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Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

BRIEF



Singer-composer Shankar Mahadevan being welcomed on his arrival at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai, Thursday.

Conditional bail

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday granted conditional bail to J Srinivasa Rao, who allegedly attacked Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in 2018 at Visakhapatnam airport with a knife known as a 'kodi kathi' used in cock-fights. On Thursday, Rao, who spent more than five years in jail, was released on bail by the high court on a personal bond of Rs 25,000 and two sureties of a similar amount.

Explosion

Pune: At least one person died and seven others sustained burn injuries after an electric transformer exploded near a village in Pune district on Thursday, said police. Fire brigade and police personnel rushed to the blast spot near Solu village, while the injured were taken to government-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune city, they said.

Heroic Act

Mumbai: Dozens of passengers pushed a train carriage away from the platform to free a man who had fallen into narrow gap between the train and platform in adjoining Navi Mumbai. The act of heroism was captured in a 41-second video clip, which showed several commuters coming together to push the local train coach to one side to rescue the trapped commuter.

Bail denied

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has refused bail to an alleged Khalistani separatist, who is purported to be a member of banned outfit 'Sikhs for Justice', saying materials on record prima facie indicated his complicity in preparation for a terrorist act. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Aravind Kumar refused to interfere with the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order refusing bail to Gurwinder Singh alias Gurpreet Singh Gopi in the UAPA case probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Weather

High 30 Low 17

MARKET

NIFTY 21,717.95

SENSEX 71,428.43

BULLION

GOLD 62,380

SILVER 70,345

ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT

Chh'garh's GSDP to grow by 6.56%

In FY 2023-24

Raipur, Feb 08: The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant prices is estimated to grow by 6.56 per cent in Chhattisgarh and the per capita income is likely to reach Rs 1,47,361 in the financial year 2023-24, as per the state's Economic Survey Report presented in



the assembly on Thursday. Chhattisgarh's finance, and planning, economics and statistics minister O P Chaudhary presented the state's Economic Survey

Report for FY 2023-24 in the House. He will table the state's budget for FY 2024-25 in the assembly on Friday. As per the report, the state's GSDP (at market prices) at constant price (base year 2011-12) as per advance estimates is expected to grow by 6.56 per cent and reach Rs 3,21,94,473 lakh in FY 2023-24 as against quick estimates of 3,02,11,868 lakh in FY 2022-23. The state's agriculture and allied sector (agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing) and industry sector (mining and quarrying, construction, manufacturing and electricity, gas and water supply) are expected to grow by 3.23 per cent and 7.13 per cent, respectively, in the ongoing fiscal compared to the previous one.

Cong releases 'black paper' on Modi govt's 'failures'

Flags unemployment, neglect of non-BJP states

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Congress on Thursday released a "black paper" to highlight the "failures" of the Modi government and alleged that the last 10 years have been a period of "injustice". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released a 54-page "charge sheet", titled '10 saal anyay kaal', against the Centre ahead of the government's tabling in Parliament of a 'white paper' on the "mismanagement" of the economy prior to 2014 aimed at drawing lessons. "Whenever PM (Narendra) Modi presents his views in



Parliament, he hides his failures. At the same time, when we speak about the failures of the government, it is not given importance. Therefore, we thought of bringing out a black paper and tell the public about the failures of the government," Kharge, who was flanked by party leaders Pawan Khera and Syed Naseer Hussain, said at a press conference at his residence here.

ECONOMIC CRISIS TO TURNAROUND Overcame UPA-era challenges: Govt's White Paper

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

The NDA government in last 10 years has successfully overcome the challenges left behind by the UPA government, and took "tough decisions" to place India on the path of sustainable high growth, said the White Paper on Economy on Thursday. The 59-page 'White Paper on the Indian Economy' said when the Modi government assumed office in 2014, the economy was in a "fragile state"; public finances were in "bad shape"; there was economic mismanagement and financial indiscipline, and widespread corruption. "It was a crisis situation. The responsibility



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha.

to mend the economy step by step and to put the governance systems in order was enormous," said the paper which was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament. The UPA government failed miserably to facilitate economic activities. Instead the UPA

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Naxalite carrying Rs 8 lakh bounty killed in encounter

Dantewada, Feb 08:

A Naxalite, who was active in the outlawed Maoist outfit for nearly three decades and carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh, was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Dantewada district, a senior police official said on Thursday. The face-off took place on Wednesday on a forested hill between Gondpalli, Parlagatta and Badepalli villages on the Dantewada-Sukma districts border, when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation. Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said in a press conference that the operation was launched based on inputs about the presence of Naxalites along the inter-district border. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxalite, identified as

Chandranna, alias Satyam, along with a country-made pistol, its four live rounds and other Maoist-related materials were recovered from the spot, he said. Chandranna, aged around 50 years and a resident of the Golapalli area in Sukma district, was active in the banned outfit for over 30 years and had been involved in several instances of Naxal violence, he said. He was active as a divisional committee member in the Mad division of the Maoist organisation before 2013, and more recently, in the Jagargunda area of south Bastar division, Rai said, adding that he was carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh. Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard and Bastar Fighters both units of state police and the 231st battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation, the official said.

'BJP's 2-point prog is to encourage injustice, spread hatred and violence'

Raigarh, Feb 08 (PTI):

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at the BJP, alleging the ruling party's two-point programme is to encourage injustice and spread hatred and violence.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being felicitated by PCC President Deepak Bajaj and other party leaders and workers during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, at Rengaripali in Raigarh, Thursday.

Gandhi was addressing a public meeting at Rengaripali village in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district after his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered the state from Odisha. This was his first visit to Chhattisgarh after the November 2023 assembly polls wherein his party was ousted from power in the state. He also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

claiming he was not an OBC by birth as his caste "ghanchi" was included in the Other Backward Classes list in 2000 in Gujarat by the then BJP government there. One year ago, the Bharat

Jodo Yatra covered about 4,000 kms from Kanyakumari to Kashmir (in 2022-23) against the BJP's act to "spread hatred and create an atmosphere of violence", Gandhi said.

'First do justice with his party leaders'

Raipur: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' and said he should first do justice with his own party leaders. Talking to reporters at the Swami Vivekanand Airport in Raipur after returning from Delhi, the CM also said those accused in the alleged Chhattisgarh State Public Service Commission (CGPSC) scam will not be spared. To a query on Gandhi's yatra, CM Sai said, "You all have seen the impact of Bharat Jodo Yatra and now he has taken out Nyay yatra.

'India's mantra of unity in diversity comprehensive, no scope for divisions'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

India's mantra of unity in diversity is so comprehensive that there is no scope for divisions in it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday and asserted that development and heritage will continue to march together as the country moves forward.



PM Modi addresses a programme marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Lanka Prabhupada, at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Thursday.

Addressing a programme marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Lanka Prabhupada at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Modi said in today's India, Vande Bharat trains will run along with the transformation of Ayodhya and Mathura-Vrindavan.

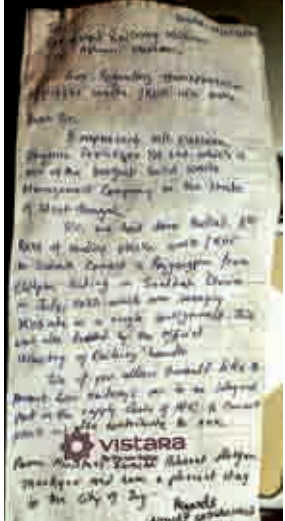
He lauded the younger generation for the change in their outlook and emphasised that they take along both knowledge and research together. "Our new generation now wears its culture proudly on its forehead," Modi said.

When youngsters lead the country, they can land a rover on the moon and also nourish traditions by naming the landing spot "Shivshakti", he said. They understand the importance of both spirituality and start-ups, the prime minister said, noting that pilgrimage centres like Kashi and Ayodhya are witnessing a large number of young visitors. Modi paid rich tributes to Sri Lanka Prabhupada and noted that the 150th birth anniversary of the spiritual guru is being celebrated at a time when just a few days ago, the centuries-old dream of a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya was fulfilled.

LIGHTENING FAST DECISION Chance meeting with railway minister in flight helps entrepreneur pitch business proposal

Kolkata, Feb 8 (PTI)

Entrepreneur Akshay Satnaliwala could hardly imagine that a business proposal to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on a paper napkin during a flight would spring the railway administration in action in no time. Eastern Railway GM Milind K Deouskar and other senior officers met Satnaliwala at the ER headquarters here and discussed the freight prospects suggested by his firm, an official said here on Thursday.



ISRO to launch meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS on Feb 17

Bengaluru, Feb 08 (PTI):

ISRO on Thursday said that the launch of its meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS, which will enhance meteorological observations and help in better weather forecasting and disaster warning, is scheduled for February 17. The satellite will be launched onboard a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle F14 (GSLV F14). The INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of a third generation meteorological satellite to be placed in geostationary



Preparations underway for the launch of ISRO's GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission, at the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota.

orbit, and it is fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). "The launch of the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission is set for Saturday, February 17, at 5:30pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota," ISRO said. In its 16th mission, the GSLV aims to deploy the satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Subsequent orbit-raising manoeuvres will ensure that the satellite is positioned in a geostationary orbit, the space agency said.

India to replace military personnel in Maldives with civilian technical people

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

India will replace its military personnel operating three aviation platforms in the Maldives with "competent" Indian technical personnel even as New Delhi asserted that it remained an important development partner of the island nation. "I would like to say that the present personnel will be replaced by competent Indian technical personnel," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. Following the second meeting of the high-level core group to address the issue of the military personnel, the

Maldivian foreign ministry said India will replace its military personnel in two phases by May 10. Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday said the first group of Indian military personnel will be sent back before March 10 and the remaining manning ones will be withdrawn before May 10. The second meeting of the core group took place in Delhi on February 2. The two sides decided to set up the core group following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Muizzu on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai in December.

Money laundering accused Constable Bhim Yadav dismissed

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: SP (Durg) Jitendra Shukla has issued dismissal orders to a Police Constable, accused in a money laundering case linked with an illegal online betting racket. It needs to be mentioned here that Constable (482) Bhim Singh Yadav was arrested under section 19(1) of PMLA and Section 3, 4 of PMLA, 2002 by the Enforcement Directorate, Raipur Regional Office.

Bhim Singh Yadav, a constable posted at Police Station Supela, was arrested on November 03, 2023 and investigation is being conducted by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of

Money Laundering Act 2002 against the online illegal betting website, Mahadev Online Book.

During the investigation, the involvement of Constable Bhim Singh Yadav in Mahadev Online Book betting operations has been revealed and currently he is confined in jail. All these incidents reveal his criminal tendencies. The act is of extremely serious nature and it is not reasonably practicable for the department to investigate this act.

Police service is gov-



erned by the provisions of Maharashtra / Chhattisgarh Police Regulation Para 64 (1) which state that "every police officer shall devote his entire time exclusively to the police service. He shall not take part in any trade or business whatsoever unless expressly permitted to do so."

The activities of Constable Bhim Singh Yadav were clear violations of this rule. The dismissal order further states that it is not appropriate for the police department and in public

interest that an employee with such a tendency continues to work in a disciplined department.

It is absolutely necessary to take strict action against departmental employees displaying such serious criminal acts, so that the image of the department's high standards is maintained in the society. The departmental system should remain intact and strong.

Jitendra Shukla, Superintendent of Police, Durg, on the basis of the powers conferred under sub-clause "B" of clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India, dismissed Constable Bhim Singh Yadav from service for serious misconduct.

Mahtari Vandan Yojana gets enormous response

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: Mahtari Vandan Yojana, an ambitious scheme of the state government, is getting enormous public response. The process of collecting forms from eligible women beneficiaries in the district under Mahtari Vandan Yojana is being done. The state government has rolled out this scheme with the aim of economic self-reliance, improving their health and nutritional status and strengthening their role in family decisions.

Unprecedented enthusiasm is being seen among women to take advantage of the scheme. Till now, more than 1.50 lakh have been submitted. The application for Mahtari Vandan



Yojana is being given free of cost by the Anganwadi worker in the Ward / Gram Panchayat. The eligible women are filling the application forms and submitting it again to the Anganwadi centers along with the necessary documents.

The Anganwadi worker will verify the applications and send it for online entry

in the software of Mahtari Vandan Yojana. Various types of misconceptions are being spread regarding the application. Fake sites are also going viral. Beneficiaries have been cautioned not to fill the forms in such fake sites.

Women are reaching Anganwadi centers in large numbers to fill applications. Online forms and

offline registration have started in the district. Workshops for filling the forms are also being organized at the district level so that women do not face any problem in filling the forms. Beneficiaries of the district can apply free of cost from 05 February to 20 February 2024.

To avail the benefits of Mahtari Vandan Yojana, eligible women can also apply through online portal and mobile app. Under this scheme, the form is available in Anganwadi centres, Panchayat level, ward in-charge level in urban areas including project office and district Collectorate. There is tremendous enthusiasm among women to take advantage of this ambitious scheme of the government.

Action against illegal plotting

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: On the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Durg Mukesh Raote and Additional Tehsildar Prafulla Kumar Gupta took action against illegal plotting in two villages.

The roads, markings and other structures were razed using a bulldozer. Action was taken against the landowners Shiv Kumar and Geeta Devi in village Chandkhuri as well as against Sundari, wife of Dayaram in village Anda.

Roads, pathways and structures prepared for illegal plotting were razed. SDM Mukesh Raote said that strict action will be



taken against illegal plotting and they have sought information in this regard from all the Patwaris.

Last date for renewal of ration cards is Feb 15

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: It is necessary to renew all types of ration cards issued by the government. The renewal work will be done till February 15, and the beneficiary can do the renewal work by downloading the ration card renewal app available in the fair price shop or on the website of the Food Department on his Android mobile.

Within the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, in APL category total ration cards issued is 43062 in number, while BPL ration cards add to 83746 which includes Antyodaya Card, Nirashrit Card, Annapurna, and Priority Disabled Persons cards. This also includes 59828 families living below the



poverty line.

All these ration card holding beneficiaries will have to renew their ration cards. Out of total 126868 ration cards, 46200 cards have been renewed so far and 80606 are still remaining which will have to be completed by February 15.

Beneficiaries can apply for ration card renewal through 2 options. To apply directly, the benefi-

ciary can download the ration card renewal app available on the Food Department's website <https://khadya.cg.nic.in> on the Android mobile phone and submit the application by scanning the QR code available in the ration card or one can submit the application through the app in the tablet of the fair price shop operator.

Besides, the beneficiary operator will also submit written application in the name of food at the fair price shop. Ration card will be received within 30 days of submitting it for renewal.

For APL a fee of Rs 10 has been fixed for the card while renewal of all remaining ration cards will be done free of cost. While getting new ration card, the old ration card will have to be submitted. In order to ensure that the fair price shop operators follow the government's instructions, the District Food Controller called a meeting in the Corporation Auditorium and gave strict instructions to the shopkeepers to ensure that the renewal of all ration cards is completed within the time limit.

Special placement camp on Feb 16

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center Durg will organize a placement camp for recruitment in 194 vacant posts in private firms on 16 February 2024. In the placement camp, Yashoda Nandan Children Hospital will appoint staff nurses and Autech Nextwealth IT Services Pvt Ltd will recruit Process Associate (Data), Process Associate (Voice), Operations Manager, Assistant Manager, Assistant Manager Operations, Team Leader, Quality Excellence Analyst, Business Analyst and Trainer. RK Kurre, Deputy Director of District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center, Durg said that the interested candidates should submit all the original educational proofs and marksheets, identity card (Voter ID card, Aadhar card, PAN card, driving license, ration card), employment office registration card, residence certificate, caste certificate and all documents (photocopies) to participate in the placement camp.

'Industrial Relations Guide Book' for IR Department released

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: The Industrial Relations Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's Personnel Department launched an 'IR Guide Book' to strengthen BSP's Industrial Relations. The Guide Book would enable concerned employees to maintain industrial relations in a judicious manner.

Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) released the IR Guide Book on January 30, 2024, in the presence of Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), JN Thakur, GM (Pers.-IR), and other Senior Officials and personnel of the IR Department. The IR Guidebook has been compiled, drafted, and edited by Rohit Harit, Sr Mgr (Pers-IR&CLC).

In his address, Pawan Kumar congratulated the BSP Collective and urged Plant's Senior Officials to



draft and publish similar informative and descriptive Manuals and Guide Books for the convenient operations of their respective Departments and sections.

Sandeep Mathur, said that the IR department deserves appreciation for discharging its responsibility of compiling and editing this guidebook so well.

JN Thakur congratulated Rohit Harit and said that this guidebook will be useful not only for the managers of the plant's factories but will also

prove useful for the personnel. Rohit Harit thanked the Plant management and Senior Officials for their valuable guidance in publishing the Guidebook.

