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'Five yrs of 17th LS was of reform, perform'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the five years of the 17th Lok Sabha was a period of reform, perform and transform with the country moving towards "big changes" at a fast pace.

In his address in the Lok Sabha on the last day of the Budget session, Modi said that during the last five years, game-changing reforms were made in which a strong foundation of a 21st century India can be seen.

"The country has moved towards big changes at a fast pace and all members of the House made an important contribution. Such works were completed for which people had waited for centuries," the prime minister said in the final session before the Lok



PM Modi speaks in the LS during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Sabha polls. For generations, people had dreamt of one Constitution but this House made that possible by removing Article 370, he said and noted that several important decisions were taken during the 17th Lok Sabha. "Several challenges were met and the country was given an appropriate direction," Modi said.

"These five years have been of reform, perform

and transform. It is rare that we reform, perform and also see transformation. The country will keep blessing the 17th Lok Sabha," he said.

The prime minister thanked MPs and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. "You (Birla) always had a smile on your face no matter what happens. You led this House in an impartial manner and I laud you for it. There were times of anger and accusations but you handled these situations with patience and ran the house wisely," Modi said, hailing Birla.

Referring to the Covid pandemic, Modi said that during the last five years, the "biggest crisis of the century" was seen, and Birla made arrangements so that parliamentary work is not hampered while ensuring the dignity of the House.

'CAA will be implemented before LS polls'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The rules for implementing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will be issued before the coming Lok Sabha polls and the process to grant Indian nationality to the beneficiaries will start soon after, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Saturday.

Under the CAA, the Modi government wants to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants - Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians - from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who had come to India till December 31, 2014.

"The CAA is a law of the country and its notification will definitely be issued. It will be issued before the polls. The CAA will be implemented before the elections. No one should have any confusion about it," Shah said at a media meet. He said granting Indian citizenship to persecuted mi-



Amit Shah

norities of the neighbouring countries was a promise of the Congress leadership too.

"When the Partition happened - Hindus, Buddhists, Christians - all wanted to come to India after facing religious persecution there. They (Congress leaders) had promised to give citizenship to these people saying all of you are welcome. But the (Congress) leaders went back on their word," Shah said. The home minister said he wanted to make it clear that the CAA is not a law to snatch anyone's citizenship. "Our Muslim brothers are being instigated on the issue of CAA.

BJP got nearly Rs 1300 cr through electoral bonds

In 2022-23 Over 7 times what Cong received

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

The ruling BJP received nearly Rs 1300 crore through electoral bonds in the 2022-23, which was seven times more than what the Congress got in the same period through the same route. The BJP's total contributions stood at Rs 2120 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, of which 61 per cent came from electoral bonds, according to the party's annual audited report submitted to the Election Commission. In FY 2021-22, the party's total contributions were to the tune of Rs 1775 crore. The party's total income in 2022-23 stood at Rs 2360.8 crore, up from Rs 1917 crore in FY 2021-22. The Congress, on the other hand, earned Rs 171 crore from electoral bonds which was down from Rs 236 crore in FY 2021-22. The BJP and the Congress are recognised national parties.

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Jamaat terror funding: NIA raids 15 places in J-K

Srinagar, Feb 10 (PTI):

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted raids at 15 locations across Jammu and Kashmir as part of its crackdown on the proscribed Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in a terror funding case, an official said.

The raids in the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu along with Budgam in central and Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir

led to the seizure of incriminating documents and digital devices connected with the activities of JeI and its related Trusts and more than Rs 20 lakh, a spokesperson of the federal agency said. However, official sources said two persons were also detained in Jammu for questioning during the raids targeting a private school and its functionaries including chairman at Gujjar Nagar and Shaheedi chowk in Jammu.

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17268 candidates to appear in SSE at 42 centres today

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 10: State Service Preliminary Examination has been organized by Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission on February 11, 2024. The exam will be held in two shifts from 10 am to 12 noon and 3 pm to 5 pm. For the smooth conduct of the examination in the district, nodal officers and fifteen district administrative officers have been appointed as administrative officers.

42 examination centers have been created for the examination in which 17268 candidates will participate. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary reviewed the preparations during a meeting of the administrative officers



and examination center in-charges.

She asked to conduct the examination peacefully and without any hindrance in the district. She took information from the center in-charge about the facilities avail-

able in their centres and asked to ensure proper adherence to the guidelines of Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission.

Similarly, instructions were given to all the administrative officers ap-

pointed by the district administration to visit the concerned centers and observe the arrangements etc. She said that the officers should ensure that a banner displaying the examination center number, name and code number is put on the main gate of the examination center on the exam date.

There should be adequate arrangements for drinking water etc along with lighting and fan arrangements in the rooms of the examination centre. On the examination day, question papers should be collected from the district treasury and made available to the examination center by 9 am.

The question paper should be sealed and should be opened at the

prescribed time in all the centers and the center in-charge should complete the necessary process and make it available to the candidates by 9.30 am.

After the completion of the examination, the administrative officer will collect the sealed parcel related to the examination from the center heads and hand it over to the nodal officer for depositing it in the District Treasury, Durg.

Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla assured the center heads of providing police force along with all possible support for the smooth conduct of the examination. He asked to contact the Police Control Room Durg mobile number 94791-92099 and 112 if needed.

Examination centres in Durg and Bhilai

Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission has created 42 examination centers in Durg-Bhilai city for the State Service Preliminary Examination 2024. Examination center number 0501 will be at Government Vishwanath Yadav Tamaskar Post Graduate Autonomous College Durg, 0502 - Swami Atmanand Government English Medium School Deepak Nagar Durg, 0503 - BIT Durg, 0504 - Uday Prasad Uday Government Polytechnic Durg, 0505 - Khalsa Public Higher Secondary School Durg, 0506 - Vidyaapeeth Shri Lakshminarayan Maharaj, Killa Mandir, Malviya Nagar Durg, 0507 - Sun Shine Higher Secondary School Durg, 0508 - Government Dr VV Patankar Girls Post Graduate College Near Kendriya Vidyalaya Jail Road Durg, 0509 - JRD Government Vidyalaya Durg, 0510 - Government Model High School Durg, 0511 - Seth RCS Arts and Commerce College, Kelabari Fort near Ravi Shankar Stadium, 0512 - Seth Ratanchand Surana Law College Durg, Gaurav Path, in front of Ravi Shankar Stadium, 0513 - Seth Badrial Khandelwal Education College, Gaurav Path Durg in front of Ravi Shankar Stadium, 0514 - Vishwadeep Senior Secondary School Padmanabhpur Durg, 0515 - Government School Takiyapara Durg, 0516 - Marwari School, Shikshak Nagar Durg, 0517 - Shri Mahavir Jain School, Shikshak Nagar Durg, 0518 - Government Tilak Kanya School, Shikshak Nagar Durg, 0519 - Maharishi Dayanand Arya School Mathpara Durg, 0520 - Maharishi Dayanand Arya School Gavanagar Durg, 0521 - DAV Model Higher Secondary School Arya Nagar Durg, 0522 - Ghanshyam Singh Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya Arya Nagar Durg, 0523 - Tularam Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Durg, 0524 - Faculty of Engineering and Technology Bharti University Durg, 0525 - Bharti College of Agriculture Pulgaon Chowk Durg, 0526 - Chhatrapati Shivaji Institute of Technology Shivaji Nagar Kolihapuri, Balod Road Durg, 0527 - Swami Shri Swaroopanand Saraswati College Amda Nagar HudcoBhilai, 0528 - Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya Hospital Sector Bhilai Nagar, 0529 - Amda Nagar Vidya Niketan Hudco Bhilai, 0530 - DAV Public School Amda Nagar Hudco Bhilai, 0531 - Maa Sharda Public School Street 4 Sector 09 Bhilai, 0532 - Government High School Hospital Sector 09 Bhilai, 0533 - BSP Senior Secondary School Sec 10 Bhilai, 0534 - Shri Shankara Vidyalaya Sector 10 Bhilai, 0535 - BSP Senior Secondary School Sector 07 Bhilai, 0536 - Bhilai Vidyalaya Sector 2 Bhilai, 0537 - Saraswati Shishu Mandir Sector 04 Bhilai, 0538 - Vivekananda Vidyaapeeth Sector 04 Bhilai, 0539 - Gurunank English Senior Secondary School Sector 06 Bhilai, 0540 - MGM Senior Secondary School Sector 06 Bhilai, 0541 - Kalyan PG College Sector 07 Bhilai Nagar and 0542 - Sharda Vidyalaya Risali Bhilai.

Woman held hostage by employer in Oman returns to India

On CM's instruction, Deputy CM Vijay Sharma had taken initiatives for her rescue

Bhilai, Feb 10: Due to the prompt initiative of the sensitive Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Jogi Deepika, a resident of Khursipar of Durg district, who was held hostage in Muscat, has safely returned to Chhattisgarh. When the Chief Minister got information about this incident, he instructed Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma to take every possible initiative to bring Jogi Deepika back to India.

After coming back to Chhattisgarh, Jogi Deepika met the Deputy Chief Minister and expressed her gratitude towards the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen.



On CM's instructions, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma contacted the Indian Embassy in Oman to help Jogi Deepika. The Deputy CM remained in constant touch with the Indian Embassy. He spoke to Jogi Deepika in Muscat over telephone and assured her

that the Chhattisgarh government is making continuous efforts to bring her back safely.

The Indian Embassy in Oman took prompt action and brought Deepika safely to the Embassy. After reaching Chhattisgarh, Jogi Deepika met the Deputy Chief Minister

Vijay Sharma and narrated her ordeal. Jogi Deepika said that it is only with Deputy CM's help that today she has been able to return safely.

It needs to be mentioned here that her husband Jogi Mukesh had approached Durg Police when he came to know that his wife had been held hostage by her employer in Oman. On the pretext of providing her job as domestic work, Abdullah, a resident of Hyderabad, had sent Jogi Deepika to the house of Hafiza, a resident of Muscat, the capital of Oman, in May 2023. Later, her employer acquired her passport and other documents and held her hostage. Her employer was demanding money to send her back to India.

Blessing Ceremony organised at SSV Sector X

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 10: The Blessing Ceremony for Class X and Class XII students of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya was held on February 10, 2024. The programme started at 9:30 hrs and soon the huge hall of the school was filled to the brink of its capacity with the students.

The programme commenced with the 'Tilak Ceremony'. The Principal, Bipin Deshmukh lit the ceremonial lamp and garlanded the portraits of Goddess Saraswati and Guruji.

The programme comprised of the speeches by Prabha Prakash and Beena Jaykumar as Teachers Representatives, followed by students - Vaibhav Kumar Choudhary, Class X, Anushka Manna and Krish Agrawal of



Class XII. The Motivational and Inspirational songs were sung by teachers and students. A specially abled student of class XII C Dhvaj Choudhary was felicitated for his regularity and hardwork. In spite of his physical challenges his sincerity and dedication, serve as a source of inspiration for all.

The students enjoyed the scintillating cultural

treat. Class XII students grew sentimental and emotional as they recalled their happy memories of 15 long years in the school. The Principal Bipin Deshmukh in his speech gave valuable tips to students on how to fare the Exams with confidence and self assurance.

He showered his blessings to the outgoing batch and extended his good wishes for their success-

ful and prosperous future. VRamachandran (President, SSES), SSwaminathan (Secretary, SSES) and Members of the Management blessed the students to be successful in all their future endeavours. The Vote of Thanks was given by Runa Goswami and the programme was ably conducted by Anita Varma. The function culminated with National Anthem.

Do wear helmets and seat belts to prevent fatalities: Justice Sapre

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 10: Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, interacted with school and college students in the National Road Safety Traffic Awareness Discussion Programme organized at BIT College on Friday. The National Road Safety Programme has been organized by the Transport Department and Traffic Department.

School children, college students and professors were explained about avoiding mishaps and minimising fatalities in mishaps. Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, while addressing the Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Programme, said that you can avoid diseases, but you cannot avoid road accidents.

The number of deaths due to accidents has increased in the country. He urged all to make united efforts to reduce the mishaps. 50 percent deaths due to accidents are of children and youth. Road accidents occur due to over speeding and driving under the influence of drugs.

He said that one must wear a helmet while driving a two-wheeler and a seat belt while driving a four-wheeler. This can avoid deaths due to road accidents.

Discussions were held with owners, drivers and conductors of school buses, passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles. During the discussion, they were asked to drive slowly and follow traffic rules.



Along with this, in case of a road accident, people were asked to reach the nearest hospital for treatment and inform the police station. Drivers and conductors of school vehicles were asked to be sensitive and take the students home safely.

He said that to avoid road accidents, students must tell their friends, relatives, family and neighbours about the traffic rules and measures to avoid road accidents.

Gradually, all people will become aware of traffic rules and prevention of road accidents, which will reduce deaths in road accidents. Justice Sapre said

that we should make wearing a helmet an integral part of our life.

If a member of a family dies in a road accident, the entire family suffers a huge loss. He said that the vehicle should be driven slowly and helmet and seat belt must be used.

Addressing the program, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary said that National Road Safety Month will be celebrated in the district from 15 January to 14 February 2024. Under which the general public is being made aware by organizing various programs in schools and colleges.

Road safety awareness

programs make the people sensitive and aware. If you travel on the road, a little carelessness can be fatal. The district administration is taking effective measures to prevent road accidents including strict enforcement of traffic rules. Due to lack of complete knowledge of traffic rules, the number of accidents are increasing.

IG Ramgopal Garg said that National Road Safety Month is being organized to reduce road accidents and create awareness among people about road safety. The Supreme Court Committee for Road Safety was formed in 2016. Our aim is to en-

force road safety rules and show ways to avoid them.

Accidents have been reduced by installing lights, indicators, road marking and speed control boards. He said that more than 60 percent of road accidents occur due to the fault of others. Hence, it is necessary to wear helmets and seat belts. Durg Police is making efforts to make 100 percent people in the district aware about wearing helmets.

Any person, who takes an injured person to the hospital in his vehicle or provides non-medical help during a road accident, is called a Good Samaritan. Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre awarded Subhadra Devi and Ashwani Tandon with the Good Samaritan Award.

In the exhibition, speedometer, sound meter, DSLR camera, body worn camera, breath analyzer, baton light, safety jacket, chalan device machine, helmet, reflective jacket, vehicle immobilizer, etc. Proper driving of two-wheeler and four-wheeler; road signals, etc were also displayed.

On this occasion, Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla, Chairman Inter-Departmental Lead Agency Sanjay Sharma, Regional Transport Officer Shailabh Sahu, officials of Traffic Department and Police Department, Bus Owners Union President Prakash Deshkhara and other office bearers including school children and college students were present.

Everyone should follow the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Arun Sao



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 10: Introduction programme for marriageable youth was organized by Sadbhavana Sarva Vaishya Samaj at Agrasen Bhawan on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao graced the programme as chief guest. While addressing the program, he said that man is a social animal and no person can live alone. People live in society because they need each other's help.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao said that even animals live for themselves, but this is not a part of our culture. Being a social animal, every person should play his role in the activities, progress and development of the society. People should work with body, mind and money for the upliftment of the society. This will increase your reputation, respect and honour in the society and the society will also progress.

He said that everyone should live with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Every person in society is like a family. When a person is in trouble, others should always be ready to help. If this feeling comes to every

person of the society, India will emerge as a power in the world. The motto of the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas. We should work together for the betterment of the society so that together we can move towards a richer and more excellent society. Today cleanliness has become a mass movement in the entire country. It is the responsibility of every person in the city to keep the city clean, organized and beautiful. Maintaining cleanliness is the responsibility of every society.

He appreciated the Sadbhavana Committee for organising the programme. He announced a donation of Rs 50,000 each to the men's and women's Sadbhavana committees. He honoured women so-

cial workers Sonal Agrawal, Channu Gupta, Rajendra Gupta, Balgovind Agarwal and Abhay Agarwal.

MLA Gajendra Yadav said that forward means always being ahead. Every person of the society should work together for the development of the society. He thanked the state government for giving approval in the budget for IT hub, under-bridge and over-bridge in Durg.

Former Central President Chhattisgarh Samaj Purushottam Agarwal, Chhattisgarh Agrawal Samaj - Shyam Agarwal, Agrahari Samaj - Sujit Gupta, Kasaundhan Samaj - Suryakant Gupta, Agrawal Samaj - Kailash Rungta and all the office bearers of the Samaj were present.



Govt has adopted zero-tolerance policy towards crime, narcotics: CM

Raipur, Feb 10: The Chhattisgarh government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards crime and narcotics, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Saturday while warning police officials of action if they fail to prevent illegal activities.

