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Qatar releases eight ex-Indian Navy personnel

PM 'personally supervised' case: FS

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Qatar has released eight jailed former Indian Navy personnel and seven of them returned home on Monday morning, in what is being seen as a major diplomatic victory for India that came nearly three-and-a-half months after a Qatari court handed them death sentence that was subsequently commuted to jail terms.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself constantly supervised all the developments in the case and has never shied away from any initiatives to ensure the return of the Indians.

At a media briefing, the foreign secretary announced that Modi will



Former Indian naval personnel, who were jailed and handed down death sentences in a case of suspected espionage in Qatar, arrive in India following their release, in New Delhi, early Monday.

travel to Qatar capital Doha on Wednesday after concluding his two-day trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), but indicated that the trip was long conceived. The foreign secretary, without elaborating, said New Delhi continues to work with the Qatari government to ensure the early return of the eighth Indian. In an

early morning statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India appreciates the decision by the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani enabling the release and home-coming of the Indians. The former Indian Navy personnel apparently faced charges of espionage, but neither the Qatari authorities nor

Released Indian nationals...

The eight nationals are: Captains Navtej Gill and Saurabh Vaisht, Commanders Purnendu Tiwari, Amit Nagpal, SK Gupta, BK Verma and Sugunakar Pakala, and sailor Ragesh.

New Delhi made the charges against them public. "The Government of India welcomes the release of eight Indian nationals working for the Dahra Global company who were detained in Qatar," the MEA said. "Seven out of the eight of them have returned to India. We appreciate the decision by the Amir of the State of Qatar to enable the release and home-coming of these nationals," it said in a brief statement.

SETBACK TO CONG

Ex-Maha CM Ashok Chavan quits Cong



Former Congleader Ashok Chavan addresses the media.

Mumbai, Feb 12 (PTI):

In a setback to Congress ahead of Lok Sabha elections, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan on Monday quit the Congress, amid speculation that he is veering towards BJP.

In a letter to state Congress president Nana Patole, Chavan (65) said he was resigning as a primary member of the grand old party. He also submitted his resignation as an MLA to assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

Chavan's exit from Congress comes days after

■ May join BJP

'Will decide next political move in 2 days

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan, who quit the Congress on Monday, said he has not taken any decision yet on joining the ruling BJP and will decide on his next political move in a couple of days. In a letter to state Congress president Nana Patole, Chavan (65) said he was resigning as a primary member of the grand old party. He also submitted his resignation as an MLA to assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

senior Maharashtra Congress leaders Baba Siddique and Milind Deora quit the party.

Amid the buzz that Chavan will join the BJP, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis told reporters, "Aagey aagey dekho hota hai kya (wait and watch what happens)".

जब सामना हो कैंसर से तो हम रखेंगे ख्याल

Take Care

'INDIA alliance strong despite Nitish's exit'

Korba, Feb 12 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday said the opposition INDIA bloc is strong and all constituents will soon finalise seat sharing for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a press conference in Barpali village in Chhattisgarh's Korba district, he said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) as well as the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)

quitting the Congress-led bloc will not have any impact. "INDIA alliance is strong. Nitish ji has done volte-face and RLD is trying to do the same. There were 28 parties in the alliance and two have left. However, discussion is underway with AAP, DMK, NCP, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and Mamta Banerjee ji over seat sharing (for Lok Sabha polls)," he said.

BRIEF



An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Saraswati ahead of Saraswati Puja festival, at a workshop, in Nadia district, Monday.

Nitish wins floor test by 129 votes, Oppn walks out

Patna, Feb 12 (PTI):

The National Democratic Alliance government in Bihar, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, on Monday won the trust vote in the state assembly, with 129 MLAs voting in favour of the motion, amid a walkout by all non-NDA members.

Altogether, 129 legislators voted in favour of the motion, but Kumar rose to suggest that the vote of Deputy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari, who belongs to the JD(U), also be counted.

Usually, the person in the Chair does not take part in voting, unless there is a tie.

Hazari ordered a head-count after having declared the motion as passed through voice vote, following a request from Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, which was seconded by Kumar, the JD(U) president.



The NDA, comprising the JD(U), BJP, former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM and an Independent, had a combined strength of 128 in the 243-strong assembly. However, it received a shot in the arm with three RJD MLAs Prahlad Yadav, Chetan Anand and Neelam Devi walking over to the ruling side.

BJP MLAs, who were elated at the party's return to power after a gap of nearly 17 months, erupted in chants of Jai Shree Ram as the trust vote was won by the chief minister, who spoke for nearly 30 minutes, venting spleen against erstwhile allies RJD and Congress as also the opposition INDIA bloc, which he had helped form.

'Took decision after consulting party workers'

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) leader Jayant Singh on Monday said the decision to go with the NDA was taken after consulting his party MLAs and workers after the Bharat Ratna was announced for his grandfather Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Asked if party MLAs were upset with the RLD joining the NDA, Singh said, "If someone is reporting that, I don't think they have talked to the MLAs. I talked to MLAs and workers and made a decision after that. There was no planning, we were forced to make a decision in a short time due to the circumstances." Though Singh and the BJP have made no formal announcement, both sides gave ample hints about the RLD switching from the INDIA bloc to the NDA since February 9, when Charan Singh was named for the highest civilian award.

Soumya Vishwanathan murder case: 4 convicts get bail

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted bail to four convicts serving life imprisonment in the murder case of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan.

A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Girish Kathpalia suspended the sentence of Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Singh Malik and Ajay Kumar till the pendency of their appeals challenging their conviction and sentence.

The bench noted that the convicts have been in custody for 14 years.

The high court had on January 23 asked the Delhi Police to respond to the appeals filed by the four convicts.

Vishwanathan, who worked with a leading English news channel,



will run "consecutively".

The fifth convict, Ajay Sethi, was handed down three years of simple imprisonment under section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property) of the IPC. It, however, set off the three-year sentence against the time Sethi had already served, noting he remained in custody for more than 14 years and underwent incarceration during the trial for offences under the IPC and MCOCA for conspiring to abet, aid, or knowingly facilitate organised crime and receiving proceeds of organised crime.

Kapoor's counsel had submitted that he has been in custody for the last 14 years and nine months and urged the court to suspend his sentence during the pendency of the appeal.

Collaborate

New Delhi: The Indian Railways has collaborated with Swiss firms for tunnelling works for various projects, including the Rishikesh-Karna Prayag New Railway Line and the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed the Rajya Sabha.

Stay extended

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday extended the stay imposed by the Bombay High Court on the operation of its order granting bail to activist Gautam Navlakha in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

Arrested

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency on Monday said a suspected master trainer of banned Popular Front of India (PFI) was arrested from his house in Kerala.

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Rahul shakes hands with persons shouting pro-Modi slogans

● Strength of love: Congress

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Feb 12 (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday walked towards a crowd in Chhattisgarh's Korba district that had many persons shouting pro-Narendra Modi slogans and shook hands with them, with the opposition party stating that "there is great strength in love".

Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', which entered the state from Odisha last week, was passing through Dhodipara on the way to Katghora from Korba. Sharing a video of the incident on X, the Congress said, "There is great strength in love. BJP workers stood to protest against #BharatJodoNyayYatra. But when the yatra passed by there and public leader @RahulGandhi ji met him, the scene became something like this."

In the video, a large number of people can be seen lining the road, including a group wearing saffron scarves and holding flags having the image of Lord Hanuman and shouting slogans like 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi Modi'.

On seeing them, Gandhi got off his vehicle, walked up to them and shook hands with several people in the crowd. He then got back into his vehicle and blew kisses at the crowd. Earlier in the day, addressing a gathering in Sitamadi in Korba, Gandhi said people were distressed with unemployment and inflation under BJP rule. Asking people to wake up, the Congress leader said masses were being robbed and misled by the ruling dispensation.

The Congress MP reiterated his party's demand for a caste census and said it will be done with the people's support. The backward classes, Dalits and Adivasis (tribals) comprise 74 per cent of the country's population, but not a single person from these communities is the owner or in the management of India's top 200 companies that are being given "all the money of the country", he claimed.

The BJP calls it a "Hindu Rashtra", but 74 per cent of the population and the poor from the general country have been getting nothing, he said. They are only for beating "thali" (steel plate), ringing "ghanta" (bell), showing mobile phones



and dying in hunger, he said in an attack on the Modi government. "Tell me, have you seen any poor person, labourer, unemployed person or small businessmen at the Ram Mandir inauguration (on January 22)? I only saw Adani ji, Ambani ji, Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai and other big businessmen. Adani ji, Ambani ji and their families were giving big statements," Gandhi said. People are not getting employment and are facing the wrath of inflation, while "Adani and Ambani are making profits selling Chinese goods," the Congress leader alleged.

"You will ask me why my speech is not shown in the media. In the media, Modi ji, Ambani ji, Adani ji and Ramdev Baba will be seen for 24 hours. Rahul Gandhi will not be seen because he talks about issues (of people)," he said. Gandhi further asked people if they have seen those from the backward segments, Dalits and OBCs as the owners of big hospitals or universities. "You have slept and accepted loss...chanting 'Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram' for 24 hours. It is good but your money is being snatched everyday and you are dying of hunger," he said.

He further appealed to the people to not get addicted to mobile phones and urged them to focus on the real issues. "If I had come here 100 years ago and asked about the things that get you addicted, you would have answered - liquor, cannabis and charas. Nasha means a person not paying attention to his/her own life and getting diverted to other things," he said. Nowadays, people and students are hooked to their mobile phones for 8-10 hours (in a day) which is the "most dangerous addiction," Gandhi asserted. "You people are not able to understand. You are spending 24 hours on your mobile phone. Your attention is being diverted," he said.

Gandhi said whether people visit a temple, mosque, gurdwara or watch a mobile phone, they should ask one question to themselves everyday that how much money they are getting from the country's funds. "The day 10 lakh people start asking this question, the entire country will be shaken. I don't feel good saying that you don't understand (issues). But, indeed, your pocket is being robbed and you are being misled," he said.

'Govt resolve to make women self-reliant'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 12: Today in India, women are walking shoulder to shoulder with men in every field. Giving priority to women empowerment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started many schemes for the empowerment of women self-help groups.

The objective of these schemes is to make women financially independent and self-reliant. Senior Minister, Brijmohan Agarwal said this in the 'Shakti Vandan Abhiyan' program under Women Self Help Group Empowerment on Sunday.

In the program organized in Virbhadr Nagar under the chief hospitality of Brijmohan Agarwal, he said that the government is running many programs for the empowerment of women. These schemes have had a positive impact on the lives of women. Women are now becoming financially independent and self-reliant.

He said that it is necessary to spread awareness among women about the schemes being run for them and to encourage women to take advantage of these schemes, for which such events are being organized. Agarwal distributed cheques to the beneficiaries of various schemes on the occasion. In the program, stalls were set up by the concerned departments to provide information about various schemes. Padmashree Bharti brothers, Leader of Opposition Municipal Corporation Mrs. Meenal Choubey, Deputy Leader of Opposition Manoj Verma, Corporator Sarita Dubey, Corporator Mrityunjay Dubey, former Corporator Yaad Ram Sahu, Municipal Corporation officers, employees, beneficiaries and local people were present.

Program for public awareness and health promotion held

Under National Road Safety Month 2024 in capital city

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 12: On the occasion of National Road Safety Month 2024, on Sunday from 6 am to 9 am, at Anupam Garden, Inter-Departmental Lead Agency Road Safety Chhattisgarh in association with Traffic Police Raipur, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Rotary Club, C-3 India, Amazon, Stayfit with Me, ASGI Hospital organized an innovative program of health promotion and road safety awareness.



Thereafter, Stayfit with Me group head Shubhangi along with her energetic colleagues danced with the children, youth and elderly during the aerobics and zumba demonstration. During this, Sahaja Yoga, eye check-up and health check-up were also conducted and free coupons for eye treatment were distributed. Thereafter, Vishal Matri Shakti, present with banners and posters for road safety awareness, participated with full enthusiasm in the walkathon wearing saree, the typical attire of Indian culture.

At the end of the program, Team CRC Cyclogo, Stayfit With Me, ITMS Team were felicitated by public representative and social worker Meenal Chaubey by distributing prizes for excellent costumes, energetic presentation and best team respectively. Ajay Pathak and Rotary Greater Team, Khilleshwar C-3 India, Arpit Tiwari, ASP Sachin Choubey, Team Amazon, T.K. Bhoi, Priyanka, Upadhyay, Seema, Alka, Aarti, Sarita, Rajesh, Dushyant, Bhanu Ishu and Rahul extended their support to make the event successful.

Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Chhattisgarh Mr. Sanjay Sharma, General Manager of NHAI Mr. Praveen Binjewar, RTO Raipur Mr. Kirtiman Singh, DSP Traffic Mr. Gurjeet Singh and Mr. Satish Thakur were present.

Justice Manohar Sapre reviews road safety measures

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 12: Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, Chairman of the Supreme Court Committee on Safety, reviewed the road safety measures being taken by the National Highway Authority and the Public Works Department in the serious road accident prone sections between Durg and Raipur road.