This guidebook covers the provisions of the Factories Act, The Employee's Compensation Act, the Motor Transport Workers Act, and other Statutes, regulations, and other necessary information that are part and parcel of the Labor Laws and Industrial regulations of India. Following the manual would strengthen in-

dustrial relations and help achieve the objective of safe production.

Shija P Mathew, GM (Pers-Works), Suraj Kumar Soni, GM (Pers.-NW & Mines), Anuradha Singh, GM (Pers.-Regulation&HRIS), H Shekhar, GM (Pers.- ED Secretariat), and K Suparna, GM (Pers-ES) were also present on this occasion, along with and Deputy General Managers. Personnel Vikash Chandra, Ajay Kumar, Dy General Mgrs (IR), and other Senior Officers.

Blessing Hawan Ceremony for board students organised at DAV Hudco

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: "Let your hard work propel you to a speed so fast that good luck has no choice but to ride with a winner like you" To exalt the spirit of inspiration, aspiration and to bless the outgoing batch of class X and XII, DAV Public School, Hudco, Bhilai organized a Blessing Ceremony on February 08, 2024 for the students who are going to appear in their forthcoming board exams.

It was a momentous occasions that marked the end of a carefully supervised school life and the beginning of a new life in the real world. At DAV it is believed that a Hawani auspicious but in addition it supports various Physical, Mental and Spiritual advantages. It also purifies the ambience stuffing it with positivity. The ceremony commenced with a prayer, seeking the divine guidance and blessings from almighty God by



the sound of Gayatri Mantra. A Hawan ceremony was performed religiously with divine fervour and spirituality for the bright future of the young learners. With chanting of mantra in front of the pious fire, blessings were showered upon students by Prashant Kumar (Principal Cum Deputy Regional Officer, CG, Zone A), Supervisory Heads (Junior and Senior Wing) and their teachers. The Holy occasion

turned out to be even more magnanimous, for the students with the blessings they received on the occasion. The Principal apprised the students not to panic and stress themselves during exams. They must believe themselves and refrain from distractions while preparing for exams. He unwrapped the secret of success and guided the students to revise the concepts thoroughly and maintain the dignity of their school

during the span of the examination. The students felt incredibly inspired by the words of wisdom.

The ceremony culminated with a promise from students to keep their values intact, and serve the nation through their perseverance. All teachers extended their good wishes to them for a bright, successful and prosperous future. The ceremony came to an end after the distribution of Prasad to all.

Director I/c (SAIL-BSP) inspects ongoing extensive repair work at Plate Mill

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: The Plate Mill of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant, which was established in the year 1983 is under a 42-day shutdown and extensive repair work for upgradation and improving the geometry of the roughing and finishing stands. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP), accompanied by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), and other Senior Officers visited the Mill on February 08, 2024, and closely inspected various activities under the comprehensive maintenance work.

Anirban Dasgupta also encouraged the team members to take necessary steps to maintain the utility of both stands in the future. During this inspection, RK Bisare, CGM (Plate Mill), briefed him in detail about the maintenance works. Asit Saha, CGM I/c (M&U), RK Bisare, CGM (Plate Mill), Unmesh Bhardwaj, CGM



(Projects) and Pranay Kumar, CGM (CET), were also present on this occasion along with HoDs and GMs of concerned departments. In view of the latest requirement of the customers in the steel market, this Capital Repair work was initiated on January 10, 2024. During the shutdown, other pending and important works related to maintenance in the

plate mill are also being executed, which includes renovation of the Plate Mill furnace. Both the levellers are being renovated to improve the profile of the plate and the Cross Cut Shear-1 is being renovated for the first time to improve the quality of the edges of the plates. Crane Nos 26 and 29 are being renovated in the shipping area to suit the increasing

dispatch, along with the replacement of LT rail and MTL and expansion of line no 409B. For the first time, the 2000 mm diameter gas pipeline located at a height of 25 meters is also being replaced under this repair initiative in the Plate Mill.

This extensive repair work shall not only enhance the production and quality of plates but will also ensure a wide product range as per the requirements of the customers. BSP's Plate Mill has produced approximately 34 million tonnes of plates during the last four decades, meeting the requirements of various projects and customers in the country. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has produced and supplied plates of the required grade to several projects of national importance, including the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and other warships, and special grade plates for satellite launch vehicles.

Saroj speaks for inclusion of Chhattisgarhi dialect in 8th schedule

● In the last address of her tenure in Rajya Sabha

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 08: On Thursday, Rajya Sabha member and BJP National Vice President, Saroj Pandey, shared her views in the Upper House of the Parliament on the conclusion of her current tenure. She thanked the Rajya Sabha Speaker and Vice President of India Jagdish Dhankhar for giving her an unforgettable opportunity to sit on a high pedestal as Speaker of Rajya Sabha. She further thanked the Vice President for the steps he has taken towards women empowerment. There has been a surge of confidence among the women, she said.

Saroj said that in the last six years, they have learned a lot and they are leaving with many happy memories. She thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and



the Speaker for giving her the opportunity to become a member of the Upper House. Rajya Sabha has been a witness to many subjects and it is a matter of good fortune for her to be a witness to those moments in this golden journey of Amrit Kaal, Saroj said. She thanked the Prime Minister for introducing laws against Triple Talaq. She said that the issue of triple talaq remained entangled in politics. But the Prime Minister displayed his political wisdom and introduced laws to protect the women from Triple Talaq. She further thanked the Prime Minister for Nari Shakti Vandan

Adhiniyam. Saroj said that he was fortunate to remain in the House while introduction of this bill.

This bill would ensure the progress of women and make them stronger. She anticipated that the country will witness a different scenario in the coming times. The political scenario has changed a lot since 2014. She further reiterated the demand for inclusion of Chhattisgarhi Dialect in the eighth schedule. This bill remained pending due to some reasons and the pain would remain in her mind as she was unable to get it approved during this tenure.

OBITUARY

Yashoda Rai



Bhilai: Sector 4, Street 38, Qr No 15-A resident Yashoda Rai left for heavenly abode at the age of 91 years on Thursday. Last rites of the mortal remains will be performed at Ram Nagar Muktidham on February 09 around 11:30 hrs. She was the mother of BSP employee Anjani Kumar Rai.

Ram Rajya will be established in Ch'garh

Raipur, Feb 08:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that his government was determined to establish the rule of law in the state. Incidents of murder and robbery were common during the previous government, he said, adding that his government restored a fear-free society. 'What we call good governance is called Ramrajya. Ram Rajya will be established in Chhattisgarh', said the Chief Minister during the discussion on the motion of thanks on the Governor's address. Sai said that his government got several major achievements within a few days after formation. Efforts are being made to overcome many challenges, he said, adding

that his government's goal is to strengthen the financial structure. In the past, the BJP government had created a strong financial system, but the Congress destroyed it, he said, adding that his government will restore this system again. The empty treasury that was left with exit of previous Congress government will soon be filled, he said.

The Chief Minister said that his government pledged to develop Chhattisgarh. 'We are working rapidly to disseminate the schemes of the Center and the State among the people. Prime Minister Modi has given guarantees for the welfare of all sections. Our government is rapidly fulfilling those guarantees. Our government will present



the first main budget. This budget will be historic', he said.

He said that in order to fulfill Modi's guarantee, 18 lakh houses were approved in the first cabinet meeting itself. He also said that on Good Governance Day, 12 lakh farmers of the state were given outstanding paddy

bonus of two years. A provision of Rs 12 thousand crores has been made under Krishak Unnati Yojana, he said, adding that his government procured the highest quantity of paddy so far.

The date of paddy procurement was extended on the demand of farmers, he said. He also said that custom milling work was also going on at a rapid pace in the state. Mahtari Vandan Yojana has also been started, he said, adding that eligible women will be given Rs 12,000 annually under this scheme which will be started from March 1, 2024.

'Ramlala has been seated in Ayodhya Dham on 22 January. Shri Ram is our nephew. Ramlala Darshan Scheme has been started so that all the people of the state can go to Ayodhya

and have darshan. The state government has started work on developing five Shaktipeeths', said the Chief Minister.

He said that the glory and fame of Rajim Kumbh was destroyed by Congress but now it will be organized in a more grand manner. It has been decided to pay tendupatta collectors at the rate of Rs 5500, he said, adding that his government will take strict action against corruption. The guarantee of investigation into the PSC scam is one of Modi's guarantees, he said, adding that CBI inquiry has been recommended and EOW has also registered an FIR on this. The salaries of contractual employees working in state departments have been increased by 27 percent.

WATER GOES DOWN IN DRAIN



With bursting of water pipeline in Chotapara led to waste of gallons of drinking water in the middle of road here on Thursday.

Swamy Atmanand schools to be run by School Education dept: Brijmohan

- Collectors samitis to be dissolved from next academic session
- BJP MLAs raise issue through call attention motion

Raipur, Feb 08:

The BJP MLAs raised the question of Swamy Atmanand Schools through call attention motion in Vidhan Sabha on Thursday and on which the School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that from the next academic session, the Collector committees will be dissolved and made a declaration to start functioning of Swamy Atmanand Schools under the School Education department. The BJP MLAs viz. Anuj Sharma, Ajay

Chandrakar, Bhavna Bohra, through a call attention motion raised the issue of functioning of Swamy Atmanand Schools in the state. The School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal in his written reply to the question informed that at present all the Principals and teachers (lecturers) employed in the schools are paid wages by the Collector and wherever there has been irregularity it will be investigated. BJP MLA Dharamlal Kaushik said that so long as the charge is with the Collector, the system will not improve and it needs to be change. Ajay Chandrakar on a lighter note said that Swamy Atmanand Schools were opened for recreation purpose by Bhupesh Baghel. On this School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said



that all the Samitis of the Collector will be dissolved and names of the Schools will be changed and it will be added with the name of Swamy Atmanand.

Ajay Chandrakar raising the issue of dilapidated building of RD Tiwari School and falling of the plaster of the roof in the School questioned as to under which rule of maintenance that funds for maintenance were used from Smart City head and it was which Department institution, which executed the work?

Brijmohan informed that after Smart City Ltd., TCIL is the technical firm and it is imparting training and work is being done by M/s Sharad Shukla.

On this MLA Ajay Chandrakar said that even after so much of maintenance, the incident of falling of plaster of the slab of the rooftop of a classroom took place and charged of massive corruption in the name of maintenance work and questioned as to whether investigation will be done? On this Brijmohan informed the House that funds worth Rs 800 cr were spent and any irregularity done will be investigated.

MLA Anuj Sharma said that earlier also such incident has taken place and after which decision was taken to get the audit done by engineers and whether audit of RD

Tiwari School was done or not? Replying in affirmation, Brijmohan said that it has been done. MLA Kawardha Bhavna Bohara raised the question that there are lots of shortcomings related to Smart Class and teachers and on which Brijmohan said that if there are complaints, it will be investigated.

VS Speaker questioned as to whether any separate set-up has been sanctioned and on this Brijmohan replied that no set-up has been sanctioned, but the government is working through various heads and soon all the School will be brought under School Education Department. Dharamjeet Singh said that land has been donated in the name of many well-known personalities and their names too should be changed and it should be investigated.

Mahadev Satta App issue echoes in Assembly

- Nobody, howsoever influential may be, will not be spared

Raipur, Feb 08:

The issue of online Mahadev Satta App echoed in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on the 4th day of ongoing Budget Session. Raising the issue in question hour BJP MLA Rajesh Munat said that people of international level were involved in Mahadev Satta App.

This is a very sensitive matter as it is being operated from Dubai, he said. He asked when and what complaints have been made regarding Mahadev Satta App and other Satta Apps? He also asked what action has been taken on this?

Responding to the question of MLA Munat, Home Minister Vijay Sharma said that a total of 28 complaints were received about Mahadev Satta App and as many as 19 crimes were registered.

The Home Minister said that nobody, howsoever influential may be, will not be spared.

The MLA asked whether the matter would be proved through CBI.

On this home minister Vijay Sharma said, investigation was going on in ED, so it was not right to give the case to another agency. Once the matter is proved, the members will see the action. MLA Dharamlal Kaushik said that if action was not taken then betting will continue.

Collector inspects accident site in Abhanpur

- To find out reason for frequent road accidents
- Instructions given to deploy traffic police and increase the time limit of signal



Raipur, Feb 08: Collector Dr Gaurav Singh today reached the accident site Basti Signal Chowk and Kathiya Mor in Abhanpur tehsil of the district. Road accidents were taking place continuously at these places for the last two days. Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh was also present with him. The Collector discussed the reasons for the accident with public representatives and common citizens there. He along with Superintendent of Police Singh reached the accident site at Basti Signal Chowk. He told the NHAI

officials that rumble strips should be placed in the said route as soon as possible and speed breaker should be made in the nearby bypass so as to slow down the speed of vehicles and reduce the chances of accidents.

He directed to immediately install street lights around the roads, which will facilitate the movement of citizens in the dark. Instructions were also given to send proposals for installing high mast lights soon. On the request

of the citizens, he asked the police department to deploy traffic police at the concerned intersection as soon as possible, so that the traffic system can be controlled. The Collector gave instructions to increase the time limit of the traffic signal installed at this place for pedestrian movement, so that people can cross the road easily.

Dr Gaurav Singh also reached Kathia Mode, the accident site and said that a team of Transport Department and Police

Department should be formed to check the speed and fitness test of the commuting highways and other heavy vehicles. Instructions were given to the Mineral Department to continuously check the vehicles going for mining. He said that in view of the upcoming Rajim Kumbh, suitable arrangements should be made for the devotees.

Road construction companies should maintain quality in construction work and sprinkle water to prevent dust. Instructions were given to make arrangements for traffic police and street lights at the accident site also. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra, District Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep, SDM Naveen Thakur, RTO Kirtiman Rathore and other officials were present.

Govt succeeded in opening camps in naxal affected villages: Sharma

Raipur, Feb 08:

- Now instead of 'Lal Salam' of naxalites, slogans of Jai Shri Ram will be heard



The Dy. CM and Home Minister Vijay Sharma with full commitment said that in the coming days, the 'Lal Salam' slogans of the Naxalites in the Bastar region will be completely wiped out and instead the slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram' will be heard.

MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav raised the issue through call attention motion in the Vidhan Sabha on Thursday about killing of three policemen and CRPF jawans in the naxalite encounter held at Tekalgudam village of Sukma District in Bastar recently. He said that in just two months, there is rise in number of naxal incidents in the Bastar region and there is lot of re-

sentment and unrest among the people of Bastar region and entire state over the same. He claimed that over the last few years there has been reduction in number of naxal incidents, but with increase in naxalite attacks it will badly affected the development works in the region. The people resorting back to normalcy and fearless life are once against hovering with fear. Dy. CM Vijay Sharma in his written reply said that it is correct that in the last two months there were total of 19 encounters between security forces and

naxalites in Bastar region and in this 8 jawans and 4 citizens have got martyred. Two naxalites have also been killed and many others have been injured. He further informed the House that in the last eight weeks, the new government in the state has installed 27 mobile towers and succeeded in constructing 35 km long roads. In last eight weeks, in highly sensitive naxal areas ten camps have been opened and this include the village

Tekalgudem where the naxalite encounter took place. In the coming days, in place of 'Lal Salam' of the naxalites, the slogan that of 'Jai Shri Ram' will be heard, he added.

Dy. CM Sharma said that the previous government in the state was too lenient against the Naxalites in the Bastar region and was lacking the will to fight against naxalism and therefore there was no encounter.

But the new BJP government in the state is fighting against the Naxalites and therefore encounters are taking place. Now there are progressive camps in the Naxal affected villages and the Tekalgudem village, where 22 jawans got martyred, we succeeded in opening a camp there as well.

Collector inspects firecracker factory

Instructions given to strengthen security measures and conduct mock drills



Raipur, Feb 08: Collector Dr Gaurav Kumar Singh today inspected the Star Pyrotech Firecracker Factory located in village Bhelwadih in Abhanpur tehsil. Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh and SDM Naveen Thakur were also present with him. The Collector inspected the manufacturing, maintenance, safety standards and licenses of firecrackers in the premises.

extinguishers and sand should be arranged to extinguish the fire in the factory. He instructed to mark water points and pipelines at various places in the premises, so that in case of disaster, fire can be extinguished quickly with the use of water. Contact numbers of ambulance service, fire brigade, nearest police station and important officials of the district administration and their offices should be made available, he said.

Dr. Gaurav Singh said that the workers working in the factory should be informed about the chemicals used in making firecrackers and their safety. The Collector said that mock drill should be conducted in the factory at a fixed interval of time so that quick measures can be adopted in case of disaster. Health of the workers should also be checked, he said. The Collector inspected various rooms in the premises and gave instructions to remove tin sheds at all places and use asbestos sheets in their place. He asked the industrial health officials to inspect the license of the factory in coordination with the central government agency. Assistant Director of Industrial Health and Safety, Vivek Chelkar and other concerned officers were also present.