Chairing a meeting of the inspectors general of police (IGPs) and superintendents of police (SPs) at the Police Headquarters in Nava Raipur, Sai said SPs will have to face strict departmental action if they don't curb crimes in their concerned districts. Criminals should fear the police, while the general public should have respect for them as they do for the Army, he said.

The police should be strict towards criminals and equally polite and soft towards common people, he said. Social evils such



as illegal liquor trade, gambling and betting adversely impact society, and it is most worrying when youth are affected by it, Sai said.

Instructing officers, the chief minister said if criminal activities are not prevented, action will be taken against the SP of the concerned district

and officers at the police station level.

Jawans have been fighting bravely under difficult circumstances in the Maoist-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, and the state government stands with the police on every front, he said. All necessary steps have been taken for the welfare of

the police, he added.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, who holds the home portfolio, said there was a 16 per cent rise in the allocation for the home department in the budget tabled in the state assembly on Friday compared to last year's budget.

A provision has been made in the budget for ration bags and spike-resistant shoes for jawans engaged in anti-Naxalite operations, he said. Apart from this, provisions have also been made to increase the facilities for officers and employees in the department, Sharma said. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Director General of Police Ashok Juneja and other senior police officials were present for the meeting.

So far 102 lakh 34 thousand MT paddy lifted

Raipur, Feb 10: So far, the state government has procured a record 144.92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from farmers at support price. Apart from paddy procurement, continuous lifting of paddy is going on for custom milling. So far DO has been issued for lifting of 106 lakh 41 thousand 562 metric tons of paddy, against which 102 lakh 34 thousand 241 metric tons of paddy has been lifted by the millers. In lieu of paddy procurement, an amount of more than Rs 31 thousand 913 crore has been paid to the farmers through the bank. According to the information received from the General Manager of MARKFED, till now 144 lakh 92 thousand 96 metric tonnes of paddy has been procured from 24 lakh 72 thousand 440 farmers in the state till 04 February 2024 at support price.

BJP begins Gaon Chalo campaign

● **MLA Gomti Sai and Organizational General Secretary Sai interact with people**

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 10: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Pathalgaon Gomti Sai on her visit to her constituency interacted with the residents to inform them about the various state government schemes as well as centre-sponsored programmes asking them to avail the benefits of various welfare schemes.

Similarly, the BJP Organizational General Secretary Pawan Sai visited the booth during his Kanker visit under the Gaon Chalo, Ghar-Ghar Chalo campaign to associate people with the party and inform them with the



various welfare schemes. During his visit also felicitated senior party worker Goverdhan Sinha for his contribution to the party since the time of Jansangh. He asked the party workers to ensure all the benefits of various schemes reaches people from every section

of society. Under the above campaign, the party leaders including the elected representatives like Chief Minister, MLAs, MPs would be making a day-long visit to a pre-decided venue to interact with people to listen their views on various issues.

RPSF jawan killed, passenger injured in accidental firing

● **At Raipur railway station**

Raipur, Feb 10: A jawan of the Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) was killed and a passenger injured after the former's service weapon accidentally went off at the Raipur railway station on Saturday, an official said.

The incident took place around 6 am when a team of the RPSF led by a sub-inspector was de-boarding Sarnath Express train after escort duty, the official here said.

When constable Dinesh Chandra (30) was moving out from the S-2 coach of the train, his service weapon got accidentally discharged and a bullet hit his chest. A passenger, identified as Mohammad Danish, who was sleeping on an upper berth, also sustained injuries in his abdomen. The duo was shifted to a private hospital, where the constable succumbed to injuries, he said.

The deceased jawan was a resident of Rajasthan,

About the incident

When constable Dinesh Chandra (30) was moving out from the S-2 coach of the train, his service weapon got accidentally discharged and a bullet hit his chest. A passenger, identified as Mohammad Danish, who was sleeping on an upper berth, also sustained injuries in his abdomen. The duo was shifted to a private hospital, where the constable succumbed to injuries

the official said, adding that investigation into the matter was underway.

OPD system must be improved in Ambedkar Hospital: Collector



Raipur, Feb 10: Collector Dr Gourav Singh today reviewed Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital. Patients who come to the hospital, especially at night, should be treated with sensitivity, he said. He said that the patients coming in emergency situation should be provided immediate medical facilities.

Instructions were also given to appoint nodal officers for inter-departmental coordination. Public Works Department was asked to build a drainage line to solve the sewerage problem.

He said that token facility or online system should be provided for the patients

coming to OPD. Dr. Singh said that nodal officers should be appointed for the cleanliness system. He said that entire system of cleanliness of the premises should be strengthened in coordination with the Municipal Corporation. He also directed the Public Works Department to prepare an estimate and take

immediate action to solve the sewerage problem.

The Collector also instructed the Municipal Corporation to improve the cleaning system by coordinating with the hospital management in cleaning the drains. He said that security arrangements should be monitored and strengthened in coordination with the police department. Private security agency which has been entrusted with the responsibility for internal arrangements should work in coordination with the police department, he said.

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra, Superintendent of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital Dr SBS Netam, Dean Dr Trupti Nagaria, CMHO Mithlesh Choudhary and other concerned officers were present.

Policeman on security duty at minister's bungalow shoots self dead

Raipur, Feb 10: A constable of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF), who was posted at a state minister's bungalow in Raipur district, allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service weapon early on Saturday police said.

The incident took place shortly after 2 am at the official residence of the state's Food and Civil Supply Minister Dayaldas Baghel on station road in the Ganj police station limits, a police official said.

As per the preliminary information, Rohit Salame, a constable with 'E' company of CAF's 1st battalion, completed his duty at the guard room of the bungalow at 2 am and shot himself with Excalibur rifle at around 2.10 am, he said.

Senior police officials rushed to the spot after being alerted about the incident. His body was sent for post-mortem, he said.

Salame, who hails from Balod district, had returned

to duty a week ago after being on leave for 25 days, the official said.

No suicide note was found at the spot and investigation is underway to ascertain the exact reason that prompted him to take the extreme step, he said.

About the incident

The incident took place shortly after 2 am at the official residence of the state's Food and Civil Supply Minister Dayaldas Baghel on station road in the Ganj police station limits. As per the preliminary information, Rohit Salame, a constable with 'E' company of CAF's 1st battalion, completed his duty at the guard room of the bungalow at 2 am and shot himself with Excalibur rifle at around 2.10 am on Saturday morning. Senior police officials rushed to the spot after being alerted about the incident. His body was sent for post-mortem.

Ten ramshackle vehicles removed from New Rajendra Nagar Service Road

● **RMC confiscates building materials kept on the road at 38 places in different wards and recovers obstruction fee of Rs 87,000**

Raipur, Feb 10: Traffic police have launched a drive to remove ramshackle vehicles parked on national highways and main roads, with the support of Raipur Municipal Corporation. Under the drive ten ramshackle vehicles that were parked on the side of New Rajendra Nagar Service Road on National Highway were re-

moved by the traffic police with the support of RMC Zone-10 town planning department team. The drive has been launched on the order of Raipur District Collector Dr Gourav Kumar Singh and direction of Municipal Commissioner Abinash Mishra. Moreover the teams of Zone Town Planning Department of the Municipal Corporation seized the building materials kept near the buildings under construction on the roads in 38 different places of different wards and recovered a total road obstruction fee of Rs 87000 from the concerned building owners.

UPA not only harmed economy but also looted the country: BJP



Raipur, Feb 10: State General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party Sanjay Shrivastava fiercely attacked Congress saying that Congress-led UPA not only harmed country's economy but also looted the country. Addressing a press conference at BJP Office in Ekatma Parisar here today he said that the white paper on the economy released by

the Union Finance Minister was the mirror of truth which a family of the Congress Party had not allowed to be revealed to the country. According to Shrivastava the White Paper is a testimony to how the country's economy improved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government from 2014 to 2024 as compared to the peri-

od of Congress led UPA government between 2004 and 2014. Despite inheriting a healthy economy from Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, UPA turned country's economy into a non-performing economy, he said. During UPA rule the country saw 2G scam, coal scam, AugustaWestland scam, Satyam scam, truck scam, Commonwealth scam, cash for vote scam, Adarsh ?scam, Saradha chit fund scam, INS media case, Aircel Maxis scam, Antrix-Dewas scam, Land for Job scam etc, he said. He said that 15 scams took place during the period 2004 to 2014 in Congress' UPA government.

CG Young Scientist Congress from Feb 26

Raipur, Feb 10: The 19th Chhattisgarh Young Scientist Congress (CYSC) 2024 is going to be jointly organized by National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur and Chhattisgarh Council of Science and Technology (CCOST) from 26th and 27th February 2024. The event will be graced by the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma. The CYSC2024 invites research papers/ abstracts from the researchers affiliated with various Institutions/ universities/ research labs and other organizations located in Chhattisgarh state. The

age of participants should be 35 years or below on 28 February 2024. In Chhattisgarh Young Scientist Congress 2024, research papers are being invited from 20 disciplines of science, technology and engineering including Basic sciences, Life sciences, Agricultural Science, All engineering & technology etc.

Each awardee of Chhattisgarh Young Scientist Award will get certificate and cash prize worth Rs. 21000 (Twenty-One Thousand only) and may also be eligible for other attractive opportunities like visiting national laboratories to take their

research to new levels in the future.

"I appeal to all vice chancellors, Directors and other heads of organizations/departments/laboratories located in Chhattisgarh state to encourage and motivate all eligible research scholars of your esteemed organizations for submitting their research work for Chhattisgarh Young Scientist Awards-2024." Prof. NV Ramana Rao, Director NIT Raipur

GK JCB Honoured with the "Dealer of the Year" Award in India



Raipur, Feb 10: The annual dealer conference of JCB, the renowned and leading construction equipment manufacturer, was held in Lisbon, Portugal. With over 60 active dealerships in India, GK JCB, the authorized dealer of South

Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha region, has been honored with the prestigious title of "Dealer of the Year" in India.

Mr. Graeme Macdonald, Global CEO of JCB, and Mr. Deepak Shetty, MD & CEO of JCB India, felicitated Mr. PunitParwani, Managing Director of GK JCB, during the special occasion. Mr. PunitParwani, along with his family, attended the celebration.

Mr. PunitParwani congratulated his entire team and customers for this achievement and assured that GK JCB will continue to work towards enhancing excellence and customer service in future as well.

IIM Raipur's faculties unveil insights on Chhattisgarh's Budget and Economic Strategy

Raipur, Feb 10: Faculty members of IIM Raipur bring their expertise to the forefront, sharing diverse viewpoints on Chhattisgarh's budget and emphasizing the crucial intersection of economics and strategic decision-making.

Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani underscores his individual perspective, highlighting that the previous central budget allocated a substantial amount for capital outlay. The first state budget of the newly formed BJP Government in the state had something for everyone. The budget recently announced was inclusive for the weaker segments and holds promise for greater state investment - all being done within good fiscal management.

Drawing parallels, he notes that the inaugural

state budget of the BJP-led government has earmarked INR 22,300 crore, constituting 15% of the total budget. This percentage surpasses the average outlay of 12% observed under the previous administration. Capital expenditure becomes a pivotal tool ensuring the development of the state in the long run by building assets, which in turn not only promotes foreign investment but also results in the generation of employment.

The projected net fiscal deficit is 2.9% of the State GSDP, well within the 3% limit mandated by the FRBM Act. This underscores a commitment to fiscal responsibility, emphasizing that the vision and expenditure planning are conducted with prudence.

The budget indicated that the government ex-

pects a revenue increase of 22% without any new tax increases or changes, which is excellent as it reduces uncertainty for businesses in terms of taxation.

A key announcement in the budget was an INR 5 cr package for organizing the "Invest Chhattisgarh" event, which is a welcome move as Chhattisgarh is a state rich in resources and houses key skilling institutes in IIM, IIT, and NIT, which could foster greater investment from business houses and FDI, hence shaping a great growth trajectory for the state in the coming years.

For the weaker section, there are lots to look forward to (a) Construction of 18 lakh houses under PM AwaasYojna; (b) Under the MahtariVandan Yojana Rs. 12000 cr per year to

make women self-reliant; (c) Rs.10,000 cr under Krishak Unnati Yojana for the state farmers are all welcome moves.

IIM Raipur's Development Economist, Prof. Ashapura Baruah, says that the Women & Child Development (WCD) Department has the highest increase in budget allocation relative to all other departments: a 112% growth in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. The significant increase in growth value vis-à-vis other departments is a positive. Along with the existing schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and others under the WCD department, the state government has proposed introducing 10 New Umbrella Schemes, with a budget estimate of 628 crore. Monetary Economist

Prof. P Jithin highlights that Chhattisgarh's fiscal year 2024-25 budget, presented by Finance Minister OP Choudhary, underscores a commitment to inclusive development and sustainable growth. The budget, totaling Rs. 1,47,446 crores, aligns with the Prime Minister's vision by emphasizing the prosperity of the 'gareeb' (poor), 'yuva' (youth), 'annadata' (farmer), and 'naari' (women), encapsulated in the acronym GYAN.

Notably, the first mid-term goal outlined in the 'Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047' document is to double the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028, showcasing a comprehensive strategy for elevating the state from a developing to a de-

veloped status. The budget also prioritizes education, with a 16% increase in the outlay for the sector, focusing on higher education institutions' research, innovation, and quality improvements in line with the National Education Policy.

Moreover, the budget demonstrates Chhattisgarh's dedication to environmental sustainability and economic development. A climate action plan to reduce carbon emissions is in the works, coupled with initiatives to promote solar rooftop installations, e-vehicles, and the adoption of Kusum Yojna. The budget reflects a well-rounded and forward-thinking governance strategy focusing on overall development and sustainability in Chhattisgarh.

GEMS gives memorable farewell to 12th-Grade Graduates

Raipur, Jan 10:

As customary, Shri Gujrati English Med Hr Sec School bid a fond farewell to the outgoing batch of 2023-24, on January 10, 2024 which was filled with blithe and ecstatic zeal.

The farewell was organized by the students of class XI in unison with teachers. The day was a fiesta devoted to the years spent together with their seniors, to reminisce joyous moments which was initiated by welcoming the outgoing seniors with traditional tilak by their juniors.

The event began with lighting of traditional lamp by School Administrator V K Mishra present as chief guest along with the School Principal Dr Shailesh Sharma, former VP S V Chandra Sekhar, Academic Coordinator Bhaskar Sharma, Pricipal



of Hindi Medium Hr Sec School Anis Memon and other invited guests. It was followed by a motivational and good luck speech by Dr Shailesh Sharma who has always generously imparted his wisdom to the pupils and guided them towards the right path, he expressed his desire to see all the students at the great height of success and also gave them helpful advice on how to find way to the

expectation of their family and society with their own aspirations and concluded by wishing them happiness and success in all future endeavours and inspired them to leave an indelible mark on society and make the school proud.

The festivities kicked off with a small cultural show which was a plethora of dance that pepped up everyone's mood, songs which made everyone tap



along the catchy scores, poem poignantly portraying the emotions of leaving school, speeches reminiscing the good old days, games and many more attraction but the highlight of the day was assigning of the titles like Mr and Miss Farewell of the year which was grabbed by Rudransh Soni and Kumkum Lunia where as Miss GEMS and Mr GEMS girl and boy was nabbed by Ayunshi

Shankhala and Sanskar Shukla. Miss Fresher and Mr Fresher was given to Vinod Kumar and Riddhi Thakkar respectively. The mementoes were presented to all the outgoing students as a token of love, blessings and memorial.

The cultural show concluded by the expression of the heartfelt gratitude by the outgoing batch to the alma mater for all the painstaking effort at shaping them into capable

human beings who are ready to take on the world outside. Head Boy and Head Girl also stepped forward to thank the juniors for making their day so memorable which was followed by refreshing lunch.

The event took to its height when experts from Career Launcher and Anjaneya University motivated the students as to how they could shape their career after Class XII. The valuable tips were shared by these experts through their video presentation and outgoing students were all praise for the guidance given to them. In essence, the farewell event at GEMS was a perfect blend of entertainment, nostalgia, and heartfelt good-byes, making it a truly memorable occasion for the outgoing 12th-grade students and leaving an indelible mark on the school community.

SAGES Khopra organises annual sports meet



Khopra, Jan 10:

Swami Atmanand Government Excellence School Khopra hosted the much awaited Annual sports meet on 8th Feb. and 9th Feb. All the sports activities took place on the sprawling grounds of the school with great zeal and frolicsome atmosphere. Various events and games were amalgamated for primary middle and higher classes. After

every performance the nimble footed participants were applauded by zealous crowd.

Various games such as sack race, slow cycling, tug of war and lay race were worth watching and hyped the thrill. Incharge principal Mrs Soma Banik addressed the students and laid the emphasis of sports on children's mental, physical and emotional health development.

