.

Srikanth always had some tough battles against the Indonesian, whom he had defeated six times in 11 meetings. Playing the first match of the new season, Srikanth didn't have a good start as he lagged 4-7 initially and though he managed to make it 8-7 briefly, all hopes went up in smoke when Christie blazed off nine straight points to leave him stranded.

With Parupalli Kashyap in the coach's chair, Srikanth opened up a 4-0 lead in the second game but Christie again zoomed

ahead to grab an 11-7 advantage at the break. The Indonesian also held a 17-14 cushion at one stage but Srikanth then went on to win seven of the next eight points to roar back into the contest. In the decider, Srikanth again found the going tough as Christie dominated the rallies, moving from 5-0 to 14-9.

The Indian, however, used his attacking returns and perfect placements to make Christie twist and turn as the tide started to change.

The Indonesian also made a few unforced errors as Srikanth turned the tables with a seven-point burst to move to 16-14. The Indian kept things tight thereafter and punched the air after his opponent went long again.

Asian Cup rivals Australia, Uzbekistan notches above us but can test against them: Chhetri

Doha, Jan 09 (PTI):

Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri has no qualms in admitting that India's group opponents Australia and Uzbekistan are notches above his side in quality but playing against them in the upcoming Asian Cup will be a marker to test the country's level of the game.

Drawn in Group B in the continental showpiece, India face Australia on January 13, before taking on Uzbekistan (January 18) and Syria (January 23). The top two teams from each group along with four best third-place sides from across six groups progress to the knockout stage.

"It's a massive tournament for us, purely because we get to rub shoulders with the best in Asia. Teams like Australia and Uzbekistan are probably of the World Cup level, so you can test yourself against them," Chhetri said.

"What is sure is that we



have improved in the last seven-eight years. But then you play them and you see how far you are, and how the tempo of the game is. It's just important to play your best, and generally it's a good marker for the nation to test where we are."

The 39-year-old Chhetri, who is playing in his third Asian Cup, was a part of the team that lost 0-4 to

Australia in the group stage of the 2011 edition which was also played here, said the team is better prepared now.

"We did not have much knowledge of the Australian team back then. Not when compared to the minute details we have now. We've watched their friendlies against Palestine and Bahrain, we know which leagues their players are in, and individual clips on them," said Chhetri.

"With this familiarity, the fear factor goes out. I must admit, of course, that they are extremely good. They're a couple of levels above than what we play in the ISL, but at least we know what we're up against."

The important thing is not to think too far ahead but to take game-by-game, said Chhetri, who also led the team in the 2019 edition in the UAE where India failed to get past the group stage.

Shooting: Rudranksh, Mehuli combine to win gold in Asian Olympic Qualifiers

Jakarta, Jan 09 (PTI):

The pair of Rudranksh Patil and Mehuli Ghosh won the 10m air rifle mixed team event to maintain the Indian shooting contingent's dominance in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers here on Tuesday.

Rudranksh and Mehuli triumphed after prevailing over China's Shen Yufan and Zhu Mingshuai 16-10 in the final. In the 10m air pistol mixed team event, however, India settled for the silver medal with the duo of Arjun Cheema and Rhythm Sangwan finishing second behind Vietnam's Thu Vinh Trinh and Quang Huy Pham in the battle for the top prize. They lost 11-17.

The team of Rhythm and Arjun topped the qualification round with a total score of 582, finishing ahead of the second-placed combo (580) from



Vietnam, but they could not get the better of their opponents when it mattered the most.

Earlier in the day, the pair of Rudranksh and Mehuli was second in the qualification, shooting a total score of 631.3 to finish behind Yufan and Mingshuai, who aggregated 632.3.

A second Indian pair of Elavenil Valarivan and Arjun Babuta finished sixth overall with a score of 629.0. In the mixed team pistol event, the first series was tied and the two pairs split points.

BATC: Sindhu to return from injury, Prannoy to lead; Sen brothers also in team

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI):

Recovering from a knee injury, double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu will return to action at the Asian Team Championships as she was on Tuesday named in the Indian squad for the prestigious tournament.

