

# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## BJP MLAs questioned erstwhile Congress Govt on QDC report

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 13: Ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) members on Tuesday questioned the working of erstwhile Congress Government on the report of Quantifiable Data Commission (QDC) and sought from the Treasury bench to make it public.

Raising the issue during Question Hour in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, the senior BJP Legislator Ajay Chandrakar alleged that former Chief Minister



Bhupesh Baghel during his tenure had resorted to politics on Quantifiable Data Commission. He said that

the report should be made public. Responding to it, the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai assured that the report

would be made public soon.

Apart from Ajay Chandrakar, the Minister for School Education Brijmohan Agrawal said that the erstwhile Congress government had constituted Quantifiable Data Commission to gain political mileage and alleged that every section of society appears to be have been cheated over the report.

Congress MLAs Sangeeta Sinha and Ramkumar Yadav came in support of the steps taken by the erstwhile Bhupesh Baghel government.

## SK Raipur Marathon to Champion Women's Health on Mar 3

Raipur, Feb 13: The inaugural SK Raipur Marathon on March 3rd will be organized by IEMR Institute of Event Management in collaboration with SK Finance, this exciting event promises to bring thousands of runners together for a healthier and cleaner Raipur. This year's marathon goes beyond just competition, dedicating itself to women's health. A special "Run for Her" category offers free registration for female participants, encouraging their active participation and well-being. The SK Raipur Marathon isn't just about crossing the finish line. Get ready for pre-events like fitness activities, ambassador meets, and a vibrant bib expo across various gardens in the city.

## ROSES ON DEMAND



On the eve of Valentine Day, marked it decked up with variety of roses and other flowers to woo the customers.

## Collector Dr Gaurav Singh flags off TB Champions' e-rickshaw



Raipur, Feb 13: Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh flagged off the e-rickshaw of TB Free Foundation District Raipur, an organization of people who have recovered from TB disease and extended his best wishes on Tuesday here.

T.B. Free Foundation is an organization formed by 13 people who recovered from TB and are also called TB Champions. This e-rickshaw was purchased by this T.B. Free

Foundation with the money collected by itself. A loan was also taken from the bank. T.B. Free Foundation will repay half of the income received from it to the bank and the other half will be kept by the Foundation which will be used for the betterment of TB champions.

It is noteworthy that under the reach program, TB, person who recovered after taking TB medicine

(TB Champions) spread the message among the general public. To remove the stigma related to the disease of T.B, counseling people suffering from TB, providing support related to taking complete medicines and are cured of T.B. Necessary support is being provided for recovery. Along with this, T.B. Additional nutritional food is being provided to the patients undergoing treatment.

On this occasion, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Mithlesh Chaudhary gave best wishes to the champions. On this occasion, Dr. Avinash Chaturvedi, District Tuberculosis Eradication Officer, Mr. Pheidius Kerketta, State Reach Coordinator, Mr. Aman Das Anand, District PPM Advisor, District Raipur were present.

## Speaker Dr Raman Singh holds meeting over new Assembly Bhawan



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 13: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh on Tuesday presided over the meeting of new Legislative Assembly Bhawan Committee here during which the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai was also present.

According to the information received, apart from the under construc-

tion new building of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly in Nava Raipur, the committee members also discussed the issue of construction of MLAs Rest House, Residential quarters construction for the Assembly Officials and Employees.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brijmohan Agrawal, Finance Minister OP Choudhary, MLA Ajay Chandrakar, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain and Assembly Secretary Dinesh Sharma were also present during the meeting.

## Durga College honours 5 NCC cadets

● Cadets returned after attending R-Day Parade in New Delhi



Raipur, Feb 13: Durga College Raipur echoed with pride and celebration as four young boys and one girl, students of Air NCC, returned triumphant from their participation in the prestigious Republic Day Parade in New Delhi 2024. In a heartwarming gesture, the college organized an informal welcome program to honour their outstanding achievement.

During the ceremony, Principal Dr. Pratibha Mukherjee Sahukar, Vice Principal Dr. Surendra Agarwal, and Associate NCC Officer Squadron Leader Dr. Vijay Kumar Choubey bestowed accolades upon the cadets, recognizing their dedication and exemplary performance on the national stage. Squadron Leader Dr.

Vijay Choubey highlighted the significance of the parade, emphasizing the invaluable exposure and opportunities it offers to the participating cadets. This year 25 cadets from all the units of NCC (from Jagdalpur, Raipur, Kanker, Raigarh, Korba, Ambikapur, Durg, Rajnandgaon) were selected from the state of Chhattisgarh. With pride, he announced that, five cadets from Durga

Mahavidyalaya had brought glory to their college.

In her address, Principal Dr. Pratibha encouraged the cadets to continue inspiring their peers, nurturing a legacy of excellence and commitment for future generations. The occasion served as a testament to the unwavering dedication of these young cadets and the enduring spirit of Durga College Raipur.

## BJP starts party workers meeting with Ministers

● Cabinet Ministers to be available to hear public grievances from 2 to 5 pm

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 13: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday launched the party workers meeting programme with the Ministers of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai government at party headquarters situated at Kushabhau Thakre premises every day. Senior Office-bearers of the party have also been deputed with them to ensure smooth functioning of the meeting.

According to the information received, the Minister for Women & Child Development Laxmi Rajwade was first Minister



State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo addressing a press conference to inform about Ministers meet.

to listen the party workers at office during which the senior leader Shivratna Sharma was also present.

Minister for Food & Civil Supplies Dayaldas Baghel would be present at party office on Wednesday which would be followed with the attendance of Revenue Minister Tankram Verma on Feb 15, School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal on

Feb 16, Tribal Welfare Minister Ramvihar Netam on Feb 19, Public Health Minister Shyam Behari Jaiswal on Feb 20, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap on Feb 21, Deputy Chief Minister Home & Jail, Panchayat & Rural Development Vijay Sharma on Feb 22 and Finance Minister OP Choudhary on Feb 23.

The Ministers would not

only listen to the grievances of the people and party workers but would also take appropriate steps towards redressal.

It is notable that previously also during the BJP regime, the above meeting was organized at party office situated at Ekatma Parishar. The Ministers would be available to hear public grievances from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

## Students taken on educational tour to Vidhan Sabha

Met Parliamentary Affairs Minister Peaceful functioning of the Assembly is a matter of great responsibility.