State has set target to double state GDP in 5 years: FM

Raipur, Feb 10:

The previous Congress government in Chhattisgarh had pushed the state on the verge of bankruptcy but the BJP government has set a goal of doubling the GDP in five years, Finance Minister O P Choudhary has said.

Choudhary, who presented a budget of Rs 1,47,446 crore for 2024-25 in the state assembly on Friday, said that in line with Modi's vision to make India a five-trillion-dollar economy and a developed nation by 2047, the state budget has paved the way for inclusive development and economic growth.

"At a time when the country is marching ahead with zeal and enthusiasm to achieve the single goal of becoming a developed India. Chhattisgarh too has set a vision of transforming into a developed state in the Amrit Kaal," he said in a write-up after presenting the budget.

Through its annual budget, Chhattisgarh has laid the foundation of this new era with a focus on the prosperity of GYAN, stimulating infrastructural growth by increasing capital expenditure, and employment and livelihood promotion for youths of the state, he said. "The development of Chhattisgarh was under the shadow of corruption in the past few years but the power of democracy defeated these negative forces and ensured Chhattisgarh's contribution in the development journey of India," he said.

The BJP-led government under Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai came to power in December after defeating the Congress in the Assembly polls. "The previous government has pushed the state on the verge of bankruptcy in the past five years. The economic survey of the state has raised concerns as the growth rate remained stagnant, trailing behind the national GDP

growth rate," Choudhary said. "The state exchequer was empty, but taking it as a challenge, the state government has set a mid-term aggressive goal of taking the GSDP, which is Rs 5 lakh crore, to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028," the state's finance minister said. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, the state government has presented a roadmap towards the vision of taking Chhattisgarh to a new height through the best financial management system, he said.

The budget prioritises "Modi ki guarantee", focusing on capex, technology driven governance, and increasing government's revenue through technological interventions, he said. The state government has made a provision Rs 8,369 crore for construction of 18 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and Rs 3,799 Crore in the second supplementary of FY 2023-24, for women empowerment by providing an assistance of Rs 12,000 per year under the Mahatari Vandana Yojana, provision of Rs 10,000 crore under the Krishak Unnati Yojana to benefitting more than 24.72 lakh farmers, Choudhary said.

With an ambitious target to double the state GDP in five years, Chhattisgarh takes the pledge of contributing more and more to the prime minister's vision by working in harmony with the Centre as 'a double-engine government', he said.

"Through technology-based experiments, we will prevent leakages from the government treasury and without increasing the tax rate, we will create a historic increase in government revenue by adopting a transparent technology-based taxation," he asserted.

The state economy is highly dependent on agriculture and to strengthen the sector the agriculture budget has been increased by 33 per cent with a total provision of Rs 13,438 crore, he pointed out.

Yotta Data Services hosts 'Unwind with the Leaders' event in Raipur



Raipur, Feb 10:

Yotta Data Services, a prominent Indian data center and cloud services provider and a Hiranandani group company, ignited Raipur's IT scene with its "Unwind with the Leaders" event on February. Over 55 CIOs, IT leaders, and entrepreneurs gathered for an evening of networking and insights into Yotta's latest innovations, leaving

many impressed by the company's commitment to cutting-edge solutions and dedication to the Indian market. This ongoing initiative is a part of Yotta's CIO Innovation Council (YCIC) program and has spanned a year and reached cities like Indore, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad, and more. It underscores Yotta's commitment to cultivating connections and sharing

industry insights. Yotta operates data centers in Navi Mumbai (Yotta NMI) and Greater Noida (Yotta D1) and has further expanded its reach with the recently launched super-scale cloud data center, Yotta G1. The event served as a platform for Yotta to showcase its suite of data center and cloud solutions, featuring the recently launched hyperscale cloud platform, Yntraa, and AI supercomputing cloud,

Shakti Cloud. Esteemed industry leaders, including Pratap Patjoshi, EVP & Chief Evangelist - YCIC, Yotta, Rajesh Garg, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Digital Officer - Application & Cybersecurity Services, Yotta, and Sashishekar Panda, Vice President - Product & Services, Yotta, shared insights into these advancements and their potential to empower businesses in the region.

Yotta Showcases Latest Innovations

Raipur, Feb 10: A significant focus was on Yotta's new state-of-the-art data center in GIFT City, Gandhinagar. This facility, compliant with IFSC regulations and designated as a Data Embassy, offers businesses favourable tax benefits, including exemption from GST and stamp duty. Yotta's Shakti Cloud, India's largest AI supercomputing cloud, garnered significant interest. This platform addresses the growing demand for GPU chips crucial for training and running AI models. Experts emphasised its focus on offering a locally controlled alternative to global cloud providers, ensuring security and compliance with Indian regulations. Yntraa, Yotta's indigenous hyperscale cloud plat-

form, stole the spotlight with its user-friendly interface and comprehensive suite of features. Designed for innovators, it offers a robust and secure platform that caters to all their cloud computing needs. Additionally, its 100% compliance with Indian data privacy laws and commitment to affordable pricing resonated well with the audience. The event wrapped up with a lively networking session accompanied by drinks and dinner, providing an opportunity for attendees to build meaningful connections and engage in discussions about the future landscape of cloud computing in India. Free rice to be distributed under Mukhya Mantri Khadyaan Suraksha Yojana.

PHDCCI Chhattisgarh Chapter, appreciates inclusive and growth oriented budget

Raipur, Feb 10:

While welcoming the State Budget 2024 -25, Mr Shankar Bajaj, Chair, PHDCCI Chhattisgarh Chapter, appreciated the State Government for an inclusive and growth oriented budget, mentioning it as a budget for all.

The focus was given on Chhattisgarh's economic development with GYAN (Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari), Rapid Economic Growth through Technology driven reforms Governance, Maximum CAPEX (Capital Expenditure), Optimum utilization of Natural Resources, Emphasis on new possibilities of Service sector of the economy, Ensuring private investment, focus on Bastar-Sarguga and Decentralized Development Pockets (DDP). Mr Bajaj said promoting Chhattisgarhi cul-



ture and laying importance on implementation are praiseworthy. For investment promotion in state, an initiative like Chhattisgarh Investment Summit, setting up of Chhattisgarh Economic Council are major highlights besides encouraging announcements made for the startups, rural economy, inclusive health, IT Sector, Housing for All, Eco Tourism, EoDB and optimum utilization of natural



resources. Mr Prateek Singh, Co-Chair, PHDCCI Chhattisgarh chapter said that Chhattisgarh's state budget for the current fiscal year, encapsulated by the theme "Yahi Samay Hai Sahi Samay Hai," exemplifies a holistic developmental vision. Notably, the focus on GYAN (Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari) underscores the commitment to inclusive growth, with a comprehensive strategy



covering rural economy, investment promotion, startups, and specific regional development in Bastar & Sarguja. The emphasis on Horticulture & Fisheries, along with Housing and Infrastructure development, reflects a well-rounded approach. The budget's far-reaching impact, stressing its dual approach of top-down and bottom-up development. The budget, with its atten-

A budget with new vision of new government: Harakh

Raipur: Former President of Raipur Sarafa Association, Harakh Malu, while reacting on the budget, has said that no new taxes have been imposed in the new budget of the new government, this is welcome considering the development of all sections from the available resources of the state. Malu said that this budget will provide new employment opportunities and work on infrastructure will also be done. of all sections from the available resources of the state. Malu said that this budget will provide new employment opportunities and work on infrastructure will also be done.



tion to all stakeholders, demonstrates a commitment to fostering socio-economic growth, making it a pivotal blueprint for Chhattisgarh's inclusive progress. Mr Navneet Garg, Co-Chair, PHDCCI Chhattisgarh Chapter lauded the state budget and said that allocation has been made to all the key sectors

keeping in mind the needs of the time and further ensuring that the core competencies of the state must utilize the underlying opportunities as offered by the external environmental factors to the maximum.

The budget will help to achieve all round Socio-economic growth for all sections of the Society.

Ryan International School celebrates Graduation Day

Raipur, Jan 10: Ryan International School proudly celebrated its Graduation Day on 5th February 2024 at the esteemed Deendayal Upadhyaya Auditorium Raipur.

The ceremony commenced with Lord's Prayer, Scripture reading followed by a special prayer for the Montessori students. Throughout the event, students were encouraged to reflect on their journey thus far and envision a future filled with promise and opportunity.

The theme of the Graduation ceremony/ Annual Day Celebration, "Building a Better Future" underscored the

school's commitment to nurturing responsible global citizens who are equipped to take on the challenges of tomorrow with resilience and compassion. The ceremony also featured inspiring speeches in different languages captivating performances and the presentation of awards and certificates to commendable students who have excelled in various fields, including academics, sports, leadership, and community service. All the events and performances reflected the dreams and aspirations for achieving success in life. The worship songs performance added a

touch of spirituality and reverence to the Annual Function, leaving the audience spellbound and deeply moved.

The Chief Guest graduated Mont. III students. They underwent the convocation with the lovely blue gown of wisdom completed with the scarf and graduating cap. It was a proud moment for parents, teachers, and students alike, as they reflected on the remarkable growth and transformation that has taken place over the past year. The musical aspect of the skit added an extra layer of excitement and energy, it was met with resounding praise and



admiration from parents and guests in attendance. Ryan International School was honored to welcome back one of its esteemed alumnus, Dr. Murtaza Azmi who graced the Annual Day Celebration with an inspiring speech that left a lasting impact on students, faculty, and

guests alike. Dr. Murtaza Azmi, a doctor at RIMS Hospital Raipur, and a proud graduate of Ryan International School, shared his remarkable journey from student to doctor, highlighting the lessons, challenges, and triumphs he encountered along the way. His speech res-

onated deeply with the audience, as he reflected on the values instilled by the school and the pivotal role, they played in shaping his career and character. Another former Ryanite, Manas, takes a moment to reflect on the significance of this occasion and the profound impact the school has had on his life. The Annual Day Celebration serves as a poignant reminder to him of the cherished memories, lifelong friendships, and invaluable lessons learned during his time at Ryan International School, Raipur. As he watches the festivities unfold, he is filled with a

sense of nostalgia and gratitude for the transformative experience he had as a student. To encourage the achievement of the students, special awards were given in various categories like Academics, Sports, Leadership, Student Of The Year, Super Reader, Aspiring Author, Confident Speaker, Super Scientist, Technology Whiz, Math Master, Amazing Artist Award, Star Performer Award, Music Master Award and crowning of the Ryan Prince and Princess.

The day proved to be very exciting as each child is important and this is to make them

feel full participation, showcasing their hidden talents. In the closing remarks, Principal, Mrs. Dhaneswari Sharma, expressed her gratitude to the parents, and to everyone who contributed to the success of the annual day.

The ceremony ended with closing chorus and vote of thanks followed by School Anthem and National Anthem.

The conclusion of the Graduation Day celebration marked not only the end of a memorable event but also the beginning of a new chapter in the journey of Ryan International School.

ESIC extends medical benefits to superannuated insured persons

Vedanta Resources completes repayments

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI): The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on Saturday decided to extend medical benefits to superannuated insured persons with relaxed norms.

Minister Bhupender Yadav, a labour ministry statement said. The ESIC approved a proposal to provide medical benefits to the insured superannuating workers who went out of the ESI Scheme coverage due to exceeding the wage ceiling, if the worker was under insurable employment for at least 5

years before superannuation/ voluntary retirement, it stated. The persons who were in the insurable employment for at least 5 years after April 1, 2012 and superannuated/voluntarily retired on or after April 1, 2017 with wages up to Rs 30,000 per month will be benefitted under the new scheme. To augment the service delivery mechanism in North-Eastern states to fulfil the vision of Act East Policy of the government, the ESIC relaxed the existing norms for establishment of dispensaries, medical infrastructure/regional/su- ub regional offices in NE states including Sikkim. To promote holistic well-being of ESI beneficiaries, a new policy on AYUSH 2023 in ESIC institutions

was adopted during the meeting. The policy details the establishment of Panchkarma, Kshara Sutra and AYUSH units in ESIC hospitals. During the meeting, to strengthen the infrastructure of medical care, approval for acquisition of lands for construction of 100-bed hospitals each at Udupi, Karnataka; Idukki, Kerala and 150-bed hospital at Malerkotla, Punjab was also accorded. Concessions/facilities for non-IPs (insured persons) to avail ESI health-care services at "nil" user charges at ESIC medical colleges and hospitals at Alwar, Rajasthan and Bihta, Bihar have been extended till March 31, 2025.

New Delhi, Jan 10: Metals and mining giant Vedanta Resources Ltd on Friday said it has made an upfront payment of USD 779 million to its bondholders and completed repayments as part of the debt restructuring exercise. The upfront payment to the bondholders was made on Wednesday, Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL) said in a statement. VRL completed repayments to its bondholders on February 7, 2024, in line with the consents it received earlier in the year in which maturities of USD 3.2 billion in bonds were successfully extended to 2029, the statement said. Vedanta Resources has successfully made an upfront payment of USD 779 million in cash to bondholders to redeem a portion of the bonds and extend their maturities. It has also paid a consent fee of USD 68 million to the bondholders who had agreed to the restructuring, the company had said earlier. Vedanta in January received consent from bondholders to restructure four series of bonds to ease its massive debt burden. These series of bonds include two of USD 1 billion each that were due for maturity in 2024, one USD 1.2 billion bond in 2025 and one USD 500 million in 2026.

Union Bank of India Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties. Regional Office, 3rd Floor, LIC Investment Building, Phase - III, Jivan Bima Marg, Pandri Raipur (C.G.) PIN- 492004. Appendix-IV A [See the proviso to rule 6(8)] Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Khlesh Bhal, Shubhang Bhal, Bhairav Prasad Dubey, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for J.G. Rice Mill, Punjab Auto, Rajeshwari Moon, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Vinod Kumar Moon, Mrs Sarita Agrawal, Shree Hanuman Pulses, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Ram Awtar Sharma, M/s Shri Balaji Traders, M/s V K Construction, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Late Mrs Kiran Chaturvedi, M/s MAA KAPDA DUKAN, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for PREM LAL PRADHAN, M/s AYUSH TRADERS PROPRIETOR, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Mr. Girish Kumar Tarwani, Nitin Jain, etc.

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the Borrower / Guarantor and Branch, Short description of the properties, Total dues (in Rs.), Reserve Price (in Lacs). Includes entries for Mr. Virendra Singh, M/s Raipur Forging and Casting Pvt Ltd, etc.

NAME CHANGE PUBLIC NOTICE. It is informed to the general public that I, SHRIHARI S/o. SHYAM RAO, R/o. Shahid Veer Narayan Singh Nagar, Ward-51, Sector-11, Khursipar, Bhillai, The. & Distt. Durg, (C.G.) Pin-490011 have changed my old name SHRI HARI RAO S/o. SHYAM RAO so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is SHRIHARI S/o. SHYAM RAO in all Government and other documents.

NAME CHANGE PUBLIC NOTICE. Be it known to all people that Smt. Alka Mudliyar, W/o Late Shri Uday Mudliyar, R/o Kusum Bhawan G.E. Road Raipur has Purchased the A Open land bearing the Kh. No. 70/56 Area 0.116 Hect. Situated at, Mauga- Lakhoti, PH. No. 34/26 Dist. Rajnandgaon from Smt. Alka Khandelwal, W/o Shri Suresh Khandelwal, R/o Kailash Nagar Rajnandgaon by registered Sale Deed Doc. No. 7328 Dt- 17.03.2011.

NAME CHANGE PUBLIC NOTICE. It is informed to the general public that I, HEMANT TIWARI S/o. SALIKRAM TIWARI, R/o. House No. 167, Ward-38, Near Sankat Harni Durga Mandir, Mill Para, Durg (C.G.) Pin-491001 have changed my old name HEMANT KUMAR TIWARI S/o. SALIKRAM TIWARI so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is HEMANT TIWARI S/o. SALIKRAM TIWARI in all Government and other documents.

FORM NO. [See Regulation 33(2)] By Regd. A/D, Dastl falling which by Publication OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR 797/2, SHANTIKUNJ, SOUTH CIVIL LINES, JABALPUR - 482001 DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. 25.01.2024 UCO BANK VERSUS SHRI MOHAN SHARMA SHARMA

FORM NO. 17 (See Regulation 33(1)) OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR 797/2, SHANTIKUNJ, SOUTH CIVIL LINES, JABALPUR - 482001 NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A WARRANT OF ARREST SHOULD NOT BE ISSUED UNDER RULE 73 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION, 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993] UCO BANK VERSUS MANPREET SINGH

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HEMANT TIWARI House No. 167, Ward-38, Near Sankat Harni Durga Mandir, Mill Para, Durg (C.G.) Pin-491001 Recovery Officer DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR (M.P.)