Collector reaches camp of Mahtari Vandan Yojana



Raipur, Feb 08:

Collector Dr Gaurav Singh today reached the camp of Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Village Kendri of Abhanpur where he took stock of the arrangements. During his visit he discussed with the beneficiaries. He also helped some beneficiaries in filling their application forms. The Collector took

information from them and filled the application forms sitting at the table. Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh also helped the beneficiaries in filling the application form. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra and Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Vishwadeep were also present.

Chhattisgarhi film 'Gaon Ke Zero, Shehar Ma Hero' to hit screens today

Manoj Rajput to be seen in a different look in the film

Raipur, Feb 08:

Manoj Rajput, producer and hero of the multi-starrer film which is being screened in more than 35 theaters and multiplexes on February 9th, based on his own life, has created a lot of buzz on social media about the film "Gaon Ke Zero, Shehar Ma Hero".



Tiwari has shot the film in Chhattisgarh as well as Ramoji Studios in Goa, Kolkata and Hyderabad. The fight scene in Ramoji was very attractive on the lines of South, whose fight master was Judo Ramu of South films. He said that camera Phantom has been used for the first time in Chhattisgarh. In the film, the magic of Bollywood artists will be seen along with Bollywood actor

Bhagwan Tiwari. The lead actress of the film are Ishani Ghosh, Neha Shukla, Ishika Yadav, while the role of Manoj Rajput's father is played by Arjun Parmar who is also the assistant director of the film. Along with this, Bollywood artists including Dharmendra Chaubey, Pradeep Sharma, Sanjay Mahanand, Pushpendra Singh, Upasana Vaishnav,

Pappu Chandrakar, Sanjeev Mukherjee and Vicky Veera have acted in the film. Music has been given by Sunil Soni, screenplay and few songs have been written by Uttam Tiwari. There are 6 melodious songs in the film. The choreography is done by Vilas Raut. Exexecutive producer of the film is Vikram Rajput and the distributor is Tarun Soni.

It is a proud moment that foreign students are influenced by Ch'garhi culture: Agarwal



● **Students from South Korea met Education Minister**

Raipur, Feb 08:

A delegation of South Korean students paid a courtesy call on Education Minister Brijmohan Agarwal. During this meeting, meaningful discussions were held on issues like environment, human rights and public welfare. Agarwal said that it is a

proud moment for us that foreign students are influenced by Chhattisgarhi culture. He wished for a bright future for the students.

During the meeting with ASEZ South Korea students, Education Minister Agarwal said that environment related problems are one of the most important issues in today's time. We all have to make joint efforts to deal with problems like climate change, pollution and depletion of natural

resources. By emphasizing environmental awareness in educational institutions we can educate students about the importance of the environment. Programs like tree plantation campaign, cleanliness campaign should be organized in these institutions. We need to pay special attention to environment-friendly infrastructure such as use of solar energy, water conservation and waste management. It is noteworthy that ASEZ is a global organiza-

tion of university student volunteers which runs "Save the Earth" campaign across the world. Under this, public awareness programs are organized on various issues of environmental protection. This team is on tour to Chhattisgarh for the last two weeks. During this, this group of students praised Chhattisgarhi culture and food. The delegation included Mr. Charlie, Mr. Kevin, Mr. Luke, Eric from South Korea.

R'gaon residents have preserved tradition of Hockey competition: Verma

● **Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Memorial All India Hockey Competition 2024 concludes**

Rajnandgaon, Feb 08: Revenue and Disaster, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tankaram Verma on Wednesday attended the closing ceremony of the 80th Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Memorial All India Hockey Competition 2024 held at the International Hockey Stadium. Addressing the program, Sports Minister Tankaram Verma congratulated everyone for this historic event. He said that the people of Rajnandgaon have preserved the tradition of Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Memorial All India Hockey Competition for years. Due to the efforts of former Chief Minister and Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr. Raman Singh, the residents of the district have got the facility of this international hockey stadium. Rajnandgaon district is famous for hockey and tableau and the district has a distinct identity as the



nursery of hockey. Along with education, values are important. The International Hockey Stadium in Rajnandgaon will again come in a different new form. Here players will get flood lights, astro turf and other sports related facilities. Chhattisgarh government is a double engine government. The Central Government's "Khelo India Scheme" is being implemented in the state. Continuous work is being done to advance and enhance the sports talent of the state. Former MP Madhusudan Yadav said that due to the will power of the people of

Rajnandgaon, Mahant Raja Sarveshwar Das Memorial All India Hockey Competition is being organized every year. Along with equipping the International Hockey Stadium with Astro turf, other sports facilities were also provided. This event has been successfully organized in Rajnandgaon with the help of public cooperation, sports department, Rajgami Sampada Trust and government administration. Former MP Abhishek Singh said that there have been 80 years of achievements in Sanskaardhani and many

generations have witnessed this historic event. The people of Rajnandgaon have cherished this event wholeheartedly. Due to the efforts of former Chief Minister and Speaker of Chhattisgarh Assembly Dr. Raman Singh, International Hockey Stadium has been established in the district, but with time there is a need for change. Astro turf and other sports facilities will continue to be available to the district through Sports Minister Tankaram Verma. The echo of hockey and tableaux here will always remain.

ACI Raipur got great success in treatment of complex heart disease

Raipur, Feb 08: Dr. Smit Srivastava, Head of the Department of Cardiology at the Advanced Cardiac Institute (ACI) located at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Smriti Hospital, affiliated to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital, and the team treated a 70-year-old female patient through Transcatheter Mitral Valve Implant (TMVR) Valve in Valve procedure and saved her life. With this procedure ACI became the first and only institute in the entire state of Chhattisgarh to perform the Mitral Valve Replacement procedure without any incision on the patient's chest. According to Dr. Smit Srivastava, the mitral

● **Transcatheter mitral valve was implanted in the patient's chest without any incision**
● **Chief Minister Sai and Health Minister Jaiswal congratulated the team of doctors.**



valve was implanted through the patient's thigh vein in a process similar to placing stents in the heart veins in angioplasty. The patient has been fitted with a 26 mm mitral valve. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal have congratulated

ed the entire team of Advanced Cardiac Institute for this achievement. Advanced Cardiac Institute, affiliated to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital, the largest government hospital of Chhattisgarh, is establishing its new identity in the successful treatment of complex heart diseases.

The patient was suffering from severe mitral regurgitation (MR), a common heart disease that usually requires open heart surgery. The patient underwent the non-invasive procedure at the Department of Cardiology, Advanced Cardiac Institute on February 6 2024 and will

be safely discharged after just two days. Dr. Smit Srivastava, professor and head of the department of cardiology at ACI, said, "The elderly patient had undergone multiple operations for heart attack and valve disease 10 years ago, including coronary bypass surgery and mitral valve surgery, which she

had deteriorated over the past decade, leaving behind a severely leaky mitral valve and a very weak heart. Apart from the patient's advanced age and weak heart, she was also suffering from life-threatening severe asthma, which causes breathing difficulties, and a rare autoimmune blood disorder called immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP). This is an immune system disorder that causes increased bleeding by preventing the blood from clotting properly. Repeat open heart surgery was impossible in such a complex patient, so Dr. Smit Srivastava tried to minimize the risk by avoiding any incisions on the weak chest wall."

Over 10 cr women to be associated with developed India campaign: BJP

Raipur, Feb 08: BJP on Wednesday announced to connect with more than 10 crore women under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge of a developed India by contacting one crore self-help groups and NGOs under this campaign across the country. The target is to connect the estimated 8 lakh women belonging to 3.56 lakh groups of Chhattisgarh with this resolution. Convener of "Shakti Vandan" campaign Prabal Pratap Singh Judev, Co-convenor Kishore Mahanand and Mahila Morcha chief Shalini Rajput while talking to media persons here said that the campaign which is continuously helping people by getting involved in social work. Women

self-help groups and NGOs would be associated under the above campaign. Dialogue program of women self-help groups is to give information about Prime Minister Modi's scheme related to women. Under the Shakti Vandan program, programs will be organized in the entire state from February 08, in which women of women self-help groups across the state will be contacted and honored. BJP leaders said that under the Shakti Vandan program, there will be an assembly level Shakti Vandan felicitation ceremony on 10 and 11 February 2024, in which the sisters of voluntary organizations and self-help groups who have played an important role in social work will be honoured.

Youth Congress launches justice campaign

Highlighting injustice to selected Agneepath candidates

Raipur, Feb 08:

The Youth Congress has embarked on a spirited campaign titled "Jai Jawan: Anyek Ke Virudh Mein Nyay Ka Yudh" at Rajiv Bhawan, marking a resolute stance against the injustices faced by aspiring recruits in the armed forces.



State coordinator of the campaign, Abhishek Kasar, condemned the Central Government's Agneepath Scheme, asserting that it has cast a shadow over the futures of over 1.5 lakh deserving youth who were previously selected for army recruitment but have yet to

receive their joining letters. During his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi encountered numerous such disillusioned youth awaiting their chance to serve. Thus, he initiated the "Jai Jawan" movement on January 31 from Bihar's soil to combat the sys-

temic injustices perpetrated against the nation's youth and military by the Central Government. Between 2019 and 2022, approximately 1.5 lakh deserving candidates, including 7,000 Air Force recruits and 2,500 Nursing Assistants of the Medical

Corps, were left in limbo after their recruitments were annulled under the Agneepath scheme. This cancellation also affected around 97 Army recruits and resulted in the forfeiture of approximately Rs 100 crore in fees. The detrimental impact of the Agneepath scheme has left countless aspiring soldiers in despair, undermining their dedication and aspirations. Abhishek Kasar, the state campaign coordinator, emphasized the significance of the movement initiated by Rahul Gandhi in Bihar, reiterating its launch in Chhattisgarh through a press conference at the Rajiv Bhawan state office. The campaign aims to extend awareness efforts to the district, assembly, and block levels, including retired soldiers, to shed light on the detrimental effects of the Agneepath scheme on aspiring recruits.

Governor Harichandan met Lal Krishna Advani

● **Congratulated him on receiving Bharat Ratna Award**

Raipur, Feb 08: Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan met former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani in New Delhi on Wednesday and congratulated him on receiving the Bharat Ratna award. The Governor presented him a bouquet and the statue of Ramlala as memento. On this occasion, Governor Harichandan recalled that he had a close relationship with Advani and he used to get important advice from former



Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani. The Governor said that under the guidance of Lal

Krishna Advani, the state of Odisha prospered and moved forward on the path of progress.

CSPC held review meeting of health scheme

● **Expanded coverage benefits employees and pensioners**
● **Stakeholders praise initiative for employee welfare**



tion on October 1, 2023, the scheme has benefited a total of 1675 individuals, including 921 regular employees and 753 pensioners. Under this initiative, contracts have been established with major hospitals across the state, including Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Ambikapur, Korba, Raigarh, Jagdalpur, Dhamtari, and Janjgir, of-

fering services at CGHS rates. Furthermore, hospitals in metropolitan cities have been incorporated to extend the scheme's reach and benefits. The meeting witnessed the participation of various stakeholders, including officers, employees, and representatives from different organizations,

who lauded the power company's management for implementing such a commendable scheme. Additionally, they offered constructive suggestions for further enhancing its effectiveness. Among the distinguished attendees were Executive Director Finance Y.B. Jain, Additional General Manager Vinod Agarwal, Chief Medical Officer H.L. Panchari, and other senior officers. Vinod Agarwal highlighted the increasing uptake of the scheme among employees and the continuous expansion of registered hospitals, underscoring the company's commitment to employee well-being.

CJ Ramesh Sinha conducts virtual inspection

● **Of District Sessions Court Jagdalpur**

Raipur, Feb 07: Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court, Ramesh Sinha conducted a virtual inspection of District and Sessions Court Bastar, Jagdalpur on Wednesday. The Chief Justice directed for speedy disposal of the pending cases, especially the old pending cases. Such pending cases in which mediation can take place were also directed for speedy resolution through mediation. On this occasion, Judge N.K. Vyas was also present who is also the Portfolio Judge of District Jagdalpur. Chief Justice Sinha also inspected the first aid cen-



ter located in the court premises and inquired about the medicines available there. He directed the District Judge to make such arrangements that doctors are available in the first aid center for a few hours every day. He directed all the judges to ensure a healthy working environment and directed the District Judge to continuously inspect the court premises. The court building was first inspected by Chief

Justice Sinha. He instructed to keep these places organized along with cleanliness in the court premises, parking, canteen etc. He gave necessary guidelines to ensure availability of clean drinking water in the campus. The Chief Justice also took information about the ongoing repair works in the court premises and directed the concerned to complete these works soon. He also inspected the video conferencing room, advocate

room, mediation centre, information centre, District Legal Services Authority and Public Prosecution Office and expressed satisfaction over the basic structure of the building. Chief Justice Sinha also directed regarding leave of officers and employees that leave should be granted only keeping in view the need of the leave. Officers and employees should ensure timely presence in the office.

SECL gets new Director Technical (Project & Planning)

N Franklin Jayakumar takes charge as Director Technical (Project & Planning SECL)

Korba, Feb 08:

N. Franklin Jayakumar assumed office as Director Technical (Project & Planning) of SECL on Feb 7. On the occasion of assuming charge of Jayakumar, SECL CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra, Functional Directors, CVO, SECL Steering Committee members, Company Welfare Board members, various heads of departments, officers and employees congratulated and conveyed their best wishes to him.



Before coming to SECL, N. Franklin Jayakumar was working as Executive Director - Coal Coordination and Project Head, Talabira II & III OCP, at NLC India Limited. He has over 31 years of extensive experience in the coal industry working in the field of development, operation and

management of coal projects in various government and private companies located in India and abroad.

N. Franklin Jayakumar graduated in Mining Engineering from College of Engineering, Guindy, Anna University, Chennai in 1992. Along with this, he has also earned Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Engineering and Management from Central University, Hyderabad and MBA (Human Resource Management) degree from Alagappa University, Tamil Nadu. Along with this, he has also earned First Class Mine Managers Certificate of Competency from the Directorate General of Mine Safety.

Marar Patel Samaj celebrates Shakambhari Mahotsav



Former Minister Ajay Chandrakar advocates modern agriculture

Rajim, Feb 08:

The vibrant spirit of the Marar Patel Samaj shone brightly during the celebration of Shakambhari Mahotsav in the Magarlot Tehsil of Rajim Raj. Amidst rituals and fervour, the society came together to honour Ma Shakambhari, culminating in a grand procession through the village of Mohrenga.

Former minister and Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar, gracing the occasion as the chief guest, urged the Marar Patel community to blend tradition with modernity in their agri-

cultural pursuits. Recognizing their significant role as farmers, Chandrakar emphasized the importance of leveraging new technologies and modern methods to enhance agricultural productivity.

In attendance were dignitaries including Tehsil President Santosh Patel, State Convener Rajendra Nayak, and Executive President Tejram Patel, among others. They echoed Chandrakar's sentiments, highlighting the rich history and contributions of the Marar society to public service and education. The event showcased the society's unity and commitment to social welfare, exemplified through the organized distribution of free vegetables, fostering a sense of goodwill and harmony among people from all walks of life.

Commissioner takes meeting of Dean and Health Department officials

Bilaspur, Feb 08:

Divisional Commissioner Shikha Rajput Tiwari held a meeting of officials and reviewed the progress of the ongoing construction works and schemes to strengthen health services. Expressing dissatisfaction over the slow progress of the construction works, she directed the construction agency CGMSC to complete the work expeditiously.

The Commissioner has asked to make a roster and organize blood donation camps throughout the year to collect large quantities of blood donations. Deans of the three government medical colleges of the division, nodal officers of the blood bank, CGMSC and health department officials were present in the meeting.

Mrs. Rajput inquired about the active blood banks operating in the district and appealed to the people to come forward to donate blood to bridge the



gap between the demand and availability of blood for treatment. The Commissioner gave instructions to speed up the ongoing construction work in all three government medical colleges of the division including SIMS. She said that the priority of the ongoing work should be decided and the work which is of greater need should be completed first.

The Medical College of

Raigarh is located 7 kilometers away from the city; therefore, instructions were given to the district administration to consider the possibility of running city buses for the transportation of patients. She said that increasing health facilities and improving services is the priority of the state government and all the problems will be removed and excellent level services will be provided to the public.

Dearth of well-equipped hospital for children

BSP hospitals becomes referral centers

Dalli-Rajhara, Feb 08:

The largest town of Balod district, Dalli-Rajhara, has a group of iron ore mines and the population of this city is around 50 thousand. But till date the facility of government hospital has not been available for health facilities in this city, though a hospital has been established by BSP for its employees, but there is complete lack of facilities there too. It is being told that in today's situation the hospital run by BSP has become a mere referral centre and here due to lack of facilities, all the patients are referred to Bhilai Sector 9 Hospital.