Raipur, Feb 13: The Assembly is an important pillar of democracy, which works to convey the voice of the citizens to the government. It is an important organ of the state government which takes important decisions for the development of the state and the welfare of the people. Parliamentary Affairs and Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal informed to the students of Dr. Radha Bai Navten Girls Post Graduate College, Raipur, who reached the Assembly on an educational tour on Tuesday.



Agarwal said that the Assembly is a temple of democracy, where MLAs from across the state work for the development of their respective areas. He also said that peaceful conduct of assembly proceedings is a matter of great responsibility. For this, it is important to be polite and courteous, and

we should also listen carefully and express our views and opinions without any hesitation. We should use these habits in our life also.

It is noteworthy that the purpose of this visit was to provide the students an opportunity to closely see and understand the functioning of the assembly. The girl stu-

dents saw that the Speaker of the Assembly was conducting the House in the role of a teacher. Along with the opposition members, members of the ruling party were also invited to ask questions one by one. Apart from the House, the study team was shown the library and the Central Hall of the Assembly and the parliamentary system was described pictorially. The students described this tour as very informative and interesting.

The girl students also had a courtesy meeting with MLA Mr. Anuj Sharma, Mr. Ishwar Sahu, Mrs. Bhavna Bohra, Mrs. Sangeeta Sinha, Mrs. Chatur Nand. On this occasion, Head of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Bhupendra Kumar Sahu, Gayatri Sharma and Avinash Sharma were also present.

## Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur

# Trainer Smith from US teaches plastering techniques

### At the Clubfoot Workshop

Workshop organized in the Orthopedics Department of Ambedkar Hospital

Clubfoot is a congenital deformity or anomaly in the feet of children

Raipur, Feb 13: A one-day workshop on Clubfoot (talipes equinovarus) was organized in the Orthopedics Department of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, Raipur. Organized with the support of the Orthopedics Department and the Cure India Foundation, this workshop saw the participation

of Carlton Bruce Smith, a professional healthcare worker and clubfoot plaster specialist from the USA. He provided training on straightening the foot under the plaster method for clubfoot. In this workshop held in the seminar hall of the administrative section of the Orthopedics Department, trainer Carlton Bruce taught orthopedic PG students to apply plaster on the feet of five children aged zero to five years, who were affected by clubfoot, to straighten and normalize them.

Carlton Bruce Smith, while providing training in the workshop, explained that in other countries, similar to India, plaster is changed every week for clubfoot treatment, and later shoe-like braces are given to straighten the feet. In medical terminology, these are called foot ab-



duction braces. It is a type of orthopedic device used to keep the foot straight in clubfoot cases treated with the plaster method. He said that the process of clubfoot treatment starts with casting (plaster)

which ends with braces. After the foot is in the correct position, braces are used for up to five years to completely correct the foot.

According to the head of the Orthopedics

Department, Dr. Vinit Jain, currently, one to two newborns or small children affected by clubfoot come to the OPD of Ambedkar Hospital daily. Under the standard treatment protocol, plaster

needs to be changed every week, which poses difficulties for parents of children coming from distant areas. By using the Ponseti method through accelerated techniques in orthopedics, clubfoot in newborns

can be corrected rapidly by applying plaster daily for one to two weeks and then discharging the child after completing treatment. Positive results have been seen in small children affected by clubfoot who come for treatment in the department currently. Research is ongoing in the Orthopedics Department on this method.

Dr. Pranay Srivastava, associate professor in the Orthopedics Department, stated that one in every thousand live births is affected by clubfoot. Clubfoot, or talipes equinovarus, is a congenital deformity in which the foot is turned inward from birth. The cause of clubfoot is unknown. Its treatment usually succeeds, including methods such as casting or Ponseti method. Sometimes surgery is required. The sooner club-

foot is treated, the better.

It is noteworthy that research is underway on the super-accelerated technique for the treatment of clubfoot in the Orthopedics department. Led by department head Dr. Vinit Jain and Associate Professor Dr. Pranay Srivastava, in this research, children affected by clubfoot are given a new plaster daily instead of changing plaster or cast every week, resulting in rapid and positive outcomes in clubfoot. Dr. Vinit Jain has been honored for his research.

In this workshop, Head of Department of Orthopedics, Dr. Vineet Jain, Dr. Pranay Srivastava, Dr. Sanjay Jain and PG students along with Sarika Bagh and Sarita from Cure India Foundation were present.



## Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

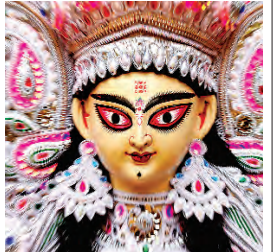
401 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country; Scholarships distributed to over 3 crore ST students till now

## Better education for students from tribal communities

401 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country; Scholarships distributed to over 3 crore ST students till now



### BRIEF



An idol of Goddess Saraswati ready to be sent for 'Saraswati puja', in Nadia, Tuesday.

### Maurya resigns

**Lucknow:** Senior Samajwadi Party leader Swami Prasad Maurya on Tuesday resigned as the party's national general secretary, saying he will continue to work to strengthen the SP without any post. In his resignation letter addressed to Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Maurya said "he will continue to work to strengthen the party without any post".

### Aircraft crashes

**Kolkata:** A Hawk trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed at Kalaikunda in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district during a training sortie on Tuesday, a Defence official said. Both the pilots ejected safely, he said. The plane crashed near the Kalaikunda Air Force Station while returning from the training sortie, he said.

### Injured

**Pratapgarh:** Seventeen people were injured on Tuesday when a bus ferrying pilgrims to Prayagraj collided with the divider near a toll plaza near Dharauli Madhupur village here, police said. Police station Kohdaur in-charge Inspector Preeti Katiyar said that 65 pilgrims from Bahraich and Gonda districts were going to Sangam in the private bus.

### Coach fire

**Pune:** A railway coach parked at the washing yard of Pune railway station caught fire in the wee hours of Tuesday, officials said. Nobody was injured in the incident. The cause of the blaze is not known, a Fire Brigade official said.

### Acquit

**Dhanbad:** A special MP/MLA court in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Tuesday acquitted BJP's Bagmara legislator Dhulu Mahto of rape attempt charges. Special judge of Dhanbad MP/MLA court, Akhilesh Kumar, while hearing the case, said that as the prosecution could not produce evidence of the incident, accused Dhulu Mahto is being acquitted of the charges.