INDIAN BANK E-AUCTION ON 29.02.2024 Branch- Station Road, Durg (C.G.) APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable property E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

INDIAN BANK E-AUCTION ON 29.02.2024 Branch- Station Road, Durg (C.G.) APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable property E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

FORM NO. [See Regulation 33(2)] By Regd. A/D, Dastl falling which by Publication OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR 797/2, SHANTIKUNJ, SOUTH CIVIL LINES, JABALPUR - 482001 DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. 31.10.2023 UCO BANK VERSUS LAKHVINDER SINGH SINGH SINGH

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UCO BANK Zonal Office, Telibandha, Raipur (C.G.) Email: zoraipur.rec@ucobank.co.in SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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Workshop organized in MVGPGC

Anwari, Feb 10:

A workshop was organized for guidance regarding Agniveer recruitment under the aegis of National Service Scheme Unit under the guidance of Principal Dr. Sanjay Sharma at Maharishi Vedyas Government Post Graduate College, Bhakhara. The chief guest of the workshop was Tejpal Singh Dhruv, Deputy Collector, District Dhamtari and the special guest was Mrs. Pushpa Chaudhary, District Employment Officer.



Dhamtari, Deputy Collector Tejpal Singh Dhruv gave detailed information regarding Agniveer recruitment in Air Force and Army and threw light on the educational qualification required for recruitment, physical criteria, written online examination, physical efficiency test, and medical examination as well as various allowances provided to Agniveer.

He said that the district administration will arrange free coaching for the preparation of the

written examination of Agniveer recruitment. Throwing light on all aspects of Agniveer recruitment, he guided the students to register in maximum numbers. In the guidance workshop, first and second year students of each faculty including Anand Soni, Assistant

Professor of English, Mr. Ramkishore Yadav, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Harvinder Singh Kurre, Assistant Professor of Chemistry were present. The program was conducted by Janendra Banjare Raseo Program Officer.

Mission Vatsalaya team gives information

- To students about safe/unsafe touch
- Under Women and Child Development Department

Kawardha, Feb 10:

Under the direction of the Collector, under the guidance of District Program Officer and District Women and Child Development Officer and under the leadership of District Child Protection Officer, the team of Women and Child Development Department Mission Vatsalaya is running a continuous campaign to make children aware about Safe Touch Unsafe Touch.



In the series, the team went to development block Pandariya Government Primary School Saihamalgi and development block Bodla Government Primary School Bhaira and organized an awareness program with school children about POC SO Act, JJ Act, and Safe Touch Mission Vatsalaya Child Rights Protection Child Help

Line 1098. The team of Mission Vatsalaya gave information to the children about safe touch and unsafe touch and pointed out that if any person is doing unsafe touch a trusted person should be informed; apart from emphasising on Child Helpline 1098 National Emergency is a 24-hour free phone

outreach service for children who need care and protection. Social workers Parameshwari Dhurve, Shyam Dhurve, Outreach worker Mission Vatsalaya Child Help Line 1098 Nitin Kishori Verma Sharda Nirmalkar and all the school teachers, children and villagers were present in the awareness program.

Direct cash transfers possible for MVY beneficiaries

- Mahtari Vandan Yojana to join India Post Bank

Pithora, Feb 10:

In a move by the Chhattisgarh Government, beneficiaries of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana are set to experience smoother transactions as payments will be directly deposited into India Post Payment Bank accounts starting next month. The Directorate of Women and Child Development has instructed program officers to facilitate the opening of accounts for eligible beneficiaries, leveraging India



Post's extensive banking network. With over 4414 banking access points in Chhattisgarh, including remote areas, citizens can now access a range of government services conveniently. This initiative not only streamlines Mahtari Vandan Yojana payments but also integrates various other schemes like Prime Minister's Housing and

MNREGA payments, ensuring efficient delivery of welfare benefits to those in need. Additionally, India Post Payment Bank officials, supported by Indian Postal Department authorities, are conducting outreach camps to assist villagers in opening accounts, further enhancing financial inclusion and accessibility.

Sonography service restarted with posting of radiologist

- In the district hospital

Jagdalpur, Feb 10:

Collector Vijay Dayaram K as per the instructions, to provide better health facilities, a radiologist doctor was posted in the district hospital from the District Mineral Trust Fund. With the posting of the radiologist, the Sonography facility has started again. With the resumption of Sonography service, better health facilities will be available to pregnant women and patients suffering from stomach related diseases from the district hospital. Civil Surgeon cum Chief Hospital Superintendent Dr. Sanjay Prasad said that



the post of Sonologist in the district hospital was lying vacant for a long time.

In such a situation, considering the number of patients and especially the problem of female patients, the district administration has appointed a radiologist doctor from the

District Mineral Trust Fund. In view of the high patient load in the hospital, regular Sonography has to be done. A large number of pregnant women come for check-up and treatment. In such a situation, now again to keep the general system smooth in the district hos-

pital, a doctor has been appointed under FRU. Sonography examination of 21 pregnant women was done in the District Hospital Jagdalpur today, Friday, February 9, 2024, and a 2-year-old girl, Kumari Alpha, had come for examination in the Pediatrics Department. In the initial examination, information related to hernia disease was obtained and after examination. Treatment could be started on time, Sonography facility is available completely free of cost in the district hospital.

Regarding sonography S radiologist Dr. Govind Singh said that generally ultrasound is used more during pregnancy. First is external i.e. transabdominal ultrasound, in this the ultrasound probe is taken on the abdomen outside the organ of the female body to be examined. Gel is applied upwards on the test area. This gel makes the skin smooth and helps in examination. For this test, the woman's bladder must be full, which can be uncomfortable for the woman. This test is also used to diagnose gallbladder disease or to check for cancer and breast lumps. In case of ultrasound of the pelvic area, it is forbidden to urinate because it involves scanning of the ovaries, uterus, cervix, bladder and vagina. You are asked to drink plenty of water to fill your bladder before the test. By doing this a clear image of the ovaries and uterus is visible.

SDM Katghora takes action against illegal encroachment



Korba, Feb 10:

Responding promptly to directives from Collector Ajit Vasant, SDM Katghora Richa Singh, along with Tehsildar Darri, led a successful operation to remove encroachments on government land in

Charpara village, near the Hasdeo river.

Approximately five and a half acres of land, identified as Khasra No. 549/1, were reclaimed after a boundary wall was discovered being constructed for storage purposes. The land, previously occupied by indi-

- Over five acres of government land reclaimed in Charpara village

viduals including Kaleem Siddiqui, Asif Khan, and Radhey Shyam Agarwal, was being utilized for various activities.

The district administration, aided by heavy machinery, swiftly executed the operation upon receiving reports of encroachment. Additionally, Collector Ajit Vasant has mandated the installation of information boards on departmental land as part of ongoing measures against encroachment.

Maosit set on fire Jio mobile tower in Bencharam



Bijapur, Feb 10:

Maoists set fire to Jio mobile tower located in village Bencharam under Jangla police station area on Wednesday. As per reports, on Wednesday at 8:00 pm, the generator and other equipments of Jio Mobile Tower located in Bencharam was set on fire by armed Maoists. The team of police station Jangla went to

the spot and confirmed that the Jio mobile tower located in Bencharam has been set on fire and the equipment and generator installed in the tower were damaged. Leaflets and pamphlets of the banned CPI Maoist organization were found nearby. Advance legal action is being taken by registering an FIR on the report in Jangla police station. Patrolling and searching is going on in the area.

Expert team inspects district jail

Kawardha, Feb 10:

An expert team, formed at the district level, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the district jail under the guidance of the District Collector to uphold welfare standards. Led by Assistant Superintendent of the District Jail, the team meticulously reviewed detailed information regarding the prisoners' status and conditions.

With a focus on safeguarding the rights of vulnerable individuals, the expert team delved into the provisions outlined in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 and Model Rules 2016. Discussions also centered on Mission Vatsalaya, aimed at addressing the needs of children in need



of care and protection. Through meticulous inquiry, the team ensured the well-being of detained prisoners and identified children below 18 years of age in need of protection. During the inspection, it was confirmed that no minor juveniles were detained in the district jail,

reaffirming the adherence to legal and ethical standards. The presence of District Child Protection Officer Satyanarayan Rathore, Assistant Jail Superintendent Rakesh Banjare, and other key personnel underscored the collaborative effort to prioritize prisoner welfare.

Political activity increases in BJP regarding LS polls

- Zero activity in Congress

Jagdalpur, Feb 09:



Bharatiya Janata Party's preparations for the Lok Sabha (LS) elections have started at the grassroots level with the 'Gaon Chalo' campaign. At the same time, the appointed observer of BJP's Bastar Lok Sabha reached Bastar division headquarters Jagdalpur and discussed with the officials and workers of 6 districts falling in the Lok Sabha constituency and sent his report to the state organization. Since then, political activity has intensified in BJP for Bastar Lok Sabha seat. It is being seen in BJP that Kedar Kashyap from Kashyap family is being considered

the most suitable candidate for the Lok Sabha elections. But Kedar Kashyap is currently holding the post of Forest Minister in the state. At the same time, names of former MP Dinesh Kashyap, Bastar district BJP President Roop Singh Mandvi, former MLA Chitrakoot MLA Lachhuram Kashyap, Kondagaon MLA Lata Usendi, former MLA Dr. Shubhau Kashyap, former MLA Mahesh Gagda are

also coming forward as candidates in fray for LS seat from this region.

It is a matter of discussion in BJP that many things are coming to the fore regarding making former MP of Kashyap family Dinesh Kashyap as its candidate. In which making a candidate for MLA, Minister and now MP from a family is emerging as the biggest obstacle. At the same time, former MP Dinesh Kashyap's wife Vedavati Kashyap being in

the post of District Panchayat President is being considered a big obstacle on the issue of nepotism in BJP. If the issue of nepotism remains dominant in BJP, then there is a high possibility of Dinesh Kashyap being made the Lok Sabha candidate. If Minister Kedar Kashyap is not made the Lok Sabha candidate, then she can place her bet on a new candidate.

On the other hand, Congress is not seeing any activity in Bastar regarding the Lok Sabha elections. Congress State President Deepak Bajj is busy with Congress' Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Due to zero activity of Congress regarding Lok Sabha elections, it is being speculated that Congress may field Bastar MP Deepak Bajj again. Bastar

MP Deepak Bajj is also currently the state president of Congress. With this, Congress can field him again as the Lok Sabha candidate. But Bastar MP Deepak Bajj has lost the assembly elections from Chitarkot. If Deepak Bajj is not made the candidate on this basis, then in such a situation five-time Congress MLA Kawasi Lakhma can be fielded.

In the Lok Sabha elections of Bastar, it has been seen that the candidate from Bastar remains mostly effective. Both the major political parties BJP and Congress are expected to field candidates from Bastar. In which the contest between Kedar Kashyap from BJP and Deepak Bajj from Congress can be interesting.

Child Help Line awareness program conducted



Kawardha, Feb 10:

Under Mission Vatsalaya by the Women and Child Development Department, the team of Child Helpline 1098, under the guidance of District Child Protection Officer Satyanarayan Rathore, conducted an awareness program about Child Helpline in the Government Primary

School, Barpelatola. The project coordinator said that Child Helpline 1098 National Emergency is a 24-hour free phone outreach service for children who need care and protection. Any children, orphan, destitute, abandoned, wanderers, missing, child labor, child marriage, for safety and help, can access toll-free num-

ber 1098. Children were also given information about safe touch and unsafe touch. Mahesh Nirmalkar Project Coordinator Child Help Line 1098, Sharda Nirmalkar Supervisor, Aarti Yadav Supervisor and all the teachers of the school, children and villagers were present in the awareness program.

Wheeling & dealing kicks off to muster sufficient seats to form coalition govt in Pakistan



Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif addresses Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supporters following the initial results of the country's general elections, in Lahore, Pakistan.

Islamabad/Lahore, Feb 10 (PTI):

The wheeling and dealing for the formation of a coalition government in Pakistan has kicked off with major stakeholders engaging in crucial talks after the general elections appear to have produced a hung Parliament.

Efforts to form a unity government gained momentum after former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who seems to enjoy the backing of the powerful military, on Friday appealed to rival po-

litical parties to join hands to pull Pakistan out of its current difficulties.

Springing a surprise, independents backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party won the lion's share of 101 seats in the National Assembly in Thursday's election.

The group was followed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with 73 seats, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 54, Muttahida Qaumi

Movement (MQM) with 17 and other seats going to smaller parties, as the result of 255 seats out of 265 was announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan.

To form a government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 in the National Assembly. Election to one seat was postponed after the death of a candidate.

Overall, 169 seats are needed to secure a simple majority out of its total 336 seats, which include the reserved slots for women and

minorities.

Votes are still being counted after the general election which was marred by allegations of rigging, sporadic violence and a countrywide mobile phone shutdown. Khan, 71, in an AI-generated audio-video message on Saturday claimed victory in the general elections.

He thanked the people for voting for PTI and also asked them to ensure the sanctity of their votes was not hijacked by the establishment. PTI Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan said the party had already started the consultation process on its future course of action. However, he added, physical meetings have not been possible since most elected candidates are either in jail or underground.

He warned that any attempt to derail the people's decision would have "deadly consequences", adding that power-wielders must learn to respect the people's choice.

He said PTI had emerged as a leading political force in the Centre, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, but efforts were underway to manipulate the results in the Centre and Punjab to establish governments of their choice.



President Joe Biden, right, meets with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington.

JOE BIDEN MEETS GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Israeli strikes hit the outskirts of Damascus: Syrian military

Damascus, Feb 10 (AP):

Israeli airstrikes hit several sites on the outskirts of Syria's capital, Damascus, the Syrian military said Saturday.

The strikes came from the direction of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Syrian state news agency SANA reported, citing an un-

named military official. It added that air defenses shot down some and those that landed resulted in "some material losses." It was not immediately clear if there were casualties.

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

The strikes come as tensions across the Middle East grow with the Israel-

Hamas war and a drone attack last month that killed three U.S. troops in northeastern Jordan near the Syrian border.

The Britain-based war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said one of the strikes hit a residential building west of the capital and may have killed "figures of non-Syrian

nationalities" but did not give more details. The observatory said Saturday's assault was the 10th apparent Israeli strike on Syrian territory since the beginning of the year.

Presumed Israeli strikes in Syria in the past have killed high-ranking figures with Iran's Revolutionary Guard and allied groups.

Indo-Pacific strategy has made US and region more secure: White House

Washington, Feb 10 (PTI):

The execution of Indo-Pacific Strategy has made the United States and the key region more

secure and more prosperous, and expanded the bilateral partnership with India in unprecedented ways, the White House said Friday.

Addressing the media on the second anniversary of the launch of the landmark foreign policy strategy of the Biden administration, Adrienne

Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council of the White House, said "the United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific".

"Over the past two years, we have made historic progress in advancing an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient. Thanks to President Biden's leadership, the United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific," she said.

In the two years since the launch of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the US has reinvested and revitalized its alliances and partnerships and taken them to new heights, Watson said.

"We have deepened and elevated alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand. We upgraded

our bilateral relationships with Vietnam and Indonesia, and our partnership with ASEAN. We have expanded our partnership with India in unprecedented ways. We have surged our efforts in the Pacific, including with two historic summits for Pacific Island leaders at the White House and the establishment of the Partners of the Blue Pacific," she said.

President Biden hosted the historic US-Japan-South Korea trilateral summit at Camp David to open a new chapter in this important partnership, she said.

Under his leadership, the US has elevated the Quad with Australia, India, and Japan to a leader-level summit and has delivered concrete results for the Indo-Pacific region, from vaccines to maritime domain awareness to scholarships for students, she said.

Washington, Feb 10 (PTI):

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna has led US lawmakers in alleging that the Pakistani military has been "rigging" the just-held general elections to "prop up" its candidate and deny the victory secured by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

Pakistan's general elections were held on Thursday and the counting began soon after with the hope that the majority of the 265 contested seats in the National Assembly would be available by Friday morning.

According to the latest data from the Election Commission of Pakistan, the counting of 250 seats has been completed. Independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, were at the top with

99 seats. Khanna, a Democrat lawmaker, alleged that the Pakistani military is supporting the current prime minister even though the people have voted for Imran Khan.

He also urged the Biden administration not to recognise an illegitimate government in Pakistan. "There is huge news today out of Pakistan, the most consequential since the country's founding in 1947. Here's what's going on.

The military had supported the current prime minister, but most of the people in Pakistan voted for Imran Khan," Khanna said in a video posted on social media platforms, apparently referring to the Pakistani military's reported backing of former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Washington, Feb 10 (PTI):

SECL INVITES APPLICATION FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

"SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED INTEND TO ENGAGE FRESHER APPRENTICES IN OPTIONAL TRADE IN OFFICES AND ESTABLISHMENTS OF SECL FOR ONE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN FY 2023-24 AS PER THE DETAILS MENTIONED BELOW.