Justice Manohar Sapre also inspected Highway Patrol vehicles, ambulances, speed radar guns, interceptor vehicles, black spots and gave instructions for continuous corrective measures to save lives. He also discussed with NHA, traffic police and transport, toll personnel and general public regarding road safety. On this occasion, various departmental officers including Chairman Inter-

Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Chhattisgarh Mr. Sanjay Sharma, General Manager of NHAI Mr. Praveen Binjewar, RTO Raipur Mr. Kirtiman Singh, DSP Traffic Mr. Gurjeet Singh and Mr. Satish Thakur were present.

Education Minister paid tribute to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 12: On the occasion of 'Samarpan Diwas', the death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, various programs were organized in Raipur. Senior Minister Brijmohan Agarwal participated in the programs and paid tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.



rich culture and heritage of India. His life and works will always be remembered which inspires us to create a better society. Agarwal said that the aim of Antyodaya is to empower the poorest and deprived sections of the society. He also said that, in today's time, when the world is getting divided, Deendayal Upadhyay's teaching of 'Integral Humanism' gives us the message of unity and brotherhood.

Deputy Chief Minister Sharma said that the Medical Association itself has expressed concern over the use of intoxicating drugs and its consumption and sale, this is a good beginning. He said that the Chhattisgarh government will provide all possible help to the Medical Association in the fight to get rid of drug addiction. He said that there is a need to create public awareness in the society against drug addic-

Drug free society is necessary to build a strong Ch'garh: Sharma

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 12: Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, while addressing the felicitation ceremony of Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association at Veer Savarkar Bhawan in Kawardha, said that we all need to be concerned about the utility of intoxicating medicines for building a strong society, family and strong Chhattisgarh. It is a pleasant initiative that this social concern is starting from Kabirdham district today.



Deputy Chief Minister Sharma said that the Medical Association itself has expressed concern over the use of intoxicating drugs and its consumption and sale, this is a good beginning. He said that the Chhattisgarh government will provide all possible help to the Medical Association in the fight to get rid of drug addiction. He said that there is a need to create public awareness in the society against drug addic-

tion. The association has also decided to expand this liberation war in the entire state. While assuring the Sangh, he said that the concerned Superintendent of Police should also be specially invited in the districts where workshops will be organized under this campaign. For this, full cooperation will be provided by the state government. In the function, the medical director has also decided to keep a record of the people using drugs, this is highly commendable. On the initiative of Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma, Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association today passed a proposal to make Kabirdham district a district free from the use of intoxicating medicines as an addiction. Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association also said that this de-addiction campaign will be run in the entire state in the coming days. Deputy Chief Minister Sharma

praised this meaningful initiative. In this felicitation ceremony, state and district level officials of Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association congratulated Deputy Chief Minister Sharma. Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association has expressed gratitude for the initiative and meaningful efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma for making a provision of Rs 300 crore in the Chhattisgarh budget for the expansion of the much-

awaited railway line of Kabirdham district. The association said that in the coming days, Kabirdham district will fulfill the concept of a fully developed district.

A felicitation ceremony for Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma was organized by Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association at Veer Savarkar Bhawan, Kawardha. This event was presided over by Umesh Siriotha, Avinash Aggarwal, Superintendent of Police Dr. Abhishek Pallav, Kailash Chandravanshi, Chandraprakash Chandravanshi, former Municipality President Devkumari Chandravanshi, Anand Mishra, CMO Dr. BL Raj, Anildani, Amit Bardiya, David Khatri was present. On this occasion, Kailash Chandravanshi, Chhattisgarh, General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association, Avinash Agrawal addressed and also gave important suggestions to support the campaign.

200th birth annv of Swami Dayanand Saraswati celebrated

● At Monnet DAV

Central Chronicle News

MandirHasaud, Feb 12: Monnet DAV Public School, Mandir Hasaud, Raipur has observed the 200th Birth Anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati on Feb 12 in school premises. Lala Hansraj, also known as Mahatma Hansraj, 1864 to 1938, was an Indian educationist and a disciple of Arya Samaj movement founder Swami Dayanand. He founded the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic



Schools System (DAV) with Gurudatta Vidhyarthi in Lahore in 1886, where the first DAV was established. The foundation of more than 1000 DAV schools across the country lies in the principles of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. DAV schools try to impart Vedic tradition and exhort its students to imbibe the teachings of Swami

Dayanand Saraswati. The 5 Kundiya Havan (Yagna) was performed by all the students chanting Vedic mantras under Tarun Kumar and Satyawar Barik, Teachers in Sanskrit. To create spiritual ambience, Vikrant Rao Sureshe, Music Teacher, sung mesmerizing hymns. Rajkumar Sharma, Principal, briefed the life of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and urged the students to read the Vedic scriptures available in school library. At the end, a divine food (Prasad) was distributed to the students and the parents.

Four Naxalites sentenced to life

● In 2014 Tahakwada attack case

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 12: A special court in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district on Monday sentenced four Naxalites to life imprisonment for the deadly attack in which 15 security personnel and a civilian were killed in Tahakwada village in 2014. Special judge D R Dewangan convicted Mahadev Nag, Kawasi Joga, Mani Ram Madiya and Dayaram Baghel of charges under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosives Act, and the Arms Act and sentenced them to life imprisonment, special public prosecutor Dinesh Panigrahi told PTI.

Nag, Joga and Madiya were residents of Bastar, while Baghel was from neighbouring Sukma district, he said. The case was probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Armed Naxalites attacked a joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and state police near Tahakwada village under Tongpal police station limits in Sukma district on March 11, 2014. Fifteen security personnel, 11 from the CRPF and four from the state police, and a civilian were killed in the incident. The Tongpal police had registered a first information report (FIR) against senior leaders Sonadhar, Shankar, Ganesh Uike, Vinod, Sumitra, and 150-200 other active cadres of CPI (Maoist). The NIA later took over the probe, the lawyer said.

We make laws here to shape developed Ch'garh for you: CM

Met the children of Bemetara's Academic World School in the Assembly office room



Raipur, Feb 12: Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai constantly communicating with the children of the state to prepare and shape the generation that will have the responsibility of taking charge of a developed Chhattisgarh in the year 2047. The Chief Minister on Tuesday met the children of Academic World School, Bemetara, who had come to visit the Assembly premises, in the Assembly office room and resolved their queries. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma was also present. The children were accompanied with MLA Bhavna Bohra.

The Chief Minister told the children to ask whatever they want to ask. He also asked the children

what they had seen here till now. The children told that they went to the Central Hall, saw the proceedings of the Assembly and also visited the library here. The Chief Minister informed the children that this is the most important place where the MLAs intend to prepare important laws for the state and work towards taking the state forward.

The Chief Minister informed the children that when you grow up, people of your generation will reach here and take

Chhattisgarh forward. To ensure that the children of the state have good upbringing and get basic facilities, we passed the budget here and also made resolutions for the coming years.

The Chief Minister said that the way you saw the library here and praised it. That kind of library is there in Raipur by the name of Nalanda campus in which young students prepare for exams and read books. This time in the budget, we have decided to prepare 20 libraries in other districts in the

same manner. There will be a good library in every district, where there will be lots of books for you and you will be able to prepare your bright future by reading them.

Student Piyush Rajput asked the Chief Minister that if you are the Chief Minister, how are you taking Chhattisgarh forward. The Chief Minister said that some of your children will be from farmer families. We have taken special care of the farmers. We are giving them the price of paddy at Rs 3100 per quintal under

Krishi Unnati Yojana. We have also given 2 years bonus amount to the farmers. We buy 21 quintals of paddy per acre.

The Chief Minister said that we bring schemes keeping in mind the interests of all sections, which benefits everyone. We have also kept the budget proposal in a similar manner. Initiatives have been taken for proper development in all areas due to which the entire state will move forward rapidly in the path of progress.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister told the children that Prime Minister Narendra Modi always keeps discussing with the children. He always talk to children about their studies and other topics related to children. The guarantee he has given to the people of the state to beautify Chhattisgarh. We are working towards completing that, added CM.

CHECKING IN OUTER



The traffic police is checking vehicle documents of vehicles in outer along with strictness on use of helmets and seat belts while driving, so as to ensure safe driving.

Union Minister of State pays courtesy call on Governor

Raipur, Feb 12: Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Anupriya Singh Patel greeted Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan at Raj Bhavan yesterday by pre-



sending him a flower bunch and a shawl. She informed the Governor about the schemes of the Central Government. The Governor presented her autobiographical book "Battle Not Yet Over" and a memento to Mrs. Patel.

More than 54 lakh ration card holders applied online for renewal

Raipur, Feb 12: The work of renewal of all 77 lakh ration cards currently prevalent under the public distribution system in Chhattisgarh is going on from January 25. As of February 12, 54 lakh 03 thousand 620 ration card holders have submitted applications for renewal. People are taking full advantage of the online facility provided by the Food Department for renewal of ration cards and are submitting applications for renewal of ration cards through the Food Department's app from their mobiles.



It is noteworthy that ration card renewal is being done from January 25 to February 15, 2024. A new mobile app of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has been prepared by the Food Department for ration card renewal, it can be downloaded by going to the Play Store. People can also download form from website of Food Department by Beneficiary [http://](http://khadya.cg.nic.in)

khadya.cg.nic.in Ration card holders can submit electronic application for renewal online through this app in their mobile. For those beneficiaries who do not have Android mobile or where there is no mobile connectivity, the facility of submitting electronic application for renewal of ration cards through online process at the fair price shop level is also being provided.

BJP State President provide guidance

Raipur, Feb 12: BJP state general secretary Sanjay Shrivastava informed that an important meeting in view of forthcoming Lok Sabha polls was held at party's Kushabhau Thakre premises here on Monday. It was participated by Samitis of the party, wall writing, hoarding samiti, Mahila & SHGs and NGOs, Sampark Abhiyan, "Gaoon Chalo Abhiyan", Ram Mandir Darshan, booth empowerment campaign, PM Vishwakarma Yojana Abhiyan, PM Swa-Nidhi Yojana, 'Labharthi Sampark Yojana' and other important samitis. All the Samitis were given guidance by the BJP State President Kiran Singh Deo, Regional Organisation General Secy Ajay Jamwal, state organisation Gen. secy. Pawan Sai gave valuable guidance in detail and directed all to complete their works within 20 days. The meeting was attended by State gen. secy. Ramji Bharti, Bharat Verma, former Leader of Oppn Narayan Chandel, BJP state V-P Laxmi Verma, Bhpundara Savanni, Sarla Kosaria, Vikas Mahato, Pradeep Gandhi, Shailini Rajput, Prabal Pratap Singh, Amit Sahu, V Viswanathan, Avdesh Chandel, Kishore Mahanand, Daya Singh and others.

Raipur, Feb 12:

The Divisional Commissioner Raipur Dr Sanjay Alang conducted review of health services and gave instructions to conduct death audit of all the deaths of the patients taking place in district hospital and hospitals associated with the medical colleges in the division. He said that in this death audit, the phase-wise details of different stages of the treatment would be known and in turn would help in reducing the reasons behind death at the time of treatment. He gave instructions to the doctors offer treatment to the patients seriously with latest technical know-how. Dr Sanjay Alang also asked the doctors to take all necessary ideas to reduce the causes behind death of patients including child and mother mortality. Dr Alang also asked the doctors to timely refer the patients for treatment to higher institu-

District admn., police should be ready to make 'Green Corridor' on single phone call

tions seeing the criticality of their illness, so that they can get proper treatment facilities and their life can be saved. This important meeting was attended by Dean Raipur Medical College, Superintendents of Raipur and Mahasamund government hospitals and EEs of Medical Services Corporation, Blood bank in-charges and DSP of Traffic police. In the meeting, Divisional Commissioner took information about arrangements in the Operator Theatres of Medical Colleges, availability of surgical experts in case of operations and surgical instruments. He also gave instructions to make all arrangements to keep OT rooms infection-free and

Death audit of patients to be done to control death incidents: Dr Alang



ensure sufficient availability of medicines and chemicals and reagents required. Dr Alang also directed to keep information about patients admitted in department-wise, institutional delivery and entire record of cesarean operations in day and night hours. Dr Alang also directed to increase institutional delivery. He also took information about sanctioned and pending works in the hospitals, health centres and for medicines. He also directed the officers to sort out the land controversies or other reasons for delay in construction work due to land dispute at the earliest and informed it to the concerned Collector through letter immediately. Divisional Commissioner directed to carry out the construction work of infrastructure in health institutions and hospital keeping in mind the quality of work and complete it within time limit. **Green Corridor on phone call:** In the meeting the Divisional Commissioner took information from officers of the traffic

police in making preparation for need for a green corridor. DSP Traffic Police informed that any needy person or hospital can avail facility for Green Corridor through a phone call.

To provide treatment to serious patients or for any transplant of organs from one place to another, the district administration and police should always be ready and on the alert. There are dedicated 8 highway patrolling teams always posted from Durg to Raipur. DSP informed that in the last one year, Green Corridor was formed for 57 times and serious patients and organ transplant cases were sent to respective destination on time. He informed that if any needy person or hospital is in need for Green Corridor then they can call on Police Control Phone No. 94791-91099 or to DSP Traffic on government phone no. 94791-91018 by making a phone call.