The chimneys of Bhilai Steel Plant have been burning for many decades thanks to the Rajhara iron



mines and the raw iron is being dug from the mines here and sent to Bhilai Steel Plant. The local BSP management has continuously snatched away the basic facilities provided in the field of health education in Dalli-Rajhara area and now they have started providing the same basic facilities in Raoghat Narayanpur area, due to which there is anger

among the residents of Dalli-Rajhara area. Area residents say that when the BSP management had to excavate and transport iron ore from the Dalli-Rajhara area to the mine, it had provided health education and basic basic facilities within a radius of 15 kilometers.

After which now gradually all the facilities have been closed and dozens of

schools that were running were also closed. On the other hand, on behalf of Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhoomi Pujan has been done for the establishment of health center building in Khoraggaon to provide better health facilities in Raoghat mine area. Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Rawghat Iron Ore Mining Project of Bhilai

Steel Plant, drinking water system in mining affected villages and other villages of the district, and B.Sc Nursing course being conducted by Bhilai Steel Plant to the girls of Narayanpur-Abujhmad area.

Ramakrishna Mission Ashram has also been provided funds for construction of OPD building to provide health services in Kundla and Akabeda of Abujhmad area and at the same time, mobile medical services are being provided by BSP in Raoghat mine area through Ramakrishna Mission Ashram. Recently, on March 23, an MoU was signed between SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Narayanpur for operating a health center through Ramakrishna Mission Ashram to provide better health facilities in Khodgaon of Raoghat mine area.

Korea, Feb 08:

Authorities have issued a cautionary notice regarding the circulation of a fake website purportedly linked to the Mahtari Vandan Yojana on social media platforms. The public is urged to exercise vigilance and refrain from engaging with misleading news, phone calls, messages, or unauthorized websites associated with the scheme.

Beneficiaries are reminded to exclusively access the official government website, <https://www.mahtarivandan.cgstate.gov.in>, for accurate information and application processes related to the Mahtari Vandan Yojana. Cooperation from the public is crucial in curbing the spread of misinformation and rumors surrounding the initiative.

In the event of any issues or inquiries concern-



ing the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, individuals are encouraged to contact the Women and Child Development Department via the designated helpline numbers: 7898486071, 9753165672, 7000427275, 7694081575. Prompt assistance will be provided to address concerns and ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.

As enthusiasm grows among women to avail themselves of the scheme's benefits, applications have been pouring in since the

launch on February 5. A total of 2035 applications have been received through camps organized across various Gram Panchayats in the district. With the objective of fostering women empowerment, the Mahtari Vandan Yojana is set to commence state-wide implementation on March 1, 2024. Both online and offline registration facilities are available at designated Gram Panchayats and Anganwadi centers to facilitate widespread participation.

High Court order stay on effect and operation of order passed by Katghora Tehsildar

Korba, Feb 08:

On the petition filed in the land dispute case, the High Court has stayed the effect and operation of the order passed by Katghora Tehsildar.

Petitioner Jyoti Trivedi's advocate Suresh Kumar Sharma, Vice President District Advocates Association said that Jyoti Trivedi's father-in-law Ram Prakash Trivedi father Ram Gopal caste Brahmin resident of Katghora has sold Khasra No. 673 area no. 0032ha/0.08A land to the seller Siya Ram father Bechuram caste. The sale registration was duly done from Jaiswal resident of Katghora on 23 September 1982 at the sub-registrar office Katghora.

The said land was converted on 21 August 1982. Thereafter, the converted land was duly registered by Ram Prakash Trivedi, father-in-law of Jyoti Trivedi's husband Sunil Trivedi. While registering the said land in the year 1982, it was clearly mentioned that the land is situated on a pit. It is still adjacent to the house built on the land of Jyoti Trivedi (applicant). Due to the death of the buyer Ram Prakash Trivedi, it is being registered in the revenue records in the name of his son Sunil Trivedi. After the purchase, the said land is being occupied by Ram Prakash Trivedi and his

legal heirs. Jyoti Trivedi, on vacant land, got the water filled in the pit drained out and got the earthwork done on her land and got the house constructed, an application filed by Syed Ushman Ali President Old Jama Masjid Katghora before Tehsildar Korba under Section 250 (3) Chhattisgarh. B.R.S. Application form submitted. In the application form, the land of Jama Masjid Katghora was declared to be in the possession of Waqf Board. An attempt has been made to evict the applicant Jyoti Trivedi's family's land by claiming it as their own. Due to which the applicants Jyoti Trivedi and Sunil Trivedi got extremely upset and presented a petition in the High Court, in which the order passed by the High Court on 23 January 2024 by Tehsildar Katghora dated 19 December 23 and a three-day order to remove the tin shed imposed by the applicant has been given.

Keeping in view the facts, the High Court does not have the jurisdiction to consider the Revenue Court, hence the effect and operation of the order passed by the Katghora Tehsildar has been stayed. In the presented petition, Secretary of Revenue Department, District Collector Korba Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue), Katghora Tehsildar Katghora, Waqf Board and others have been made parties.

Nearly 43.83 lakh beneficiaries applied online

Raipur, Feb 08:

Renewal of all 77 lakh ration cards is currently in progress under public distribution system of Chhattisgarh. The work of Ration Card Renewal was commenced on January 25. As of February 07, 43 lakh 83 thousand 497 ration card holders across the state have submitted online applications for renewal. People are also submitting their applications for renewal of ration cards through the mobile app of Food and Civil Supplies Department. It is noteworthy that the process of ration card renewal was started from 25 January and it will go on till 15 February 2024. According to the information received from the department, out of the total 2 lakh 21 thousand 809 applications received across the state, 1 lakh 70 thousand 872 applications have been received from Balod district, which is highest in the state. Second highest number of online applications in the state have been received from Kanker district.

School girl commits suicide after accusing teacher of harassment

Ambikapur, Feb 08:

A 12-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at home in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district after accusing a woman teacher from her school of harassing her, police said on Thursday.

The accused teacher was arrested on Wednesday based on a suicide note found in the victim's room, City Superintendent of Police (Ambikapur) Smruthik Rajnala said.

The Class 6 student of a private school was found hanging from the ceiling in a room of her house in Darripara area under Manipur police station limits late Tuesday night,

he said. A suicide note was found in the room in which the girl accused the teacher of harassing her, he said.

"A forensic team collected evidence from the spot and the post-mortem was conducted. Statements of the girl's parents, students and teachers of the school were recorded. The suicide note was examined by a handwriting expert," he said.

Based on the investigation, the teacher was booked under Indian Penal Code section 305 (abatement of suicide of child), the official said adding that further investigation was underway.

In the suicide note written in English and dated February 6, the girl

About the incident

Based on the investigation, the teacher was booked under Indian Penal Code section 305 (abatement of suicide of child), the official said adding that further investigation was underway. In the suicide note written in English and dated February 6, the girl claimed the ID cards of her and her two friends were snatched by the teacher. "My friends told me that she is dangerous and she (will) take you to headmistress and also call your parents. I was scared and decided to kill myself," she wrote, while holding the teacher responsible for the extreme step. The girl also requested that her friends be saved from getting punished.

claimed the ID cards of her and her two friends were snatched by the teacher.

"My friends told me that she is dangerous and she (will) take you to headmistress and also call your parents. I was scared and decided to kill myself," she

wrote, while holding the teacher responsible for the extreme step.

The girl also requested that her friends be saved from getting punished.

The deceased's father, a government officer, told reporters that he was on a two-day visit to Raipur

and his daughter spoke to him over a video call at 6.30 pm (on Tuesday) but did not tell him anything.

"She wrote on the suicide note please don't give punishment to my friends," he said and alleged that teachers at the school tortured the students

He also claimed that when his daughter was in the nursery class, another teacher harassed and thrashed her after he spoke to her about not teaching properly.

"My daughter stopped telling me about the harassment as whenever parents visit school to speak to teachers over some issues, the next day teachers take revenge and torture students," he said.

Lot of enthusiasm among women to fill the forms

Jagdarpur, Feb 08:

Women have shown special eagerness to avail the benefits of the scheme under Mahtari Vandan Yojana in the district. A lot of enthusiasm is being seen among women in the special camps organized in urban and rural areas to fill the application forms under this scheme. Women have expressed their happiness towards this scheme and happiness is visible on their faces. This initiative of the government towards promoting women em-



powerment is unique. Enthusiasm and happiness are visible among the women during the entire process of getting complete information about

the scheme, giving documents and filling the forms. On talking about this, Asmati Kashyap, a resident of Lalbagh of Jagdarpur city, said in the

local Halbi dialect that all the women are very happy that an amount of Rs 1000 will come into our account every month. She will use the amount received under this scheme for vegetables and other needs. He thanked the Prime Minister and Chief Minister for this scheme. Vijay Ward resident Preeti Bakka said that Mahtari Vandan Yojana is very good for women. The amount received from this scheme will be used for household purposes and some amount will be saved. Describing this

scheme as a meaningful initiative towards the empowerment of women, Aadawal resident Swati Rao said that she will use the amount received under Mahtari Vandan Scheme to fulfill her small needs. Rukmini and Krishnadevi of Aadawal also expressed happiness and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai for the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

It is noteworthy that Mahtari Vandan Yojana has been started by the state government with the

aim of empowering women towards economic self-reliance, continuous improvement in their health and nutritional level and strengthening their role in family decisions.

Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 1000 per month will be provided to eligible women through DBT. The last date for receiving applications under the scheme is 20 February 2024 and the amount will be transferred to the bank accounts of eligible women beneficiaries on 8 March 2024.

Pakistan: Counting begins in general election marred by sporadic violence

Islamabad, Feb 08 (PTI):

Counting of votes began in Pakistan following conclusion of the polling on Thursday in an election marred by crackdown on jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan's party, sporadic violence and connectivity issues after the government suspended mobile and internet services to foil suspected terror attacks. The polling started at 8.00 AM and continued without any break till 5.00 PM. A countrywide public holiday was declared to enable more than 12 crore voters to cast their ballots. The time for voting ended but the people present inside the premises of the polling stations were allowed to cast their votes. The polling percentage is not yet known.

The results of individual polling stations have started to pour in from across the country after the mandatory one hour restriction elapsed. But it



People hold their national identification cards as they wait their turn to cast vote at outside a polling station during the country's parliamentary elections in Multan, Pakistan, Thursday, Feb. 8.

may take a couple of hours before the complete result of any constituency is available. In total 266 National Assembly seats were up for grabs out of 336, but polling was postponed on at least one seat after a candidate was killed in a gun attack in Bajaur. Another 60 seats are reserved for women and 10 for minorities, and

are allotted to the winning parties based on proportional representation. A party must win 133 seats out of 265 being contested to form the next government. Nawaz Sharif, the 74-year-old three-time former premier who is eyeing the premiership for a record fourth term, has expressed confidence that his Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) party would win elections.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said it has received 76 poll-related complaints, which were received throughout the day.

According to the ECP spokesperson Haroon Shinwari, most of the complaints were of a "normal nature" involving confrontations between political workers in different areas which were resolved on the spot.

Soon after the voting started, mobile services in Pakistan were suspended due to the "deteriorating security situation", a day after twin terror attacks killed at least 30 people in Balochistan province.

Despite the suspension of cellular and internet services, a large number of people across Pakistan exercised their right to vote to elect lawmakers for national and provincial assemblies - on 855 constituencies.

LANDSLIDE-HIT VILLAGE



Rescuers carry a body from the landslide-hit village of Masara in Maco, Davao de Oro province, southern Philippines on Thursday Feb. 8. A landslide in the southern Philippines left a number of villagers dead and several others missing, including miners waiting in buses for a ride home, officials said Wednesday.

Mobile services suspended in Pakistan due to security threats

Islamabad, Feb 08 (PTI):

Mobile services in Pakistan have been suspended due to the "deteriorating security situation", the caretaker government said on Thursday as the people were voting to elect a new administration, a day after twin terror attacks killed at least 30 people.

The interior ministry said it has decided to "temporarily suspend mobile services across the country" in light of the "deteriorating security situation".

In a statement, the ministry said, "Recent surge in terrorist activities resulting in precious lives have stirred the security environment in the country."

Therefore, it added, "need has arisen to take measures to safeguard against" security threats.

Meanwhile, voters across Pakistan on Thursday began voting in the general elections to elect a new government to rule the cash-strapped country.

The polling started at 8.00 AM and will continue without any break till 5.00 PM. A countrywide public holiday has been declared to enable a total of 128,585,760 registered voters to cast their votes.

Mobile services have been suspended across the country and the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) 8300 SMS service has also been affected, ARY News reported.

India does not trust US to lead; played smart by staying close with Russia: Nikki Haley

Washington, Feb 08 (PTI):

Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley said that India wants to be a partner with the US but considers it "weak" and is playing "smart" by staying close to Russia from where it gets a lot of their military equipment.

"I have dealt with India too. I have got to say, I have dealt with India too. I have talked with (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi. India wants to be a partner with us. They don't want to be a partner with Russia," Haley, 52, said.

Haley, the only Republican candidate in the race for the party's nomination against

Donald Trump, said that New Delhi has played smart in the current global situation and stayed close to Russia.

"The problem is, India doesn't trust us to win. They don't trust us to lead. They see right now that we're weak. India has always played it smart. They have played it smart, and they have stayed close with Russia because that's where they get a lot of their military equipment," Haley, a former US ambassador to the UN, said in response to a question. India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence. In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 bil-



lion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defence missile systems, notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). "When we start to lead again, when

we start to get the weakness out and stop putting our head in the sand, that's when our friends, India, Australia, New Zealand, all of them will - and Israel, Japan, South Korea - all of them want to do that. Japan gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," Haley, a former governor of South Carolina, said.

"India gave themselves a billion-dollar stimulus to become less dependent on China," she told Fox Business News, adding that the US needs to start building up its alliances. Haley also said China is not doing well economically and is preparing for a war with the US.

Ukraine needs more troops to fighting Russia

Kyiv, Feb 08 (AP):

Melodic Colombian Spanish fills a hospital treating soldiers wounded fighting Russian forces in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's ranks are depleted by two years of war. As it battles the Russian war machine, Ukraine is welcoming hardened fighters from one of the world's longest-running conflicts.

Professional soldiers from Colombia bolster the ranks of volunteers from around the world who have answered Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's call for foreign fighters to join his nation's war with Russia.

A 32-year-old from the city of Medelln was trying to save a colleague wound-

ed in three days of heavy fighting with Russian forces. Russian drones attacked the group and shrapnel from a grenade dropped by one pierced his jawbone. "I thought I was going to die," said the man, who goes by the call sign Checho. The fighters insisted on being identified by their military call signs because they feared for their safety and that of their families.

"We got up and decided to run away from the position to save our lives," Checho said. "There was nowhere to hide."

Colombia's military has been fighting drug-trafficking cartels and rebel groups for decades, making its soldiers some of the world's most experienced.

SPACEX FALCON 9 ROCKET



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on NASA's Plankton, Aerosol Cloud Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission lifts off from Space Launch Complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 8. The spacecraft is equipped with instruments to assess the health of the oceans by measuring the distribution of phytoplankton, tiny plants and algae.

Mexico overtakes China as the leading source of goods imported to US

Washington, Feb 08 (AP): For the first time in more than two decades, Mexico last year surpassed China as the leading source of goods imported to the United States. The shift reflects the growing tensions between Washington and Beijing as well as US efforts to import from countries that are friendlier and closer to home. Figures released Wednesday by the U.S. Commerce Department show that the value of goods imported to the United States from Mexico rose nearly 5% from 2022 to 2023, to more than 475 billion. At the same time, the value of Chinese imports tumbled 20% to 427 billion. The last time that Mexican goods imported to the United States exceeded the value of China's imports was in 2002. Economic relations between the United States and China have severely deteriorated in recent years as Beijing has fought aggressively on trade and made ominous military gestures in the Far East.

We deal with at least one death of an Indian a day across US: Community leader

New York, Feb 08 (PTI):

Amid concerns over a string of deaths among Indian students in the US, a prominent community leader has said his organisation is dealing with at least one such tragic case a day and underscored the need for creating awareness among immigrants from India to ensure their safety.

"Not to exaggerate, but we deal with at least one death a day across the country and mostly among young students or H-1B employees who have recently immigrated" to the US from India, Mohan Nannapaneni, founder of volunteer-based nonprofit

organisation TEAM Aid, told PTI in an interview on Wednesday. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

TEAM Aid is a one-of-its-kind organisation whose primary focus is to help members of the Indian community who are either travelling or living abroad and face dire situations such as accidents, suicides, homicides or sudden

death of loved ones. Nannapaneni said it is very tragic to see that lately many students from India are "getting into trouble" and unfortunately some have passed away.

"But it's not recent. If you look at the history, it's been happening for many years and I have been actively involved since 2001 in helping the community," he said.

He said there have been instances of Indian students tragically passing away due to car accidents and drowning. He raised concern that drug abuse is becoming rampant across the US and unfortunately, there have been cases of Indian students suc-

cumbing to drug abuse and overdose.