Fresher Apprentices	No. of seats
Domestic Data Entry Operator	25
Office Assistant	25
General Duty Assistant (Healthcare)	25

THE APPLICATION FROM ELIGIBLE ASPIRING CANDIDATES ARE INVITED IN ONLINE MODE ONLY THROUGH NAPS PORTAL (<https://www.apprenticeshipindia.gov.in>) FROM TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2024 TO TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024. FOR DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE secl-cil.in->Human Resource->HRD-Apprentice

SECL/23-24/293 GENERAL MANAGER (MINING/HRD)

SECL INVITES APPLICATION FOR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

"SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED INTEND TO ENGAGE GRADUATES AND TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES IN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF ENGINEERING IN OPEN CAST AND UNDERGROUND MINES AND ESTABLISHMENTS OF SECL FOR ONE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN FY 2023-24 AS PER THE DETAILS MENTIONED BELOW.

Category of Apprentices	No. of seats
Graduate Apprentices in Mining Engg.	200
Graduate Apprentices in Electrical Engg.	50
Graduate Apprentices in Mechanical Engg.	50
Graduate Apprentices in Civil Engg.	30
Graduate Apprentices in Electronics and Telecommunication Engg.	20
Technician Apprentices in Mining / Mining and Mine Surveying	900
Technician Apprentices in Electrical Engg.	75
Technician Apprentices in Mechanical Engg.	50
Technician Apprentices in Civil Engg.	50
Total	1425

THE APPLICATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE ASPIRING CANDIDATES REGISTERED ON NAPS 2.0 PORTAL www.naps.education.gov.in ARE INVITED IN ONLINE MODE ONLY THROUGH LINK PROVIDED IN SECL WEBSITE FROM TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2024 TO TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2024. FOR DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE secl-cil.in->Human Resource->HRD-Apprentice

SECL/23-24/293 GENERAL MANAGER (MINING/HRD)

Relevance of Quad set to grow: EAM Jaishankar



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Australian parliamentarians Zaneta Mascarenhas, Varun Ghosh and Dr. Jagadish Krishnan, in Perth.

Perth, Feb 10 (PTI):

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said he is confident that the rele-

vance of the Quad grouping would grow and it would become a bigger factor in the larger regional, and beyond the region, politics and poli-

cy. Jaishankar's remarks came during a fireside chat with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong at the Indian Ocean Conference. Jaishankar is here to attend the two-day conference. Speaking about the Quad or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, Jaishankar said the grouping is the outcome of the changing capabilities of the major powers and the implications that it has for all of the world. The Quad was set up in 2017 to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

Watson, a spokesperson for the National Security Council of the White House, said "the United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific".

"Over the past two years, we have made historic progress in advancing an Indo-Pacific that is free and open, connected, prosperous, secure, and resilient. Thanks to President Biden's leadership, the United States has never been in a stronger position in the Indo-Pacific," she said.

In the two years since the launch of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the US has reinvested and revitalized its alliances and partnerships and taken them to new heights, Watson said.

"We have deepened and elevated alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand. We upgraded

Indian truck driver charged with drug trafficking at US-Canada border

Ottawa, Feb 10 (PTI):

An Indian truck driver from Canada has been charged with "intent to distribute controlled substances" after he was caught attempting to bring an estimated Canadian dollars 8.7 million worth of cocaine into

the US, according to a media report.

Gagandeep Singh was caught by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers after a border canine found the suspected cocaine at a Windsor-

Detroit border crossing.

The discovery was made on February 5 at an outbound customs inspection at the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, according to court documents obtained by CTV News.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, जल संसाधन संभाग, मरवाही मु. पेण्डारोड, जिला-गोरैला-पेण्डा-मरवाही (छ.ग.)

Phone No.: 07751-220817 E-mail: wrdnmarwahi@gmail.com

:- निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश:-

आदेश क्र. 395/ब.ले.लि./2023 मरवाही, मु. पेण्डारोड दिनांक-08/02/2024

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक: 004/ब.ले.लि./2023-24, दिनांक 21.12.2023

कार्यपालन अभियंता जल संसाधन संभाग, मरवाही जिला-गोरैला-पेण्डा-मरवाही (छ.ग.)

कार्यालय, राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला (छत्तीसगढ़)

गृह (पुलिस) विभाग छत्तीसगढ़ शासन पुलिस लाईन कैम्पस, टिकरापारा, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

दूरभाष क्र.-0771-3501122 वेबसाइट-<http://www.fsl.cg.nic.in>

क्रमांक रा.न्या.वि.प्र./भर्ती/एम-641/2024 दिनांक-09.02.2024

//सूचना//

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला, रायपुर का विज्ञापन क्र. रा.न्या.वि.प्र./भर्ती एवं चयन/एम-4712/2023 दिनांक 06.10.2023 द्वारा जारी तृतीय एवं चतुर्थ श्रेणी के वाहन चालक के 4, प्रयोगशाला परिचारक के 8, भृत्य के 2 एवं विसरा कटर के 3 पद कुल 17 पदों पर छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य के मूल/स्थानीय निवासी अभ्यर्थियों से ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र भरने हेतु लिंक को जानकारी विभाग की वेबसाइट (<http://fsl.cg.nic.in/notification>) अपलोड किया जावेगा।

संचालक राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला रायपुर (छ.ग.) G-07698/1

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय जिला-महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) 493445

Email:gmcamahasmund@gmail.com Phone No. 07723-299171

क्रमांक/शा.चि.म./स्था./2024/843 महासमुन्द, दिनांक 08/02/2024

//संविदा भर्ती सूचना//

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता, शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) के विभिन्न विभागों में प्राध्यापक, सह-प्राध्यापक, सहायक प्राध्यापक, दूरदर्शन/प्रदर्शन सोनियर रिसोर्ट एवं जूनियर रिसोर्ट के वर्तमान में रिक्त पदों के साथ समय-समय पर रिक्त होने वाले पदों पर छत्तीसगढ़ सिविल सेवा (संविदा नियुक्ति) नियम 2012 में उल्लेखित शर्तों के अधीन संविदा आधार पर भर्ती किये जाने हेतु प्रत्येक कार्यदिवस में शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय महासमुन्द में प्रातः 11.00 बजे से 04.00 बजे तक 'ऑन-इन-इन्टरव्यू' आयोजित किया जाता है, उक्त 'ऑन-इन-इन्टरव्यू' की प्रक्रिया रिक्त पदों पर संविदा आधार पर पद की पूर्ति होने तक जारी रहेगी।

उक्त विज्ञापन के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) के वेबसाइट <https://www.gmcamahasmund.edu.in/> में अवलोकन करें।

अधिष्ठाता, शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय महासमुन्द (छ.ग.) G-07672/1

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET WORKS

Srl.No.(1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-104-23-24, Date 01/02/2024

Work: Improvement of Office of SSE/PWay/BSP, SSE/P. Way/KGB & provision of trolley room of USFD under ADEN/Central & Improvement of office of SSE/P. Way & Store under ADEN/PND under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Central/ Bilaspur Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,02,74,779.86/- EMD (In Rs.): 2,01,400.00 Completion Period: 12 Months. Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11.00 hrs on 19/02/2024, Last date of submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 04/03/2024.

The complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over websites <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender

Div. Railway Manager (Engg.) S.E.C.Railway/Bilaspur CPR/10/424 South East Central Railway @seclrail



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Pakistan's Electoral Crossroads

A Nation in Search of Stability

As the dust settles on Pakistan's tumultuous general elections, the stage is set for a delicate dance of coalition-building, as major political players vie for power in the face of a hung Parliament. With the dust of the electoral battlefield yet to fully settle, the nation finds itself at a crossroads, with the formation of a stable government hanging in the balance. The electoral landscape reveals a fragmented political terrain, with independent candidates, buoyed by the support of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, claiming a lion's share of 101 seats in the National Assembly. This unexpected surge in independent victories, amidst allegations of rigging and sporadic violence, has reshaped the contours of Pakistan's political arena. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, leading the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), swiftly moved to capitalize on the fluid political situation, extending an olive branch to rival parties in a bid to form a unity government. Sharif's appeal, underscored by his purported backing from the powerful military, highlights the urgent need for cohesive leadership to navigate Pakistan out of its current quagmire. The electoral breakdown paints a picture of shifting alliances and power dynamics, with the PTI emerging as a formidable force, securing 101 seats, followed by the PML-N with 73 seats, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) with 54 seats, and the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) with 17 seats. Additionally, smaller parties and independents have also claimed their stake, further complicating the coalition calculus. As the jockeying for power intensifies, both Sharif and Imran Khan have laid claim to victory, setting the stage for a potentially contentious power struggle. Khan, in an AI-generated audio-video message, hailed the electorate's support for PTI while cautioning against the manipulation of their votes by external forces. In contrast, Sharif, in his so-called victory speech, signaled his readiness to collaborate with independent candidates to steer the nation towards stability. However, the road to coalition-building is fraught with challenges and complexities. Despite their combined efforts, both the PML-N and the PPP led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari face an uphill battle in securing a majority in the National Assembly. However, amidst the celebration of victory claims, Pakistan's Army Chief, Asim Munir, offered a sobering reflection on the need for stability. Congratulating the nation on the "successful conduct" of the elections, Munir emphasized the necessity of "stable hands" to navigate away from the politics of "anarchy and polarization." This statement comes against the backdrop of a power struggle between political factions, with the PTI's success marking a setback for the entrenched establishment, particularly the Pakistani military, which had thrown its support behind the Sharifs. With the specter of coalition negotiations looming large, the parties must navigate a maze of conflicting interests and agendas to forge a viable path forward. Meanwhile, international observers have voiced concerns about the integrity of Pakistan's electoral process, urging a thorough investigation into allegations of interference and restrictions on democratic freedoms. The United States, Britain, and the European Union have all underscored the importance of upholding democratic principles and ensuring transparency in the electoral process.

Eradicating Academic Corruption

Towards Fairer Assessments

Yash Pal Ralhan

In recent years, the term "Munna Bhai" has sadly become synonymous with examination cheating, reflecting a troubling reality in India's education and recruitment landscape. The need for fair and credible competitive examinations, particularly for government services, cannot be overstated. These exams serve as gateways to crucial positions where integrity and efficiency are paramount. However, rampant malpractices, including paper leaks and organized cheating, have undermined the sanctity of these exams, jeopardizing the futures of countless aspirants. Recent media reports have shed light on the alarming scale of this issue. Over the past five years, at least 41 instances of paper leaks have disrupted recruitment processes in 15 states, affecting a staggering 1.4 crore applicants. Such disruptions not only delay or cancel exams but also erode public trust in the recruitment system. It is evident that the current system is crumbling under the weight of corruption and negligence, with organized gangs operating with impunity, often with alleged support from politicians and officials. While some states have anti-cheating laws in place, they have proven insufficient to deter exam fixers. The lack of effective enforcement and accountability mechanisms has allowed this malpractice to persist, with public outrage often overshadowed by political blame games. In the recent state assembly elections, allegations of complicity in paper leaks were traded between rival parties, further underscoring the urgent need for bipartisan action on this issue. It is crucial to recognize the broader societal implications of exam cheating. In a country where government jobs are seen as a symbol of stability and upward mobility, the desperation to secure such positions has only intensified in recent years, particularly among the middle and lower-middle classes. However, the shrinking number of government job opportunities has created a fertile ground for exploitation by job mafias and exam fixers. The introduction of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill by the government is a welcome step towards addressing this longstanding problem. The bill aims to introduce greater transparency and fairness in government recruitments, with provisions for stringent penalties for those found guilty of using unfair means in exams. However, passing legislation alone is not sufficient; robust enforcement and coordination among stakeholders are essential to ensure its effectiveness. Furthermore, addressing the root causes of exam cheating requires a multifaceted approach. It is imperative to improve the efficiency and transparency of examination processes, enhance job opportunities in the private sector, and invest in skill development initiatives to reduce dependency on government jobs. Additionally, fostering a culture of integrity and ethical conduct in education and recruitment is vital for long-term systemic reform. While the proposed bill is a step in the right direction, it must be complemented by comprehensive measures to overhaul India's examination system. The future of millions of young aspirants depends on the integrity of these exams, and it is incumbent upon policymakers, educators, and society as a whole to ensure a level playing field for all. The time for action is now, lest we risk squandering our demographic dividend and undermining the aspirations of an entire generation.

ORANGE CITY CRAFT MELA

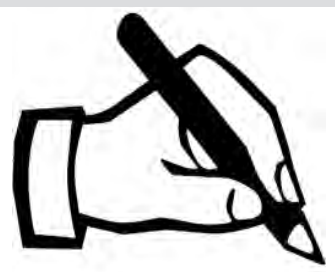


Artists from Chhattisgarh perform 'Ramnami Bhajan' during the Orange City Craft Mela and Folk Dance Festival 2024, in Nagpur.

Even Moderate Inflation, not a Green Signal



SATISH SINGH



According to the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 5.69 per cent in December 2023 from 5.5 per cent in November 2023 and 7.44 per cent in July 2023. However, it is within the tolerance limit prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India which is 2 percent plus or 2 percent minus than 4 percent. Despite this, this rate cannot at all be considered encouraging for rapid growth.

Inflation plays an important role in determining one's purchasing power. When inflation increases, the prices of both goods and services increase, due to which the purchasing power of the individual reduces and the demand for goods and services decreases. Then, their sales decrease, their production decreases, the company incurs losses, workers are laid off, employment generation decreases, etc. As a result, economic activities slow down, and the pace of development is disrupted. It shows that Development can move forward only by reducing inflation.

Apart from India, the trend of decline in food prices globally has continued since 2023 and it has reached a 35-month low of 118 points in the month of January 2024, from 160.3 points in March 2022. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO), most of the countries in the world have recorded a decline in the global food price index due to the fall in the prices of wheat, maize, and meat. According to FAO, the grain price index declined to 120.1 points in January 2024.

Since the agricultural sector in India is still weak and the basis for setting economic parameters are slightly different from other countries in the world, inflation in India remains moderate despite remaining within the tolerance set by the central bank. Therefore, keeping the policy rates unchanged in the monetary review by the Reserve Bank of India may be an expedient decision, as the central bank is very sensitive about inflation, and it wants to keep the economy strong by maintaining a balance between inflation and growth rates.

Last time, the Reserve Bank increased the repo rate to 6.5 percent in February 2023. Thus, the repo rate has remained at 6.5 percent for the last 12 months. There has been an increase in revenue collection in the financial year 2024-25 and tax and non-tax revenue collection is likely to increase in the coming months also. Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection has also remained above Rs 1.5 lakh crore continuously for the last 6 months. Therefore, it is believed that the government will take less borrowing during the financial year

2024-25.

Therefore, the Reserve Bank can keep the repo rate unchanged in the monetary review to be presented on February 8 as well as in the monetary review of April and June, because the inflation level in India is still not in the satisfactory range. However, policy rates can be cut in the August monetary review, but that too will depend on the positive movement of monsoon, the policy adopted by the Federal Reserve Bank, the status of revenue collection & liquidity position of the bank.

There is also a history of not increasing the repo rate for a long time. During the economic recession of 2008, the repo rate remained at 6.5 percent for 10 months. Even during the debt crisis of 2013, the repo rate remained unchanged at the level of 7.85 percent for 8 months. Then, even during the Corona period in 2020, the repo rate remained at the level of 4 percent for 25 months.

PMI data was released in the month of January, according to which the activities of the service sector have increased the most in the last 6 months and the PMI of the service sector has been continuously increasing for the last 30 months. Due to favourable economic conditions and increase in demand, the PMI of the services sector reached 61.8 points in January, which was 59 points in December. Employment opportunities have increased in the service sector. The expansion of new business has accelerated, and a positive atmosphere has been created regarding the future. Exports related to service sector have also increased.

The PMI index of the manufacturing sector also increased from 54.9 points in the month of December to 56.5 points in the month of January, which is the highest level in the last 3 months. The PMI composite index also increased from 58.5 points in December to 61.2 points in January, which is the highest in

the world. In this matter, China is at second place with 52.5 points and USA is at third place with 52.3 points. If the PMI index is below 50 points, it is believed that the sector in question is contracting, while if the index is above 50 points, it is considered that the sector is growing.