HUGE RUSH



The government's Mahtari Vandan Yojana is receiving huge response and married women were found filling up forms in large number here on Monday.

Four men working in Jal Jeevan Mission proj abducted by Naxals

Sukma, Feb 12: Four workers engaged in Jal Jeevan Mission works in Sukma district were allegedly abducted by Naxalites, police said on Monday. The incident took place on Sunday under Jagargunda police station limits, located inside a forest around 40 kilometres from Sukma town, officials said.

As per preliminary information, a group of Naxals reached the site where Jal Jeevan Mission pipeline laying work was underway and abducted four workers, they said.

Kin of the workers are yet to lodge a complaint with police but efforts are on through various channels to secure the release of abducted workers, they added.

Two of the workers are from Sukma town and two from villages nearby, officials said. The mother of one of the workers said he is her lone son and the only earning member of the family. The wife of another abducted worker asked Naxalites to release her husband immediately. "I have two children and our family is very poor," she said.

42 lakh weddings with an expenditure of Rs. 5.5 lakh cr to be solemnised: Parwani

Raipur, Feb 12:

CAIT National Senior Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi Agrawal informed Traders across the entire country including state are optimistic about the current wedding season, which commenced on January 15th and will extend till July 15th. During this period, approximately 42 lakh weddings are expected to take place nationwide, resulting in a substantial capital influx of about 5.5 lakh crores of rupees through wedding-related purchases and services, according to a survey conducted by the

research arm of CAIT, the CAIT Research & Trade Development Society, among traders and service providers in 30 different cities across various states.

The wedding season, considered a significant part of the Indian economy, is playing a pivotal role in its robust growth, stated CAIT. Following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal, destination weddings within the country have gained popularity among all types of weddings. CAIT National Senior Vice President Amar Parwani, chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani State President Jitendra Doshi States

Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vasu Makhija, state General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary Bharat Jain, and State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal informed that in Delhi alone, more than 4 lakh weddings are expected to take place during this season, generating approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore in business revenue. Last year, around 35 lakh weddings occurred during the wedding season ending on December 14th, with expenses estimated at Rs 4.25 lakh crore. During this marriage season, it is estimated that about 5 lakh weddings will

In entire country including state during current wedding season

have an expenditure of Rs 3 lakh per wedding, while approximately 10 lakh weddings will cost around Rs 6 lakh each. Furthermore, 10 lakh weddings are projected to incur expenses of Rs 10 lakhs per wedding, followed by 10 lakh weddings with expenditures of Rs 15 lakhs per wedding. Additionally, 6 lakh weddings are expected to have an expenditure of Rs 25 lakhs each, 60 thousand weddings with Rs 50 lakhs

expenditure per wedding, and 40 thousand weddings with expenses exceeding Rs 1 crore. Overall, during this six-month period, approximately Rs 5.5 lakh crore will circulate through wedding-related purchases in the markets.

Mr. Parwani and Mr. Doshi emphasized that in anticipation of the lucrative business opportunities during the wedding season, traders nationwide are adequately stocked with wedding-related goods to meet customer preferences and demands. They mentioned that approximately 20 percent of the expenditure for each marriage is allocated to both the groom's

and bride's side, while 80 percent goes to third-party agencies involved in wedding arrangements. Before the wedding season, a significant amount of business is conducted in home repairs and painting. Additionally, jewelry, sarees, lehengachuni, furniture, ready-made garments, clothing, footwear, wedding and greeting cards, dry fruits, sweets, fruits, worship items, groceries, food grains, decoration items, home decor, electrical utilities, electronics, and various gift items are typically in high demand and expected to generate significant business this year.

Bulldozer action on houses of three murder accused

● In Durg

Durg, Feb 12: Authorities in Durg district on Monday demolished the illegally constructed portions of houses of three persons arrested in connection with the murder of a 17-year-old boy in Bhlai city, officials said.

According to officials, the action was taken based on a report of the revenue inspector and patwari to the local municipal corporation.

The authorities razed illegally constructed portions of houses belonging to the accused, Nikesh Chauhan, Sumit Chauhan and a minor boy, in the Shardapara locality under

About the action...

According to officials, the action was taken based on a report of the revenue inspector and patwari to the local municipal corporation. The authorities razed illegally constructed portions of houses belonging to the accused, Nikesh Chauhan, Sumit Chauhan and a minor boy, in the Shardapara locality under Chhawani police station limits. The trio were among five persons arrested for stabbing the Class 12 student to death over a personal dispute in the locality on January 21.

Chhawani police station limits, an official here said. The trio were among five persons arrested for stabbing the Class 12 student to death over a personal dispute in the locality on January 21, he said.

A probe by the civic authorities revealed that the families of the accused had encroached on additional land while con-

structing their houses, the official said. A notice was served to them for encroachment, and action was taken as per the Municipality Act, he said.

Welcoming the civic body's action, local BJP MLA Rikesh Sen warned that people committing offences in his Vaishali Nagar constituency will face similar action.

"The bulldozer action was taken on the houses of the accused in the murder of Class 12 student Shivam."

I had said on January 22 that if anyone is found indulging in offences of 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), molestation or any other crime, they will face the same action. Criminals in my constituency should now remain alert," Sen said. The state will become crime-free under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, he said.

Last month, authorities had taken similar action against the main accused in the murder of a cow shelter worker in the state's Kabirdham district.

Centre has given the due honour to the entire tribal community: Sai

By appointing me as CM of Chhattisgarh

● CM attended the felicitation ceremony of Kendriya Gond Mahasabha Dhamdhagarh

Raipur, Feb 12:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai attended the felicitation program of Kendriya Gond Mahasabha today. In his address to the program as Chief Guest, Shri Sai said that the leadership at the Centre has given the due honour to tribal community by appointing me as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

"I am a tribal, your brother and ally. With your support, I aim to serve Chhattisgarh Mahatari with all my heart and best of my capabilities", said Chief Minister Shri Sai while addressing the felicitation and martyrdom day ceremony of Amar Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh organized by Kendriya Gond Mahasabha Dhamdhagarh at Kachna Dhurwa Temple premise located in Civil Lines of District Headquarters Durg. On this occasion, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai announced immediate sanction of Rs 25 lakh for installing the statue of tribal folk hero Birsa



Munda and Rs 50 lakh for construction of additional room in Gondwana Bhawan in Durg, on the demand of Kendriya Gondwana Mahasabha. People present at the program cheered and applauded the announcements made by Chief Minister. Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh Government is dedicated and rapidly fulfilling the guarantees of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Besides the approval of Pradhan Mantri Awas to more than 18 lakh eligible families of the state, our government has paid the outstanding bonus of two years worth Rs 3716 crore to the farmers in their accounts. Our government is also commencing the implementation of Mahtari Vandan Yojana from

March 1. At present, applications are being collected and once the eligible beneficiaries for the scheme are identified, they will be provided an amount of Rs 1000 per month directly in their bank accounts. Chief Minister said that Chhattisgarh is the 'Nanihal' of Shri Ram. Chhattisgarh is the place where Shri Ram had spent most of his exile period. Chief Minister further said that Shri Ram's affection for the people of this region and Mata Shabri's pure devotion towards Lord Shri Ram are the invaluable assets of Chhattisgarh. He said that fulfilling the guarantee of Modi ji, our government has started Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme. Praan Pratishtha of Shri Ramlala has been done in Ayodhya Dham after 500 years. Our government is providing people the opportunity to do 'Darshan' of Ramlala, at government expense.

Referring to another guarantee of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister said that the Prime Minister had promised procurement of 21 quintals of paddy per acre from the farmers at the rate of Rs 3100 per quinta, which we have fulfilled. The difference amount in price of paddy will be paid to the farmer in lump sum. Government has provisioned Rs 10 thousand crore in the budget for this purpose. Fulfilling the guarantee of Prime Minister, our government has now issued an order to provide remuneration of

Rs 5500 per standard bag to tendupatta collectors.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated Gondwana Mahasabha for installation of the statue of freedom fighter and social reformer tribal leader Birsa Munda. Tribal leader Birsa Munda was born in Banga village of Jharkhand. Birsa Munda fought to free the people from the dictatorship and oppression of the British and protected the rights of the tribal communities. Chief Minister said that Birsa Munda's life, his inspiring thoughts and revolutionary works are a source of inspiration for all of us. At the program, the officials of Kendriya Gond Mahasabha honoured Chief Minister by crowning him with a bejeweled cow horn and gifted him a bow and arrow. On this occasion, Chief Minister was also weighed with Motichoore laddus by the tribal Gond community. In the program, Food Minister Dayal Das Baghel and MLAs Doman Lal Korsewada, Gajendra Yadav and Lalit Chandrakar and President of Kendriya Gond Mahasabha M. D. Dhamdhagarh, Thakur and other officials and people of the community were present in large numbers.

Youth should participate in building a 'Viksit Bharat': Modi



Arang, Feb 12:

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, congratulated and extended best wishes to more than 1 lakh youth by virtually handing out appointment letters in the 'Rozgar Mela' organized at 46 places in different states of the country. He appealed to the youth to become partners in nation-building, stating that the job creation campaign by the Government of India is being carried out with complete transparency, ensuring equal opportunities for all the youth of the country to prove their abilities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the virtual programme following the laying of the foundation stone of Karmik Bhawan in Delhi, stated that it will aid in the training and coordination of personnel. He added that positive steps are being taken so that youth can secure their place based on hard work and talent. Recruitment processes for the jobs are being completed within the stipulated time limit, and with the

● PM virtually handed out appointment letters to more than 1 lakh youth across the country

implementation of the Startup Scheme, youth are getting various employment opportunities.

In the series of 'Rozgar Mela' being organized in various states of the country, one such event was organized at the Central Reserve Police Force Camp located in Arang of Raipur district. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Anupriya Patel participated in the virtual distribution programme of appointment letters to the candidates in this Rozgar Mela. On this occasion, she distributed appointment letters to 75 candidates selected in various Central Armed Forces and other departments. She stated that this 'Rozgar Mela' is a historic step towards fulfilling the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give top priority to employment generation. The

job fair will act as a catalyst for employment generation in the future and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in the development of the nation.

In the Rozgar Mela, appointment letters were distributed to 04 candidates of the Central Reserve Police Force, 09 of the Border Security Force, 01 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, 17 of the Postal Department, 10 of Revenue C.B.I.C., 04 of FCI&PD, 05 of Labour (EPFO), 20 of Hindustan Copper Limited, and 05 of Higher Education.

Additional Director General (I.P.S.) Amit Kumar, Inspector General of Police (I.P.S.) Saket Kumar Singh, Deputy Inspector General Chhattisgarh Sector Central Reserve Police Force Vijay Shankar Pandey, Commandant of Group Center Raipur Ajay Kumar Singh, selected candidates, and their families, along with officials and employees of central departments, were present.

Radio is a powerful medium of communication: Sai

World Radio Day today

Raipur, Feb 12:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, in his message on the occasion of World Radio Day on February 13, stated that radio remains a potent medium of communication. World Radio Day is celebrated with the purpose of recognizing the significance of radio in fostering freedom of expression, facilitating public debate, and promoting education dissemination. He added that radio is renowned as the most potent and economical medium for

information dissemination. Countless messages have been conveyed to diverse audiences through radio, particularly reaching those residing in rural areas, towns, and remote locations where alternative communication means are limited. Even today, radio retains its efficacy as a powerful communication tool. Sai stated that despite being a centuries-old medium, radio continues to serve as a vital means of communication. Its importance is particularly evident in emergency situations.

Over 103.40 lakh MT of paddy lifted in the state

Raipur, Feb 12: Till now, the state government has purchased a record 144.92 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of paddy from farmers at support price. Along with paddy procurement, continuous lifting of paddy is going on for custom milling. Till now, DO has been issued for lifting of 106 lakh 69 thousand 702 metric tonnes of paddy, against which 103 lakh 40 thousand 304 metric tonnes of paddy has been lifted by the millers. In lieu of paddy procurement, an amount of more than Rs 31,913 crore has been paid to the farmers. According to the information received from the General Manager of Markfed, till now 144 lakh 92 thousand 96 metric tonnes of paddy has been purchased from 24 lakh 72 thousand 440 farmers in the state till February 04 at support price.

Mungeli, Feb 12:

Deputy Chief Minister and Public Health Engineering Minister Arun Sao has issued instructions to demolish the substandard water tank under construction in Deorhat of Lormi development block of Mungeli district. Deputy Chief Minister Sao, during his recent visit to Deorhat to attend a programme, promptly went to the work site and inspected it upon receiving complaints from villagers about low-quality construction and delays.

He directed the Engineer-In-Chief of the Public Health Engineering Department to inspect the water tank under construction and submit an inspection report. Following the inspection, the work was found to be of poor quality and riddled with flaws. Consequently, the Deputy

- Dy CM Sao strict on quality of construction works orders demolition of substandard water tank under construction
- Villagers' complaint prompts inspection of water tank, Engineer-In-Chief instructed to submit inspection report

Chief Minister ordered its demolition and the construction of a new water tank. The demolition of the under-constructed water tank has commenced. The Engineer-In-Chief has also recommended action against the responsible officers and the contractor in the inspection report.