TEAM Aid has nearly 3,000 volunteers across the US as well as in about 25 countries and it works with Indian embassies and consulates and community organisations to provide help.

"We become their extended family and a bridge between the impacted individual and families in India," Nannapaneni said, adding that the organisation does "whatever is necessary" to help families and individuals cope with dire situations, including helping to send bodies back to India, performing local funerals or helping in hospitals.

Globe breaks heat record for 8th straight month

St Paul (US), Feb 08 (AP): For the eighth straight month in January, Earth was record hot, according to the European climate agency. That was obvious in the northern United States, where about 1,000 people were golfing last month in a snow-starved Minneapolis during what the state is calling "the Lost Winter of 2023-24." For the first time, the global temper-

ature pushed past the internationally agreed upon warming threshold for an entire 12-month period, with February 2023 to January 2024 running 2.74 degrees Fahrenheit (1.52 degrees Celsius) hotter than pre-industrial levels, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service of the European Space Agency.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (STORE & PURCHASE)
Third Floor, SLDC Building, CSPTCL, Daganija Raipur-492013
Website- www.cspe.co.in Phone No.- 0771-2574240/4106 /4239
No.02-16/ED/ TR-23/S&P/28/2239 Raipur, Date:- 07.02.2024

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited for the following materials:-

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Particulars	EMD (Rs.)	Due date opening of tender
1.	TR- 23/S&P/28 (RFx No.- 8100035945)	Procurement of ISI marked Aluminum Paint for Capital, Deposit & O&M works.	48,000/-	28/02/2024 (15.30 Hrs)

For all other details of NIT, please visit our website www.cspe.co.in.
(Er. R.C. Agrawal)
Executive Director (S&P) CSPTCL: Raipur

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MANIYARI WATER RESOURCES
DIVISION, MUNGELI, DISTT.-MUNGELI (C.G.)

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

NIT No.: 09/SAC/2023-24, Dated: 07.02.2024
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 28.02.2024 at 17:30 Hours
Name of work - RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK & C.C.LINING IN L.B.C. CANAL OF RAMBOD TANK SCHEME.

System Tender No. 152650, Probable Amount of Contract - Rs. 154.64 Lakhs
(As Per SOR Amended on 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 14.02.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MANIYARI W.R. DIVISION MUNGELI
DISTT MUNGELI (C.G.)
G-07652/6

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MAHANADI CIRCLE, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

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

(First Call)
System Tender No. 152604/NIT No.: 35/SAC/23-24
Dated : 07.02.2024

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 28.02.2024 at 17:30 Hours.
Name of work: Operation & Maintenance of Garden located at Mahadeoghat in Block Patan, District Durg.

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 130.02 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 01.08.2014)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 14.02.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

Executive Engineer
Water Management Division No. 1, Raipur
For, Superintending Engineer
Mahanadi Circle, Raipur (C.G.)
G-07632/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

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

(1st Call)
System Tender No. : 152566/NIT No. : 21/SAC/2023-24,
Gariaband, Dated : 07.02.2024

Online Tenders are Invited for The Following Works up to 28.02.2024 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-
Name of Work: CONSTRUCTION OF PIPARCHHEDI TANK SCHEME HEAD WORK BALANCE EARTH WORK IN BLOCK CHHURA DISTRICT GARIABAND

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 1030.14 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 14.02.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

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

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Gariaband
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)
G-07634/2



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Equitable Uniformity

A Call for Deliberation on the Uniform Civil Code

The recent strides towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India, particularly exemplified by the legislative actions in Uttarakhand, stir a nuanced debate about the intersection of tradition, modernity, and social justice. Such a monumental endeavour, as envisaged by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its manifesto, warrants meticulous scrutiny and deliberation. Undoubtedly, the pursuit of a UCC aligns with the noble aspirations enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution, echoing the principles of equality and justice. However, the path to achieving this goal demands a delicate balance between upholding individual rights and harmonizing diverse cultural practices. The legislation proposed in Uttarakhand signifies a commendable stride towards gender equality and the protection of women's rights. By outlawing archaic practices like polygamy and polyandry, the Bill seeks to dismantle entrenched systems of inequality. Furthermore, provisions facilitating remarriage after divorce signal a progressive stance towards destigmatizing marital dissolution, thereby empowering individuals to rebuild their lives. Nevertheless, amidst these commendable strides, certain provisions of the Bill raise legitimate concerns. The stringent regulation of live-in relationships, mandating intrusive disclosures to authorities, risks encroaching upon personal liberties and privacy. Such measures, while ostensibly aimed at safeguarding societal norms, could inadvertently empower authorities to intrude into private affairs, potentially leading to abuse and discrimination. As the momentum towards a nationwide UCC gathers pace, it is imperative to heed the voices of dissent and apprehension. The BJP, as the torchbearer of this initiative, shoulders the responsibility of ensuring that the implementation of the UCC transcends mere political expediency. It must engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders, including the opposition and civil society, to address legitimate concerns and ensure that the UCC reflects the pluralistic ethos of India. The complexity of India's socio-cultural landscape necessitates a nuanced approach towards the formulation of a UCC. While uniformity in civil laws holds the promise of fostering national integration and legal coherence, it must not come at the cost of erasing the rich tapestry of religious and cultural diversity that defines India. The pursuit of a Uniform Civil Code represents a laudable endeavour towards realizing the ideals of justice and equality enshrined in our Constitution. However, it is imperative that this journey towards uniformity is characterized by inclusivity, sensitivity, and genuine dialogue. Only through a collective and deliberative effort can we craft a UCC that truly reflects the aspirations of a diverse and pluralistic nation.

Democracy Defiled

Supreme Court's Verdict Sheds Light on Democracy

Yash Pal Ralhan

The events surrounding the Chandigarh mayor elections, the judiciary's intervention has shed light on critical issues plaguing the democratic process. The Supreme Court's scathing remarks, labeling the situation as a "murder of democracy," underscore the gravity of the situation. Such egregious actions by poll officers undermine the very essence of democracy, necessitating stringent corrective measures. The mayoral elections, which typically garner limited attention, have now become a national concern due to glaring irregularities and alleged malpractices. The postponement of elections and subsequent controversies surrounding the counting process have tainted the integrity of the electoral process. The court's directive to seal documents and conduct a thorough investigation reflects a commitment to upholding democratic principles. The collaboration between the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress injected a new dynamic into the electoral landscape, intensifying the competition. However, the abrupt halt of the initial election and subsequent irregularities have cast a shadow of doubt over the legitimacy of the outcome. The invalidated votes and accusations of tampering further erode public trust in the electoral process. In a democracy, transparency and fairness are non-negotiable principles. The disenfranchisement of voters and manipulation of election procedures constitute serious breaches of democratic norms. The demand for a fresh election, under the supervision of a new returning officer, is imperative to restore confidence in the electoral process and uphold the sanctity of democratic institutions. The judiciary's vigilance in safeguarding democratic principles sends a clear message that any attempt to subvert the electoral process will not be tolerated. The scheduled appearance of the presiding officer before the court signifies accountability and underscores the gravity of the situation. Democracy is not a mere formality but a fundamental pillar of our society that must be preserved at all costs. It is incumbent upon all stakeholders, including political parties, electoral authorities, and citizens, to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. The events unfolding in Chandigarh serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of democracy and the importance of vigilance in safeguarding its principles. Only through transparent and fair elections can we ensure the continued strength and resilience of our democratic institutions. As the nation prepares for upcoming elections, it is imperative that lessons are learned from the Chandigarh debacle. Any attempt to undermine the democratic process must be met with swift and decisive action. Ultimately, the integrity of our democracy rests on the foundation of free and fair elections, and it is our collective responsibility to uphold this sacred trust. The Chandigarh mayor elections serve as a wake-up call for the nation, highlighting the urgent need for electoral reforms and strengthened safeguards against malpractices. Upholding the principles of democracy requires unwavering commitment and vigilance from all quarters. Let us seize this opportunity to reaffirm our collective resolve to protect and preserve the sanctity of democracy.

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.

DMK PROTEST

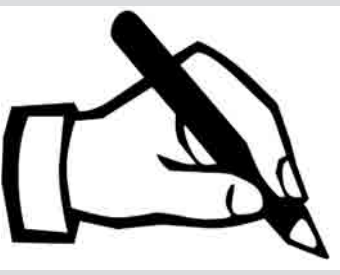


DMK MPs TR Baalu, Kanimozhi and others stage protest at the Gandhi statue against the BJP-led Centre over alleged neglect and partiality in allocation of funds to the states, at the Parliament House complex during the Budget session, in New Delhi, Thursday, Feb. 8.

Political Symbolism: Understanding India's Party Icons



DR. VASISHT.M.C.



India is a multi-party democracy, where different political parties compete for power at the national, state, and local levels. Political parties in India often use distinctive symbols to represent themselves and their ideologies. These symbols help voters identify and distinguish between different parties during elections. The Election Commission of India assigns these symbols to political parties based on certain criteria, such as their national or state recognition, their vote share, and their historical significance.

Election Symbol Introduction in India

Only 18% of Indians were literate at the time of the country's first national election. The majority of voters were unable to read the names of the candidates or parties they supported. Women made up nearly half of the 17.3 crore voters, and many of them had never been seen in public. Political parties and individuals with symbolic backgrounds were introduced as solutions to all of these issues. The electoral symbols assigned to the major political parties were remarkably similar to everyday people's life. The primary means of identifying a candidate who represented a political party was by the emblem assigned to them by the Indian Election Commission.

National Parties and Their Symbols

A national party is a political party recognized by the Election Commission of India as having a presence in at least four states and securing at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states in a general election to the Lok Sabha or the state legislative assemblies. Alternatively, a party can also be recognized as a national party if it wins at least two percent of the seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states. There are six national political parties in the country. They are - AAP, BSP, BJP, CONGRESS, CPI (M), and NPP (the first national political party from the region of the North-East India).

1: Indian National Congress (INC)

The INC is the main opposition party at the center and the oldest party in India. Its symbol is a hand which signifies strength, unity, and progress.

The evolution of election symbols of the Indian National Congress (INC) is quite interesting. Here is a brief summary of how the symbol changed over the years.

A. 1952-1969: The symbol was a pair of bullocks carrying a yoke. It represented the agrarian society and the hard work of the farmers.

B. 1971-1977: The symbol was a cow with a suckling calf. It was given to the Congress (R) faction led by Indira Gandhi after the party split in 1969. It symbolized the motherly care and protection of the nation.

C. 1978-present: The symbol is the right hand, with its palm-side facing front and its fingers pressed together. It was adopted by the Congress (I) faction led by Indira Gandhi after another split in 1977. It signifies the strength, unity, and progress of the party and the nation.

2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

The BJP is the ruling party at the center and the largest party in terms of membership and representation in the Lok Sabha. Its symbol is a lotus, which signifies purity, culture, and aspiration.

The election symbol of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the predecessor of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was an oil lamp. It represented the light of knowledge and wisdom. The BJS used this symbol from 1951 to 1977, when it merged with other political parties to form the Janata Party. The Janata Party chose a farmer and plough symbol to represent it. In 1980, when the Janata Party dissolved and the BJP was formed, the BJP adopted the lotus as its election symbol. The lotus symbolizes purity, beauty, and cultural heritage.

3: Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M)

The CPI-M is a left-wing party that fol-

lows the ideology of Marxism-Leninism and democratic centralism. Its symbol is a hammer and sickle inside a red star, which signifies the working class, the peasantry, and the revolutionary movement.

4: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

The BSP is a centrist party that follows the ideology of social justice and empowerment of the marginalized sections of society, especially the Dalits. It is mainly active in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Its symbol is an elephant, which signifies strength, dignity, and wisdom.

5: National People's Party (NPP)

The NPP is a centrist party that follows the ideology of regionalism, tribalism, and federalism. It is the ruling party in the state of Meghalaya. Its symbol is a book, which signifies knowledge, education, and development.

6: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)

The election symbol of the Aam Aadmi Party is a broom. The party chose this symbol to represent its promise of cleaning up the system from corruption. The broom also symbolizes dignity of labor and respect for the common man. The party launched its symbol on 3rd August 2013.

2. State Parties and Their Symbols

A state party is a political party recognized by the Election Commission of India as having a presence in one or more states and securing at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the state or states in a general election to the Lok Sabha or the state legislative assemblies. Alternatively, a party can also be recognized as a state party if it wins at least three percent of the seats in the state legislative assembly or at least one seat in the Lok Sabha from the state. There are 56 state parties in India. Some of the prominent state parties and their symbols are:

A. Samajwadi Party (SP): The symbol of SP is a bicycle, which signifies mobility, progress, and empowerment.

B. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): The symbol of SAD is a weighing scale, which signifies justice, balance, and equality.

C. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD): The symbol of RJD is a hurricane lamp, which signifies enlightenment, hope, and resistance.

D. Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC): The symbol of JKNC is a plough, which signifies agriculture, labor, and productivity.

F. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK): The symbol of DMK is a rising sun, which signifies growth, energy, and

aspiration.

G. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS): The symbol of TRS is a car, which signifies speed, development, and modernity.

H. Biju Janata Dal (BJD): The symbol of BJD is a conch shell, which signifies sound, communication, and spirituality.

3. Regional Parties and Their Symbols

A regional party is a political party not recognized by the Election Commission of India as either a national or a state party but has a significant presence and influence in one or more regions of the country. Regional parties often cater to the specific interests and demands of the local people, culture, and identity. They may also form alliances with national or state parties to gain more leverage and representation. There are 329 regional parties in India. Some of the notable regional parties and their symbols are:

A. Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP): The symbol of YSRCP is a ceiling fan, which signifies comfort, relief, and circulation.

B. Mizo National Front (MNF): The symbol of MNF is a star, which signifies brightness, guidance, and aspiration.

C. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM): Its symbol is a table lamp, which signifies illumination, education, and awareness.

D. Jannayak Janta Party (JJP): It is a coalition partner of BJP in the state of Haryana. Its symbol is a key, which signifies security, access, and opportunity.

E. Asom Gana Parishad (AGP): The AGP is a coalition partner of BJP in the state of Assam. Its symbol is an elephant, which signifies strength, dignity, and wisdom.

F. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS): It is mainly active in the state of Maharashtra and its symbol is a railway engine, which signifies transport, connectivity, and progress.

G. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM): It is mainly active in the states of Telangana, Maharashtra, and Bihar. Its symbol is a kite, which signifies freedom.

Our streets will be decked out with political party symbols throughout the election season. In summary, political parties, their leaders, and their symbols are at the center of Indian democracy. However, these symbols will only be prominent during election seasons. Following their breakup, some political groups engaged in protracted legal fights to obtain unique or specific insignia. The Indian political system is heavily reliant on elections and the symbols used by parties and politicians to contest for office.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Youthful Triumph

Indian colts showcase resilience, advancing to the under-19 cricket World Cup final. Favored to clinch victory, they await Australia or Pakistan in Sunday's showdown. This marks India's ninth final appearance, having secured the trophy five times previously. Despite early setbacks in the semi-final, Sachin Dhas and Uday Saharan's remarkable 171-run partnership secured victory. Dhas' aggressive batting and Saharan's steady hand propelled the team forward, displaying maturity beyond their years. The nation anticipates another triumphant chapter in Indian cricket history.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Might is Right

In a major setback to veteran politician Sharad Pawar, the Election Commission (EC) held that the faction led by his nephew, Ajit Pawar, was the real Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and was entitled to use the party name and symbol. It is a misfortune that Sharad Pawar had to counter the time as the Udhav Thakarey. Here, this quote holds good that 'Might is Right.' Sadly, the landlord has been kicked out by tenants.

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai

Bumrah's Triumph

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah ascends to the top rank in the latest ICC Men's Test Bowler rankings after his stellar performance in the second Test against England in Vizag, where he claimed figures of 9/91. This achievement marks a historic moment as Bumrah becomes the fastest Indian pacer to reach 150 Test wickets, accomplishing this feat in just 34 Test matches. His remarkable bowling also earned him the Player of the Match award.

Md Salman, Mumbai

Fight for Right

Karnataka Congress, under CM Siddaramaiah's leadership, stages a 'Chalo Delhi' protest at Jantar Mantar against the Centre's alleged fund disparity, non-release of drought-relief compensation, and denial of irrigation project permissions. This demonstration highlights the importance of a robust opposition in democracy, ensuring government accountability and public welfare. The protest aims to catalyze positive changes, emphasizing the crucial role of opposition in curbing authoritarian tendencies and safeguarding democratic principles.

Mohammad Taukir, Bettiah, Bihar

Cold Wave in Delhi

Delhi is in the grip of a cold wave and the India Meteorological Department has predicted dense fog, light rainfall and drop in temperature for next few days. Traveling in foggy winter morning is not safe from danger especially for primary class students, therefore, winter vacation in city schools has been extended till January 12 for primary class students in view of cold wave conditions, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said on Sunday. Other Schools where there is frizzy cold should also extend vacation schedule, else there will vast problematic disadvantages only for iota benefit.