**Weather**  
High 31 Low 19

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 21,743.25  
SENSEX 71,555.19

**BULLION**  
GOLD 61,496  
SILVER 69,835

# Farmers forcibly move barricades, cops fire tear gas

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):



Police use tear gas shells to disperse farmers during their 'Delhi Chalo' march at Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border, near Patiala, Tuesday.

Farmers from Punjab faced tear gas shells some of them dropped by a drone -- at two border points as protesters tried to break past barricades set up by the Haryana Police to stop them from heading to the national capital. Police hurled tear gas shells, and the protesters hurled stones, at the Shambhu border near Ambala in Haryana. Tear gas was also used against protesters at the border between the two states in Haryana's Jind district.

Near Shambhu, the stand-off between the protesters and the police continued for hours as the area filled up with tear gas smoke. Some protesters were detained by the Haryana Police, sources said. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation to put pressure on the Centre for their demands, including a law on minimum support price for crops and loan waivers.

A large group of farmers, including women, packed in tractor-trolleys

and other vehicles left at about 10 am from Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib, about 40 km from the border with BJP-ruled Haryana. An excavator was a part of one convoy, with a farmer in Amritsar saying it would be used to break barricades. Police barriers have been put up at several places in Haryana on the highway to Delhi. At major entry points to the capital, the Delhi Police has installed layers of similar barriers that include barbed wire, concrete slabs and tyre-bursting strips on the road.

The "fortification" of Delhi's borders reminded many of the farmers' agita-

tion for the repeal of the Centre's agri-marketing laws in 2021. The protesters had then blockaded the main roads leading into Delhi for months.

On Monday, marathon talks in Chandigarh between farmer leaders and two Union ministers failed to arrive at an agreement.

The Delhi Chalo' march met its first roadblock at Shambhu. Security personnel deployed on the Haryana side asked a group of youths to stay away from the barricades.

They first used tear gas when some protesters broke a metal barricade and tried to throw it off the Ghaggar river bridge.

### 'MSP law cannot be brought in a hurry'

Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda on Tuesday said a law guaranteeing Minimum Support Price (MSP) on crops cannot be brought in a hurry without consulting all stakeholders and urged the protesting farmer groups to have a structured discussion with the government on the issue.

In an interview with PTI, Munda also cautioned the protesting farmers to be "aware and alert" about some elements which could defame their protest for political benefits. Munda is part of the ministerial delegation that held two rounds of discussion with the farmers' groups, including Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), Kisan Mazdoor Morcha in Chandigarh, to resolve their concerns. However, as the talks remained inconclusive, farmers' groups have started their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Tuesday. "In the two rounds of discussions, we agreed to many of their demands. But there was no agreement on certain issues. The talks are still on," Munda said.



Arjun Munda

### 'Cong govt will provide legal guarantee for MSP'



Ambikapur, Feb 13:

Amid farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said his party would provide legal guarantee to Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops after coming to power. This was his party's first "guarantee" ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, he said. Speaking during Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Ambikapur district of Chhattisgarh, Kharge also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the people should not believe Modi's "guarantees". "If Congress comes to power at the Centre (after the Lok Sabha polls), it will ensure legal guarantee to MSP in the interest of farmers. It is our first guarantee," Kharge said. One of the demands of the farmers participating in the 'Delhi Chalo' march is enactment of law guaranteeing MSP for crops. PM Modi does not believe in democracy and works only for himself, Kharge claimed.

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## Ashok Chavan joins BJP

Mumbai, Feb 13 (PTI):



Former Maharashtra CM and Congress leader Ashok Chavan with Maha Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis addresses media after joining BJP, in Mumbai, Tuesda.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan on Tuesday made his political move by joining the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Mumbai, just a day after parting ways with the Congress.

The 65-year-old Chavan was warmly welcomed into the BJP fold at the party's Mumbai office in the presence of key figures, including Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Regarding his new phase in his political career, Chavan, who spent nearly four decades in Congress, said today signifies the commencement of his fresh political journey. Son of the former

Maharashtra Chief Minister and Union Home Minister S B Chavan, his choice to align with the BJP emerges amidst speculation that he might be given the Rajya Sabha nomination.

When asked about any communication from senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Chavan chose to evade a direct response.

## 'Only few benefitting from 'system', others paying GST and dying of hunger'

Udaipur (Surguja), Feb 13:



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led Centre, claiming that only some people were benefitting from the "system" in the country while all the others were paying taxes and dying of hunger.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday slammed the BJP-led Centre, claiming that only some people were benefitting from the "system" in the country while all the others were paying taxes and dying of hunger.

If the people raise voice against anything, they have to face action by the ED, CBI and the I-T department, Gandhi said addressing a gathering at Ramgarh chowk in Udaipur area of Surguja district as part of his 'Bharata Jodo Nyay Yatra'.

He claimed that violence was happening and hatred was being spread because injustice was being meted out to the people in the

country round-the clock. Perhaps, it has been happening so much that people are not even able to realise it. It has become like a habit, Gandhi said.

"You (people) must ask a question to yourself thrice a day that how much money you are getting from the country's fund each day. How much return you are getting after your day-long struggle and efforts. In 10 days, you will come to know that you are

### 'BJP govt using tear gas against farmers'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged the BJP-led Central government was using tear gas against farmers and lodging them in jails instead of accepting their just demand on Minimum Support Price (MSP). Addressing a gathering as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Ambikapur, Gandhi also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was using GST and demonetization as weapons to ruin small businessmen in the country.

being ditched by a system and the PM is at its helm," he alleged.

## PM Modi holds talks with UAE President

### Bilateral investment treaty inked to boost strategic ties

Abu Dhabi, Feb 13 (PTI):



PM Modi being received by UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan upon his arrival in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with the UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during which they reviewed the strategic partnership, discussed new areas of cooperation and witnessed the signing of several agreements, including a bilateral investment treaty.

In a special and warm gesture, Modi was received at the airport by President Mohamed bin Zayed. The two leaders hugged each other. He was later given a guard of hon-

our. "Immensely grateful to my brother, HH @MohamedBinZayed for taking the time to receive me at Abu Dhabi airport," Modi posted on X. The two leaders held one-on-one

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across sectors, including trade and investment, digital infrastructure, fintech, energy, infrastructure, culture and people-to-people ties. Discussions also covered regional and global issues, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "I thank you for this grand welcome of me and my team. As you said, I feel that whenever I have come here, I have always felt that I have come to my home and family," Prime Minister Modi said in his opening remarks at the bilateral meeting with the UAE President. "We have met five times in the last seven months. Today, there is a mutual partnership between India and UAE in every sector," he said.