Since assuming the role as Minister of the Public Health Engineering Department, Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao has stressed the importance of quality construction and timely completion of projects under the Jal Jeevan



Mission. He has consistently directed departmental officers in this regard, stating that compromise on quality and delays are unacceptable under any circumstances.

After inspecting the water tank under construction in Deorhat, the Engineer-In-Chief of the Public Health Engineering Department reported that the agency

appointed for the construction work, Shri Ram Construction Company from Bijuri (Anuppur), has delivered poor-quality construction and extensively delayed the work. Given the failure to adhere to prescribed standards and quality in the construction of the water tank, it is deemed unfit for public use. This indicates serious negligence on the

part of both the contractor and departmental engineers. The third-party inspection agency, Engineering Staff College of India, responsible for overseeing the work, has also been found unsatisfactory. In light of the negligence during the tank's construction, the Engineer-In-Chief has instructed the demolition of the substandard water

tank and the construction of a new tank meeting prescribed standards. The contractor has been instructed to take proper precautions during the demolition to prevent any untoward incidents.

The inspection report highlights that the reputation of the Jal Jeevan Mission has been tarnished due to the poor quality of construction work. Consequently, the contractor, Shri Ram Construction Company, is prohibited from participating in any work related to the Public Health Engineering Department until further notice. The Engineer-In-Chief has directed the Chief Engineer, Bilaspur, to prepare show cause notices and charge sheets for disciplinary action against the concerned Executive Engineer, I.P. Mandavi, Assistant Engineer S.P. Sonwani, and Deputy Engineer I.S. Kashyap.

Entire country is grateful to the PM: Dewangan

Korba, Feb 12: Industry, Commerce and Labor Minister of Chhattisgarh Government, Lakhanlal Dewangan said today that during his 10 years of tenure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi increased the respect of India on the world stage and raised the head of the country, for this today Chhattisgarh as well as the entire country is grateful to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and thanks him. He said that the Prime Minister made schemes for all sections of the society, there was concrete implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level, which benefited crores of people of the country, their standard of living increased and their problems ended.

- During his tenure of 10 yrs, PM raised India's head high on the world stage
- Women of self-help groups doing excellent work, Nari Shakti honoured

Bhawan Pass, while giving his dignified presence as the chief guest of the event, Industry Minister Dewangan honoured the women of self-help groups and Nari Shakti who did excellent work and extended his congratulations and Best wishes.

On this occasion, Dewangan first inaugurated the program by garlanding the portraits of Bharat Mata, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and lighting the lamp. Addressing the program, Cabinet Minister Dewangan further said in his address that PM Narendra Modi has made schemes for all sections of the society, es-



Mandatory submission of Mahtari Vandan Yojana forms

Urging the women present on this occasion, Industries Minister Dewangan said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of the state Vishnu Deo Sai has implemented 'Mahtari Vandan Yojana', under which every year 'Nari Shakti' will get a support of Rs 12000 per year, which will come directly into your bank account. He said that fill the forms of Mahtari Vandan Yojana as soon as possible and submit them compulsorily so that you can get the benefits of this scheme from March 1.

pecially for improving the living standards of women, youth, poor, indigent and people standing at the last end of the society. Taking concrete steps towards improving their condition, providing them all possible help and ending their miseries, dozens

of schemes were implemented by him. He said that Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, STEP, Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Mahila

Speakers gave detailed information about the schemes

During the program, Corporation Leader of Opposition Hitanand Agrawal, Corporator Ritu Chaurasia, Ward Councillor Budhwar Sai Yadav, BJP District General Secretaries Santosh Dewangan and Tikeswar Rathiya, Mahila Morcha District President Vaishali Ratnaparkhi, Jyoti Verma, Budhwar Dewangan and other speakers praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi on various occasions. Gave detailed point-wise information about public welfare schemes to the citizens present and appealed to take maximum benefit of these schemes.

Samman Bachat Yojana, Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Programme, e-Shram and many schemes are included including card scheme. Along with this, many schemes including

Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Lakhpati Didi Palah Yojana, Comprehensive Nutrition Scheme, National Social Assistance Program are being implemented. He said that now a double engine government has come in Chhattisgarh

Among the honour of 'matratva shakti' today the Industry Minister honoured women self-help group members Anju Sharan, Sarita Sharma, Rita Kaushal, Annu Tiwari, Reema Devi, Ranjita Bada, Maryam Minz, Jyotis Yadav, Anuradha Devi, Rameshwari Devi, Madhuri, Soni, Karuna Kashyap, Geeta Tomar, Uma Devi, Savitri Yadav, Anita Jaiswal, Savitri Tandon, Sadhna Gurug, Sandhya Devi, Lakshmi Verma, Parbin Begum, Annu Kenwat,

under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, now there will be complete development of our Chhattisgarh and the development of the state which was done during the 15 years tenure of the then Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh will now be taken forward again.

During the program, Leader of Opposition Hitanand Aggarwal, Councillor Ritu Chaurasia, Ward Councillor Budhwarsai

Yadav, BJP District General Secretary Santosh Dewangan and Tikeswar Rathiya, Mahila Morcha District President Vaishali Ratnaparkhi, Jyoti Verma, Budhwar Dewangan, Councillor Kavita Rajput, Firtaram Sahu, Councillor Vijay Sahu and Golu Pandey, Pureen Bai Kanwar, BJP Mandal President Ajay Vishwakarma, Ishwar Sahu, former corporator Radhelal Yadav, Dinesh Vaishnav, Prafulla Tiwari, Archana Runjha, Devaki Sahu, Kalindri Rajwade Hema Pandey, Suman Soni, Bali Sahu, Narendra Patanwar, Parvinder Kaur, Corporation's Additional Commissioner Treasurer Kumhar, Zone Commissioner A.K. Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Pawan Verma, Health Officer Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Assistant Engineer D.C. Sonkar, Deputy Zone Incharge Manish Thakur, Ghanshyam Shriwas, Arun Mishra etc. and others were present.

Zumba dance, rangoli competition organized

For school children at the safety center. Under 34th National Road Safety Month

Bijapur, Feb 12:

Under the 34th National Road Safety Month 2024 in district Bijapur, on Saturday school students were made aware about traffic rules and signals through various programmes by the Traffic Police Bijapur. In the Road Safety Awareness month, under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Bijapur Dr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav and the guidance of Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic Nodal Officer Vineet Sahu, under the auspices of the Traffic Police, Zumba dance, rangoli, painting, songs, essays, 100 meters race,



fugdi were organised. Bijapur Police appealed for a healthy body and a healthy mind through Zumba dance. An appeal was made to follow the traffic rules and signals legally for safe traffic. In the said program, students of 'Chhu Lo Aasmaan', Swami Atmanand English Medium Bijapur, Swami

Atmanand Hindi Medium Bijapur, Eklavya, Ankur Public School, Kanya Parisar Bijapur, Adeshwar Public School Bijapur participated. First, second and third prizes were given to the participants in various competitions. In the 100 meter race, first in the girls category was Bulbul Swami Atmanand School, Hindi Medium, second was

Kumari Sarita Eklavya School, third was Kumari Kanjal Ankur Public School. In the 100 meter race boys category, Arjun Swami Atmanand stood second in Hindi medium, Sameer of Swami Atmanand stood second in English medium, Anil of 'Chhulo Aasmaan' stood third. Ishita Rana got the first place in the speech

competition, Rajesh from 'Chhu Lo Aasmaan' got second place, Ishita Rana Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium got second place, Rashmi Shimla Girls Education Complex got third place. In the Road Safety Survival Song Competition, Nagmani Group Kanya Parisar Bijapur stood first, Surabhi Group Swami Atmanand English Medium stood second, Khushi Yadav Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium stood third, Bijapur. In the painting competition, first place was given by Disha Group, Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium, second place was by Ashish Group, Swami Atmanand Hindi Medium, Nandu Korsas and Mohit Kashyap Chhu Lo Aasmaan Rahe. In the essay competition, Sanjana Girls Education Complex stood first, Akash Akanksha Swami Atmanand School English Medium stood second, Anita Sema Girls Campus Bijapur stood third.

Basant Sachev appointed State Secy. AHS



Dhamtari, Feb 12:

Senior journalist of city and former Working President Puja Panchayat Sindhi Samaj (PPSS) Dhamtari and former advisor PPSS Dhamtari Basant Sachdev has been appointed as Secretary in Antarashtriyia Hindu Sena (AHS). For this appointment Basant Sachdev has expressed gratitude to Int'l President AHS Mahant Aditya Krishnagiri, national organisation gen. secy. Jayakant Kumar Vatsy, Int'l Gen. Secy. Mahendra Gandharv and State President AHS Chhattisgarh Nayak and said that he would work with commitment to take the organisation forward.

Police seizes country liquor worth Rs 2940



Dhamtari, Feb 13:

As per instructions by senior police officers of the district, TI Kurud Thana under leadership of SDOP Kurud KK Vajpayee and under guidance of Addl. SP Madhulika Singh raided the place in Gram Nari, near a culvert, with information that illicit liquor is being sold in the region. The police on reaching there nabbed on Kamlash Singh with 23 quarter bottles of country liquor and 10 quarter bottles of 'Desi Masala', with each having 180 ML and total 5.940 bulk

Its of liquor worth Rs 2940 and cash amount of Rs 190 from liquor sold. It was amidst the witnesses that a the material was seized and he was booked under section 34 (2) Of Excise Act and necessary legal action was taken. The accused nabbed is Kalmesh Singh S/o Late Ramdas Singh, R/o Kiran dabha, Nari, Thana Kurud, District Dhamtari. In the above action TI Kurud Inspector Arun Sahu, SI Ravindra Sahu, Mahesh Sahu, Kishore Deshmukh played an important role in nabbing the accused.

Lost child in fair saved by police

Handed over back to parents acting promptly

Dhamtari, Feb 12:

The Borai police acting promptly handed over an innocent child who got separated with his mother and father in Borai fair recently Ankit Markam is a six yr old boy and he got lost / deattached with his parents in the huge crowd of people in Borai mela recently. The police on seeing the child crying took him to Thana and started the search of his parents in the Borai Mela. It was on holding inquiry nearby that finally the police came to know about the lost son of parents in the Mela and on contacting



them, they were called to the police thana. The child and the parents identified each other. The name of mother of Ankit is Babita Markam and that of his father is Ramesh Markam from Gram Aamadih, Thana Vishrampur. On finding her son safe and sound with police, brought tears in the eyes of the mother. Both husband and wife hailed the action on part of

the police to keep their son safe and expressed gratitude towards them for bringing back their son safely. For this remarkable work, TI Borai Inspector Pramod Amaltas, Devnath Sinha, head constable Saurabh Patel, Jitendra Korram, Kuber Singh Jarri played an important role in searching parents of the lost child in Borai Mela.

Darkness of terror will be dispelled by the lamp of knowledge: Pandey

Collector inaugurates primary school in Bencharam-Budhari

Bijapur, Feb 12:

On February 7, armed Maoists had carried out the incident of arson of batteries and other equipment of the mobile tower in village Bencharam under Jangla police station. After reaching there on Friday, the Collector took stock of the situation with the villagers. Anti-development slogans had been written on the walls by the Maoists, which were erased in the presence of the Collector. The Collector talked about providing all possible help to improve their lives by joining the ambitious schemes



of the government. At the same time, people were made aware to leave the hollow ideology and join the main stream to improve the future of themselves and the coming generation. During this, the

villagers informed the Collector about the demands and problems of the villagers in order to conduct the development works in a better way. It was informed that the primary school building

in the village is ready but the school is not being run. After which the Collector took immediate action on the spot and inaugurated the school building at the hands of Budhri Vacham, an elderly lady of the vil-

lage. While explaining the importance of education to the women and villagers present, the Collector said that education is the only medium through which every adverse situation can be overcome. The villagers discussed cordially with the Collector and informed him about the various problems and demands of the village. Collector Pandey said that all the demands will be resolved as per the rules. He also motivated all the eligible beneficiaries to take the benefit of the currently running Mahtari Vandan Yojana. The villagers expressed happiness at the inauguration of the school building and said that now their children will be able to get education easily.

Death annv of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay celebrated as dedication day

Jagdulpur, Feb 12:

The death anniversary of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay was celebrated as Dedication Day by Bharatiya Janata Party Municipal Board Jagdulpur. BJP state president Kiran Deo said on the occasion of dedication day that on Narendra Modi app. And the surrender amount of Rs 2000 more will be taken through cheque in the name of Bharatiya Janata Party Chhattisgarh.

Pandit Deendayal's thoughts and ideas are going to inspire generations to improve India as a nation, as a society. Kiran Deo said that on the dedication day, officials and workers will donate Rs 5 to Rs 2000 only through digital medium on Narendra Modi app. And the surrender amount of Rs 2000 more will be taken through cheque in the name of Bharatiya Janata Party Chhattisgarh. BJP State Working Committee member Vidyasharan Tiwari said that Deendayal Upadhyay, who gave the slogan of Antyodaya, said that if we want unity, we will have to

understand Indian nationalism. Which is Hindu nationalism and Indian culture is Hindu culture. He said that only politics, economics and social policy related to the roots of India have the power to change the destiny of the country. No country has been able to develop by being cut off from its roots. The program was conducted by General Secretary Vedprakash Pandey and Abhar Ramashray Singh. During this, prominent BJP workers including Subham Kashyap, Lachuram Kashyap, Sudhir Pandey, Sanjay Pandey, Anand Mohan Mishra, Yogendra Pandey were present.