Sindhu, who suffered a knee injury at the French Open last year and has been out of action since, and World No. 8 H S Prannoy will spearhead a strong Indian squad at the continental championships slated to be held in Shah Alam, Malaysia from February 13-19. The team event will be important for Indian shuttlers to gain valuable qualification points in the Race to Paris Olympic qualification. Besides Sindhu, the 16-year-old senior national champion Anmol Kharb, Asia Junior Championships medallist Tanvi Sharma and Ashmita Chaliha have been named in the women's singles category.

Sen brothers make it to national team



While Prannoy, who won his first World Championships medal and World Tour title at Malaysia Masters, will lead the men's team, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Lakshya Sen and former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth were also named in the squad. Lakshya has another reason to celebrate as his elder brother Chirag will also be there in the team, rewarded for his title-winning run at the Senior National Championships in Guwahati

last month. Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, who helped the Indian team clinch a historic bronze medal last year at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2023 in Dubai, will contest in women's doubles. The remaining two pairs include Guwahati Masters champions Ashwini Ponnappa-Tanisha Crasto alongside reigning senior national champions Priya Devi Konjengbam-Shruti Mishra.

WTC has made it worse for Test cricket: Butcher



London, Jan 09 (PTI):

Former England Test batter Mark Butcher feels the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) has done more harm than good to the longest format.

South Africa recently named a depleted squad for the Test series in New Zealand with their top cricketers contracted to play in the second season of the SA20 as the dates of the two events are clashing.

"One of the things that's made this even more in-

evitable is something that they've done to try to salvage Test match cricket, which is the World Test Championship," Butcher said on the Wisden Cricket Weekly podcast.

"The point is that your bilateral series have to capture the imagination of the fans and the players of the two countries that are playing in it, and then the wider cricket watching public. And the only way they are that is if they are competitive. And that's how it always was."

Former Australia skipper Steve Waugh also came down heavily on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and top cricket boards, including the BCCI, after Cricket South Africa (CSA) named as many as seven uncapped players in a 14-man squad for the two-Test series.

ICC rates Newlands pitch as unsatisfactory after shortest-ever Test in history

Dubai, Jan 09 (PTI):

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday rated the Newlands pitch for the second Test between India and South Africa as "unsatisfactory" after it ended inside five sessions.

India defeated the hosts by seven wickets in the match, which turned out to be the shortest-ever in the history of Test cricket. The victory allowed India to draw the two-match series 1-1. The decision was made under the ICC Pitch and Outfield Monitoring Process. Only 642 balls could be bowled in the match. "The pitch in Newlands was very difficult to bat on. The ball bounced quickly and sometimes alarmingly throughout the match, making it difficult to play shots," said Chris Broad, the match referee for the Test, in his report submitted to the ICC.

Vondrousova withdraws from Adelaide tournament with hip problem



Adelaide, Jan 09 (AP):

Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova withdrew from the Adelaide International on

Tuesday citing a right hip injury, five days before the Australian Open starts in Melbourne.

The No. 7-ranked Vondrousova pulled out of

the tournament hours before her scheduled first-round match against Russian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich. Taylor Townsend will take her place in the draw.

Sixth-seeded Jelena Ostapenko was broken while serving for the match at 5-2 in the third set and missed two match points in the next game before finally fending off Sorana Cirstea 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The 2017 French Open champion will next play Caroline Garcia, who beat local wildcard entry Taylah Preston, Australia, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

"I feel like I was sleeping in the first set," Ostapenko said. "I'm not a morning person; I needed time to get into the match. When I start to take time and be a bit more calm, I play better."

'SA20 gives me great exposure to learn more about captaincy'



Aiden Markram

Cape Town, Jan 09 (PTI):

Aiden Markram is forever grateful to the Sunrisers franchise for showing faith in his leadership abilities as he gets down to defend the SA20 title that Sunrisers Eastern Cape won under his captaincy in the league's inaugural edition. Fresh from his finest Test hundred which he smashed against India last week, Markram is now ready to score big runs in the shortest format. "It's always nice to get

runs. It's obviously different format, but from a confidence point of view, it gives you confidence as a player, and to go from that knock straight to SA20, is a nice place to be, but you have to respect that this is a different format," Markram told PTI in an exclusive interview.

Winning the inaugural edition of SA20 was a breakthrough moment for Markram, who was later entrusted with the huge task of leading Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL.