The Reserve Bank mainly tries to fight inflation by increasing the repo rate. When the repo rate is high, banks get loans from the Reserve Bank at expensive rates, due to which banks also give loans to customers at expensive rates. By doing this, the liquidity of currency in the economy reduces and due to lack of money in people's pockets, demand for goods decreases and due to high prices of goods and products, their sales decrease, which leads to decrease in the inflation. Similarly, when there is a slowdown in the economy, efforts are made to increase the liquidity of currency in the market to accelerate the developmental works and for this also the repo rate is cut, so that the banks can get loans from the Reserve Bank at cheaper rates and get affordable loans. After getting the loan at affordable rate, the bank should also give loan to the customers at a cheaper rate.

Inflation has a negative impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate, but despite the loan interest rates remaining at a high level for the last few months, loan distribution is increasing, and the pace of growth also remains fast. Well, such a situation is an exception. According to credit rating agency ICRA, the credit growth rate of banks on year-on-year basis was 16.5 percent in December 2023, which is estimated to be 12 to 13 percent in the financial year 2024-25. Right now, the aim of the Reserve Bank is to strike a balance between growth and inflation, so that the common man does not face problems and the pace of development also remains fast.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bioplastic alternative

Millions of tons of plastic waste are poured into the ocean each year, endangering the reproduction and metabolism of marine life. Marine life may be able to consume more biodegradable plastic than traditional plastic if bioplastics are used more frequently. A recent experiment by Queensland University researchers in Australia tested the use of bioplastic lures to draw fish. It was discovered that the lure's weight had decreased by 70%. The same lures were used for soldier crabs and green paddle worms that live on beaches, and the results showed that they were fully consumed in 48 hours. In order to lessen the amount of plastic garbage deposited in seas and oceans, biodegradable plastics can be an option. Nonetheless, more investigation is required to fully grasp the influence that bioplastics have on marine species' health.

Arka Goswami, Durgapur

Democratic Dilemma

Mayor election irregularities, deemed a 'democracy murder' by the Chief Justice of India, expose systemic flaws. Without crucial video evidence, ballot paper irregularities would have remained concealed. This incident epitomizes broader institutional issues, including MLAs sequestered in remote resorts to prevent corruption. The delay in judicial intervention, criticized by the CJI, underscores urgency. While the Supreme Court imposes a two-week stay on Municipal Corporation action, questions linger about the incumbent's tenure. Leveraging Article 142, swift justice must prevail, with state High Courts reinforcing democratic principles.

N Ashraf, Mumbai

Fencing the Border

Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement about fencing the border with Myanmar and ending the decades-old Free Movement Regime (FMR) left the Kukis, Mizos, and Nagas upset and angry. The situation in Myanmar is a matter of concern to the Government of India. Every political problem in Manipur is related to the land issue in some way. Checking illegal migration and drug trafficking is a great challenge. But it's also possible to check illegal migration and drug trafficking by keeping the border open. Nationality verification at the border checkpoint continuously for identification of illegal migrants and their deportation from India, and using detection technology with genuine dedication and sincerity on the part of the border security officers should also be taken into account.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

Farmers' Demand

A protest march to Parliament by hundreds of farmers from Noida and Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh was called off on Thursday evening after the police assured farmer union leaders that a panel will be formed to look into their demands. Farmers are backbone of the country. They have been holding protests for the past few months but their demands have not yet been fulfilled. They work a lot for the country but they get nothing, therefore, their demands should be fulfilled as early as possible, all citizens are with farmers.

Ibne Farooq, Ausanpur

Development-Oriented Budget of Chhattisgarh Government



Sanjeev Prashar

Finance Minister of Chhattisgarh Mr. OP Chaudhary presented the first budget of the new state government in the Assembly today. Chhattisgarh state came into exist-

ence in November 2000, and ever since this state has progressed rapidly. Chhattisgarh- the 10th largest state of India in terms of area is blessed with abundant natural resources, while the agriculture and industry based economy has flourished to bring material prosperity as well.

The state has undergone tremendous development in the last two decades, but still has immense possibilities for progress. This was also the gist of the Economic Survey presented yesterday.

A Government Budget plays crucial role in materializing the possibilities of progress into reality, and the main determining factor of how effective a budget will be is capital expenditure. The higher the ratio of capital expenditure to revenue expenditure, the more effective

is the government budget. Hence, reviewing the annual budget of Chhattisgarh on this basis, we find that the capital expenditure of the government this year is 20 percent more as compared to last year, which definitely makes it a progress-oriented budget.

Farmer

In the newly-declared budget, Rs 10,000 crore has been sanctioned under Krishak Unnati Yojana, inclusive of paddy procurement at Rs 3100 per quintal. As a major part of the population in Chhattisgarh is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture, these budgetary provisions will prove beneficial for the economy. In addition, financial aid of Rs 10,000 per year has been sanctioned for landless agricultural labourers, which is a good initiative in this direction.

Women

The population of women in the state is 50% more; women who are working hard to support their families. Under these circumstances, inclusion of Mahtari Vandan Yojana in the budget and sanctioning of Rs 3000 crore for the scheme will provide great respite to women. This scheme will indirectly boost their productivity and ultimately support the economy too.

Public Health

It is said that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Chhattisgarh government has doubled the budget of the Public Health Engineering Department in its budget this year as compared to last year. In the budget, Rs 4,500 crore has been approved for the ambitious Jal-Jeevan Mission to supply clean water to every household. In addition, Rs 1821 crore has also

been sanctioned for the National Health Mission. Overall, the government has taken positive initiatives by increasing the overall expenditure on public health.

Education

Proposed establishing of Chhattisgarh Institute of Technology, on the lines of IIT, is an innovative initiative in the field of education in the state. Apart from this, upgradation of 160 ITIs and livelihood excellence center will lead to generation of new sources of employment for the youth of the state. Moreover, the funds of School Education Department have also been increased by Rs 2 thousand crore.

(Author is MBA, MBF, Ph. D, Post-doctoral, Professor, Marketing Area, Chairperson Health Management Vertical Indian Institute of Management Raipur.)

BRIEF

FCA clearance



Shimla: Bhuntar Airport has received clearance under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) that will pave the way for its expansion, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The airport will soon be widened, enabling bigger aircraft to land thereby increasing the footfall of tourists as well as facilitating locals, the Chief Minister said in a statement here.

Airtel Payments Bank

New Delhi: Airtel Payments Bank, India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license, today announced its consolidated results for the third quarter ended December 31, 2023. The Bank continued to witness a strong growth trajectory with revenues at Rs. 469 crore, up by 47% YoY, while net profit stood at Rs. 11 crore, up by 120% YoY. The Bank's Monthly Transacting Users (MTU) grew to 59 million giving a boost to customer deposits, which grew by 50% YoY to Rs. 2,339 crore during the quarter.

IPO subscribed

New Delhi: The initial public offering of Jana Small Finance Bank received 18.50 times subscription on the closing day of share sale on Friday. Private equity majors TPG and Morgan Stanley-backed company's IPO received bids for 18,71,96,580 shares as against 1,01,16,284 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) fetched 38.75 times subscription while the category for non-institutional investors got subscribed 25.05 times.

Appointment



New Delhi: FMCG direct selling major Amway India on Friday announced the appointment of Rajneesh Chopra as its new head. Prior to taking up the role of the head of Amway India, Chopra was the Chief Commercial Officer at Immunotec in Texas, spearheading growth and business performance of the company across 14 global markets. Before that he also served as Vice President of Sales for Amway North America, where he was instrumental in implementing innovative strategies that solidified America's leadership within the company, a spokesperson of Amway India said.

Govt blocks 1.4 lakh mobile numbers linked to financial frauds

New Delhi, Feb 10:

To control digital frauds, the government has blocked 1.4 lakh mobile numbers so far that were involved in financial frauds, according to an official release. Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi chaired a meeting on cyber security in the financial services sector in which various issues including onboarding of banks and financial institutions on the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS) platform through API integration were discussed. Integration of CFCFRMS platform with the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) to centralise the platform that will enable effective collaboration between Police,



Banks, and Financial Institutions, allowing for real-time monitoring and prevention of fraudulent activities was deliberated, an official release said. The banks and financial institutions are required to phase out the use of regular 10-digit numbers and use specific number series such as '140xxx' for commercial or promotional activities as prescribed by TRAI, the statement said.

The meeting took stock of the action points which emerged during the discussion in the last meeting held in November and reviewed the preparedness of the banks and other financial institutions in tackling the challenges arising from cyber security in the financial services sector, increasing trend of digital payment frauds, and readiness of all the concerned stakeholders in this regard. During the deliberation, it was noted that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has developed ASTR, an AI-machine learning-based engine, to detect mobile connections taken on fake/ forged documents. About 1.40 lakh mobile handsets either linked to disconnected mobile connections or misused in cyber-crime or financial frauds have been blocked, it said.

NITI Aayog prepares plan for economic transformation of 4 cities



New Delhi, Feb 10:

The NITI Aayog has prepared a plan for economic transformation of Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Vizag and help India become a developed economy by 2047, its CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said on

Saturday. He also said the Aayog plans to prepare economic planning of 20-25 more cities, as they are the centre of economic activities. A vision document is being prepared by NITI Aayog for India to become a developed economy of USD 30 trillion by 2047, and it will be released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We used to only prepare urban planning of cities, not economic planning..NITI Aayog has prepared economic planning of Mumbai, Surat, Varanasi and Vizag, for economic transformation of these cities," he said at an event here.

EPFO fixes 3-year high interest rate of 8.25 pc on employees' provident fund for FY24

New Delhi, Feb 10:

Retirement fund body EPFO on Saturday fixed a three-year high interest rate of 8.25 per cent on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for 2023-24. In March 2023, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had increased the interest rate on EPF marginally to 8.15 per cent for 2022-23 from 8.10 per cent in 2021-22. In March 2022, EPFO had lowered the interest rate on EPF for 2021-22 to an over four-decade low of 8.1 per cent for its six crore subscribers, from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21. This was the lowest since 1977-78, when the EPF interest



rate stood at 8 per cent. According to a statement by the labour ministry, the decision to hike interest rate for 2023-24 was taken at 235th meeting of Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of EPFO on Saturday, under the chairmanship of Union Labour & Employment Minister

AGRO BIHAR 2024



Chief Minister Nitish Kumar visits an exhibition during the 'Rajyastariya Krishi Yantrikaran Mela' (Agro Bihar 2024), in Patna, Saturday, Feb. 10.

JSW group signs MoU with Odisha to set up Rs 40,000 crore EV project in state

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10:

The JSW group on Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Odisha government for establishment of an Integrated Electric Vehicle (EV) and EV Battery manufacturing project at an investment of Rs 40,000 crore in the state. At Naraj in Cuttack district the JSW group will set up an EV vehicle, and component manufacturing plant, while at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, it will set up a copper smelter and lithium refinery. The project consists of a 50 GWH EV battery plant, EV, lithium refinery,

copper smelter and related component manufacturing units. The MoU was signed two weeks after the state cabinet approved a special incentive package for the group's ambitious EV and component manufacturing projects at Naraj in Cuttack and Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said this day marks a great leap forward in the state's journey towards industrial excellence and sustainable development. "Powered by the 5T (transformational) initiative, Odisha is on a steady path of transformation.

Developing countries need more carbon space for growth: R K Singh

New Delhi, Feb 10:

Developing countries need more carbon space for economic growth, Union Minister R K Singh said on Friday as he emphasised that 77 per cent of the legacy carbon dioxide load has been caused directly by the developed countries. India aims to reduce its carbon emission intensity by 45 per cent by 2030. "Now, what is the present status on our planet? You have some countries that are developed and their average per capita income as per IMF figures is about USD 58,700 per year," Singh said at the World Sustainable



Development Summit 2024 in the national capital. Singh, who is in charge of the power as well as new and renewable energy ministries, said there are developing countries where the average per capita income is USD 6,770 per year. "Just imagine the

disparity. Now these developed countries (became) developed using fossil fuels and you know 77 per cent of the legacy carbon dioxide load on our planet earth was caused directly by them... that has led to this global rise in temperature by 1.1 per cent," he said. "The developing countries need to develop that requires carbon space. No country in the world is going to compromise on their development. No matter how many speeches you give. You have to vacate carbon space so that the developing countries can develop. Because we need that space," he said.

FAME II subsidies for e-vehicles till March-end or until funds are available: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 10:

Subsidies under the second phase of FAME Scheme will be eligible for e-vehicles sold till March 31, 2024 or till the time funds are available, whichever is earlier, the government said on Friday. To give a further push to clean mobility in the country, the Ministry of Heavy Industries has announced that the outlay of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) programme has been enhanced from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 11,500 crore, an official statement said.

India continues to be preferred destination for foreign direct investment: Goyal

New Delhi, Feb 10:

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India continues to be a preferred FDI (foreign direct investment) destination despite soaring global interest rates. He said that interest rates rose worldwide including in the US and that led to the flow of capital back in the developed nations. "That was a period where one would have imagined a much deeper impact on the developing economies than what India witnessed, but the strength of demand in India, the strength of opportunities that people saw in India,



ensured that we did not see the drastic fall that many of our other peer countries (witnessed)," Goyal said. The total FDI - which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital - contracted 15.5 per cent to USD 32.9 billion during April-September

this fiscal against USD 38.94 billion in April-June 2022. "We continue to have significant FDI coming in... a lot of reinvestment of earnings happened even during this period when ideally I would have thought global balance sheets were very stressed," the minister said. He added that India continues to see traction for investments and the country "continues to see money coming in." "The material factor is that it (FDI) continues to come in. Very often when you see a very rapid growth on any statistic, you need some time for it to cool down also," he said.

India-Canada trade registered growth in 2023

New Delhi, Feb 10:

India-Canada trade in goods was USD 8.2 billion in the first 10 months of 2023 as against USD 6.9 billion in 2022, registering a growth of 18.84 per cent, according to the government data provided in Lok Sabha on Friday. India's exports to Canada in 2023 (January to October) was USD 4.1 billion as against USD 3.76 billion in 2022 and the growth was estimated at 9.04 per cent, showed the data furnished by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan. The statistics came amid a severe downturn in ties between the two countries. "As per the available data, our bilateral trade with Canada and exports to Canada have registered an increase in 2023, compared to the volume of trade and exports in 2022," he said. The minister provided the details while re-

plying to a question. India-Canada relations came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a gurdwara in Surrey city. New Delhi rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and accused Canada of giving space to Khalistani extremists targeting India. India has been asserting that its "core issue" with Canada remained that of the space given to separatists, terrorists and anti-India elements in that country. Muraleedharan said India has been taking up with Canada the reports of hate crimes and other incidents targeting Indians in that country. He said around 2,30,000 Indian students are currently studying in Canada.

Intel has no plans to build semiconductor fab; is bullish on AI: Intel India MD



New Delhi, Feb 10:

Computer chip maker Intel has no plans to set up a semiconductor plant or any type of manufacturing unit in the country at present, the company's India business head Santhosh Viswanathan said on Friday. Viswanathan, Vice President and Managing Director of Intel, India Region, said that the company continues to engage in India's electronic manufacturing sector as the country has potential to create a balanced supply chain that the world needs. "At this point in time, we don't have any plans to go back and do a fab or go

back to build any manufacturing capacity in India at this stage. It doesn't mean the engagement stops if we don't have a plan. It is about how you go back and build that infrastructure that can really set it up for years ahead," he told reporters in an online interaction. Viswanathan said Intel has had its design centre in India for more than three decades and has invested over USD 9 billion in the facility. "World needs a balanced supply chain. You cannot have 80 per cent of servers being made in one place and 90 per cent of all laptops made in one place. I think that's the key change where India can really step and help build a balanced electronics supply chain for the world," he said. When asked about the artificial intelligence momentum and the company's engagement in the India market for the next generation technology, Viswanathan said it is a very exciting moment and Intel is bullish on it with the company's Xeon processors and Gaudi AI chips.

Chronicle

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SP Trilok Bansal leads traffic awareness drive



Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 10: District Police Captain Trilok Bansal (IPS) has taken decisive steps to enhance road safety across Khairagarh district. Under his guidance, all police stations and traffic branches

received comprehensive directives aimed at optimizing traffic management and curbing severe accidents.

Emphasizing a different approach centered on solutions rather than fines, Khairagarh's traffic police, alongside stations in



Thekkadih, Khairagarh, Chhuikhadan, and Gandai, embarked on a pivotal campaign to educate residents about the critical importance of wearing helmets and the consequential avoidance of fines. This initiative, dubbed "Challan No Solution," resonated

deeply with the community, leading to an impressive response. In just two days, 90 individuals from various parts of the district voluntarily invested in their safety by purchasing helmets at the Rural Cooperative Bank Khairagarh.

Mahobia criticised Modi's commitments

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 10: MLA representative Kapilnath Mahobia has brought attention to the lingering gap between electoral promises and actual implementation, particularly highlighting the pledges made by both the Modi-led central government and the state's Sai administration.