Four gamblers arrested with Rs 2260 cash and playing cards

Jagdulpur, Feb 12:

Kotwali police station of the district received information from an informer that some people were gambling in Suncity Atal Awas Labgh of the city. Gamblers are gambling by betting money on playing cards. To act on the information, a police team was formed on Sunday and raid



action was taken. During the raid, 4 gamblers Sameer Sedre, Rakesh Das, Avinash, Karandas were caught red handed gambling. Rs 2260 in cash and playing cards were recovered from his possession and possession. A criminal case was registered against the said accused under Section 03 ChG Gambling Prohibition Act 2022.

Two accused threatening people with axe and knife arrested

Jagdulpur, Feb 12:

An accused was arrested in the case of scaring the common people with a sharp axe in Metguda Jawahar Nagar ward under Bodhghat police station area of the district. A sharp axe has been seized from the possession of the accused criminal Manoj Kumar, S/o Madan, who was threatening people. In another case, in Adawal Rajeev Para, a person was threatening people by waving a sharp weapon, a knife. A sharp weapon, a knife, has been seized from the possession of the accused criminal Khema Ram Yadav, S/o Budhram Yadav.



Action was taken against both the arrested criminals by registering a crime under section 25, 27 of the

Act in Bodhghat police station. After the proceedings, both the accused have been sent on judicial remand.

Only to beat plates, ring bells, show mobile phones and die of hunger: Rahul

Korba, Feb 12:

Former AICC President Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra started from Manipur in the North-East. Bharat Nyay Yatra started from Bhainsma in Korba after which the Yatra reached Nagar Chowk and where Rahul Gandhi addressed the people and said that hatred and violence are increasing due to injustice. People said the reason for this is unemployment, inflation and fear, so we added the word justice in the journey. He further said that even a billionaire is paying the same amount of tax as the common man. GST money goes from your pocket to the



government. You are paying GST and your money is going to only 2-3 people. Rahul Gandhi said about the mobile phone of a person present is the mobile phone from China and to which Adani and Ambani are making. Due to which they and China are getting benefiting. The common man has no benefit from

this. Rahul Gandhi made a retired soldier and a laborer sit with him in his car. Poor and the backward are not getting anything. Rahul Gandhi said, backward classes, Dalits and tribals constitute 74 percent of the country's population, but not a single person from these com-

munities owns or manages India's top 200 companies. Taking aim at the BJP government, he said, BJP calls it Hindu Rashtra, but 74 percent of the country's population and the common poor are not getting anything. Targeting at the Centre, he claimed that they were only there to bang plates, ring bells, show mobile phones and die of hunger. Mentioned about Ambani and Adani: Congress MP said, tell me, have you seen any poor, labourer, unemployed person or small businessman at the inauguration of Ram Temple? I saw only Adani ji, Ambani ji, Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai and other

big businessmen. Adani ji, Ambani ji and their families were giving big statements. Terming it as economic injustice, the Congress leader alleged that people are not getting employment and are facing the brunt of inflation, while Adani and Ambani are earning profits by selling Chinese goods. Told the public to be aware: Rahul Gandhi asked people have they ever seen backward, Dalit and OBC persons as owners of big hospitals or universities? He said, you have slept and accepted the loss. Chanting Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram 24 hours. This is good, but your money is being taken

away every day and you are dying of hunger. PM Modi's caste targeted: Rahul Gandhi also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed that he previously belonged to the general category caste, which was included in the OBC (Other Backward Class) list in 2000 under the then Modi-led Gujarat BJP government. He said, now you will say that I am also not OBC. I am not OBC, but I do not like injustice. A dig at the central govt regarding Agniveer: The Congress MP also criticized the Agneepath scheme for recruitment of soldiers as fire warriors

by the armed forces and claimed that the army and the country is being divided into two. The Congress leader offered the microphone to a retired army personnel who accompanied him in his jeep and later he spoke on recruitment for government vacancies. Rahul unveils the statues of his grandmother and father in Korba: Rahul left on foot from TP Nagar Chowk to Indira Shakti Sthal located at Indira Stadium and then he unveiled the statues of late Indira Gandhi and late Rajiv Gandhi located in the campus here. During this, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former min-

ister Jai Singh Agrawal, leaders of the Congress Committee were present. Rahul Gandhi unveiled the statues of his grandmother and father in Korba. Former CM Bhupesh Baghel also ride in the jeep: Rahul Gandhi stopped near Darri Hasdev Barrage. Congress workers accorded a grand welcome to him there. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also rode in the jeep. Then the convoy moved ahead towards the pass. The convoy reached Katghora. Where the Congress workers welcomed him warmly and gave him a grand welcome.

PML-N floats idea of 'participatory coalition government'

Islamabad, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) led by former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif has pitched the idea of a "participatory coalition government" to rival parties to end the logjam following the split verdict in the February 8 election, according to media reports on Monday.

PML-N has 75 seats in the 266-member National Assembly, the single largest party. Independent members, mostly backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, have secured 101 seats.

Former law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar termed this scenario Hobson's choice and said not a single political party had secured a majority in the National Assembly, insisting that elections were "fair".

The senior PML-N leader was talking to the media after a meeting of

Imran Khan's party to sit in opposition; rules out joining any coalition govt

Islamabad, Feb 12 (PTI): Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party will not join hands with rival PML-N or the PPP to form a coalition government and would sit in the opposition despite having a majority in the newly elected Parliament, party leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has said. Independent candidates, mostly affiliated with Khan's PTI, secured the most parliamentary seats in last week's general election. However, PTI does not have enough seats in the 266-member National Assembly to form a government on its own. "We don't feel comfortable with both (Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party) of them. There will be no talks with anyone to make a government or to make a government together with them. It is better to sit in the opposition than to make a government [with them], but we think we have the majority," Gohar Khan told Dawn News. The Election Commission of Pakistan has announced that independent candidates, a majority of them supported by the PTI secured 101 seats, followed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with 75 seats, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) getting 54 seats, and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) bagging 17 seats.

the party's top brass at Jati Umra in Lahore during which consultations were held regarding the future course of action. The ex-minister said the PML-N had started consultations with its former allies to form a unity government in the Centre.

"There's only the possibility of forming the (federal) government with the backing of the PML-N. It will be a participatory coalition government," he

said, adding that it was in "the largest interest of the country that all should join hands" to form the federal government, the Dawn newspaper reported.

According to PML-N sources, the initial formula stipulates that if the coalition parties agree to give the post of prime minister to the PML-N, then the post of president and speaker will be given to the Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP). The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Similarly, the post of deputy speaker can be given to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) or any of the independent members joining the coalition. Besides, the PML-N may keep the finance ministry, and other ministries will be distributed among allies with mutual consultation.

Going by their numerical strength, both the PML-N and the PPP are in a position to form a coalition government in the Centre. However, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif announced that all parties except PTI should join hands in the upcoming set-up.

According to the results announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) till Sunday, of the total 265 National Assembly seats, PTI-backed Independents bagged 101 seats, followed by PML-N at 75, PPP at 54, MQM at 17 and other smaller parties won 17 seats.

According to the formula, the sources said the decision regarding the nomination for the positions of Senate chairman and deputy chairman will be decided in consultation with the allies after the Senate elections.

"The PML-N has held a consultation for a long time on this initial formula," a source said.

Israeli forces rescue 2 hostages in dramatic Gaza raid

Rafah, Feb 12 (AP):



Hostages Fernando Simon Marman, right, and Luis Har, second from left, hug relatives after being rescued from captivity in the Gaza Strip, at the Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel, Monday.

Israeli forces rescued two hostages early Monday, storming a heavily guarded apartment in the Gaza Strip and extracting the captives under fire in a dramatic raid that was a small but symbolically significant success for Israel. The operation killed at least 67 Palestinians, including women and children, according to Palestinian health officials in the beleaguered territory.

To assist the rescue forces, heavy airstrikes pounded the area near the apartment in Rafah, a city on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip where 1.4 million Palestinians have fled to escape fighting elsewhere in the Israel-Hamas war.

The raid was celebrated in Israel as a victory in the sluggish battle to free the hostages, with more than 100 captives still held by Hamas and other Gaza militants, and briefly lifted the spirits of a nation still reeling from Hamas' cross-border raid last year.

But in Gaza, where civilians have borne a staggering toll since the war erupted on October 7, the operation unleashed another wartime tragedy, with many Palestinians killed or wounded.

More than 12,300 Palestinian minors children and young teens have been killed in Israel's war against Hamas, the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Monday.

That means minors

make up about 43 per cent of the total number of 28,176 Palestinians killed so far. About 8,400 women were also among those killed.

The ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians, provided the breakdown of minors and women at the request of The Associated Press. Israel claims to have killed thousands of Hamas fighters.

ROSE MONDAY PARADE



A float depicting "Barbies and Ken", with the characters of Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, Alice Weidel, center, and Sahra Wagenknecht is driven through the streets during the Rose Monday parade in Mainz, Germany, Monday.

US President Joe Biden slams Trump for his comments on Nikki Haley's husband

Washington, Feb 12 (PTI): US President Joe Biden has slammed his predecessor Donald Trump for dragging Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley's husband into the swirl of personal attacks. Haley's husband Major Michael Haley, a commissioned officer with the South Carolina National Guard, is currently on a year-long deployment with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, which is providing support in the Horn of Africa. He deployed in June. Trump at a rally in South Carolina on Saturday questioned the whereabouts of Michael Haley. "Where's her husband? Oh, he's away... What happened to her husband? Where is he? He's gone,"

Trump said at his rally in Conway in South Carolina, his first visit to the state this year. "The answer is that Major Haley is abroad, serving his country right now. We know he thinks our troops are 'suckers,' but this guy wouldn't know about service to his country if it slapped him in the face," Biden said in a tweet on Sunday.

Haley, 52, the only candidate against Trump in the Republican Party's nomination race, fired back at Trump's comments later on Saturday and again on Sunday.

"Donald Trump's comments represent a pattern of disrespect to every military member who sacrifices for us and the families who sacrifice alongside them," she told Face The Nation CBS on Sunday.

Defence minister and 2 former governors vie for presidency

Jakarta, Feb 12 (AP):

Indonesians on Wednesday will elect the successor to popular President Joko Widodo, who is serving his second and final term.

It is a three-way race for the presidency among current Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto and two former provincial governors, Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo.

Subianto, who is widely seen as the front-runner, has picked Widodo's eldest son, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, as his running mate.

About 205 million people are eligible to vote in the world's third-largest democracy and the most populous Muslim-majority nation. Here is some information about the candidates and their running



Workers arrange ballot boxes on a truck for the distribution ahead of Feb. 14 election in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia on Monday.

mates. Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto is the only candidate with links to the 1967-98 Suharto dictatorship, when he was a lieutenant general. A long-time commander in the Kopassus special forces, he was dishonorably discharged in 1998 after

'Ahlan Modi' event scaled down due to inclement weather

Dubai, Feb 12 (PTI): The 'Ahlan Modi' community event to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi has been scaled down due to inclement weather conditions in the UAE, an official involved in preparations said on Monday.

The event 'Ahlan Modi' (Hello Modi in Arabic) was scaled down after heavy rains and flashes of lightning were reported across the UAE overnight, causing traffic snarls and waterlogging.

Community leader Sajeed Purushothaman told PTI that preparations for one of the biggest diaspora events of Prime Minister Modi ever at the Zayed Sports City Stadium in Abu Dhabi were going fine but the participation was reduced from 80,000 to 35,000 because of the weather.

First lesbian couple in Nepal officially registers their marriage



Anju Devi Shrestha and Suprita Gurung pose for photos after they became the first lesbian couple in South Asia to officially register their marriage, at Baddiyatal in Bardiya district, Nepal.

Kathmandu, Feb 12 (PTI): Anju Devi Shrestha, nicknamed Dipti, and Suprita Gurung, both 33, have scripted history by becoming the first lesbian couple in Nepal to officially register their marriage.

Dipti, a resident of Bardiya district in western Nepal, and Suprita, a resident of Syangja district, on Sunday, got their marriage registered at Jamuna Rural Municipality of Bardiya district. Ward Secretary Dipak Nepal handed them the marriage cer-

tificate, said Sunil Babu Panta, a gay activist and a former member of Parliament. This is the first case of a lesbian couple officially getting registered for their marriage in South Asia, Panta claimed. Nepal was also the first country in South Asia to have formally registered same-sex marriage. Mayako Pahichan Nepal, a non-governmental organisation, meaning "Recognition of Love", in a statement, ex-

pressing happiness over the official registration of same-sex marriage. "The Nepalese LGBT communities have launched a campaign for identity-based rights of the sexual minority communities since 2001 and the campaign has become successful in getting officially registered same-sex marriage after more than two decades of struggle," it said in a statement.