'Ayodhya redesigned after studying Vatican, Jerusalem'

● Three lakh visitors expected to visit Ayodhya daily

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI) :

In the coming years, more than three lakh people are expected to visit Ayodhya daily and the planning for the temple town has been done after studying similar examples abroad, including Vatican City, Cambodia, Jerusalem, as also places in India, such as Tirupati and Amritsar, according to Dikshu Kukreja, the master planner behind the project.

Efficient land use, minimum congestion, a focus on dharamshalas (inns) and homestays, upgrading the infrastructure while retaining the historical and cultural character of the city are some of the highlights of the plan prepared by Kukreja, the managing principal of C P Kukreja Architects.

"Ayodhya is anticipated to become a global tourism destination with a focus on spiritual, cultural, heritage assets and events as the city is likely to grow manifold with a significant demand in hospitality and allied industries.

"The city is envisaged to be developed as a mega centre for tourist, economic and religious activities. More than three lakh devotees are expected to visit Ayodhya daily within the next three-four years," Kukreja told PTI in an interview.



Projected image of Sarayu river ghats as per Ayodhya Master Plan.

interview.

"To accommodate the needs of a growing population and tourism, we designed modern infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, sewage systems and utilities, while ensuring that these developments did not compromise the historical and cultural character of the city. We worked on designing a layout for the township that promotes efficient land use, minimises congestion and enhances the overall quality of life for the residents," he added.

Kukreja, who has previously designed the Aerocity in Delhi and "Yashbhoomi" — the India International Convention Centre (IICC)

in Dwarka — explained that his team studied existing temple towns across the globe as well as in India to understand the needs and drew inspiration from the best practices adopted there.

"We studied similar places abroad, including Vatican City, Jerusalem and Cambodia. We also examined examples like Tirupati and Amritsar. The best practices adopted there have been incorporated in our plan after being customised to suit the local context of Ayodhya," he said.

The first phase of the temple is nearing completion and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take part in its consecration

ceremony on January 22.

The Supreme Court delivered a historic verdict in 2019, settling a temple-mosque dispute that dated back more than a century. The court backed the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site and ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for building a mosque.

According to the master plan, the redevelopment of Ayodhya will be completed over 10 years with an investment of more than Rs 85,000 crore to upgrade the holy city.

Kukreja said the first stage of the Ayodhya redevelopment project was ensuring connectivity.

"Connectivity is a great

deal in developing any place as a global tourist destination. We were clear that a domestic airport cannot serve the purpose and we cannot wait for a decade to convert it into an international airport. The airport and the redeveloped railway station have already been inaugurated," he said.

Some of the unique features include the establishment of Ram dwars (grand entry points) with traditional stone facades, an emphasis on homestays and dharamshalas for diverse accommodation facilities and the development of the Ramayana Spiritual Forest for an immersive cultural experience.

Writer Nirmal Verma's unpublished stories to hit the stands

● On 95th birth anniversary

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI) :

A new collection of unpublished and uncollected stories by celebrated Hindi writer Nirmal Verma will hit the stands on his 95th birth anniversary on April 3, Rajkamal Prakashan has announced, marking the late author's return to the publisher after a gap of 18 years.

Starting with a set of six books by Verma and two books by poet and Verma's wife, Gagan Gill, at the World Book Fair in February, the publisher will release the author's complete bibliography, consisting 43 books, over the next three months.

"Additionally, on the occasion of his birth anniversary - April 3, a new collection of his unpublished and uncollected stories will be launched in New Delhi. In



this way, Nirmal Verma is again the star author of Rajkamal with a total of 44 books,"

Ashok Maheshwari, chairman of Rajkamal Prakashan Samuh, said in a statement. Rajkamal Prakashan was the first publisher of Verma and Gill's works.

Verma is known for being one of the pioneers of the 'nayi kahani' (new story) literary movement in Hindi literature. Across a career spanning five decades, he penned five novels, eight short-story

collections and nine books of non-fiction.

Some of his most celebrated works include "Parinde", "Kavve aur Kala Pani", and "Dedh Inch Upar".

Talking about their association with Rajkamal Prakashan, Gill said that "the moment feels like a homecoming".