Tauqueer Rahmani,

Follow Bhutan: Eliminate rabies

Sujit De

A mother placed her seven-month-old son on the ground to do her duty. Being a poor daily-wage worker, she could not afford to skip her work as there was no paid holiday for her to rear her infant child. No sooner had she placed the child on the ground than a pack of dogs came from nowhere, bit the child and dragged him away. People in the vicinity raised an alarm but by then the dogs had disfigured the baby while killing him on the spot. This incident happened in the Ayodhya Nagar area of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on January 10, this year. A video of the gory incident was widely circulated on social media.

All stray dogs must immediately be sterilised and kept in an enclosed area to

minimise colossal loss of human lives. India has around 20,000 rabies deaths a year which according to World Health Organisation, "accounts for 36 percent of the world's deaths." Most of the victims of rabies in India are under the age of 15 years.

Rabies is a serious brain infection that spreads from the bite or scratch of an infected animal, often a dog. The disease has been eliminated from many countries. It is a challenging job in a country like India where dogs are allowed to roam freely. Rabies is a fatal disease. But it can be prevented by vaccinating all dogs for a number of years and by sterilising stray dog population.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan has announced that their National Dog Population Management and Rabies

Control Project successfully sterilised and vaccinated entire stray dog population of Bhutan after pursuing a 14-year-long programme. Bhutan sets an example which India needs to follow.

The World Health Organisation has recommended oral rabies vaccines (ORV) which can be hidden in dog food in addition with injectable vaccines to increase vaccination especially among free roaming and poorly supervised dogs. According to experts, the combination of an injectable and oral vaccine approach would help reach the minimum 70 per cent vaccine threshold needed to minimise the risk of rabies being passed to people.

Apart from umpteen number of cases of stray dogs attacking people, sometimes a pet dog attacks a gig worker or a

passer-by or even its owner especially when it belongs to a dangerous breed.

No kudos is enough for Legal Attorneys & Barrister Law Firm for filing a petition before the Delhi High Court alleging "dangerous dog breeds" like American Bulldog, Rottweiler, Pitbull, Terrier, Neapolitan Mastiff that are banned in more than 12 countries including India are being registered to be kept as pets by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The petition highlighted many incidents in which such dog breeds attacked people including their owners.

On December 6, last year, the Delhi High Court delivered a judgement asking the Centre to immediately decide preferably within three months time about banning and cancelling the licence to keep dangerous dog breeds as pets.

Most of the victims of dog bites and rabies belong to the poor working class of our society who build our roads, bridges and houses for all of us and who serve everything at our door starting from morning newspapers to food packets. It is really perplexing that their deaths evoke little public sympathy and a lukewarm response from the authorities. I love dogs as much as I hate such insensitive attitude towards poor workers.

The government must undertake a programme to vaccinate and sterilise all stray dogs and keep them in an enclosed area. Already issued licence to keep dangerous dog breeds as pets must immediately be cancelled. Authorities should also ensure that no such licence is issued in future.

BRIEF

Jewar airport



New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday said the international airport at Jewar, Noida, will be ready for operations by the end of this year. Scindia also said in Lok Sabha that India is now the fifth-largest aviation market in the world with regard to both domestic and international passengers and by 2030, it will become the third-largest market in the world. "Uttar Pradesh had six airports. After the Modi government came to power, we have built four more airports in the state and soon, five more airports will be ready."

Quality goods



New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said high quality goods and services are important in all aspects of life and development of that culture will help promote the country's economic growth. He said the Indian consumers want good quality products and services. "Quality is important in all aspects of life," he said here at a function.

Appointment

New Delhi: State-owned CIL on Thursday said Mukesh Agrawal has taken over as its Director, Finance. Agrawal took charge from Debasish Nanda, Director, Business Development, who was holding the additional responsibility as Director, Finance, Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement. "Agrawal took over as Director, Finance... on and from 8 February 2024," CIL said. Prior to this, Agrawal was Executive Director at NLC India Ltd, it said.

RBI keeps interest rate unchanged at 6.5 pc for sixth consecutive time

Mumbai, Feb 08:

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday decided to keep policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row in view of global uncertainty and the need to bring down retail inflation to 4 per cent. Following RBI's decision to maintain status quo, banks and financial institutions will largely keep lending rates stable. RBI had last raised repo rate in February 2023 to 6.5 per cent after six consecutive rate hikes aggregating to 250 basis points since May 2022. Announcing the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said it has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation. MPC also decided to re-



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das with Deputy Governors Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Deabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao and T. Rabi Shankar arrives to deliver the Monetary Policy Statement, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai, Thursday, Feb. 8.

main focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns to the target while supporting growth, he said. These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-

term target for Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent while supporting growth. For 2024-25, RBI has projected a growth rate of 7 per cent and retail inflation at 4.5 per cent with risks evenly

balanced. The real GDP growth for the next financial year is projected at 7 per cent with Q1 growth at 7.2 per cent, Q2 at 6.8 per cent, Q3 at 7 per cent and Q4 at 6.9 per cent. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), the country

is expected to record a growth rate of 7.3 per cent in the current financial year ending March 2024. "Domestic economic activity is strengthening. As per the first advance estimates released by the NSO real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 7.3 per cent, year-on-year (y-o-y) in 2023-24, underpinned by strong investment activity," Das said. On the supply side, he said that Gross Value Added (GVA) expanded by 6.9 per cent in 2023-24, with manufacturing and services sectors as the key drivers. Talking about headwinds, he said, geopolitical tensions, volatility in international financial markets and geo-economic fragmentation pose risks to the growth outlook. Referring to retail inflation, Das said that CPI inflation is projected at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24 with Q4 inflation at 5 per cent.

'RBI to introduce offline e-rupee transactions soon'

Mumbai, Feb 08:



Shaktikanta Das

Digital rupee users will soon be able to execute transactions in areas with limited internet connectivity as the RBI on Thursday announced that offline capability will be introduced on the Central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot project. Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said that programmability-based additional use cases will be introduced as part of the pilot project. RBI launched a pilot of the retail CBDC in December 2022 and achieved the target of having 10 lakh transactions a day in December 2023.

It can be noted that other payment platforms, especially the very popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI), already offer offline possibilities. "It is proposed to introduce an offline functionality in CBDC-R (Retail) for enabling transactions in areas with poor or limited internet connectivity,"

Das said while announcing the bi-monthly monetary policy review. He said multiple offline solutions, which include both proximity and non-proximity based ones, will be tested across hilly areas, rural and urban locations for the purpose.

On the programmability front, he said that currently, the system enables Person to Person (P2P) and Person to Merchant (P2M) transactions using digital rupee wallets provided by pilot banks. "It is now proposed to enable additional use cases using programmability and offline functionality," he said.

Show sensitivity to exporters in view of Red Sea crisis: Finmin to PSU banks

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi has asked public sector banks and insurance companies to deal with sensitivity the cases of trade finance and insurance to exporters who are facing problems on account of the Red Sea crisis. "In view of the Red Sea crisis, we have asked public sector banks and insurance companies to take into consideration the problem because ships are taking a longer route resulting in demand for higher trade finance and increase in insurance cost," he told PTI in an interview. In such a situation, he said, banks should deal those cases with sensitivity and they should not adopt a straight-jacket



and deny them their services because of a long route taken by ships due to the Red Sea crisis. "The requirement of trade financing and insurance should be dealt by them with sensitivity," he added. He also said that a high-level inter-ministerial committee headed by the Commerce Secretary is also meeting to take stock of the situa-

tion in this regard on Thursday. The Red Sea strait is crucial for 30 per cent of global container traffic and 12 per cent of global trade. About 80 per cent of India's merchandise trade with Europe passes through this route. The situation around the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping route for traders connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, has escalated due to attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants since December 2023. Because of this, the shipping costs have jumped and the consignments are taking more time to reach Europe and the US as the ships are taking the Cape of Good Hope route, encircling Africa.

LIC becomes fifth most valuable firm as stocks soar

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) jumped more than 6 per cent on Thursday, with its market valuation climbing to Rs 6.99 lakh crore, making the firm the fifth most valued company. The stock climbed 5.86 per cent to settle at Rs 1,106.25 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 9.51 per cent to hit its record high of Rs 1,144.45. On the NSE, it jumped 6.46 per cent to Rs 1,112 a share. The company's market valuation went up by Rs 38,740.62 crore to Rs 6,99,702.87 crore. With this, the company became the fifth most valued firm by market capitalisation (mcap), beating ICICI Bank.

RBI sees inflation at 4.5 pc in FY'25, lower than 5.4 pc in current fiscal

Mumbai, Feb 08:

The RBI on Thursday projected a lower inflation of 4.5 per cent in the next financial year, than 5.4 per cent in 2023-24, provided there is normal monsoon. The central government has tasked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which sets the key benchmark rate, noted that domestic economic activity is holding up well and is expected to be backed by the momentum in investment demand, optimistic business sentiments and rising con-

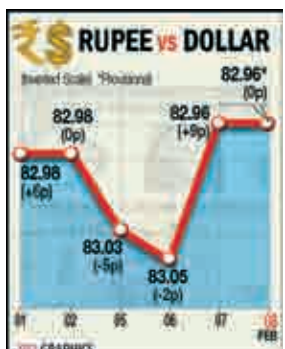
sumer confidence, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said. "On the inflation front, large and repetitive food price shocks are interrupting the pace of disinflation that is led by the moderation of core inflation. "Geopolitical events and their impact on supply chains, and volatility in international financial markets and commodity prices are key sources of upside risks to inflation. The cumulative effect of policy repo rate increases is still working its way through the economy," he said announcing the MPC decision. He further said the MPC will carefully monitor any signs of generalisation of food price pressures to non-food prices

which can fritter away the gains in the easing of core inflation. Going forward, Das said the inflation trajectory would be shaped by the evolving food inflation outlook. Rabi sowing has surpassed last year's level. The usual seasonal correction in vegetable prices is continuing, though unevenly. Yet considerable uncertainty prevails on the food price outlook from the possibility of adverse weather events. Effective supply side responses may keep food price pressures under check. "Assuming a normal monsoon next year, CPI inflation for 2024-25 is projected at 4.5 per cent with Q1 at 5.0 per cent; Q2 at 4.0 per cent; Q3 at 4.6 per cent; and Q4 at 4.7 per cent (Chart 2).

Rupee settles on a flat note at 82.96 after RBI monetary policy decision

Mumbai, Feb 08:

The rupee settled on a flat note at 82.96 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, after the Reserve Bank decided to keep the key policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row to maintain a tight vigil on inflation. Forex traders said a negative trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments. At the inter-bank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 82.94 against the dollar and moved in a narrow range and settled for the day at 82.96 against the American currency, as the central bank retained the



repo rate at 6.5 pc for the sixth consecutive time. During the day, the rupee touched an intraday high of 82.89 and a low of 83 against the US dollar. On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated 9 paise to close at 82.96 against the dollar.

Stock markets tumble 1 pc after RBI monetary policy decision; bank stocks drag

Mumbai, Feb 08:

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty tanked around 1 per cent on Thursday dragged by selling in banking and auto shares due to increased uncertainty about the timing of interest rate cuts after the RBI's monetary policy decision. Erasing all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 723.57 points or 1 per cent to settle at 71,428.43. The barometer slipped into red after the announcement of the RBI monetary policy and hit a low of 71,230.62 thereafter; reflecting a loss of 921.38



points or 1.27 per cent. The Nifty shed 212.55 points or 0.97 per cent to settle at 21,717.95. Rate sensitive banking and financial services, auto, realty and commodity shares remained under pressure while energy and IT shares advanced. The RBI

Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday decided to keep policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row in view of global uncertainty and the need to bring down retail inflation to 4 per cent. The RBI also maintained its 'withdrawal of accommodative stance'. Announcing the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said it has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.

Equity mutual fund inflow hits almost 2-yr high of Rs 21,780-cr in Jan

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Equity mutual funds experienced a net inflow of Rs 21,780 crore in January, making it the highest monthly infusion in nearly two years, propelled by investors' continued preference for small-cap funds. In comparison, an inflow of around Rs 17,000 crore was seen in the category in December, according to the data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Thursday.

The flow in January was the highest since March 2022, when equity-oriented

mutual funds witnessed an inflow of Rs 28,463 crore. Also, the latest flow marks the 35th consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds. Barring value fund, all categories experienced inflow in equity segments. The category was aided by fund collection to the tune of Rs 4,805 crore in thematic funds, followed by Rs 3,257 crore in small-cap funds and Rs 3,039 crore in multi-cap funds. The highlight of this month was the fund flows into the large-cap category at Rs 1,287 crore, which was at the highest-level in more than 13 months.

Bank of Maharashtra posts Highest Growth in Deposit Mobilisation among PSU Banks in Q3

Bank of Maharashtra leads PSU banks in Q3 deposit growth at 17.89%, followed by SBI at 12.84%.



ended December 2023. Bank of Maharashtra has reported a 17.89 growth in deposits followed by SBI at 12.84% during the quarter, according to published quarterly numbers of the public sector banks. However, SBI's total deposits were about 18.5 times higher at Rs 45,67,927 crore, as compared to Rs 2,45,734 crore of BoM in absolute terms. Central Bank of India was the third by clocking a

9.53% growth in deposits while Punjab National Bank recorded a 9.10% increase. In terms of low-cost CASA deposits, Bank of Maharashtra continued to top the chart with 50.19% followed by Central Bank of India with 48.98%. Higher level of Current Account and Savings Accounts helps banks to keep their cost of funds low. On the asset quality side, Bank of

Maharashtra and SBI reported the lowest gross Non-Performing Assets with 2.04% and 2.42% respectively as of Dec. 31, 2023.

In terms of Net NPAs, BoM and Indian Bank reported the lowest net NPA with 0.22% and 0.53% respectively. On Capital Adequacy Ratio, Bank of Maharashtra with 16.85% is the highest amongst PSBs followed by IOB at 16.80% and Punjab & Sind Bank at 16.13% at the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal. During nine months of FY24, all 12 PSBs cumulatively reported a net profit of Rs 98,355 crore as against a total profit of Rs 104,649 crore for the full year of FY23.

New Delhi, Feb 08:

Realtors on Thursday demanded that the RBI should consider reducing the repo rate in its next monetary policy review meeting to boost sales of residential properties, while welcoming stability in the interest rate regime. Real estate developers and consultants feel that the strong momentum in the housing market will continue with the RBI deciding to keep the key policy rate unchanged. The RBI decided to keep the policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row in view of global uncertainty and the need to bring down retail inflation to 4 per cent. RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in his statement said

the buoyant demand for residential housing, coupled with increased thrust on government capex, is expected to propel construction activity. Realtors' apex body CREDAI President Boman Irani said the high GDP growth indicates that the "Indian economy is stable with relatively healthy macro-economic indicators and can absorb any impact of a repo rate cut, if announced, in the next financial year." Industry body NAREDCO's National President G Hari Babu welcomed the decision to maintain the repo rate.

The unchanged repo rate will stimulate demand in the real estate sector, benefiting both residential and commercial

segments, he said. "Despite this stability, it's noteworthy that the current interest rate is at its highest level in the last four years. Therefore, we urge that this factor be taken into consideration in the upcoming review meeting. Such efforts will support the promotion of 'Affordable Housing' and the government's crucial initiative of 'Housing for All,'" Babu said.

Among builders, Gaurs Group CMD Manoj Gaur hailed the RBI's move and said the real estate sector will continue to show buoyancy as in the past quarters. Signature Global Chairman Pradeep Aggarwal said the repo rate should have been re-

duced but added that a stable interest rate would help in sustaining demand. Nayan Raheja of Raheja Developers said the repo rate remains at a 4-year high, and a rollback would have boosted the affordable housing segment.

Krisumi Corporation MD Mohit Jain said, "While from the real estate sector perspective, a downward revision in rates would have been the best outcome, but the RBI's decision to hold rates implies steady EMIs for borrowers." Avneesh Sood, Director at Eros Group, said this steady stance, upheld for the sixth consecutive time, is a boon for homebuyers, ensuring relatively affordable home loan interest rates.

One day export workshop galvanizes development efforts

Diverse stakeholders converge for export advancement

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Feb 08: With a steadfast commitment to fostering regional development and bolstering export initiatives, the Department of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, spearheaded an impactful export outreach workshop under the guidance of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Nagpur.

Held in the Collectorate room in Korba, the workshop attracted a distinguished lineup of attendees, including notable government officials and prominent figures from various sectors.

Among the esteemed participants were T.R. Kashyap, General Manager of the District Trade and Industry Centre, Korba; Ashwani Kumar Mishra, Deputy Manager of the Forest Division, Katghora; Akhilesh Mishra, repre-



senting Horticulture; G.R. Dewangan from the Postal Department; Manvendra Pratap Singh from Bank of Maharashtra; Tomesh Yadav from CIPET; and Sukrita Laria from ITI.