Expressing concern over what he perceives as unfulfilled assurances, Mahobia criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) propensity to craft enticing slogans and promises during election campaigns without delivering tangible results afterward. Drawing

examples from various instances, Mahobia noted the discrepancy between pre-election rhetoric and post-election actions.

In the 2023 assembly elections, the BJP leaders pledged to procure paddy from farmers at Rs 3100 per quintal, yet to date, this promise remains unfulfilled, leaving farmers disappointed. Additionally, assurances of waiving loans up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers have not materialized as expected.

Similarly, the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, promising Rs 1000 per month to married women, has faced implementation challenges due to complex rules and



Kapilnath Mahobia

regulations, depriving many eligible women of the intended benefits.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha elections loom, Mahobia urged for accountability and emphasized the importance of fulfilling past

commitments before making new ones. Furthermore, he pointed out specific infrastructure projects promised by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, such as the Rajgaon to Kumhari and Ratanpur to Dantewada highways, which have yet to materialize, underscoring the need for transparency and action.

With public awareness on the rise regarding the accountability of political leaders, Mahobia anticipates a decisive response from voters in the upcoming elections, signaling a demand for genuine progress and fulfillment of electoral promises.

Son of Bilaspur bringing laurel at BITS PILANI Goa

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 10: Kushal Sarkar born and brought up at Bilaspur (C.G) now studying at BITS PILANI Goa wrote a book on competitive solution for engineering entrance exam of BITSAT at the age of 21, which was inaugurated recently by Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Promod Sawant in presence of other Ministers.

Kushal Sarkar, who is the son of Jayant Sarkar, Chief Law Assistant/SECR Bilaspur and Mrs Sutapa Sarkar, Principal at Sharda Vidyalaya Bhilai is a student of Engineering 3rd year at BITS PILANI Goa. He has completed his initial schooling from The Jain International School



Bilaspur, Kendriya Vidyalaya Bilaspur and AAdharshila Vidyamandir Bilaspur. Later on completed his High school from KPS Bhilai and Kota Rajasthan with flying colours.

Apart from his academic career Kushal is a graduate in Vocal Music and plays many Musical instruments. He is also a

Youtuber received Silver Play Button with about two lakhs Subscriber, guiding the young aspirants in building their academic career. Bilaspur fraternity congratulated for his achievement and wish him that he will continue to make Bilaspur & Chhattisgarh proud with his work in the coming days also.

Collector reviews preparations for Ayushman Card Maha Abhiyan

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 10: In preparation for the upcoming Ayushman Card Maha Abhiyan under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Bilaspur Corporation area is set to host card-making sessions at local ration shops on February 12th and 13th.

Collector Awanish Sharan chaired a meeting with relevant officials to review the campaign's readiness, urging prompt action in assisting survivors with card registrations alongside local councillors and public representatives.

The campaign's itinerary covers wards 1 to 70 of



the corporation, with wards 1 to 35 scheduled for coverage on the first day and wards 36 to 70 on the following day, from 10 am to 6 pm each day.

Notably, over 2.14 lakh city residents are yet to acquire Ayushman cards, which offer free medical

treatment up to Rs 5 lakh in registered hospitals. Education, health, municipal corporation, and revenue officers have been mobilized for campaign duties, receiving comprehensive training in card issuance via mobile apps. To obtain an Ayushman card,

only a ration card and Aadhar card are required, with separate cards issued for each family member.

Awanish Sharan emphasized the importance of community involvement in ensuring the success of the registration drive, urging widespread

participation. To facilitate public access, camps will be set up in ration shops across the wards, with the Municipal Corporation tasked with extensive publicity efforts.

Furthermore, the Collector noted that while camps are organized on a ward-wise basis, individuals can register for cards in any ward.

The meeting, attended by Corporation Commissioner Amit Kumar, CMHO Dr. Srivastava, DEO TR Sahu, DPM Piyuli Majumdar, as well as SDM, Tehsildar, and Zone Commissioner, underscores the collaborative efforts towards facilitating healthcare access for the city's residents.

Pankaj and Divyansh shine as Supela's stars

Supela school's models selected for state level



Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Feb 10: The Inspire Awards 2022-23 took place in Dhamtari district, drawing 377 participants from Balodabazar, Gariaband, and Dhamtari. Among the attendees, two standout models from Government Middle School Supela have

been selected to advance to the state level. This achievement marks a five-year streak for the school, consistently sending models to compete at higher levels.

This year, Divyansh Sahu's indicator device for timely medication administration to patients and Pankaj Kumar Yadav's

weed prevention device caught the judges' attention, earning them spots in the state-level competition. The remarkable achievement is attributed to the dedicated support of their teachers: Tikam Chand Sahu, Hriday Ram Sinha, Anil Kumar Dewangan, and Triveni Sahu.

Free spectacles distributed to 28 students

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Feb 10: In a commendable effort under the National Blindness and Low Vision Control Programme, the Civil Hospital Ophthalmology Department of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kurud, distributed free spectacles to 28 students spanning from classes 6th to 11th.

Block Nodal Officer for Blindness, Dr. Kshitij Sahu, highlighted the annual distribution event, orchestrated in alignment with directives from the District Collector and Chief Medical and Health Officer. Acting under the guidance of District Nodal Officer for



Blindness, Dr. J.S. Khalsa, and Ophthalmologist Dr. Rajesh Suryavanshi, alongside the Block Medical Officer, Dr. U.S. Navratna, the distribution aimed to enhance vision care among students. Officer Dr. Praveen Tandon provided insightful information on eye

protection, emphasizing the importance of wearing glasses consistently.

Amidst the distribution event, Gloria Minj, Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya Kurud, and the Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, expressed sincere appreciation to the Department of

Ophthalmology, Civil Hospital Kurud, for their valuable contribution to student welfare. Teachers Pranil Valde, Hiramti, and Kanchan Madam were also present, further reinforcing the collaborative effort towards promoting student health and well-being.

Chandulal Sahu criticises Rahul Gandhi's remarks

Gandhi's rhetoric may backfire on Congress in upcoming elections

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 10: Chandulal Sahu, former MP from Mahasamund and National Vice President of BJP Other Backward Class Morcha, has launched a scathing critique against Rahul Gandhi, alleging divisive rhetoric and its potential ramifications on the political landscape.

Sahu took particular offense to Gandhi's comments targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Other Backward Classes (OBC) community. He accused Gandhi of lacking consideration in his public statements and procession, likening his behaviour to that of a "retarded child."

Sahu questioned Rahul Gandhi, who today talks about the



rights of OBC class for vote bank, should answer to the countrymen as to why his great grandfather (Jawahar Lal Nehru), maternal grandmother (Indira Gandhi) and father (Rajiv Gandhi) did other things while being the Prime Minister.

Why were the recommendations of "Kaka Kalelkar" and "BP Mandal Commission" made for providing reservation to backward

classes not implemented?

Sahu further asserted that Gandhi's derogatory remarks not only undermine the individuals or communities they target but also contribute to heightened tensions across society.

He highlighted pending legal cases against Gandhi and cited his loss of parliamentary membership due to remarks disparaging the Modi community. Despite judicial interventions, Sahu emphasized the need for Gandhi to exercise restraint and contemplate the impact of his words.

Expressing concern over the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Sahu suggested that Gandhi's strategic targeting of Modi and the OBC class through derogatory re-

marks could backfire on the Congress party.

He called for renewed legal action against Gandhi, advocating for either FIRs or defamation cases to be pursued. Sahu warned that Gandhi's actions risked further alienating voters and damaging the Congress' electoral prospects.

Sahu concluded by suggesting that Gandhi's divisive rhetoric could ultimately prove detrimental to the Congress party, likening him to the mythical figure Bhasmasur, whose actions led to self-destruction. He urged the public to consider the broader implications of Gandhi's statements and their potential impact on the country's political landscape.

Collector inspected various government institutions of Korba

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Feb 10: Collector Ajit Vasant conducted a surprise inspection of various government institutions within the Korba development block, offering essential guidance during the visit.

Notably, he scrutinized the Government Higher Secondary School in Lemru and the Government Pre-Secondary School, Middle School, and Anganwadi Center in Nakia, evaluating the quality of education and health provisions.

During the inspection at Lemru's Higher Secondary School, the Collector assessed student enrollment figures, teacher availability, and overall school infrastructure.

Engaging with 10th-grade students, he imparted motivational advice, encouraging them to approach their studies dili-



gently and without undue stress. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of striving for aca-

ademic excellence and urged school authorities to enhance efforts to improve examination results com-

Patriotic school initiatives
During his inspection of Nakia's pre-secondary and middle schools, the Collector emphasized boosting student attendance. He also urged teachers to impart vital national and state-related information during prayer sessions.

Timely health services
Following his visit to the Primary Health Center Lemru, the Collector assessed health facilities and inquired about staff positions. He directed all health workers to ensure punctual attendance and efficient service delivery to patients.

pared to the previous academic year.

District Panchayat CEO Sambit Mishra and other officials accompanied the Collector.

Anganwadi workers commended

During his visit to Nakia Anganwadi Centre, the Collector assessed child registration, nutrition, and educational initiatives. He lauded Anganwadi workers and Mitans for their efforts in providing balanced meals and fostering child development. The Collector emphasized the importance of literacy and elementary education for the children. Observing the preparation of nutritious meals, including rice, pulses, and vegetables, he appreciated the dedication of the staff towards promoting the physical well-being of the children.

India's formidable young turks gear up for World Cup glory against Aussies

Under-19 Final

Benoni, Feb 10 (PTI):

Few careers will get wings to soar while some will fade into oblivion but on Sunday, all those sprightly 18 and 19-year-old Indian boys will leave no stone unturned to win a record sixth ICC U-19 World Cup when they face Australia in the summit clash here.

On November 19 last year, an Australian team left Rohit Sharma and his band teary-eyed on a global stage and for the Uday Saharans, Sachin Dhas, Musheer Khans and Saumy Kumar Pandey, beating an Aussie team would certainly be very sweet.

"No, we are not thinking about revenge. We are firmly focussed on present and we neither want to dwell on past or look too far ahead," skipper Saharan recently told PTI Bhasha in Benoni.

The Aussies have a quartet which could spell trouble for India and they are skipper Hugh Weibgen, opener Harry Dixon, seamers Tom Straker and Callum Vidler; the consistent performers during this edition.



Indian team during a practice session ahead of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup final, in Benoni, South Africa.

India U-19 had beaten Australia in the 2012 and 2018 finals, and will again start favourites during this edition's title match.

The Indian team has always been an age-group powerhouse, thanks to the talent the country produces in hundreds and their ninth global final is a testimony to the system that has been put in place

for the last two decades.

From 2016, India U-19s have played all the finals, winning the 2018 and 2022 editions while losing in 2016 and 2020.

Since Virat Kohli's side won the trophy in 2008, U-19 World Cup has gained a lot of traction and the curiosity value does increase due to live TV coverage and streaming.

The U-19 World Cup has presented stars like Yuvraj Singh, Mohammed Kaif, Suresh Raina, Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal to name a few, who have risen through the ranks.

But cold facts will tell us that the list of those who

Match Starts: 1:30 pm IST.

have failed to make it to the top grade after instant stardom is way bigger.

The jury is still out on how many of them can actually make it big but if there have been two stand-out players, who looked out for bigger things, one is young Maharashtra batter Dhas, who has revelled in the role of a finisher, and left-arm spinner Saumy Pandey, who has so far taken 17 wickets.

Dhas didn't get an IPL contract as he had not yet played any senior level game, hence ineligible for the auction. However, he is one batter who has shown temperament, a pre-requisite for the highest level.

Saharan is more of an accumulator while Sarfaraz Khan's younger brother Musheer, who is the second highest run-getter, is also a handy left-arm spinner.

Right-arm pacer Raj Limbani and left-arm seamer Naman Tiwari have been effective but are far from ready for the next level.

But on Sunday, their best will be more than enough for this level.

Gukesh beats Carlsen

Joint second after day one of Freestyle Chess



Wangels, Feb 10 (PTI):

Grandmaster D Gukesh threw one salvo after another to beat world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway, Levon Aronian of Armenia and eventually reigning world champion Ding Liren of China on the first day of the Weissenhaus Chess Challenge that got underway here.

After a rather sedate start that cost him a full point in the opener against Alireza Firouzja of France, Gukesh was in full swing and ended the day with three points in all out of a possible four and is in joint second place in the rapid section behind Vincent Keymer of Germany who notched up 3.5 points. Nodirbek Abdusattorov also matched Gukesh on points after remaining unbeaten on the opening day while the trio of biggies Carlsen, Firouzja and Fabiano Caruana of the United States are in joint fourth spot with two points apiece in the \$200,000 prize-money tournament. Levon Aronian of the United States, with a lone draw, is sole seventh while surprisingly Ding Liren is at the bottom after losing all four games.

Chouhan's six wickets, Kiran's three keep Chhattisgarh afloat against Mumbai

Raipur, Feb 10 (PTI):

Ashish Chouhan grabbed an impressive six-wicket haul, while Ravi Kiran returned with three wickets as the pace duo kept Chhattisgarh in the game against heavyweights Mumbai in their Ranji Trophy Group B fixture here on Saturday.

Chouhan (6/105) and Kiran (3/53)'s splendid show helped Chhattisgarh bundle out Mumbai for 351 after they resumed at 310 for four as the last six wickets fell inside 16 overs this morning.

In response, Chhattisgarh were 180 for 4 as the match hangs in the balance with the home side trailing by 171 runs going into an intriguing penultimate day. For the home side, Shashank Chandrakar's struck 56 off 93 balls in a 87-run opening alliance with Rishabh Tiwari (25; 87b).

But the Mumbai bowlers continued to chip away at wickets. Sanjeet Desai, after a promising start, fell for 41 (87b), while skipper Amandeep Khare stood firm with an unbeaten 35.

Assam in driver's seat Parvej Musaraf's resolute 89, Abhishek Thakuri's 112, his maiden



first-class century, and Mrinmoy Dutta's brisk 72 off 54 balls lower down the order powered Assam to a formidable 405 against Bihar in Guwahati. Sakibul Gani was the pick of Bihar's bowlers, claiming 4/91. Bihar encountered early setbacks with Piyush Singh getting out for a duck, while the other opener Sharman Nigroth retired hurt without opening the account.

Gani (10) also departed early before Bipin Saurabh's 39 and Paramjeet Singh's unbeaten 26 steadied the ship as Bihar finished the day at 134 for 5, trailing Assam by 271 runs. Mukhtar Hussain's impressive spell of 3 for 16 kept Bihar in check.

Bumrah was dubbed as white-ball specialist without even asking him: Shastri



New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri always knew that Jasprit Bumrah was "desperate and hungry" to play Test cricket as the pace sensation did not like being stereotyped as a "white-ball specialist". Bumrah is the first Indian pacer to be ranked No. 1 in the ICC Test rankings.

The 30-year-old's pace prowess was on full display as he claimed a remarkable match haul of 9/91, playing a pivotal role in India's series-levelling victory in the Vizag Test. In the process, he also became the fastest Indian to 150 Test wickets. In an interview to former England skipper Michael Atherton, who writes for 'The Times', Shastri remembered his conversation with Bumrah where the pacer had told him playing Test would be the "biggest day" of his life.

"I remember my first call to him, it was in Kolkata. I asked him would he be interested in Test cricket. He said that would be the biggest day of his life," Shastri recalled.

"He was labelled as a white-ball cricketer without asking him. But I knew. I wanted to see how hungry he was. I told him to get ready, be prepared. I told him I was going to unleash him in South Africa."

Ramkumar gets wild card for Bengaluru Open

Bengaluru, Feb 10 (PTI):

Ramkumar Ramanathan, India's second-highest-ranked player, was on Saturday granted a wild card entry into the singles main draw of the Bengaluru Open, starting February 12.

Ramkumar, who led India in the recent Davis Cup clash against Pakistan, had lost in the first round of the ongoing Chennai ATP Challenger and the opportunity will give him a chance to do well on home soil.

Ramkumar has reached the singles final on the ATP Challenger circuit seven times, winning his lone title in Manama, Bahrain, in November 2021. Interestingly, Ramkumar had won his seventh and last doubles Challenger title in Bengaluru with compatriot Saketh Myneni, two years back.

"I am extremely happy and grateful that Bengaluru Open has granted me the singles main draw wild card. I am looking forward to the tournament. Bengaluru has always been a happy hunting ground for me and I have had many



special memories here. "I just want to thank the entire organisation for trusting me. Let the best player win. I am going to give my best," said Ramkumar, ranked 459.

The Bengaluru Open will be the third Challenger tournament of the season for Ramkumar, who made the Nonthaburi event in January through Qualifiers.