"All the works of Nirmal Ji and mine are now returning to Rajkamal Prakashan. This moment feels like a homecoming. Rajkamal was our first publisher... There was a harmonious working relationship with Rajkamal from the very beginning. After Ashok Ji took charge, I worked on many books with him, including those of Nirmal Ji, mine, and those of our friends. Unfortunately, in 2005 there was some misunderstanding between us and we parted ways," Gill said in a statement.

Two-way risk found in women having autoimmune diseases, pregnancy-linked depression

New Delhi, Jan 09 (PTI)

Women with autoimmune diseases could be more likely to suffer from depression during pregnancy and after childbirth, researchers have found.

They also observed a converse relationship where women with a history of pregnancy and childbirth-linked, or perinatal, depression might be at a higher risk of developing autoimmune diseases where the body's immune system mistakenly starts attacking healthy tissues. Some of the common autoimmune diseases include gluten intolerance, rheumatoid arthritis, Type 1 diabetes, and multiple sclerosis.

The researchers at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, found the association was strongest for multiple sclerosis — a neurological disease. It was also strongest among women with no previous psychiatric diagnosis.

However, being an ob-

servational study, the researchers couldn't draw a causal link. Their findings have been published in the "Molecular Psychiatry" journal.

"Our study suggests that there's an immunological mechanism behind perinatal depression and that autoimmune diseases should be seen as a risk factor for this kind of depression," said the study's first author Emma Br nn, a researcher at Karolinska Institutet's Institute of Environmental Medicine.

For the study, the researchers used Swedish Medical Birth Register data to identify women who had given birth in Sweden between 2001 and 2013.

Of the more than eight lakh women and 13 lakh pregnancies included in the study, the team found that more than 55,000 had been diagnosed with depression during their pregnancies or within a year after delivery.

The researchers said the results revealed a "bidirectional association" between perinatal depression and autoimmune diseases, with the risk quantified at 30 per cent both ways.

"The bidirectional association was more pronounced among women without psychiatric comorbidities and strongest for multiple sclerosis," the researchers wrote.

They found that the risk related to multiple sclerosis was twice in both the directions.

"Depression during this sensitive period (of pregnancy) can have serious consequences for both the mother and the baby," said Br nn.

"We hope that our results will help decision-makers to steer funding towards maternal health-care so that more women can get help and support in time," she said.

The team said it will continue to examine the long-term effects of depression during pregnancy and in the first year following childbirth.

Maha Governor inaugurates Environment Sustainability Summit



Mumbai, Jan 09: Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais on Tuesday inaugurated the Environmental Sustainability Summit on the theme of 'Harnessing Bamboo Potential for a Sustainable Tomorrow' at Y.B. Chavan Auditorium, Mumbai on Tue (9 Jan). The Governor visited the exhibition of Bamboo products, witnessed the panel discussion and addressed the gathering on the occasion.

This Summit has been

organized by Phoenix Foundation, Lodga, Latur in association with the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra, 'Majhi Vasundhara Abhiyan', MIDC, MPCB, CIDCO and other organisations.

Chairman, State Agricultural Prices Commission Pasha Patel, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Climate Change Praveen Darade, Director General The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Founder-Trustee of 'Wildlife Conservation Trust' Hemendra Kothari, MGNREGA Mission DG Nand Kumar, representatives from the environment sector, senior officials, industry representatives, academicians and researchers were present.

BIRD SHOW



Parrots at a bird show, in Nadia, Tuesday.

Ustad Rashid Khan leaves behind a legacy in Hindustani classical music

● Ustad Rashid Khan

Kolkata, Jan 09 (PTI) :

Ustad Rashid Khan left an enduring legacy with his soul-stirring notes, his melodious voice echoing through time and leaving an indelible imprint on the rich heritage of Hindustani music.

Rashid Khan, aged 55, passed away in a city hospital on Tuesday after valiantly battling cancer for over four years. He is survived by his son, two daughters, and wife.

Possibly the last living legend of Rampur Sahaswan gayaki (style of singing), Rashid Khan was recognised as the 31st generation of Sangeet Samrat Mian Tansen, as detailed on his official website.

Known for his mastery in the 'Vilambit Khayal' gayaki, he captivated millions of Hindustani vocal classical music enthusiasts for more than three decades.