UK plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda incompatible with human rights

London, Feb 12 (AP): The British government's plan to send some asylum-seekers on a one-way trip to Rwanda is "fundamentally incompatible" with the UK's human rights obligations, a parliamentary rights watchdog said Monday, as the contentious bill returned for debate in the House of Lords.

Parliament's unelected upper chamber is scruti-

nizing a bill designed to overcome the UK Supreme Court's ruling that the Rwanda plan is illegal. The court said in November that the East African nation is not a safe country for migrants.

The Safety of Rwanda Bill pronounces the country safe, makes it harder for migrants to challenge deportation and allows the British government to ignore injunctions from the

European Court of Human Rights that seek to block removals.

Parliament's Joint Committee on Human Rights, which has members from both government and opposition parties, said in a report that the bill "openly invites the possibility of the UK breaching international law" and allows British officials "to act in a manner that is incompatible with

कार्यालय, राज्य न्यायालयिक विज्ञान प्रयोगशाला (छत्तीसगढ़) गृह (पुलिस) विभाग छत्तीसगढ़ शासन पुलिस नॉर्डिन कैम्पस, टिळ्हापुर, रायपुर (छ. ग.)

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (1) Tender Notice No. E-R-T-81-23-24 Date: 12.02.2024

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Diplomatic Triumph

Release of Indian Navy Veterans from Qatar

India celebrates a significant diplomatic triumph as Qatar grants release to eight former Indian Navy personnel, previously detained on allegations of espionage. This development marks a crucial milestone in the longstanding ordeal endured by these individuals and their families. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has expressed profound gratitude to the Amir of the State of Qatar for facilitating the return of seven out of the eight nationals associated with the Dahra Global Company. This favorable turn of events follows a series of strategic diplomatic maneuvers, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagement with Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani during the COP28 summit in Dubai. The Indian government's relentless pursuit of justice for the detained Navy veterans culminated in the Qatari court's decision to commute their death sentences to imprisonment, following an appeal initiated by India. The return of Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, and Sailor Ragesh to their homeland evokes a sense of relief and gratitude. Their expressions of appreciation towards Prime Minister Modi underscore the pivotal role of diplomatic intervention and leadership in resolving complex international disputes. The case, shrouded in secrecy due to its sensitive nature, saw the Indian nationals detained in August 2022 under allegations of espionage while employed with Dahra Global. The subsequent legal proceedings led to the issuance of death sentences by Qatar's Court of First Instance in October 2023, prompting India to vehemently contest the ruling and pursue all available legal avenues. Throughout this ordeal, the MEA consistently emphasized the gravity of the situation and reiterated India's commitment to securing justice for its citizens. The charges leveled against the Navy veterans, although undisclosed, underscored the complexity of navigating international legal frameworks and bilateral relations in cases involving sensitive national security issues. The successful resolution of this case epitomizes the efficacy of diplomatic dialogue and international cooperation in safeguarding the rights and interests of individuals embroiled in legal disputes abroad. It reaffirms India's unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting the welfare of its citizens, both at home and abroad. As the Navy veterans reunite with their families and reintegrate into civilian life, their ordeal serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges inherent in navigating the complexities of international law and diplomacy. The collaborative efforts of government officials, legal experts, and diplomatic envoys have culminated in a favourable outcome that underscores the resilience and determination of the Indian state in safeguarding the rights and dignity of its citizens. In commemorating this diplomatic triumph, India reaffirms its commitment to fostering constructive dialogue and engagement with the international community, while steadfastly advocating for the principles of justice, fairness, and human rights on the global stage. The successful repatriation of the Navy veterans stands as a testament to the efficacy of diplomatic engagement and concerted efforts in resolving complex legal disputes and safeguarding the interests of its citizens.

Haldwani Violence

The events unfolding in Haldwani serve as a stark reminder of the delicate balance between governance, justice, and communal harmony. Amidst the court-mandated removal of religious structures, what transpired was not only a breakdown of law and order but also a fracture in the social fabric of the community. The aftermath, marked by violence and loss of life, demands a thorough examination of the circumstances leading to such a tragic outcome. First and foremost, the handling of such sensitive matters necessitates a cautious and measured approach. The removal of religious structures, especially in contested areas, requires meticulous planning and effective communication to prevent escalating tensions. Unfortunately, the chaos that ensued in Haldwani indicates a failure in these crucial aspects. While the state government maintains that the violence was not communal but rather a targeted attack on the state machinery, it is imperative to delve deeper into the root causes of the unrest. Claims and counterclaims only serve to obscure the truth and hinder the path to reconciliation. The assertions made by local authorities must be scrutinized impartially, with accountability being a paramount consideration. In the wake of the violence, the invocation of the National Security Act against the rioters underscores the gravity of the situation. However, it is essential for the government to demonstrate consistency and impartiality in its response. Zero tolerance for violence should extend to all perpetrators, regardless of their affiliations or motivations. Equally crucial is a thorough investigation into any administrative lapses that may have contributed to the escalation of tensions. Crucially, restoring peace and fostering communal harmony must be the foremost objectives moving forward. Initiatives such as the establishment of peace committees can serve as constructive platforms for dialogue and reconciliation. Engaging with community leaders and stakeholders is paramount in rebuilding trust and preventing the recurrence of such tragic events. Moreover, introspection is warranted regarding the handling of intelligence inputs and the urgency with which the demolition drive was conducted. Were there missed opportunities to anticipate and mitigate the potential for unrest? Could greater collaboration with community leaders have facilitated a more peaceful resolution? These questions demand earnest reflection and proactive measures to address systemic shortcomings. The violence in Haldwani serves as a sobering reminder of the fragility of communal harmony and the imperative of responsible governance. Moving forward, concerted efforts must be made to heal wounds, restore trust, and prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents. Only through genuine dialogue, accountability, and a commitment to justice can lasting peace be achieved in Haldwani and beyond.

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

FEEDING SIBERIAN SEAGULLS



Mahant of Baghambari Math Balveer Giri Maharaj feeds Siberian seagulls during the annual 'Magh Mela', at Sangam in Prayagraj, Monday, Feb. 12.

The Imperative of Implementing the Uniform Civil Code



PRIYANKA SAURABH

The Constitution of the country inspires us for equality and harmony and the commitment to implement the Uniform Civil Code law will act as a bridge to realize this inspiration." The Uniform Civil Code is discussed in Article 44 of the Constitution. Related to the Directive Principles of State Policy, this article states that 'The State shall endeavor to obtain a uniform civil code for the citizens throughout the territory of India'. According to the Indian Constitution, India is a secular country, in which followers of all religions and sects (eg Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, etc.) have the right to make laws related to their respective religions. There are two types of personal laws in India. The first is the Hindu Marriage Act 1956 which applies to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and other sects. Second, Muslim personal law applies to those who follow the Muslim religion. In such a situation, while the Hindu Marriage Act 1956, made under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, is applicable for all other religions and sects except Muslims, then there is talk of implementing a similar law for the Muslim religion as well, which will be relevant and new. There is hope for an India in the making. It is expected to remove the inconsistencies related to India's law. Because

the same civil code is followed in many countries of the world. These countries include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Sudan, Egypt, America, Ireland, etc. In all these countries there are uniform laws for all religions and there are no separate laws for any particular religion or community. But in India, such a game of appeasement was played for political gains, which is destroying the philosophy of unity in diversity and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Due to personal laws, situations of inconsistency are also arising in some places. Community events are also seen from a political point of view, this way of looking at the incident is promoting class discrimination. As soon as the Uniform Civil Code is enacted, justice will be done for the country's, especially half-Muslim population. Polygamy will be banned. Women will get rights in ancestral property, it will also be possible to get the right to adopt children. The minimum age for marriage of a girl in all religions will be 18 years. At present Muslim society is governed under personal law based on Sharia. In this, Muslim men are allowed four marriages. As soon as this comes into force, only one marriage will be valid. Muslim girls will also get equal rights as boys. Bad practices like Iddat and Halala will

be banned. In the case of divorce, husband and wife will have equal rights. India is a country with many religions, customs, and practices. The Uniform Civil Code will help India become more unified than it has been since independence. It will help bring every Indian, irrespective of his caste, religion, or tribe, under one national code of civil conduct. UCC will also help in reducing vote bank politics which must practice their religion, it just means that every person will be treated equally and all citizens of India will be subject to the same laws. It has to be done no matter what or what religion it is. Codification and unification of various individual laws will create a more coherent legal system. This will reduce the existing confusion and enable easier and more efficient administration of laws by the judiciary. India has a unique blend of codified personal laws of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis. There exists no uniform family-related law in a single statute book for all Indians that would be acceptable to all religious communities co-existing in India. UCC is certainly desirable and will go a long way in strengthening and consolidating Indian nationalism. The differences are in its timing and the manner of realizing it. Instead of using it as an emotional issue to score political points, political and intellectual leaders should try to build consensus. The question is not about the pro-

tection of minorities or even national unity, it is simply about treating every human individual with dignity, which personal laws have so far failed to do. Religious personal laws are misogynistic and by allowing outdated religious rules to dictate family life we are condemning all Indian women to subjugation and abuse. The Uniform Civil Code will also help in improving the status of women in India. Similarly, it will be mandatory for people of all religions to register for live-in relationships. Registration of marriage is also necessary for this. Besides, many other things can eliminate the difference between men and women through this. It would be good if everyone understood its merits and came forward to praise it instead of opposing it. What is needed today is that all the state and central governments of the country should soon make laws on this. Different laws of different religions put a burden on the judiciary. With the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, this problem will be solved and the cases pending in the courts for years will be decided soon. There will be the same law for everyone in marriage, divorce, adoption, and division of property, no matter what religion they belong to. Implementation of uniform law for every Indian in the country will also affect the politics of the country and political parties will not be able to do vote bank politics and there will be polarization of votes. The implementation of the Uniform Civil Code will also improve the condition of women in India. If we think about this in an Indian spirit, then it will naturally be seen that uniform civil law will become an important basis for the development of the country and society. (Writer is a research Scholar in Political Science, Independent Journalist and columnist.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Radio Unveiled

Radio serves as a potent medium for global dialogue and idea exchange, amplifying diverse voices and vital discussions. Its affordability aids remote communities and disaster response. Despite challenges from digital media and economic constraints, radio adapts, fostering community cohesion and democratic discourse. World Radio Day, observed on February 13, 2024, by UNESCO, highlights its enduring significance and calls for industry unity to address contemporary obstacles. Emphasizing radio's pivotal role in emergencies, the event underscores its capacity to bridge societal divides and promote inclusivity. Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, Hyderabad

Unsung Hero: Kailash Satyarthi

It is raining "Bharat Ratnas" all around with the "posthumous" honours dominating the show. Yet why doesn't the fully living and walking Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Laureate for Peace, get treated as "Ratna" of Bharat. Does such indifference towards him draw "inspiration" from his "sin" of registering valiant fight and work, which have blatantly exposed the dark scandals of child labour and slavery in front of the international community, thereby bringing shame and disgrace to the "Ram Rajya". Perhaps such naked truth about the relentless assault upon childhood is too much for that nation to digest which is "valiantly marching" towards the goal of emerging as "world's third largest economy". May be Satyarthi doesn't fit in the scheme of things as this selfless epitome of humanity doesn't represent any particular caste/regional/linguistic/religious vote bank and so absolute irrelevant in the "Electoral market". The marginalisation of Kailash Satyarthi from the national limelight bears testimony to the callous negligence towards millions of hapless innocent children of much zealously "worshipped" Bharat Mata. Kajal Chatterjee, Kolkata

Pakistan Election

The results out so far of the general elections in Pakistan may be indicating instability as no party has been able to emerge as clear winner to form the Government. PTI-backed independents' performance must have shocked Mr. Sharif and the military establishment backing him to the core. For, it highlights democratic temperament of Pakistani people, who have in a way challenged the military might and radical elements. This is a good thing to happen for Pakistan. But, as the situation is still dominated by the military, it remains to be seen whether Pakistani military draws proper lessons from the election results or becomes more suppressive. A lot depends on Pakistani peoples assertion of democratic values. Karan Singh, Chennai