## BJP Kanker MP clocks 100% attendance

### In 17th Lok Sabha

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):



Mohan Mandavi, Bhagirath Choudhary

BJP members Mohan Mandavi and Bhagirath Choudhary have earned the unique distinction of not missing a single sitting of the 17th Lok Sabha, which held a total of 274 sittings during its term. Coincidentally, the two first-term members got seats adjacent to each other in the House.

"I do the job assigned to me with utmost responsibility. I represent Kanker, a tribal region of Chhattisgarh, and had attended the House even during the COVID-19 pandemic," Mandavi said. According to data shared by PRS Legislative Research, Choudhary (MP from Ajmer in Rajasthan) and Mandavi

clocked a 100 per cent attendance during the 17th Lok Sabha, which on an average witnessed 79 per cent attendance during its tenure. Mandavi said he and Choudhary had seats next to each other in Lok Sabha. BJP member from Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh Pushpendra Singh Chandel was the most active member in Parliament having participated in 1,194 debates in the 17th Lok Sabha, followed by Kuldeep Rai Sharma (833 debates) from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## JEE aspirant from Chh'garh hangs self in Kota

### Third incident this year

Kota (Rajasthan), Feb 13 (PTI):

A 16-year-old JEE aspirant allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room here, hours after the National Testing Agency published the answer key for the first edition of JEE-Main 2024, police said on Tuesday.

This is the third case of suspected "suicide" by coaching students in Kota this year so far, they added. Shubh Choudhary's body was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hostel room in the Jawahar Nagar area here

on Tuesday morning, Circle Officer (CO) DSP Bhawani Singh said. Choudhary, who hailed from Chhattisgarh, was a student of Class 12 and had appeared in the JEE-Main 2024 examination, Singh said.

However, the police is yet to ascertain the status of his results, he added. The National Testing Agency on Monday published the answer key for the first edition examination of JEE-Main 2024 and announced the results on Tuesday. Choudhary had been preparing for JEE at a coaching institute here and was living in the hostel in Jawahar Nagar area for two years, the police said. After the boy did not

respond to his parents' repeated calls on Tuesday morning, they asked the hostel warden to check on him, the CO said.

On going to his room, the warden found Choudhary's body hanging from a ceiling fan and informed the police, he added.

The teenager allegedly hanged himself some time on Monday night, the CO said, adding that no suicide note was recovered from his room and the actual reason behind the suspected suicide is yet to be ascertained.

In gross violation of norms, the fan in the hostel room was not equipped with an anti-suicide device, the officer said.

## 'No stay on law excluding CJI from EC appointments'

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):



The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to stay the operation of the new law that provides for appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners by a panel which does not include the Chief Justice of India.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta issued notice to the Centre on a plea filed by an NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, and listed the matter along with other pending petitions on the issue for hearing in April.

The plea challenged the constitutional validity of the Chief Election

Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, submitted the law is contrary to the constitution bench judgement of the apex court which had directed the inclusion of the CJI in the panel mandated to pick the CEC and ECs.

# Shaildevi College to host two-day international seminar

Bhilai, Feb 13:

A two-day international seminar is being organized on 15 and 16 February 2024 at Shaildevi Mahavidyalaya, Anda Durg under the joint aegis of Hemchand Yadav University, Durg; Rashtriya Hindi Academy Delhi; Chhattisgarh Mitra and Chhattisgarh Sahitya evam Sanskriti Sansthan. A number of national seminars have already been organized in Shaildevi College. This international seminar is an innovative effort of the college President Rajan Dubey to facilitate the students and researchers in increasing their subject knowledge by getting detailed information. This seminar is being organized with the aim of ex-



panding knowledge and promoting innovation in education, literature and culture. The chief guest of this seminar will be Dr Aruna Palta, Vice Chancellor, Hemchand Yadav University, Durg and Patron Rajan Dubey, President, Shaildevi College. In this pro-

gramme, many eminent lecturers from India and abroad including Dr Prashant Srivastava, Dean, Student Welfare, MJ College Kohka, Bhilai. Students and scholars can send research abstracts and research papers on the above mentioned topics.

# Safety Officers meet to identify hazardous workplaces

Bhilai, Feb 13:

Office of the Deputy Director, Industrial Health and Safety, Durg Division, Chhattisgarh, in association with Bhilai Steel Plant's Safety Engineering Department jointly organized a Meeting on Industrial Safety, at HRD Centre, on Tuesday. The meeting was aimed at the identification of hazardous workplaces and risk assessment during the work at various factories operated under the BSP.

Ashutosh Pandey, Deputy Director (Industrial Health & Safety, Durg) presided over the meeting. Praveen Rai Bhalla, CGM (Safety & Fire Services) along with BK Mohapatra (Chief Fire Officer) and J Thulasi Dasan, GM (SED) were



present on dais. All the Departmental Safety Officers (DSOs) of the Plant's respective departments took part in the safety meeting.

Ashutosh Pandey, in his address, stated that out of the 43 factories operated under the Bhilai Steel Plant, there are some that fall under the hazardous category. There are Departmental Safety Officers (DSOs) in all such factories who ensure that safety standards are adhered to during production. Through the agenda

of this meeting, we shall review the present Safety System, to achieve accident-free production.

At the outset, PR Bhalla, CGM (Safety & Fire Services) gave the welcome address, while Ajay Talloo, Senior Manager (SED) administered the Oath of Safety to the attendees of the meeting. Pushpa Ambrose, GM & DSO (SMS-III) presented a 'Safety Sharing' about a recent near-miss case at SMS-III, which was prevented by strict adherence to safety protocols and dili-

gence of departmental workers.

Detailed discussions on an 8-point safety agenda were held during the Industrial Safety Meeting, which included the Role and Inherent Responsibilities of DSOs, safe execution of maintenance jobs under the DSOs, compliance with safety work protocol / SOP within the factories, etc. Ashutosh Pandey, Deputy Director (Industrial Health & Safety, Durg) interacted with the DSOs present in the meeting and took stock of the safety practices followed in their respective departments. The dignitaries and guests also shared their valuable insights on safety, with the attendees of the meeting. Saroj Kumar Mahto, GM (SED), compered the meeting.

# Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week concludes

Bhilai, Feb 13: Seventh Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week 2023-24 (MEMC Week 2023-24) was organised under the aegis of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Raipur Region. The concluding ceremony and prize distribution function was organised at Mahatma Gandhi Kala Mandir, Civic Center Bhilai, on Sunday.

Narayan Sharma, Chief Controller of Mines I/c (MDR-Indian Bureau of Mines, Nagpur) was the chief guest on this occasion, while Dr YG Kale, Controller of Mines (Central Zone- IBM, Nagpur), was present as special guest.

Prem Prakash, Regional Controller of Mines (IBM Raipur) and Patron (MEMC Week 2023-24); Samir Swarup, ED



(Rowghat) and Chairman (MEMC Week 2023-24); BK Giri, ED (Mines) and Co-Chairman (MEMC Week 2023-24) and Vinod Pillai Director (Godavari Power and Ispat Limited) and Vice President (MEMC Week 2023-24) were also present on this occasion, along with Devdurlabh Dash, Regional Mining Geologist (IBM Raipur) and Coordinator (MEMC

Week 2023-24), Dayanand Upadhayay, Deputy Mine Controller (IBM Raipur), and other senior officials in large numbers.

At the outset, the guests garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, while the chief guest hoisted the safety flag and administered an oath for the conservation of Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week.



Tricolour balloons were released into the sky as a part of the safety pledge. Piyush Narayan Sharma inaugurated the exhibition stall where the Public Relations Department of BSP welcomed the chief guest with a bouquet.

As many as 17 stalls, including the stalls from prestigious organizations such as NMDC, Jindal, Adani, Godavari Ispat, and

ACC along with the stalls by Bhilai Steel Plant, CSR, Raoghat, Dalli-Rajhara, and Mahila Samaj, were exhibited on this occasion.

The concluding ceremony of the 07th MEMC Week 2023-24, commenced with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by the dignitary guests and the collective recital of the National Anthem.

Chief Guest Piyush

Narayan Sharma, in his address, appreciated the contribution of the workers in the mine and congratulated the participants of 07th MEMC Week 2023-24. Piyush Narayan urged the mining community to adopt an integrated mining approach and carry out mining activities in harmony with nature as per the ancient Indian tradition.

A souvenir, along with a calendar themed on the 07th Mines Environment and Mineral Conservation Week 2023-24 (MEMC Week 2023-24), was also released on this occasion, by the chief guest and other dignitaries. Various cultural programs were also presented on this occasion including a presentation by SRG Group, Chhattisgarh Folk Dance by Rangjhanjhar Group,

and a Skit by the workers of Iron Ore Complex (IOC) Dalli Rajhara.

Devdurlabh Dash, Regional Mining Geologist (IBM Raipur) and Coordinator (MEMC Week 2023-24) announced the results of Paryavaran Bandhu and Theme Awards in the Poster Competition, Slogan Competition, Stall Awards, and MEMC Week Awards in A1, A2, B, C, and other categories. The winners were felicitated by the dignitaries and guests.

The programme was compered by Supriyo Sen, from SC & CA Department, while Chintala Srikant, GM (Mines) Rajhara Mechanical Mines, and Secretary (MEMC Week 2023-24) proposed the vote of thanks.

## Volleyball Championship from Feb 15

Bhilai, Feb 13: Bhilai Steel Plant is going to host the 'SAIL Volleyball Championship 2023-24', from 15th February to 17th February 2024. The 3-day Championship will be held at the Volleyball Complex, Pant Stadium, Sector-01, Bhilai.

A total of 10 teams from various steel plants along with the Volleyball team from Bhilai Steel Plant, shall compete in this tournament. Other participating teams include ASP & DSP, Durgapur, ISP, Burnpur, RDCIS, Ranchi, RSP, Rourkela, SSP, Salem, RINL, BSL, Bokaro, SRU, and SAIL-Corporate Office, New Delhi. BSP's Department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SC&CA) is conducting this 3-day Championship.

# 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand celebrated

Bhilai, Feb 13:

DAV Ispat Public School Sector 2 celebrated the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati and also offered an adieu to its Class XII batch in the blessing ceremony held on Monday. Deputy Regional Officer Prashant Kumar, Principal Priyanka Shukla, staff and students were present. The day was marked by a havan performed as a tribute offering to Swami Dayanand Saraswati on his 200th Janmotsav and also for seeking the blessings of the almighty for all the students and the Board Classes (X, XII) in particular. The students religiously participated in the havan. The Deputy



Regional Officer Prashant Kumar speaking on this auspicious occasion made the gathering aware of the greatness of the Visionary, Scholar and Philosopher by citing examples from his life and explaining in very simple terms the essence of our culture, our tradition and the legacy of Swami Dayanand which

the youth of the nation only need to carry on and help in building of a strong nation.

Prashant Kumar also laid emphasis on the approaching board exams and urged the students to give their best without any fear or stress. He even came up with suggestions and ways to deal with

exam phobia and to overcome it. As is the practice of the DAV family, blessings were showered on the students with flower petals by DRO Prashant Kumar. The ambience was filled with positivity and emotions took over the students and teachers with the conclusion of the ceremonial day.

## Collector asks doctors to take care of duty timings

Bhilai, Feb 13: The meeting of the District Advisory Committee under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act was held on Tuesday. Collector Richa Chaudhary chaired the meeting in the Collectorate meeting room. She directed to fix the timings of the doctors to conduct sonography and ensure that the sonography is done on time. The Collector took information about two new centres. Dr RK Khandelwal, Nodal Officer said that selection of centres will be done after physical verification. The Collector asked the doctors to especially take care of their duty timings. CMHO Dr JP Meshram, social worker Chanchal Sethia and legal expert Vijay Kumar were present.

# Excise department nabs bootlegger

Bhilai, Feb 13:

On the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary and under the guidance of Assistant Commissioner Excise Rajesh Jaiswal, the team of Excise Department nabbed a bootlegger and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

They received a tip off regarding smuggling and peddling of illegal liquor in village Borid of Police Station Ranitarai.

The Excise Department personnel during night patrolling on 12 February 2024 nabbed the bootlegger and recovered 40 quarters of country liquor (7.2 bulk liters). The illicit liquor worth Rs 4400 was seized.

According to the information received from Assistant Commissioner



Excise Department, a case has been registered against the accused Mahendra Verma, son of Guharam Verma under Section 34(2) of the Excise Act and it has been taken under investigation by

Excise Sub Inspector Harish Patel. In this case, Excise Head Constable Dayaram Gote, Operator Ramgopal Verma and Driver Dhanraj Kurre played a vital role in arresting the accused.