Born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, Rashid Khan's initial training was under



his maternal grand-uncle, Ustad Nissar Hussain Khan. In April 1980, he relocated to Kolkata at the age of 10 when Nissar Hussain Khan moved there with his grandfather.

Rashid Khan's debut concert took place when he was just 11, and by 1994, he had gained recognition as a musician.

Deeply influenced by Hindustani classical music

from an early age, Rashid Khan commenced his music lessons under the guidance of his grandparent, Inayat Hussain Khan.

In the realm of musical traditions, the Rampur-Sahaswan gayaki shares a close kinship with the Gwalior gharana. This particular style is defined by its medium-slow tempos, richly resonant voice, and intricate rhythmic play. Rashid Khan weaves together a narrative deeply influenced by maestros such as Ustad Amir Khan and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. Proficient in the art of the tarana, much like his guru Nissar Hussain, he infused his renditions with a distinctive personal touch.

While demonstrating a shared mastery of instrumental stroke-based styles, reminiscent of Nissar Hussain's renown, Ustad Rashid Khan gravitated towards the khayal style, presenting it in a manner uniquely his own.

While excelling in Hindustani vocals, Rashid Khan also showcased his proficiency in playback

music, contributing to blockbusters such as "My Name is Khan," "Jab We Met," "Isaaq," "Manto," "Mausam," "Bapi Bari Ja," "Kadambari," and "Mitni Masi."

Rashid Khan was recognised for his innovative approach, blending Hindustani vocals with genres like Sufi and collaborating with Western instrumentalist icon Louis Banks. He engaged in 'jugalbandis' with sitar artist Shahid Parvez.

Khan's Rabindra Sangeet (songs of Rabindranath Tagore) album, 'Baithaki Rabi,' released in the mid-2000s, showcased his versatility.

Commenting on the album at the time of its launch, Khan stated, "I believe a musician cannot complete his circle or journey without having sung 'Rabindra Sangeet.'

"I am ready for criticism, but this is my way of imbibing Gurudev's song, internalizing the meanings and 'bhab' and interpreting in my way without deviating from the swaralipi."

YSRCP files counter complaints with EC against TDP

● Says it enrolled Telangana voters in Andhra

Vijayawada, Jan 09 (PTI) :

Even as the TDP and Janasena met the Election Commission team visiting the state to complain about the government in Andhra Pradesh, the ruling YSRCP on Tuesday lodged complaints of its own to the EC against alleged duplication of voters, as well as against N Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh and others.

The YSRCP, represented by its Rajya Sabha member V Vijayasai Reddy, met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and other EC officials on tour in the state and demanded the removal of duplicate voters from electoral rolls.

"The TDP started an enrollment drive, calling people from Telangana to enroll as voters in Andhra Pradesh as the polls got over in Telangana. This is illegal," Reddy said, addressing reporters after meeting the Election Commission.

The MP noted that an individual is entitled to only one vote in one place

and if anybody wishes to register as a voter in Andhra Pradesh, they should first get their vote deleted from the Telangana voters' list.

Further, Reddy found fault with Janasena having accompanied the TDP while meeting the Election Commission on Tuesday. According to him, Janasena is an unrecognised party while the opportunity to meet the Election Commission is only accorded to recognised parties.

Likewise, he observed that there is no clarity on whether Janasena is an alliance partner of the BJP or the TDP and questioned how its members can be allowed to meet the

Election Commission.

Among other complaints to the Election Commission, Vijayasai Reddy, who is also the YSRCP parliamentary party leader, took up the issue of Nara Lokesh and other TDP leaders regularly making allegedly disparaging remarks against the ruling party and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

कालड़ा बर्न एवं प्लास्टिक कांस्ट्रक्टि सजरी सेंटर बनी रहे मुस्कान

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Ajay Advt.

सुयश हॉस्पिटल

हड्डी रोग विभाग

- HIP (कुल्हा), Knee (घुटना) रिप्लेसमेंट एवं ज्वाइंट रिप्लेसमेंट
- ब्रेन एक्सिडेंट एवं ट्रामा
- सभी प्रकार के फ्रैक्चर
- पीठ दर्द या कमर दर्द (सायटिका)
- कमर में देहान
- आर्थीस्कोपी द्वारा घुटने के लिगामेंट का पुर्ननिर्माण

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Ajay 9827144374