Additionally, the event saw the presence of Shrikant Budhiya, President of the Korba District Industries Association; S.K. Khare, General Secretary; M.D. Makhija, an esteemed industrialist; and Yogesh

Jain, representing the Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The workshop also welcomed trainees undergoing training at the Industrial Training Institute.

The workshop commenced with a warm welcome from General Manager T.R. Kashyap, who set the stage for the day's proceedings by providing an overview of the workshop's objectives. This was followed by informa-

tive presentations on export promotion delivered by DGFT officials Gaurav Sahare, Pradeep Gajbhaye, and Pranay Kumar. Attendees were enlightened on various facets of export facilitation, ranging from financial options and customs processes to the intricacies of MSME support, loans, e-commerce, and digital marketing strategies.

Detailed discussions ensued regarding the export

journey of district products and services, including potential challenges and avenues for resolution. Participants were assured of immediate online support from DGFT officials in addressing any export-related difficulties. The role of the Postal Department in facilitating exports was elaborated by Dewangan, while Manvendra Pratap Singh shed light on the Bank of Maharashtra's pivotal role and the mechanisms for ensuring financial security between buyers and sellers.

Throughout the workshop, attendees actively engaged with officials, seeking clarification on various export-related queries. DGFT officials provided expert guidance and encouraged attendees to reach out to local authorities or directly to the Nagpur office for assistance with export-related challenges.

MVY: A step towards women empowerment

Rural women eagerly embrace welfare scheme

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 08: In a significant stride towards women's empowerment, the Mahtari Vandan Yojana has been launched by the state government, marking a pivotal moment for women across Bilaspur region. With administrative preparations completed, the district is poised for the successful execution of the scheme. Various government departments are actively engaged in ensuring its effective implementation, with rural areas witnessing enthusiastic support from Panchayat representatives, Anganwadi workers, and Mitanins.

In Vananchal block Kota, an air of excitement surrounds Mahtari Vandan, the state government's welfare scheme for women. Women are flock-



ing in large numbers to avail themselves of its benefits, with public representatives at the Panchayat level disseminating crucial information about the scheme. Smita Pandey, Secretary of Village Amme, shared her approach in educating rural women about the necessary documents for the scheme, noting the overwhelming response from women in Amme who are eagerly submitting their forms.

Geeta Markam, an Anganwadi worker from Gram Panchayat Hirri, ex-

pressed her dedication to facilitating the scheme's implementation by assisting women in filling out the necessary forms. She emphasized the potential of the scheme to uplift women economically. Phoolkunwar, one of the beneficiaries applying for assistance under the scheme, expressed her gratitude towards the government for this thoughtful initiative, envisioning the funds to be used for food and health expenses, thereby alleviating financial burdens and fostering self-sufficiency.

Railway Safety Commissioner inspects new line



Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 08: The relentless pursuit of infrastructure development and operational efficiency in railway services continues with the extensive construction of new lines, double lines, third lines, and fourth lines across the division. A significant milestone in this endeavor is the ongoing in-

stallation of a 165.52 km electrified third line between Anuppur and Katni stations under the South East Central Railway Bilaspur Division.

Today marked a crucial phase as the newly completed 12.7 km electrified third line between Anuppur and Amalai stations underwent inspection by B.K. Mishra, Commissioner of Railway

Safety, SE Circle.

As part of the inspection, Commissioner B.K. Mishra, accompanied by an inspection team, arrived at Anuppur station via a special train. The inspection commenced with a thorough examination of the panel room, station premises, and yard infrastructure at Anuppur station, followed by a meticulous in-

spection of the motor trolley along the new line between Anuppur and Amalai stations.

During the inspection, Commissioner Mishra meticulously reviewed the interlocking systems, crossings, points, curves, bridges, overhead line equipment, signaling mechanisms, and all safety-related aspects. He engaged in discussions with officials, providing necessary guidance to ensure operational efficiency and safety.

Subsequently, a speed trial was conducted with an observation car from Amalai station to Anuppur station. Upon obtaining approval from the Railway Safety Commissioner, seamless train operations will commence on this newly inaugurated third line, facilitating enhanced mobility and operational efficiency.

NDRF empowers students & teachers with disaster training

Hands-on training prepares students for emergencies



Low-interest loans for craftsmen

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Feb 08: In an effort to enhance disaster preparedness among students and educators, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted an enlightening session at Swami

Atmanand School, Sonhat. Led by District Commander and Fire Officer Sanjay Gupta, the NDRF team imparted crucial knowledge on disaster management to approximately 200 students and teachers. During the comprehensive training session, participants were educated on various aspects of disaster preparedness, including

flood and earthquake safety, road safety, lightning safety, and snakebite management. This initiative falls under the School Safety Awareness Programme, aimed at equipping schools with essential skills to mitigate disaster risks. As part of an ongoing campaign, the NDRF Odisha team will continue to conduct demonstrations

on disaster management prevention in schools across the district until February 28. Practical exercises conducted by the district disaster management team allowed students to practice disaster prevention methods firsthand. They were also instructed on crafting makeshift rafts for flood rescue operations using household materials.

Investors demand rule change for Sahara deposits

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Feb 08: Investors associated with Sahara group in Pithora are pushing for regulatory reforms amid challenges in accessing their deposited funds. Despite the government's directive to return investors' money, individuals who deposited funds under various schemes find themselves unable to retrieve their investments. Criticisms abound as depositors, possessing valid bonds, face delays and hurdles in obtaining refunds.

Questions arise as to why the refund process, conducted entirely online, is not yielding results for these de-



positors, causing frustration and anxiety. Sahara group, having established multiple collection centers, offers deposit and withdrawal services through banks. However, depositors argue that instead of relying solely on them, the process should involve confirmation from appointed center staff to streamline refund procedures.

Highlighting the need for equitable treatment, investors advocate for a rule change akin to the return of Rs 2000 notes facilitated via postal services. With billions of rupees deposited by thousands of investors from the Pithora region alone, the urgency for resolution mounts. Correspondingly, city depositors have initiated correspondence with Central Minister Amit Shah, urging swift action to simplify refund protocols and expedite the return of their investments. Calls for regulatory adjustments echo, resonating with the broader sentiment for timely and transparent resolution.

Collector Malik flags off LED screen van

Mobile outreach of government schemes for rural empowerment

Mahasamund, Feb 08: A significant initiative was launched on Wednesday as an LED screen van set off to traverse the development blocks and villages of Mahasamund district, aiming to disseminate crucial information about Chhattisgarh government schemes directly to the people. Spearheaded by the Public Relations Department, this innovative approach seeks to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every corner of the region, ultimately empowering the grassroots.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by Collector Prabhat Malik, marked the official commence-

ment of the LED screen van's journey from the Collectorate premises. Featuring a large LED screen, the van is slated to tour approximately 120 gram panchayat markets across all blocks of Mahasamund district over the course of a month, engaging with communities and promoting government schemes effectively.

Operating on a fixed route chart, the van will visit four gram panchayats daily, identifying beneficiaries and providing assistance regarding various government initiatives. With a commit-



ment to public welfare and agricultural upliftment, the state government is dedicatedly implementing diverse schemes catering to

every section of society, including farmers.

The LED van serves as a beacon of widespread publicity for government welfare schemes, traversing through development blocks and villages, broadcasting informative films to enhance awareness. This outreach effort not only aims to inform citizens about available schemes but also supports candidates preparing for competitive exams by providing consolidated information about government programs.

Collector Prabhat Malik urges citizens to familiar-

ize themselves with the schemes and avail the benefits for which they are eligible. Through the mobile screen van, citizens will gain insights into pivotal schemes such as enhanced tendu leaf collection prices, increased remuneration for Tendupatta collectors, and the Ram Lalla Darshan Yojana, among others.

Accompanied by Public Relations Assistant Director Kirti Parashar, Poshan Sahu, and media representative Uttara Vidani, the launch of the LED screen van marks a significant stride towards inclusive development and informed citizenship in Mahasamund district.

Collector chairs meeting of District Road Safety Committee

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Feb 08: District Collector Anurag Pandey here held a review meeting of the District Road Safety Committee in the Collectorate meeting room in which he gave necessary guidelines to the officials of the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Collector gave instructions to install rambler steps at accident prone places and instructed to install blinkers at identified places in the district, to put radiom on the roadsides and trees along the roadsides at dangerous



and blind turns, and also to allow the bus drivers to pick up and drop passengers only at the four designated bus stop locations in the city. He also gave instructions, under the Skill Development Scheme, under which driver train-

ing will be given to untrained vehicle drivers in Bijapur district, which is a two-month course, after which the beneficiaries will be linked to employment and self-employment. Instructions were also

given to the departmental officer to make arrangements for parking in the city and a designated place for auto-taxi to stay and to spread publicity about the benefits of which drivers are not able to get the benefit of insur-

ance due to driving with complete documents and not having third party insurance.

In this review meeting, CEO District Panchayat Bijapur Hemant Ramesh Nandanwar, Joint Collector Pawan Kumar Premi, Traffic Nodal Officer Deputy Superintendent of Police Vineet Sahu, Transport Officer Kishan Lal Mohar, CMO Municipality Bijapur Pal Das of NH, PWD, PMJSY were present. All the members of the security committee including the executive engineer, district organizer of Red Cross were also present.

Run for Nature: Arpa Mahotsav marathon today

Exciting cash prizes await participants

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Feb 08: The upcoming Arpa Mahotsav, scheduled for February 10th, promises a vibrant celebration marking the fourth anniversary of GPM district. Hosted at the Multi-Purpose School Ground in Pendra by the district administration, the event will feature an array of attractions including departmental stalls, cultural performances, and delectable cuisine at the Anand Mela.

Honoring the district's pride and identity, the occasion commemorates the establishment of the district and pays homage to the Arpa River. As part of the festivities, a 21-kilometer awareness marathon is slated for February 9th, aimed at advocating for the conservation of rivers such as Arpa, Son, Tan, Tipan, Bamhani, Johila, Malaniya, and Ailan, along with the picturesque forests and hills indigenous to the region. Participants stand a chance to win cash prizes of Rs 5,000, Rs 3,000, and Rs 2,000 in this marathon.

Commencing from the Forest Divisional Officer's

Office at Madna Depot at 6 am, the marathon route will wind through various landmarks including Overbridge, Kurripara Bypass, Civil Court Square, and culminate at Semra Bypass. Registration for the 21km run is now open via the provided registration link <http://usfvci.ttu.cc>, or individuals can contact organizers at the mobile numbers 7024515104, 7898218777, 8349711524.

In addition to the 21km marathon, a 5-kilometer run is also scheduled during the Arpa Mahotsav, inviting participation from all without the need for prior registration.

Kohli's absence is a blow for India, blow for series: Nasser Hussain

Chennai, Feb 08 (PTI):

A player of the stature of Virat Kohli missing the upcoming Tests against England is a blow not just for the Indian team but also for the series and world cricket in general, feels former skipper Nasser Hussain. Hussain though supported the Indian maestro for prioritising his private life.

Kohli, who withdrew from the first two Tests against England due to personal reasons, is likely to miss the upcoming matches in Rajkot and Ranchi, and remains a doubtful starter for the Dharamsala game too. The five-match Test series is currently tied at 1-1.

"Yeah, well, nothing's confirmed at the moment. There's speculation, whether it's the next two Test matches, they're going to announce their side in the next few hours. Whether it's the next three Test matches, so nothing's confirmed, but it will be a blow. It'll be a blow for India. It'll be a blow for the series. It'll be a blow for



world cricket. It's going to be a special series. It already has been. The first two games have been fascinating," Hussain said on Sky Sports.

Lauding the Indian batter's achievements and contributions to cricket, the former England captain said players such as Kohli deserved to spend some time with family after serving the game with distinction for over 15 years. "The game needs to look after the likes of Virat Kohli as well. He has been playing international

cricket for more than 15 years now, and if he needs a break to be away with family, (to) get some time away from the game, we absolutely wish Virat Kohli all the best," Hussain said. "If it means we don't get the mouth-watering possibility of an Anderson versus Kohli contest that we have seen over the years, then so be it. But Kohli and his family and his private life has to come first."

Hussain also said that while Kohli is hard to replace, he expected KL

Rahul, who missed the second Test due to pain in his right quadriceps, to return to the playing XI.

"Virat Kohli is one of the greatest batters ever to play the game and any series, and any side will miss someone of his stature. It will be a blow for India, but as we have seen, they have got a very good lot of young batters. I think, just speculating, KL Rahul, who missed the second game after being brilliant over the last few months, could come back in for India," Hussain added.

FIH Pro League: Indian women aim to turn the tide against USA

Bhubaneswar, Feb 08 (PTI):

Arresting the free-fall after a hat-trick of defeats will be the top-most agenda of Indian women's hockey team as it gears up to face the United States in its fourth FIH Pro League 2023-24 clash here on Friday.

Having failed to qualify for the Paris Olympics, the Savita Punia-led women's team's performance had gone from bad to worse in recent times. India lost 1-2 to China, followed by another 1-3 defeat at the hands of The Netherlands. The hosts lost their third match on the trot against the formidable Australia, who blanked them 3-0.

Reflecting on the team's early setbacks, skipper Savita said: "Our initial matches have posed formidable challenges, but we're a resilient team. Each defeat has fuelled our determination to learn, adapt, and come back stronger."

"The upcoming clash against the USA is an opportunity to showcase our true potential and register our first win in the tournament." On the flip side, the USA had a challenging start to the tournament as well, suffering a comprehensive 0-7 defeat against the Netherlands.

Complete bowler Bumrah will be best pacer of T20 World Cup: Vernon Philander

Johannesburg, Feb 08 (PTI):

His ability to hold a line, bowl wicket-taking deliveries without leaking runs along with those lethal yorkers make Jasprit Bumrah the most complete bowler in international cricket, says former South African seamer Vernon Philander, who foresees the Indian outperforming all his contemporaries in this year's T20 World Cup in the Americas.

Bumrah on Wednesday became the first Indian pacer to be crowned number one in ICC Test rankings. This was after his magical performance in the second Test against England that yielded nine wickets on a sporting track at Visakhapatnam.

Philander, who has played 64 Tests for South Africa with 225 wickets against his name, said Bumrah doesn't seem to have any chinks in his armour. "Bumrah is the (most) complete bowler at the moment. He has got magnificent skills and he has also learnt the trade of



holding a line and length and that is the reason behind his success at the Test level," Philander told 'PTI Bhasha' in an interview on the sidelines of the SA T20 Tournament here. "Initially, he wanted to bowl wicket-taking deliveries all the time and leaked runs but now he has learnt consistency," he pointed out. The T20 World Cup will be held in June across the West Indies and the USA and inaugural champions India would be among the title favourites.

Philander said the team will rely heavily on Bumrah as he has become

the sort of bowler who can never be written off in the shortest format. "He swings the new ball, brings the stumps into the play and challenges the batters upfront. He is phenomenal with those change-ups and lethal yorkers and that is the skill set you want in the T20 World Cup," he explained. "I feel he is going to play a massive part in the tournament and perhaps also be the best seamer," said the veteran

Philander, who is the second fastest ever to reach 50 Test wickets by touching the milestone in just seven games, was also full of praise for Bumrah's pace colleague Mohammed Shami and said that he "uses his seam beautifully".

"...the way he has gone to dominate at the moment is really exciting to see. The plans he had adopted when he came to bowl in South Africa. It is a tough place to bowl and one has to change the mindset from bowling on the flat subcontinental pitches to bowling here," he said.

Ethihad to be official sponsor of Chennai Super Kings

Mumbai, Feb 08 (PTI):

Gulf carrier Etihad Airways on Thursday entered into an agreement with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to become its official sponsor.

The partnership will cover CSK's events and platforms, while its players' jerseys will display the Etihad logo, the carrier said. The collaboration with the five-time champion of the Indian Premier League (IPL), comes close on the heels of Etihad roping in Bollywood actor Katrina Kaif as its brand ambassador, it said. Etihad started flying into India 20 years ago and has been investing here from day one, be it in deploying the best planes here or customising local palette to customers across the 10 cities where we are operating, Etihad Airways Chief Revenue Officer Arik De said.

Performance in IPL will have greater significance because of T20 WC selection: Tom Moody

Chennai, Feb 08 (PTI):

Veteran coach Tom Moody on Thursday said the players' performance in highly-competitive leagues like IPL and ILT20 will have an added heft this time because of the impact it can have on the team selection ahead of the T20 World Cup.

This edition of the marquee ICC event is scheduled to be held jointly in the West Indies and the USA in June and most of the teams, including India, have already finished their T20 assignments.

"The IPL (set to be played between March-May), along with any other T20 tournament, like the ILT20, is important for any player to be performing because every home team is looking at the performances of all their players in these tournaments because of the high-quality cricket in these (leagues)," Moody



said during a virtual media interaction facilitated by the Desert Vipers team of the ILT20. Moody then described how these outings could help players to secure a berth in the World Cup-bound squads.