Your unique smell can provide clues about how healthy you are

Aoife Morrin

Hundreds of chemicals stream from our bodies into the air every second. These chemicals release into the air easily as they have high vapour pressures, meaning they boil and turn into gases at room temperature. They give clues about who we are, and how healthy we are. Since ancient Greek times, we've known that we smell differently when we are unwell. While we rely on blood analysis today, ancient Greek physicians used smell to diagnose maladies. If they took a whiff of your breath and described it as fetor hepaticus (meaning bad liver), it meant you could be headed for liver failure. If a person's whiff was sweet or fruity, physicians thought this meant that sugars in the digestive system were not being broken down, and that person had probably diabetes. Science has since shown the ancient Greeks were right liver failure and diabetes and many other diseases including infectious diseases give your breath a distinctive smell. In 1971, Nobel Laureate chemist Linus Pauling counted 250 different gaseous chemicals in breath. These gaseous chemicals are called volatile

organic compounds or VOCs. Since Pauling's discovery, other scientists have discovered hundreds more VOCs in our breath. We have learned that many of these VOCs have distinctive odours, but some have no odour that our noses can perceive. Scientists believe that whether a VOC has an odour that our noses can detect or not, they can reveal information about how healthy someone is. A Scottish man's Parkinson's disease onset was identified by his wife, retired nurse Joy Milner, after she was convinced the way he smelled had changed, years before he was diagnosed in 2005. This discovery has led to research programmes involving Joy Milner to identify the precise smell of this disease. Dogs can sniff out more diseases than humans because of their more sophisticated olfactory talents. But technological techniques, like analytical tool mass spectrometry, picks up even more subtle changes in VOC profiles that are being linked to gut, skin and respiratory diseases as well as neurological diseases like Parkinson's. Researchers believe that one day some diseases will be diagnosed simply by breathing into a de-

breath is not the only source of VOCs in the body. They are also emitted from skin, urine and faeces. VOCs from skin are the result of millions of skin glands removing metabolic waste from the body, as well as waste generated by bacteria and other microbes that live on our skin. Sweating produces extra nutrients for these bacteria to metabolise which can result in particularly odorous VOCs. Odour from sweat only makes up a fraction of the scents from VOCs though. Our skin and also our gut microbiomes are made up from a delicate balance of these microbes. Scientists think they influence our health, but we don't yet understand a lot about how this relationship works. Unlike the gut, the skin is relatively easy to study you can collect skin samples from living humans without having to go deep into the body. Scientists think skin VOCs can offer insights into how the microbiome's bacteria and the human body work together to maintain our health and protect us from disease. In my team's laboratory, we are investigating whether the skin VOC signature can reveal different attributes

of the person it belongs to. These signals in skin VOC signatures are probably how dogs distinguish between people by smell. We are at a relatively early stage in this research area but we have shown that you can tell males from females based on how acidic the VOCs from skin are. We use mass spectrometry to see this as the average human nose is not sophisticated enough to detect these VOCs. We can also predict a person's age with reasonable accuracy to within a few years from their skin VOC profile. This is not surprising considering that oxidative stress in our bodies increases as we age. Oxidative stress happens when your antioxidant levels are low and causes irreversible damage to our cells and organs. Our recent research found by-products of this oxidative damage in skin VOC profiles. Not only are these VOCs responsible for personal scent they are used by plants, insects and animals as a communication channel. Plants are in a constant VOC dialogue with other organisms including pollinators, herbivores, other plants and their natural enemies such as harmful bacteria and insects. VOCs used for this back and forth dialogue are known as pheromones.

What has science shown about love pheromones? In the animal kingdom, there is good evidence VOCs can act as aphrodisiacs. Mice for example have microbes which contribute to a particularly smelly compound called trimethylamine, which allows mice to verify the species of a potential mate. Pigs and elephants have sex pheromones too. It is possible that humans also produce VOCs for attracting the perfect mate. Scientists have yet to fully decode skin or other VOCs that are released from our bodies. But evidence for human love pheromones so far is controversial at best. One study suggests that they were lost about 23 million years ago when primates developed full colour vision and started relying on their enhanced vision to choose a mate. However, we believe that whether human pheromones exist or not, skin VOCs can reveal who and how we are, in terms of things like ageing, nutrition and fitness, fertility and even stress levels. This signature probably contains markers we can use to monitor our health and diagnose disease. (Writer is Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry, Dublin City University)

BRIEF**Cognizant office**

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday inaugurated the first facility of IT firm Cognizant in Bhubaneswar. "The entry of Cognizant marks a significant milestone for new Odisha and further solidifies its reputation as a leading IT investment destination in the country," the chief minister said while speaking on the occasion. Odisha has emerged as a "destination of the future" with a growing scale of investment, talent pool and ambition, he said. "All these factors have become the cornerstones of our state's journey towards growth and development which is fuelled by a robust ecosystem encouraging entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and new-age businesses," he added.

Top position

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Sunday said it has secured top position for its climate actions and environmental performance in assessments done by four global rating agencies. The assessments were done by CDP, S&P Sustainability and Moody's. While the company secured 'leadership band' in CDP Climate Assessment 2023, it ranked first on the environmental dimension among 324 companies in the transport and infrastructure sector by S&P Global CSA 2023, a statement said.

Startup initiative

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday launched an initiative of IIT-Bhubaneswar's Research and Entrepreneurship Park, which aims at creating 100 startups with a valuation of Rs 100 crore each by 2036. The 100-Cube' startup initiative was unveiled by Pradhan here, who said innovation is "in the DNA of Odia society". "After seeing the new ideas and innovations of our youths, I am confident that 100 startups will be created by 2036," he said. To achieve this goal, the park will provide essential resources, mentorship, seed capital and access to potential investors. It is set to expand to about 80,000 square feet from the existing 20,000 square feet over the next two years with support of Rs 130 crore from the Ministry of Education, officials said.

Create 25 mn job creation by 2030 to help get industry status: Kant

New Delhi, Feb 12:



India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant on Monday asked hospitality and tourism sector players to tell politicians about creation of 25 million jobs by 2030 while seeking their help for the demand of industry and infrastructure status. Speaking at the 6th Hoteliers' Conclave organised by the Hotel Association of India (HAI), Kant said somehow the tourism industry has failed to tell the politicians that it is a big creator of jobs, while agreeing with their demand for industry status. "If you look at tourism, I think from a perspective of a political lens, the politician only understands one thing and that is how many jobs is the tourism sector creating," he said.

Kant further said, "Tourism has a huge multiplier impact for every direct job that you create, you create seven indirect jobs, but I think somehow the tourism industry has failed to tell the politicians that we are a big creator of jobs." In terms of employment, Thailand creates close to 20 million jobs, Malaysia about 15 million jobs and India creates 7.8 million jobs from the

tourism sector, he added. "It will be worthwhile for the tourism industry to have a target of telling the political system across Centre and states that if you give attention to tourism we will create 25 million jobs by 2030 and it is doable target," Kant suggested in response from HAI leaders who sought his help to get industry and infrastructure status for the sector. If the target is put before the political system that 25 million jobs will be created by the tourism sector, it will have a huge impact on the minds of the political system and they will do everything possible for tourism, he added. "To my mind that's the only language which will be understood that you should push at state level," Kant asserted. He agreed with the de-

mand for tourism sector to be granted industry status, saying, "when you treat a sector as a commercial sector, the power tariff is much higher. The interest rates are higher, and it's necessary that tourism is treated as an industry." With the substantial high power tariff, the day-to-day operations of players are impacted, he acknowledged. "My view on that is very clear that all states must see every activity in every sector of the tourism industry (sector) as an industry," Kant said, adding while 11 states have done it, many have not extended the full benefits of it to the players. He asserted that the tourism sector is "an industry because it is a very major job creator" and pushing it as an industry will really help both at the Centre and state levels.

Tourism, hospitality sector expected to create 50 mn jobs in 5-7 yrs: HAI

New Delhi, Feb 12:

Hotels' Association of India (HAI) on Monday said the hospitality and tourism sector expects to create 50 million direct and indirect jobs in the next 5-7 years but government support is required for getting the full industry and infrastructure status in states to tap the employment potential.

The infrastructure status for the hospitality sector can push up investments not only to create accommodation, but also in the process boost income and employment generation, HAI President Puneet Chhatwal said while speaking here at the 6th HAI Hoteliers' Conclave. Chhatwal, who is also the Managing Director and

CEO of Indian Hotels Company Ltd, said while tourism is a pillar of development creating about 10 per cent of the total employment and contributing 8 per cent to GDP with a huge multiplier effect that can help inclusive growth, "there is often a gap between this realisation and the actual policy implementation". Addressing a press conference, HAI Vice-President K B Kachru said in the last two years there has been "a rise of 271 per cent in hirings". "That is how business is moving. Now we need to focus a lot on developing tourism, not only at higher levels but also at entry levels... This focus has to remain and if we don't do that we will not be able to service..."

Demerger process to be completed in next 9-12 months: John Slaven

Jharsuguda, Feb 12:



Vedanta is working "actively" for demerger of its key businesses, including aluminium, into separate listed companies and the process is likely to be completed in next nine to 12 months, a top official of the company said. Billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Ltd had last year announced creation of independent verticals through demerger of its metal, power, aluminium, and oil and gas businesses to unlock potential value. In an interview to PTI, John Slaven, CEO of aluminium business of Vedanta, said, "We are working very actively in securing the successful demerger of the aluminium business." The process for the demerger is currently underway and is subject to a number of approvals

from various authorities, he added. "We also need approval from our current lenders in the allocation of debt across the various entities that will be separated. So that's playing out at the moment. It's not directly within our hands. So unfortunately I'm not in a position to tell you categorically when it will occur. We are confident that in the next 9 to 12 months the demerger will be completed," Slaven said. The move, he

RBI rules out review of action against Paytm Payments Bank

New Delhi, Feb 12:

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday ruled out any review of the central bank's action against Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL), saying the decision was taken after a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of the lender. In a major action against Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL), RBI, on January 31, directed it to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

"At the moment let me say very clearly there is no review of this (PPBL) decision. If you are expecting a review of the decision, let me very clearly say there is (going to be) no review of the decision," Das said at a press conference after the 606th meeting of Directors of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India. The meeting was ad-

ressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The governor said any decision against entities regulated by the RBI is taken after a comprehensive assessment. While emphasising that RBI is supportive of the fintech sector, Das said it is also committed to protect the interest of customers as well as ensure financial stability. The central bank is expected to soon issue a set of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on the Paytm matter this week. While announcing the action against PPBL, the RBI had said the direction follows persistent non-compliance and continued material supervisory concerns.

Earlier on March 11, 2022, the RBI had barred PPBL from onboarding new customers with immediate effect.

In its latest action, RBI has asked the Paytm Payments Bank not to take deposits/ credit transac-

tions/top-ups in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, and NCMC cards, among others after February 29, 2024.

However, the central bank has allowed credit of interest, cashbacks, or refunds even beyond February 29. Further, withdrawal or utilisation of balances by PPBL customers from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards are permitted without any restrictions, up to their available balance. RBI also directed termination of the 'nodal accounts' of One97 Communications Ltd. One97 Communications, which owns Paytm brand, holds a 49 per cent stake in Paytm Payments Bank Limited but classifies it as an associate of the company and not as a subsidiary.

Retail inflation eases to 3-month low of 5.1 pc in Jan



New Delhi, Feb 12:

Retail inflation eased to a three-month low of 5.1 per cent in January mainly on account of lower food prices, according to official data released on Monday. Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 5.69 per cent in December 2023 and 6.52 per cent in January 2024. In August 2023, inflation touched a

high of 6.83 per cent. According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), retail inflation in the food basket was at 8.3 per cent in January 2024, down from 9.53 per cent in the preceding month. The Reserve Bank of India has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Spiritual leader Sadhguru during the ET Now Global Business Summit 2024, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Industrial production grows 3.8 pc in December 2023



New Delhi, Feb 12:

India's industrial production grew 3.8 per cent in December 2023, according to official data released on Monday. Factory output measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had witnessed a growth of 5.1 per cent in December 2022. "India's Index of Industrial Production grows by 3.8

per cent in December 2023," an official statement said. The data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew 3.9 per cent in December 2023, up from 3.6 per cent in the year-ago month. In December last year, the mining production rose 5.1 per cent and power output increased 1.2 per cent.

Rupee rises 7 paise to close at 83 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 12:

The rupee appreciated 7 paise to close at 83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on softness in the American currency and easing crude oil prices. However, weak domestic markets and foreign fund outflows capped sharp gains, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.01 against the greenback. The unit hit an intra-day high of 82.98 and a low of 83.02. The local unit finally settled at 83 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 7 paise from its previous close of 83.07. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias, positive global equities and a slight correction in the greenback.

Sensex tanks 523 pts on profit taking in banking, metal shares

Mumbai, Feb 12:



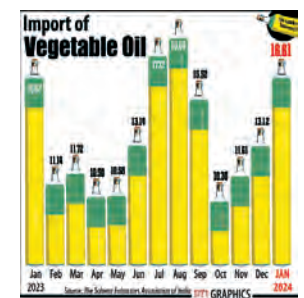
Benchmark Sensex plunged by 523 points on Monday due to profit taking in metal and banking shares amid mixed trends in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 523 points or 0.73 per cent lower at 71,072.49 as 22 of its components closed in the red and eight in the green. The barometer opened higher and touched a high of 71,756.58 in early trade. However, profit taking in Reliance Industries, metal giants and banking shares dragged the index to a low of 70,922.57 during intra-day trade. The broader NSE Nifty also closed 166.45 points or 0.76 per cent lower at 21,616.05 with 34 of its constituents ending in the red. Metal, bank-

ing and select oil shares succumbed to selling while pharma and IT shares bucked the trend. "An uptick in exchange margin requirements caused a decrease in positions, primarily in mid and small caps. Aside from the pharma and IT sectors, selling was widespread, with notable struggles seen in PSU banks," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

India's vegetable oil imports fall 28 pc in January

New Delhi, Feb 12:



The country's vegetable oil imports declined by 28 per cent to 12 lakh tonnes in January from a year-ago period, industry body SEA said on Monday. Vegetable oil imports stood at 16.61 lakh tonnes in January 2023. India is a leading vegetable oil buyer in the world. In the first quarter (November-January) of the current oil year, total imports dropped 23 per cent to 36.73 lakh tonnes as against 47.73 lakh tonnes in the same quarter of previous year.