## Uday Mahavidyalaya organises annual sports and yoga programme



Bhilai, Feb 13: A two-day annual sports and yoga programme was organized at Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul-Bhilai on February 08 and 09. Yoga was held from 07:00 to 08:00 in the morning and sports from 09:00 to 12 noon. The games included cricket, kabaddi, kho-kho, chair race, shot put and discus throw. The objective of this programme was to develop the mental and physical abilities of the students along with overall personality development. The students made the

programme a success by participating in Yoga and all the sports with great enthusiasm. Principal Dr Alipa Sahu motivated the students to participate in all the activities and spoke about teamwork, hard work and enthusiasm in sports. She congratulated and extended best wishes to all the participants. Assistant Professor Kalavati Rao, Prabha Sahu, Neelam Chauhan, Purnima Sahu, Ranjana Tripathi, Kalpana Gupta, Satnam Singh and students were present.

# Arrange green vegetables for mid-day meal from local farms: Collector

Bhilai, Feb 13: A review meeting of the Prime Minister Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana was held on Tuesday in the Collectorate Auditorium. Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary chaired the meeting. She reviewed the schemes which are being run by local women self-help groups and the availability of safe kitchen-store in schools and the development of Poshan Vatika kitchen garden. She asked to run the mid-day meal program on priority in government, government aided and local body primary and pre-secondary schools.

During the review, the Collector said that there are many schools which do not have a kitchen garden. She asked to coordinate with the school principal to develop a kitchen garden and irrigation fa-



cilities. While taking information about the kitchen stores, she said that in the schools where the kitchen stores are in dilapidated condition, they should be repaired immediately and instructions should be given to complete the incomplete store rooms as soon as possible. In the district, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM Poshan) is operated through women self-help groups and food is served to the students through assistants. She asked for periodic inspection at the

school level by the school staff and School Management and Development Committee members. The Collector said that instead of buying green vegetables from the markets, green vegetables should be arranged from the local farmers, so that children can get fresh green vegetables. Besides, care should also be taken about the quality of the mid-day meal being served to the school children.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM Poshan)

scheme, arrangement of preparing hot food in schools and serving it to the students is being done by women self-help groups in rural areas and self help groups in urban areas. In the primary and middle schools located within the limits of Bhilai Municipal Corporation, this scheme is operated by an NGO (Akshay Patra Foundation Sector 06 Bhilai). Mid-day meal is provided to the students studying in all government, local body and aided schools. Cooks of SHGs

prepared the food daily for the students based on local menu and seasonal availability of green vegetables.

In this regard, the Collector said that green vegetables should be arranged from the local agricultural fields, so that children can get fresh green vegetables.

The District Education Officer said that the National Deworming Day program was organized in the district on 10 February 2024 in all the Anganwadi centers and government

schools / government aided schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Madrasas, private schools, aided private schools and colleges of the state.

Anthelmintic drug Albendazole 400 mg is being provided to 1 to 19 year old children and adolescents through technical education institutions. Mop-up Day will be organized on 15 February 2024, during which medicines will be given to the children left during the programme. Collector asked to pay special attention to ensure that no child is left out while giving deworming medicine.

District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Ashwani Dewangan, District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal and block officers of all the development blocks were present.

## National Lok Adalat to be organized on March 9

Chief Justice gave instructions to resolve the old pending cases by coordinating with the parties and concerned departments.

Raipur, Feb 13:

As per the instructions of Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court and Chief Conservator, State Legal Services Authority, National Lok Adalat will be organized in the state on March 9, 2024. All the District Judges, Chairpersons, District Legal Services Authorities and Family Court Judges should be informed about the old pending cases eligible for presenting in National Lok Adalat. Instructions have been given for identifying and resolving cases related to Section 138 NI Act, Family Court Matter, Motor Accident Claim Case, Civil and Criminal cases. Besides, by issuing notices to the parties through the District

Judge, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Secretary, Department, instructions have also been given to resolve as many cases as possible in the Lok Adalat and ensure its service.

It is noteworthy that in this sequence, on March 8, 2024, Justice Gautam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, along with all the District Judges, Chairman, Secretary, Family Court Judge, Chairman Permanent Lok Adalat, CJM from the NIC of Chhattisgarh High Court will resolve cases through videoconferencing. Instructions have been given to resolve the cases pending in the courts for more than 5 and 10 years, pending cases related to senior citizens and cases

related to women. He said that by increasing the number of cases identified so far as pre-litigation cases by the districts, all the concerned departments should establish pre-sitting, cooperation and coordination with the financial institutions and also include more and more cases in the revenue cases in the upcoming National Lok Adalat. By issuing notices to the parties, instructions have been given to cancel coordination with the concerned departments.

Apart from this, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary, Department of Law and Legislative Affairs, Ministry of Raipur should also send maximum number of cases from Revenue Courts to National Lok Adalat and make every ef-

fort to resolve them. For this, instructions have been given to the concerned departments as well as the collectors and the Director General of Police has also been asked to provide necessary cooperation in the Lok Adalat. On the recommendation of the Executive Chairman, SALSA has sent a request to the Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, Raipur for the National Lok Adalat to assess the actual outstanding principal amount and the amount of surcharge in electricity related cases and facilitate exemption from payment of surcharge. By making an incentive scheme, instructions have been given to extend its benefits to as many parties as possible through Lok Adalat.

## Rajesh Uike to fulfill the responsibility of Indian Ambassador of Tajikistan

Rajesh Uike of Kondagaon paid a courtesy call on President Droupadi Murmu



Raipur, Feb 13: Rajesh Uike, Ambassador-designate to Tajikistan, made a courtesy call on President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. In the meeting, President Murmu presented the credential documents to Rajesh Uike marking his official appointment as the next Ambassador of India to Tajikistan. It may be noted that Rajesh Uike is an IFS Officer of 2006 batch and the Ministry of External Affairs had last year announced his appointment as India's next Ambassador to Tajikistan. Earlier, the position was held by Viraj Singh, an IFS officer of 1997 batch, who was appointed as India's Ambassador to Tajikistan in 2019. India and the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan have enjoyed tra-

ditionally close and cordial relations. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties on August 28, 1992, regular high-level visits have further strengthened bilateral relations, as stated by the MEA in an official document. The deep-rooted historical and cultural connections have broadened the relationship to a new level, with cooperation spanning all aspects of human endeavour, particularly military and defence ties. Both

countries are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Currently, Rajesh Uike serves as the Joint Secretary in the External Publicity and Public Diplomacy Division of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi. His diplomatic career includes different roles in Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad, as well as various capacities within the Ministry in New Delhi.