"If you are scoring runs, taking wickets and showing consistency, it only puts you in a good position

as an individual when it comes to those final tough decisions around the selection table.

"It allows you to continue with that sort of confidence, going into an important (T20) World Cup," Moody added.

Even India head coach Rahul Dravid had expressed a similar opinion recently. "We might not get many opportunities to play together, so we will have to work around that. We will obviously have the IPL, and you know, everyone will be watching closely to see how some of those guys play and what are the slots we need to fill in the team," Dravid had said after India's three-match home T20I series against Afghanistan last month.

However, Moody was not unmindful of the challenge a new destination like USA can offer to the teams, who otherwise might be familiar with conditions in the West Indies.

Prajwal Dev gets wild card entry for Bengaluru Open

Bengaluru, Feb 08 (PTI):

Prajwal Dev, who was recently named in India's Davis Cup squad as a reserve, was on Thursday handed a wild card entry into the singles main draw of the Bengaluru Open, an ATP Challenger event starting February 12.

The 27-year Dev had competed in Bengaluru Open last year also but had fallen in the first round.

However he is coming into the fresh season on the back of a decent show in 2023 in which he ended a runner-up at the ITF 15k event in Thailand and also reached the semi-finals in three other tournaments.

"I would like to thank KSLTA for the wonderful opportunity to play in the main draw. I am privileged to receive the wild card and



I am looking forward to the tournament. Hopefully, I can do well. I am coming off a good week in Chennai and hopefully I continue with that," said Prajwal, currently ranked 611 in ATP rankings.

"Expectation is there and I am hopeful I will live up to that," he said.

The KSLTA will soon announce more main draw wild cards for the tournament which will conclude on February 18.

"Prajwal has the potential to break into top-500 soon and we want to give him an opportunity to achieve the feat at the earliest. He is a very talented player, and support at right time is what a player needs. Our endeavour is to support local talent," said Sunil Yajaman, the Tournament Director.

Working hard on my skills and focussed on being consistent: Prasad Krishna

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Injured Indian fast bowler Prasad Krishna has been on the mend from his quadriceps injury sustained during India's tour of South Africa and the Bengaluru man said that his singular endeavour now is to improve his consistency and increase his skill-set moving forward.

Prasad was handed a debut during India's two-Test series in South Africa and looked completely out of sync in red ball cricket before being ruled out of the ongoing England series. He is undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy.

"I am working on my skills on being consistent and doing better for the side," Prasad told PTI on sidelines of a promotional event. Asked what are the areas he would be working on as he already is naturally quick and gets disconcerting bounce off the track, he replied: "Pace is one of those things I will be working on. With confidence and rhythm, all of those (pace) things increase. But then what we



breakthrough is immense and it only helps an individual to grow as a player. "Every time someone gets into the team you know he has gone through the grind, through the hard competition and all of that and you are getting the best of the crop. So I think it is great for all individual athletes to fight the competition there is and get a place in the team."

Secret to our team's good performance is team bonding: India U19 captain Saharan

Benoni, Feb 08 (PTI):

The camaraderie in the dressing room has played a significant role in Indian team's dominant run in the U19 World Cup, skipper Uday Sharan said on Thursday and vowed to bring the trophy back home. Defending champions India have not lost a single match in the tournament. They have logged big-margin victories and were not tested till they bumped into hosts South Africa in the semifinals in which they scored a narrow

two-wicket win. India have been a force to reckon with in the Under-19 World Cup, reaching the title clash seven times in last nine editions. "It is a dream for all of us to win this tournament. Everyone gets only one Under-19 World Cup and we want to repeat the history. We also want to register our names in history. We are focused on giving our best," Saharan told PTI-Bhasha in an interview.

"I would like to tell the countrymen to continue supporting us like this. We promise to give

everything to bring the Cup back." India's power-packed performance in the tournament was highlighted by three 200-plus run margin wins. "The secret to our team's good performance is team bonding. The atmosphere in the dressing room is very friendly. Everyone trusts each other and is ready to help each other. That is why the performance graph has been consistently good," said Saharan, who spent his early days in Sri Ganganagar before shifting to the border town of Fazilka in Punjab.

FCC Cup Season 2 cricket tourney from Feb 26

Raipur, Jan 08:

The grand action of the FCC Cup Season 2 cricket tournament sponsored by AT Jewellers Kotwali was held, in which the trophy unveiling took place, organized by Vivek Bhojwani and his FCC committee, modeled on the IPL. In the FCC Cup, 12 teams from the city and about 200 players are participating and will showcase their skills. This tournament will be played from February 26, creating a new identity in Raipur and providing a



golden opportunity for emerging players from

Chhattisgarh to move forward.

Heartbreak for Pak; it's Aus vs India final in Under 19 cricket

Benoni, Feb 08:

In a nail-biting match, Australia clinched a heart-stopping victory against Pakistan in the Under 19 World Cup Cricket, securing their spot in the final against India. The game witnessed intense moments as Pakistan set a target of 180 runs, only to be chased down by Australia with just one wicket remaining. Ali Raza of Pakistan showcased exceptional bowling skills, taking four crucial wickets, but it was Raf MacMillan's composed batting in the final overs that steered Australia to triumph. Highlighting the Australian team's stellar performance were Harry Dixon, who scored a pivotal 50 runs, and Oliver Peake, contributing 49 runs. With this thrilling win, Australia sets the stage for an epic showdown with India in the final, promising cricket enthusiasts a match filled with anticipation and excitement.

Mbappe scores again and PSG advances to French Cup quarterfinals

Paris, Feb 08 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe scored his 30th goal of the season as Paris Saint-Germain advanced to the French Cup quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Brest that extended its unbeaten run to 15 matches.

Amid persistent rumours he will leave PSG to join Real Madrid after his contract runs out at the end of June, Mbappe has been in tremendous form this season. Last weekend, the France captain scored his 20th league goal in just 19 matches.

According to data by Opta, Mbappe has been involved in 50 goals in 28 French Cup games 35 goals and 15 assists scoring 11 goals in his last four matches in the competition.

But while Mbappe continues to impress, PSG re-



mains fragile ahead of next week's match against Real Sociedad in the first leg of their Champions League round of 16 tie.

Brest dominated early proceedings at the Parcedes Princes on Wednesday and conceded against the run of the play. The visitors

had the upper hand until the 34th minute, hitting the post and forcing PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to an excel-

lent save before Bradley Locko gave the ball away to Ousmane Dembel on the left side of the box. Warren Zaere-Emerly then fed Mbappe, who broke the deadlock with a powerful right-footed shot at the far post from a tight angle.

Brest players had their heads down and were punished a second time three minutes later when Danilo Pereira slotted home from Dembel's assist. Brest was on the brink.

Mbappe missed the chance to make it 3-0 just after halftime on a swift counterattack when his clever chipped ball ended on the crossbar.

The visitors returned from the dressing room in better spirits and Steve Mouni's powerful header in the 65th minute that left Donnarumma powerless injected a dose of suspense into the match.

FARMER PROTESTS

Delhi-Noida borders witness traffic chaos, heavy police force deployed

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

Massive traffic jams were witnessed on the crawling traffic at the Delhi-Noida borders on Thursday as police put up barricades to check vehicles entering the national capital after a protest called by farmers in Noida and Greater Noida, officials said.

Motorists spent hours in the crawling traffic at the Delhi-Noida link road near Mayur Vihar, as police personnel with heavy equipment were on alert to deal with any eventuality in case protesting farmers reached there.

At the border, heavy duty bulldozers, backhoe machines, riot control vehicles and water cannons were parked strategically, the officials said.

According to the Delhi Traffic Police, heavy traffic was also witnessed at

DND, Chilla, and Ghazipur borders.

Several farmers' groups in Noida and Greater Noida, who have been on protest since December 2023 demanding hiked compensation and developed plots against their acquired land, on Thursday gave a call to march towards Parliament to press for their demands. However, they were stopped near Mahamaya Flyover in Noida.

A senior Delhi Police officer said that if needed, the link road near Mayur Vihar will be blocked completely.

"As of now, the Uttar Pradesh Police is dealing with them (farmers) and hopefully they will not enter Delhi," he said.

At Sarita Vihar in south Delhi, several vehicles going towards Noida through Kalindi Kunj

were stuck in the jam, the officials said.

"I am going to Agra and cannot change route now because this is the only way which will take me to the Yamuna Expressway. The traffic is crawling," said Raj Sharma, a commuter.

Heavy traffic jams were also reported on the Delhi-Noida-Direct (DND) Flyway and the Delhi-Meerut expressway, the officials said.

The commuters took to X mentioning about the traffic situation near the bordering areas. They wrote that the traffic was heavy on the DND Flyway and Delhi-Meerut expressway. The Delhi Traffic Police said that the traffic was affected from Kalindi Kunj towards Noida.

"Traffic is affected in the carriageway from Kalindi Kunj towards Noida due to

demonstration near Mahamaya Flyover in Noida. Kindly plan your journey accordingly," police wrote on X.

Meanwhile, security has been stepped up in the national capital, especially on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, in view of the protests by farmers, officials added.

Around 150 farmers have been stopped near the Mahamaya flyover in Noida by the Uttar Pradesh Police, officials said.

Alternative traffic arrangements have been made and commuters were advised to avoid certain roads. "Heavy security arrangements have been made in different border entry points in the national capital. No one will be allowed to breach law and order," a senior police officer said.

VAYU SHAKTI 2024 PREPARATIONS



Pokhran: Indian Air Force personnel during preparations for the upcoming 'Vayu Shakti 2024' exercise.

BoomBox brings together two distinct genres of music world



Mumbai, Jan 08: Celebrating the spirit of 'Living it Large', Seagram's Royal Stag presents the second edition of Royal Stag BoomBox, a one-of-its-kind musical festival where the best-loved melodies of Bollywood meet the pulsating beats of hip-hop. In an exclusive preview in Mumbai on 7th February 2024, the brand unveiled what's in store at the second edition of Royal Stag BoomBox. For many years, music has been a key consumer engagement pillar for the brand. Royal Stag BoomBox

audaciously brings together two distinct genres of the music industry, the melody of Bollywood and the gully vibe of Hip-Hop, to create the original sound of today's generation, the Generation Large. This is a tribe that tends to make rather than follow trends; a tribe that is in constant search of soul-touching experiences. Royal Stag BoomBox intends to stir the imagination of this generation, blending music they have inherited, Bollywood scores, with the genre that speaks to them, Hip Hop.

'About 3.4 crore older Indians living with mild cognitive impairment, affecting daily lives'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI):

In India, an estimated 3.4 crore older adults, aged 60 years and above, are living with mild cognitive impairment, affecting their daily lives and activities in some manner; new research has found. It estimated that 2.4 crore and almost 1 crore older adults are living with mild and major neurocognitive disorders, respectively, impairing faculties like memory, attention, executive function and language, and signifying potential dementia.

Using survey data from nationally representative sample of adults in India, researchers found a higher prevalence of these disorders in the older ones (over 80 years old) and in

those with lower levels of education. Prevalence in women and men was found to be comparable and almost equal.

The team also found the prevalence to be higher in rural-living older adults than urban ones, and more in the illiterate than the literate. About 13.4 crore adults in India are estimated to be aged 60 years and above, and are projected to constitute 20 per cent of the population by 2050, they said. For the study, the international team of researchers, led by Johns Hopkins University, US, and including those at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru, Karnataka, recruited almost 4,100 participants residing in 18 geographically and linguistically

diverse states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, among others. The majority of the group was aged 60-79 years. This study is called the LASI-DAD, Harmonized Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia for the Longitudinal Aging Study in India, and the participants were recruited from the main LASI. They collectively represented 91 per cent of the population, the researchers said in their study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

"We are aware of no previous Indian population-representative estimates of mild cognitive impairment, a group which will

be increasingly important in coming years to identify for potential therapeutic treatment," the authors wrote.

For their analysis, the researchers relied on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a widely recognised clinical diagnostic authority. It recognises that dementia typically involves cognitive decline severe enough to interfere with one's daily functioning, they explained.

The DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for neurocognitive disorder entails documentation of cognitive decline and assessing how independent an individual performs their everyday activities.

Practice of 40 % kickbacks continues under Cong govt: K'taka contractors

Bengaluru, Feb 08 (PTI):

Karnataka State Contractors' Association president D Kempanna on Thursday alleged that the practice of 40 per cent kickbacks on government contracts continues even under the Congress regime. Accusing officials in the state government of rampant corruption, he said, earlier (during the previous BJP regime) public representatives were demanding bribes, now it's their turn.

"Corruption is on in Karnataka by the officials. Till now no MLA, MP or Minister has asked us for money. Earlier MLAs used to ask for a specified amount to give us a contract for work, that is not the situation

now. Now the officials come and ask -- give money, if you want work," Kempanna said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "When we ask as to whom the money should be given, they (officials) say -- why do you want it (to know)? If you want the work, give money."

The Association had under the leadership of Kempanna earlier alleged "harassment" by ministers, elected representatives and others during the previous BJP regime, accusing them of demanding 40 per cent commission for awarding contracts and clearing bills, and had even written a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard.

PROTEST MARCH



Farmers during a protest march to the national capital, in Noida, Thursday.

Vedanta Aluminium build awareness on cancer prevention

New Delhi, Jan 08: On World Cancer Day, Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest aluminium producer, reaffirmed its commitment to providing the best healthcare facilities and support to cancer patients, particularly those hailing from rural areas. On the occasion, Vedanta Group's Raipur-based state-of-the-art cancer facility and one of India's leading cancer care hospitals, BALCO Medical Centre (BMC), organised a series of cancer awareness activities in Chhattisgarh, focused on promoting prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease. BMC's efforts were aligned with the theme 'Closing the Care Gap' by bringing cancer care to people's doorsteps through a mammography van equipped with screenings for breast, cervix, and head & neck cancers - the 3 most common cancers in India as well as opening a chemotherapy daycare centre in the heart of Raipur so patients don't have to travel far for chemotherapy.

"Few weeks back, I met Gupta ji and we had a small talk on how AI is affecting our lives and he informed me that their different centres of excellence are creating different platforms and applications which are not only changing the businesses

Maha signs MoU with Google for harnessing AI

Pune, Feb 08 (PTI):

The Maharashtra government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with search engine giant Google to utilize Artificial Intelligence for solutions in sectors like agriculture, healthcare and education. The MoU was signed at the company's office here in the presence of deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, Sanjay Gupta, country head and vice president, Google India; and state chief secretary Nitin Kareer.

"Today we are talking about sustainability in every sphere of life but the sustainability issues are much more vital in agriculture. Half our worries in government are about agriculture sustain-

ability. With climate change issues, we have unseasonal rains, we have droughts in same year. It has become a localised phenomena that we need more predictability and sustainability in the field of agriculture," Fadnavis said.

Technology should be used to "positively affect" governance and power its delivery systems as this can change the people's lives, the deputy CM added.

Google and the state government will work together on seven areas, he said, adding that one of them is "agricultural sustainability."

"With the platforms and applications that Google is going to create, sustainability and predictability can be brought in agriculture and agricultural distress can be reduced, he added.

"In the field of start-ups, the collaboration will bring Pune on the global map. With the start-up ecosystem increasing, a lot of technology start-ups are coming up. A lot of start-ups are working in the field of agriculture and they are changing the lives of farmers," Fadnavis said.

'World breached 1.5-degree limit for entire year for first time'

New Delhi, Feb 08 (PTI): The global mean temperature breached the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold for an entire year for the first time, the European climate agency said on Thursday.

However, this does not imply a permanent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement, as it refers to long-term warming over many years.

Scientists at the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) also said that the world experienced the warmest January on record. In fact, every month since June

last year has been the warmest such month on record.

They attribute the exceptional warming to the combined effects of El Niño - a period of abnormal warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean - and human-caused climate change.

C3S said the global mean temperature for the past 12 months (February 2023-January 2024) was the highest on record and 1.52 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average. The global average temperature in January was 1.66 degrees Celsius above the January average for 1850-1900, the designated pre-industrial reference period. With an average temperature of 13.14 degrees Celsius,

January 2024 was 0.12 degrees Celsius warmer than the previous warmest January in 2020, the EU's climate agency said.

Samantha Burgess, Deputy Director of C3S, said that "2024 starts with another record-breaking month - not only is it the warmest January on record but we have also just experienced a 12-month period of more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial reference period."

"Rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are the only way to stop global temperatures from increasing," she said.

The year 2023 was the warmest on record, with the average global temperature rise compared to

pre-industrial levels nearing the 1.5-degree Celsius threshold. The World Meteorological Organisation in December said 2024 could be worse as "El Niño typically has the greatest impact on global temperature after it peaks."

In 2015, countries agreed in Paris to limit the average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900), to avoid worsening climate impacts.

Long-term data shows earth's global surface temperature has risen by around 1.15 degrees Celsius as compared to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900).