According to the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), about 7,82,963 tonnes of palm oil and 4,08,938 tonnes of soft oil were imported in January

this year out of total vegetables oils. As on February 1, total edible oils stock stood at 26.49 lakh tonnes, down 7.64 per cent from that of the year-ago period, it said in a statement. SEA said prices of edible oils, which are currently low, may go up this year on lower production, global economic issues and supply constraints.

Paytm gets merchants' backing; assures service continuity without disruption

New Delhi, Feb 12:

Fintech firm One97 Communications, which owns the Paytm brand, has received support from merchants, and it assured them of continuity of services without any disruption, the company said in a blog on Sunday. The blog post came amid the recent crisis around Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), an associate company of Paytm, which has been barred by the RBI from accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29. Withdrawal or utilisation

of balances by its customers from their accounts, including savings bank accounts, current accounts, prepaid instruments, FASTags, and National Common Mobility Cards, are to be permitted without any restrictions up to their available balance.

"We assure our users and merchant partners that the Paytm app and services continue to operate at full capacity. In instances, where our associate Paytm Payments Bank acts as a back-end bank, we can seamlessly transition these services to other partner banks. This ensures that our merchant partners

face no disruptions, no need to revisit existing setups, and no additional effort," the blog said. Paytm said its merchant partners can continue to benefit from solutions like Paytm QR codes, Soundbox, and card machines, just as before. "Leading industry players across retail, entertainment, and beyond, such as Arvind Limited, Smaaash, BIBA, and more stand testament to the strength of our partnerships, having experienced firsthand the benefits of our seamless payment solutions," the blog said.

Leading companies have expressed their satisfaction with their prolonged

association with Paytm, it added. "We have been working with Paytm for two years, and they have always been at par when it comes to their innovative products and services. I strongly recommend everyone to continue using Paytm services as before," the blog quoted Hotspot Retail Private Limited Chief Operating Officer Satya N Satyendra as saying. The blog shared testimonials from Advait Hyundai, Smaaash, BIBA Fashion, and Arvind Limited, which runs brands like Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfinger etc, around the service being offered by Paytm.

JHBSSK would act as major centre for exchange of information: Bohra

Inaugurates Bhavna Sewa Suvidha Kendra in Pandaria, Pandatarai

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Feb 12: MLA Pandaria VS Bhavna Bohra had made a declaration of starting Jansewa he Bhavna Sewa Suvidha Kendra' (JHBSSK) for convenience of people of her region under 'Bhavan Didi's guarantee' in her election manifesto declaration.



So fulfilling her promise, Bhavna Bohra inaugurated JHBSSK at Pandaria and Pandatarai here on Saturday. Earlier a similar centre was inaugurated at Kukudur area.

During this MLA Bhavna Bohra said that she stands committed to fulfill the promise made by her to meet up the expectation and demands of people of her family from Pandaria Vidhan Sabha area. In this series JHB-

ment of this Centre, they would be able to find solution to their problems near their home itself and would save their time and money in travelling long distance and in turn provide mental and financial balance. Bohra said that it has been her effort that the redressal to the public grievances is met immediately and she continues to get feedback and suggestions for necessary development in the region. This centre will act as bridge and main centre to exchange dialogue and information between public and elected representative and she extended greetings to people of their region for opening of the Centre and assured them what all promises and guarantees BJP has made would be fulfilled.

Provision of Rs 300 cr made for laying of railway line

From Katghora to Dongargarh

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Feb 12: The denizens of Kawardha were anxiously waiting for railway line and it was during the last term of BJP in the State, the foundation stone ceremony of railway line from Katghora-Donargarh was laid by the then Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in sports ground of Karpatri School. But with the formation of Congress government in the state, this project went into oblivion.

But with the BJP government coming back to power, it was right in the first budget of the state by CM Vishnu Deo Sai and with efforts of Dy. CM Vijay Sharma, a provision of Rs 300 cr was made for



BJP party workers welcomed Dy. CM Vijay Sharma on his arrival in city amidst light showers.

laying of railway line from Katghora to Dongargarh. So with the provision for laying of railway line in the budget, the people of the region are having high hopes of getting their long pending demand fulfilled and would get the railway link soon. The benefit of Double Engine government would now be possible for the people of Kawardha directly.

It was on maiden arrival of Dy. CM and MLA Kawardha Vijay Sharma after the presentation of the state budget, the denizens of city accorded him warm welcome at city's Bharat Mata Chowk in a stage.

On this occasion, people of city expressed gratitude towards Dy. CM Vijay Sharma for getting budget sanction for the railway line. Dy. CM Sharma said

that it with support of all that he always try to fulfill their demands.

The double engine government of CM Vishnu Deo Sai and it is under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi that the demand of new railway line would soon be fulfilled. On this occasion all BJP (urban) Mandal level office bearers, party workers and citizens were present in large number.

Dr. Sadhana conferred top great artist of Aakashvani

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 12: Chhattisgarh's famous Sugam Sangeet singer Dr. Sadhna Rahatgaonkar has been awarded the title of 'Top Great by All India Radio'. At the national level, All India Radio has selected Sadhna in the field of ghazal singing and for this purpose, Sadhna had given examination from Akashvani Raipur.



It is noteworthy that Sadhna, taking inspiration from her late father Basant Rahatgaonkar, completed her training from music teachers Late NB Lonare, Pt. Bhagwan Prasad Sharma, Pt. Mukherjee, Guru Moolchand Jain and Mrs. A. Rahim, while Sadhna

completed her training from Indira Kala Sangeet Vidyalaya, Khairagarh also received PhD degree under the direction of Prof. Dr. Mridula Shukla. Dr. Sadhna, who has brought laurels to Chhattisgarh including Khairagarh in the field of accessible music, is also a

nominated artist of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) and is currently working as Assistant Professor Hindi in Government Chandul Chandrakar Arts and Science College, Patan. The university family has congratulated her for this achievement.

Illegal encroachment removed from 20 acres land in Mopka

On the instructions of the Commissioner

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 12: Illegal encroachment was removed from the land allotted to the corporation in Mopka and the encroachment was removed on the instructions of Corporation Commissioner Amit Kumar. About 16 acres of land has been freed from a dozen illegal encroachers and a garden will be built by the corporation as per proposal.



The illegal encroachment removal team of the corporation along with revenue and police has removed the illegal encroachment, as the illegal encroachers had put up huts, boundary walls,

columns, tin sheds and boards on the corporation land, along with a banner of Aryan Builders.

It is noteworthy that the state government has appointed Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bilaspur as Mauza Mopka Government land Khasra No. 993/1 located in Tehsil No. 29 and District

Bilaspur, out of 57.475 hectares, 6 hectares were allotted under the conditions for the construction of the garden.

The above land was encroached upon by certain elements and on the instructions of the Municipal Corporation Commissioner, 16 acres of land was freed from en-

croachment. The encroachment was freed in the presence of Tehsildar, Atul Vaishnav, Corporation Building Officer Suresh Sharma, Encroachment Squad, Zone Commissioner Engineer Jugal Singh, Patwari Harish Jain Halka Patwari RI. Two months after handing over

the land to the corporation; RI Nikhil Jha gave possession of the same land to Manish Rai, Kumud Awasthi, Sandeep Kedia and Amrit Talal Jobanputra.

There is a road in the east of Kumud Awasthi's Chauhadi, but there is a road on the west side of the spot and Manish Rai was ousted by Tehsildar Rajkumar Sahu and Amrit Jobanputra has been wrongly demarcated by RI Nikhil Jha.

Apart from this, the illegal occupation of Saraswati Sahu, Mohan Sahu, Anil Shriwas, and Sara Khan has been removed. About 20 acres of government and corporation land has been freed from land mafia, in which important schemes of the government are to be implemented.

Excellent performance of Rajiv Lochan College



In Inter-College Ball Badminton competition

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 12: Inter-College Ball Badminton Competition was organized at Vivekananda College, Raipur, in which students from various colleges of Raipur sector participated and in this competition, students of Government Rajiv

Lochan College, Rajim performed very well. The college students secured second place in this competition, and the college students also performed well and reached the semi-finals. Principal of the college, Prof. Verma, Sports Officer Akash Baghmare, Team Manager Prof. Sonam Chandrakar and officers and employees of the college have expressed happiness over this performance of the students.

Drug trade in full swing in Kurud Nagar

Youth under the influence of illicit liquor, ganja and pills

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Feb 12: Drug trade is going on in full swing in Kurud city and due to easy availability of illegal liquor, ganja, pills etc. the youth are in the grip of addiction. And by forming groups under the influence of drugs, bullying in the city, creating ruckus, using banned silencers with loud noises, using pressure horns with ear-splitting noises, driving motorcycles

at high speed all day long, it has made it difficult for the people to move on the main roads as well as on a daily basis, which are on return causing accidents.

Apart from this, due to the apathy of the responsible public representatives, officers and employees towards the city's system and civic facilities, encroachers have illegally encroached upon places by opening stalls and stalls and selling non vegetarian food aiding to the merry making of the youth drug addicts.

The busy road between Kargil Chowk, Sports Ground and Chhota Canal has be-

come a den of alcoholics due to chicken centers and tasting shops, due to which it has become like taking a risk for people to walk on this path.

Crowds of drunks and anti-social elements work in many stalls in front of the sports fair grounds to create unrest in the city, on which the police administration does not take any action and the common people are extremely worried and there is a resentment among the common public and many in unity have demanded the clearance of the anti social elements and drug addicts from the region.

Budget will shape the future of youth, women and farmers: Vikrant

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 12: Responding to the budget presented in the Chhattisgarh Assembly, State BJP Working Committee member and Rajnandgaon District Panchayat Vice President Vikrant Singh said that this budget will be a budget that will shape the future of women, youth and farmers of Chhattisgarh.

This budget will help in the development of Chhattisgarh and by taking a resolution, a definite target is being set in which the GSDP of the state is to be doubled in 5 years, he said. Singh also said that this budget is a budget that



Vikrant Singh

fulfills Modi's guarantees and in this budget, many guarantees of Modi including Mahtari Vandan, payment to farmers, Prime Minister's residence, Jal Jeevan Mission,

Ram Lalla Darshan, free treatment, provision for landless agricultural laborers will be fulfilled.

Vikrant Singh further said that this budget is challenging every challenge and the goal of increasing the state's income by 22 percent without imposing tax burden on anyone is laudable.

Provisions have been made in the budget for every area, every department, every section of the state, which will bring prosperity in the lives of the people of Chhattisgarh and will truly prove to be a milestone in realizing Chhattisgarh's dream of becoming a developed state, Singh concluded.

Coal being stolen from Amera open coal mine

Central Chronicle News

Lakhanpur, Feb 12: Coal is allegedly being stolen by villagers from Amera Coal mine and big pits have formed in these illegal coal mines, going rampant. After the complaint, the police team arrived to take action and seized a large quantity of illegal coal, even though as per information, the seized coal did not reach the police station but reached the brick kilns.



Coal is being purchased from the villagers by installing weighing machine in the coal mafia field from Amera open mine under Lakhanpur police station area of Surguja district and is being used in brick kilns. A complaint was made about theft of coal from

Amera mine and also a large number of tractors were requisitioned there to take the seized coal to Lakhanpur police station. Till the time the coal was loaded in the said tractor vehicles with the help of the villagers, instead of taking

the coal loaded tractor to Lakhanpur police station, the seized coal were sold in the brick kilns operating in the area. With the help of the villagers, the coal mafia collects coal in the fields just a hundred meters away from



the Amera mine and transports the coal illegally in two-wheeler, four-wheeler and six-wheeled vehicles and disposes of it in many districts including the brick kilns of the area. Not only this, the coal mafia is operating the mine



by digging pits on the banks of Ghunghutta river and at least twenty to thirty tonnes of coal is being produced every day from the Amera mine area. There is always a dispute between SECL and the villagers on the issue of vil-

lagers stopping the expansion of the Amera coal mine and the coal mafia, through the nearby villagers, is mining coal by employing hundreds of laborers from SECL and the acquired land near this mine on the banks of the Ghunghutta River. The mafia gives Rs 200 per bag to the villagers and one person delivers seven to 10 bags and the extent is that the coal mafia conducts mining on the river banks every year, but no action is taken. Experts in the area say that action is not taken against the coal mafia because the mafia also passes on a part of their earnings to those responsible.

What officer says:

A major accident can happen on these pits at any time. If the government administration does not take strict action in this direction soon, then a major accident is being invited or may happen, but by then it will be too late. B R Khande, SDM

In this regard, after discussing with Lakhanpur SDM B R Khande, he said that to curb illegal coal excavation and transportation, a team has been formed and revenue employees have been directed to take duty. He said that if coal theft does not stop, action will be taken by forming a joint team of Mineral Department and Revenue Department.

- LR Chauhan Sub Inspector Incharge Police Station

In this regard, after talking to the in-charge sub-inspector of the police station, LR Chauhan, he said that he has no information about it. - Mukesh Kumar Chaudhary, Amera Regional Assistant Manager