A native of Kondagaon District, Chhattisgarh, Rajesh Uike completed his schooling in Kondagaon and Sukma District. He was a recipient of the National Talent Search Merit Scholarship by NCERT and won Gold and Silver medals in the Maths Talent Search Examination at the high school and higher secondary levels, respectively. Rajesh Uike holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from NIT, Bhopal, and a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering from IIT, Delhi. Prior to joining the Indian Foreign Service, he briefly worked as a Design Engineer and Operation Manager in the Automobile Sector; served for the Indian Railways; and, also incubated an industrial start-up immediately after graduation. Rajesh Uike is expected to assume his new role in Dushanbe, Tajikistan in the near future.

## Nagar Panchayat accountant's salary stopped for 4 months

Dongargaon, Feb 13:

The accountant in Nagar Panchayat Vivek Kumar Bhardwaj has not received salary for the last four months, and along with this, the accountant has complained that he is asked to do other work apart from the work of an accountant in his department.

Regarding the same, a complaint has also been made to Joint Director, Urban Administration and Development Department, Durg and Collector Rajnandgaon regarding this matter.

The Accountant Vivek Kumar Bhardwaj has alleged that he had been

posted on the post of Accountant in Nagar Panchayat officer but his post has been given to another employee of the same office. Meanwhile, in this matter, CMO Dadupal Singh said that the said accountant continuously violates the orders and refuses to do the work and this matter was explained to him in the presence of the Vice President but was ignored by him.

The accountant has also been given notice to discharge his duty and alike everyone is required to perform office tasks he too is assigned workload under the system, the CMO said.

## Funds worth crores sanctioned for road, irrigation

- In Khallari Vidhan Sabha area
- With efforts by MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav

Bagbahra, Feb 13:

Funds worth crore have been sanctioned for road construction work and irrigation system in Khallari Vidhan Sabha (VS) and it was with tireing efforts of MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav that budgetary provision has been made in the state's budget for 2023-24.

It is notable here that the state's budget for 2023-24 was tabled in the Vidhan Sabha on Feb 9 and in this as per initiative and efforts by MLA Dwarkadheesh Yadav funds worth crores have

### Bridge at four places at the cost of Rs 17.75 cr

In Khallari Vidhan Sabha area, bridges will be constructed at four places at the cost of Rs 17 cr. It was with efforts of MLA Khallari VS Dwarkadheesh Yadav, that bridge construction over 'Machaka Nullah' on Chindouli-Tikrapara road at the cost of 4.75 cr; bridge on 'Baghnai nullah' on Kurubhata-Ghourabhata road at the cost of Rs 4.75 cr; bridge on 'Motiyari Nullah' on Amakoni-Chourbhathi road at the cost of Rs 2.75 cr; bridge on Fuldongi nullah on Amakoni-Chourbhathi road at the cost of Rs 2.75 cr. In this way sanction of Rs 75.23 lakh for building construction of Govt High School in Chuiha has also been granted.

been sanctioned. MLA Yadav informed that the people of the region has brought to his knowledge about the road construction and irrigation system and to which he raised demand before the government. After this provision of Rs 33 cr has been made in the budget for construction of culvert on Birejhar-Ganjar-Rewa road along with widening

and strengthening; construction of culvert on Aamakoni-Chourbhathi road at the cost of Rs 2.25 cr; construction of culvert on Birejhar-Ganjar-Rewa road at the cost of Rs 30 cr; culvert at the cost of Rs 2 cr on Gadbeda Link Road; culvert at the cost of Rs 2.50 cr on Durgapali-Futguna road. In the same way, provision of Rs 2.50 cr has been

made for various repair-works for Pali reservoir including remodelling and lining work of canals; reconstruction of damage Khdrahi dam Paterapali and canal construction work and for remodelling and lining work of canal and repair works in Jamali reservoir at the cost of Rs 2 cr; renovation and canal lining work under 'Hicha Vyapartan Yojana' at the cost of Rs 3.50 cr; construction cost of 'Dhanora Vyapartan Yojana' at the cost of Rs 9.50 cr; construction of Ameti Anicut and causeway at the cost of Rs 4 cr; remodelling of canals of Lamkeni and lining work at the cost of Rs 6.50 cr; repair work of Bhimkhaj reservoir at the cost of Rs 2 cr along with canal lining work and others.

## Mobile thana organised in Gram Ghuma



Dhamtari, Feb 13:

As per instructions by SP Dhamtari Anjaney Varshnay, and under guidance of Addl. SP Madhulika Singh and under leadership of SDOP Kurud KK Vajpayee, Chowki Police Birejhar organised grievances redressal mobile thana at Gram Panchayat Bhavan in Garm Panchayat Ghuma and it was participated by villagers in large number. There were no complaints

received from the villagers and in turn they were given information about new laws, cyber crime, crimes related to women, POC SO Act, traffic and others and created awareness among them.

In this mobile thana, Chowki in-Charge Birejhar Inspector Shobha Mandavi, Daksh Kumar Sahu, JK Chandrakar, Rekha Pal, Birejhar Chowki Police and villagers of Gram Ghuma were present in large number.

## One nabbed with country liquor worth Rs 2920



Dhamtari, Feb 13:

Police nabbed an accused Ram Dhruv, from near Soni Pan Thela, at Sihawa Chowk with 9 quarter bottles of plain country liquor, 20 quarter bottles of country 'Masala' liquor worth Rs 2200 and sold amount of Rs 720, totalling 2920 from near Sihawa Chowk in Dhamtari on Tuesday. The Kotwali police filed a case under section 34(2) of Excise Act.

The accused nabbed was Ram Dhruv, S/o Sonkar Dhruv (38), R/o Behind Girl's College, Sihawa Chowk, Makeshwar ward Dhamtari.

## District Health Camp organised in Newaribahra

Manendragarh, Feb 13: District administration, health department, MCB Press Club under the chief hospitality of state health minister and regional MLA Shyambihari Jaiswal, in government primary school of village Newaribahra, an inaccessible rural area of village Panchayat Katkona under Khadgawan development block organised a district level health cum solution camp.