"Ramkumar is a terrific talent and played a crucial role in ensuring India's victory in Davis Cup Tie against Pakistan recently. He recently won two ITF M25 World Tennis Tour events in Karnataka on his comeback and we are proud to have him in the Main draw of the Bengaluru Open which he totally deserves. His wild card makes the Indian presence stronger and we wish him the best," Tournament Director Sunil Yajaman said.

India women outwit USA 3-1

Bhubaneswar, Feb 10 (PTI):

Indian women produced a flawless effort to outwit United States 3-1 and end this leg of the Hockey Pro League on a winning note here on Friday. Vandana Katariya (9th), Deepika (26th), and Samila Tete (56th) scored for the home side, while Sanne Caarls (42nd) netted the consolation goal for the USA.

India started the game with an opportunity to score through a penalty corner but Deepika's drag-flick sailed wide of the post. The USA answered back with a move of their own as Elizabeth Yeager shot from a tight angle, but India captain Savita Punia diffused the situation with a save. But India soon found the target. Sangita Kumari ventured down the right wing and tried to find Sonika in the shooting circle but the ball bounced off the US goalkeeper. Kealsie Robles and Katariya tapped the ball in to score India's first goal.

In the second quarter, Tete initiated a blazing run on the right wing but she couldn't find Lalremsiami in the circle and the move fizzled out.

Frances Tiafoe ousted by Marcos Giron in Dallas Open quarterfinals

Dallas, Feb 10 (AP):

Frances Tiafoe can attend his own bobblehead night at the Washington Wizards game if he wants. The No. 1 seed in the Dallas Open was hoping for a conflict.

Unseeded Marcos Giron stunned Tiafoe early and rolled to a 6-1, 6-4 victory Friday night to reach the semifinals of the hardcourt event on the SMU campus for the second time in three years. Tiafoe, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 14, expected to be in Dallas for the semifinals Saturday, when more than 1,300 miles away the Wizards will be handing out 10,000 Tiafoe bobbleheads for a game against Philadelphia.

Giron's victory in the quarterfinals his 12th win over a top 20 opponent freed up his fellow American's calendar. The 30-year-old still seeking his first ATP Tour title lost to Tiafoe 6-2, 6-2 at Indian Wells almost a year ago. "I was excited to play him again," said Giron, who



won the first three points on each of Tiafoe's first two service games on the way to a 5-0 lead. "Margins are thin. I knew that I was playing well."

Ben Shelton rallied for a 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4 victory over Jordan Thompson, and the third-seeded American will face countryman Tommy Paul in the semifinals. Paul, the No. 2 seed, beat Dominik Koepfer of Germany, 7-5, 6-3.

Spinners will play key role in upcoming T20 WC: Maharaj

Cape Town, Feb 10 (PTI):

South Africa's premier left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj is confident that slow bowlers will play a vital role on flat decks expected to be on offer during the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in the Americas in June. The ninth edition of the T20 World Cup will be jointly hosted by the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29 this year. "Spinners will play a crucial role in the upcoming T20 World Cup. Wickets are getting better and boundaries are getting shorter. There is much need for a spinner in the team to provide control and variety," told PTI in an exclusive interview. "Hopefully, these T20 platforms can give spinners even bigger role to players coming to the international stage," he added. The left-arm orthodox spinner, who picked up 14 wickets in nine matches at an impressive economy rate of 4.37 with a four-wicket haul against New Zealand in last year's ODI World Cup in India, is a vital cog in South African team. The 34-year-old feels that key recipe of his success is being a "street smart" cricketer.

Kohli opts out of remainder of series; Iyer axed

Rookie Akash gets maiden call-up

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Star batter Virat Kohli has pulled out of the remainder of the Test series against England for personal reasons, the BCCI confirmed on Saturday, ending speculation around premier player's availability for the high-profile contest.

Kohli had missed the first two Tests and that he could be unavailable for the remaining three matches was reported by PTI on February 3.

"Virat Kohli will remain unavailable for selection for the remainder of the series due to personal reasons. The Board fully respects and supports Mr. Kohli's decision," the BCCI said in a release. Kohli is currently abroad for pressing personal family matter. The series is locked 1-1 with India bouncing back with win the second Test in



Vizag after the visitors took the series-opener in Hyderabad. The third

match is scheduled to start from February 15 in Rajkot. That Kohli will be unavail-

Squad

Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, KL Rahul, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), KS Bharat (WK), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Akash Deep.

able due to serious personal reasons was well-known but BCCI brass wanted to check one final time if it could avail his services for the final Test in Dharamsala from March 7-11. "The selection committee always knew that Virat won't be available for the series and accordingly the contingency plan was kept ready. Everyone in BCCI wants Virat to fulfil his family commitments and then come back with a free mind and as when he deems fit," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Rahul is fully fit and Jadeja is getting there

The national selection committee included senior players Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul in the squad but their inclusion will be subject to clearance by the BCCI's medical team.

Jadeja had injured his hamstring during the opening Test while Rahul had a right quadriceps niggle. Jadeja (87) and Rahul (86) were the top two scorers in Hyderabad. "Rahul is already fit and ready to come back in the playing eleven. He had a bit of tightness in his quadriceps and the medical team didn't want it to get aggravated. In case of Jadeja, it is a strain and he is getting better. There are still five days to go before the game and if he shapes up well, nothing like it," the source said. If both Rahul and Jadeja return to the playing eleven, then Rajat Patidar, who made his debut in Vizag, will have to make way for one of them as Shreyas Iyer has already been dropped.

Iyer's injury makes it easy for selectors

Senior batter Iyer, who complained of groin and lower back stiffness has not been picked. However his medical update has not been provided by the BCCI. It is believed that Iyer would have been dropped in any case and his injury made the decision easier for selectors. "If Shreyas was to be rested because of injury, the BCCI medical bulletin would have had an update. Since there are no updates, it can be concluded that he has got the axe," the source said. Iyer has not scored a fifty for the longest time and his mode of dismissals on batting friendly Indian tracks is a cause of concern.

It is understood that Iyer might not be considered for the longer version of the game in near future as he has always been susceptible against short ball, a weakness. India have one more big Test series in the current WTC cycle - five games against Australia Down Under at the end of the year and Iyer, with his technique, unlikely to get the selectors' nod for games on tracks offering steep bounce.

Akash's all-round ability gets him nod

The only new face in the 17-man squad is Bengal speedster Akash Deep, who has been rewarded for his consistent show in first-class cricket and in recent India A vs England Lions Test series. Left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar has been released with Jadeja coming back while Mohammed Siraj is back in the squad in place of Avesh Khan.

Akash is also a handy batter and bowls at least 10 yards quicker than his Bengal teammate Mukesh Kumar, who is lucky to retain his place. Akash is however unlikely to make his debut in Rajkot.

Currently, he is playing Ranji Trophy match against Kerala in Thumba and will link up with the squad only on February 13. Senior pacer Mohammed Siraj would be ahead in pecking order.

JD(U) issues whip to MLAs ahead of trust vote



Bihar Minister Sharvan Kumar holds a meeting of JD(U) MLAs ahead of the floor test, in Patna, Saturday.

Downplays absence of many at luncheon

Patna, Feb 10 (PTI):

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) on Saturday said a whip has

been issued to ensure the presence of all party MLAs inside the assembly on Monday when the newly formed NDA government will seek a trust vote.

JD(U) chief whip Shrivastava said those defying the whip "will lose

their membership" even as he maintained that it was a "routine exercise that takes place ahead of every assembly session".

"A whip has been issued, directing MLAs to remain present in the House and vote in favour of the govern-

ment whenever the occasion arises. It is, however, a routine exercise that we undertake ahead of every assembly session," Shrivastava told reporters here.

The JD(U) leader, who is also a senior minister in the state cabinet, however, added, "Of course, defying the whip has consequences. It can result in the MLAs concerned losing their membership."

Kumar was speaking on the sidelines of a luncheon he had hosted for party legislators at his residence, where signatures were obtained from the attendees, though a few MLAs remained conspicuous by their absence.

He, however, asserted, "A few of our MLAs could not come because of ill health. They had explained to me their difficulty.

WORLD BOOK FAIR



Visitors on the first day of the World Book Fair 2024, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Saturday.

'Pre-wedding shoot held in non-functional operation theatre at govt hospital'

Chitradurga, Feb 10 (PTI):

The operation theatre of a government-run hospital in Chitradurga district where a pre-wedding photo shoot was held by a contractual doctor, has been non-functional since September last year, health officials said on Saturday.

Also, the shoot was done without the knowledge of the Assistant Medical Officer of the facility in the Bharamasagar area, they said.

The doctor, Abhishek, was dismissed from service on Friday after a video of the photo shoot went viral on social media, sparking a controversy. It was held on February 7, they added.

"The woman who is seen assisting the doctor in the video is his fiancée, who is also a doctor by profession but does not work in the same government medical facility. She works elsewhere. The doctor, who was dismissed from service for his act, is a MBBS graduate and

was recently hired on a contractual basis for a year," a senior district health officer told PTI.

"He reported for duty on January 12 and was posted at the medical health centre in Bharamasagar area because the facility had lot of OT (Operation Theatre) patients and there were vacancies," the official added.

"The dismissed doctor had also applied for leave for his wedding but before going for leave did this pre-wedding photo shoot in the OT of the hospital which is under repair and has not been used since September last year. Not even a single medical procedure has been performed in that OT since then."

But this doctor without the knowledge of the Assistant Medical Officer (AMO), arranged a photo shoot inside the unused OT and got his fiancée and others inside the facility without the knowledge of the medical officer," he said.

As per the report submitted by the AMO, the photo shoot was done without his permission, without bringing it to his notice.

"So, when the matter came to notice, we immediately dismissed him from service," he added.

Taking to social media platform 'X', Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao had on Friday said the doctor who conducted a pre-wedding shoot in the operation theatre of Bharamasagar government Hospital in Chitradurga has been dismissed from service.

In the video, the doctor could be seen performing a "surgery" on a patient, while his partner is assisting him. At the end of the video, the man who acted as a patient on whom the surgery was being performed was seen sitting up "post-operation". The video also showed people with cameras and lights present in the operation theatre for the pre-wedding shoot.

'Judicial independence critical for operation of legal institutions'

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

Judicial independence is critical for the operation of legal institutions, particularly in volatile political contexts, the International Court of Justice judge Hilary Charlesworth said here on Saturday.

Hilary Charlesworth, an Australian international lawyer who has been a Judge of the ICJ since 5 November 2021, was delivering the second annual lecture on 'The International Court of Justice: A legal forum in a political environment' in the Supreme Court premises here.

Referring to the role of the ICJ in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case, she said though the international court's judgement did not resolve the tension between India and Pakistan, it "at least it provided a resolution and (that too a) legal resolution to an acute problem dividing them."

On April 10, 2017, Jadhav was sentenced to death by a Field General Court Martial in Pakistan. The ICJ stayed his execution pending final adju-



ICJ judge Hilary Charlesworth speaks during the Foundation Day lecture, in New Delhi, Saturday.

dition of the case.

The ICJ had held that Pakistan will have to review the entire process of trial and conviction of Kulbhushan Jadhav and provide consular access to India.

She said judicial independence in the international context was aimed at eliminating any non-legal considerations that might affect a judge's reasoning.

"Judicial independence is critical to the operation of legal institutions, particularly in volatile political contexts," she said.

Charlesworth said that the international judiciary can draw inspiration from the distinguished history of independence of India's apex court.

"Our two courts, the Supreme Court of India and the ICJ, while very different, I noticed that we are of a very similar age, you are going into your 75th year, we're going into our 78th year," she said.

But both faced the task of "navigating highly charged political environments," Judge Charlesworth said.

"The international judiciary, I think, can draw inspiration from the Supreme Court of India's distinguished history of independence, innovation. What is also really impressive to me, is the Supreme Court's courageous capacity of introspection," she said. Quoting Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud's recent talk at the ICJ's ceremonial sitting, the judge said, "Introspection is the art of bringing the seemingly unattainable within the line of vision." She congratulated the SC on its foundation day and wished it a "rich

and rewarding future."

Judge Charlesworth said the idea of an international judicial tribunal came to fruition after the first world war through the covenant of the League of Nations in 1919. It conducted its last public sitting in 1939, just after the outbreak of the second world war, she said.

The ICJ, established under the charter of the United Nations was distinct from the earlier court and elevated to the status of a principal organ of the UN, she said.

She said the ICJ is composed of 15 judges who are required to be of different nationalities and are elected by the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, which vote simultaneously, for nine-year terms which are renewable. The judge pointed out that the ICJ had a "poor record" in giving attention to gender balance and in almost eight decades, just six women had been elected as judges as compared to 109 men. Speaking about Indian judges at the ICJ, she said Judge Nagendra Singh was the longest serving judge, being in the

court for 15 years in the 1970s and 80s.

"In three out of the six cases involving India during the court's (last) eight decades, there was no Indian judge already on the bench. And so various distinguished Indian jurists were appointed as judges ad hoc," Judge Charlesworth said.

"There was some discussion whether the court should have compulsory jurisdiction during the drafting of the UN Charter at the San Francisco conference in 1945. Ultimately, the view of the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom prevailed, and that was that jurisdiction shall be voluntary and that's the situation today," she added.

Judge Charlesworth described the three ways by which cases came before the ICJ: one, by states entering into special agreements to submit a dispute, two, when states were parties to a treaty that granted it jurisdiction to decide disputes, and three, by making a standing declaration accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the court.

VALENTINE'S DAY SHOPPING



People shop at a gift shop ahead of Valentine's Day, in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday.

17th Lok Sabha - younger, more educated, better gender ratio

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

As the 17th Lok Sabha held its last sitting on Saturday, data showed it was a younger House with better education profile and an improved gender ratio, though it still remains lower than many other countries.

Also, the number of first-time MPs was below the half-way mark at 260 and the number of re-elected members was higher than the previous Lok Sabha.

When Lok Sabha was constituted in 2019, the BJP had 303 members as the single largest party, though it came down to 290 by the last sitting, largely due to resignations of some MPs after the recent assembly polls that they fought and won.

Total 397 MPs were elected from national parties in 2019, including 52 from Congress, which now has 48 MPs. TMC's tally remains at 22, though it is now classified as a regional party. Among the state parties, DMK's tally is 24, up from 23 at the beginning of the 17th Lok Sabha while YSRC has maintained its number at 22.

The 17th Lok Sabha saw fewer MPs over 70 years and more under 40 years, while its average age was around 54 years. The proportion of MPs below 40 years was steadily declining from 26 per cent in the first Lok Sabha to eight per cent in the 16th. But the 17th Lok Sabha bucked this longer-term trend with an increase to nearly 12 per cent when it was constituted.

Chandrani Murmu of BJD from Keonjhar constituency was the youngest member of the House, getting elected at the age of 25 years, 11 months in 2019 and Shafiqur Rahman Barq of SP from Sambhal constituency was the old-

est MP, getting elected at the age of 89 years.

On an average, women MPs were younger compared to their male counterparts in the 17th Lok Sabha.

This Lok Sabha also had nearly 400 graduate MPs, while the proportion of those having studied at least till 12th class has gone up.

As many as 716 women

candidates contested the 2019 general election, of which 78 were elected to the 17th Lok Sabha. It now stands at 77. In 2014, 62 women MPs were elected.

The representation of women MPs in Lok Sabha has increased to nearly 14 per cent with a steady but slow rise since five per cent in the first Lok Sabha. It still remains lower than many coun-

tries which include Rwanda (61%), South Africa (43%), UK (32%), USA (24%) and Bangladesh (21%).

Most MPs had declared political and social work as their occupation (39 per cent), while nearly 38 per cent listed agriculture and 23 per cent were businessmen. Many had declared more than one occupation.

Book uses fictional story to tell about life in rainforests

Of Western Ghats

New Delhi, Feb 10 (PTI):

A new book set in the dense rainforest of Agumbe in Karnataka uses a fictional story to reflect the complexities surrounding countless changes in ancient ecologies due to rapid development, and the diverse aspirations of new generations at a time of environmental crisis. Written and illustrated by Malvika Tewari and edited by Deepta

Sateesh, "Malekaadina Kathegalu" also records the rich diversity of other-than-human beings, and material and atmospheric changes across time.

Published by Manipal University Press, the book narrates the journey of a young girl Nitya who travels to the small village with her conservationist father.

Tewari and Sateesh say their work is an observation and retelling of real accounts of individuals whose lives are closely associated with the south Western Ghats.

These stories are a reflection of the reality and complexity that countless other communities reside in - that of ecosystems changing rapidly under the force of urban development and aspirations of setting a balance in the future, they say.

To the residents of Agumbe, Western Ghats is much more than a biodiversity hotspot and repository of minerals. It is about cultural relations, ritual practices and connections with other-than-human sentient beings.

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