The camp was presided over by village elder Gurudayal Pando, while the special guests were District Panchayat President Renuka Singh, District Panchayat Khadgwan President Sonwati Urre, Katkona

Sarpanch Bhuneshwari Singh and Jaroundha Sarpanch Pradeep Ram. A total of 459 people including 212 men, 189 women and 58 children who arrived from Gram Panchayat Katkona, Newaribahra, Sarajharia, Funga, Magrahapara including Chirmiri and Manendragarh took advantage of the health camp. In the health camp, Ayush cards were issued to 30 patients, NCD test to 311 patients, sickling test to 250 patients, eye test to 65 patients, TB test to 25 patients and malaria test to 53 patients were done.

In the camp Chief Medical and Health Officer MCB Dr. Suresh



Tiwari on a humane front treated a 64-year-old elderly woman Phoolmati, resident of village Newaribahra, who has been suffering from physical pain for many years, and cured her. Addressing the camp, Health Minister Jaiswal announced the posting of Gynecologist and Anesthesiologist in the community health cen-

ter of district headquarters Manendragarh within 15 days and installation of C arm machine for the convenience of Orthopedic patients.

On this occasion, he also said that the medical equipment supplied during the previous government will be examined and the companies having low quality machines will

be blacklisted. The minister also announced the construction of a concrete road from the main road to Newaribahra.

CMHO Dr. Tiwari, appealed to all the people above 30 years of age to get their blood pressure and sugar checked in the camp. In courtesy of Sai Darbar Manendragarh, Sai Darbar Chitragupt Dham set up a Wall of Goodness stall at the camp site and donated free clothes to the villagers who came to the camp. Health Minister Shyambihari Jaiswal praised this noble work of Sai Darbar Manendragarh and distributed clothes to the needy villagers with his own hands.

## Youth of district will get training to prepare for joining Agniveer Army

Korba, Feb 13:

Collector Ajit Vasant instructed in the time-limit meeting that the youth of the district who want to join Agniveer Army should be given physical and examination preparation along with residential arrangements. He directed the District Panchayat CEO to provide necessary training to the youth of remote areas for the examination through police and expert teachers in Livelihood College along with residential arrangements.

He has also given instructions to prepare and present an outline in this regard. Interested youth of the district can submit their application to the Principal at Livelihood College. In the time-limit meeting in the Collectorate meeting room, Collector Vasant discussed the related letters of TL, implementation of departmental schemes and other activities and gave necessary instructions. In the meeting, the Collector



reviewed the distribution of application forms and taking deposits under Mahtari Vandan Yojana (MVY) as well as online entry in the portal. He directed that the forms of eligible beneficiaries should be uploaded after scrutiny while data entry. The Collector gave instructions for not providing ID to unauthorized persons and giving any kind of misleading information under Mahtari Vandan Yojana, extortion in the name of filling forms, keeping an eye on wrongdoings and taking strict action. In the meeting, the Collector gave instructions to bring progress by reviewing PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Ayushman Card. He instructed

- Residential arrangements will be made in Livelihood College
- Review of departmental work in the time-limit meeting

all the officers including SDM to go to the field to get information about departmental activities and bring progress in implementation. The Collector directed that if the complaints made by the applicants are at your level, then ensure that they are resolved at your level only.

He also instructed SECL, BALCO and other enterprises to regularly sprinkle water in their respective areas to prevent dust blown by heavy vehicles plying on the roads. The Collector gave instructions to take up work related to compassionate appointment in departments, action on pension cases, investigation and reinstatement on

normal and minor cases of suspension except serious cases. He instructed the departmental officers to submit the information sought under DMF, deposit the amount of canceled works and unstarted works.

In the meeting, the Collector gave instructions to the concerned officers for electrification of Anganwadi centres, schools, health centres, making estimate for access roads, providing information about the survey conducted for electrification in non-electrified villages and issuing administrative approval and layout of schools without buildings.

The Collector gave instructions to give priority to the works recommended by public representatives. He gave instructions regarding recruitment to the vacant posts of teachers in higher schools and recruitment of guest teachers in primary and secondary level schools through the School Management Committee.

## BJP Deepka Mandal conduct intensive public contact

- Under the Gaon Chalo Ghar Chalo campaign

Korba, Feb 13:

Bharatiya Janata Party Deepka Mandal conducted an intensive public relations campaign under the 'Gaon Chalo Ghar Chalo' campaign in Deepka Naagin Jhorkhi Ward 1. On this occasion, by going door-to-door, the beneficiaries were given information about the public welfare schemes being run by the Government of India and the State Government and it was also informed that the double engine government is running in the country and now in Chhattisgarh also under the leadership of Vishnu Deo many public welfare schemes are being made.

In order to avail maximum benefits of all these schemes to the general



public, under the public awareness campaign today, while giving information to the ward residents, it was informed that many public welfare schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mahtari Bandhan Yojana are running in the country through all these schemes. The common people are getting immense benefits. The workers of Deepka Mandal

also called upon the people that once again in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Modi government has to repeated making Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister with an overwhelming majority of more than 400 and fulfill the resolve of a developed India by 2047. Prominent in the Gaon Chalo Ghar Chalo campaign are BJP Mandal President Suryaprakash Sharma, Councilor Mrs. Sangeeta

Sahu, BJP Yuva Morcha Mandal President, MLA representative Sujit Singh, General Secretary Raju Prajapati, Mandal Vice President Dharam Tiwari, Rajendra Sahu, Meena Sinha, Madhu Rathore, Naveen Sahu, Khalid Khan, Deepak Dubey, Naushad Khan, Hitesh Yadav, Sandeep Pal and all the workers and officials of Bharatiya Janata Party Deepka were present.

## Modi govt working on principle of integral humanism: BJP

Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 13:

Bharatiya Janata Party District Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM) remembered and paid tribute to the founder of Jan Sangh and pioneer of Integral Humanism, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, on his death anniversary.

Addressing the gathering BJP District President Kanhaiya Rathore, said that the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the country is working on the principle of Integral Humanism of Deendayal Upadhyay, the government of the country is dedicated to the poor, farmer women and especially economically weaker people, the government of Chhattisgarh



led by Vishnu Deo Sai is also dedicated to all sections of the society and many schemes are being run for public welfare.

The death anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was celebrated in the BJP district office where the work done by him since the establishment of his Jan Sangh was

remembered and everyone pledged to follow his path and paid tribute to him. State Vice President of BJP Kisan Morcha Brijlal Singh Rathore, former SADA President Mahendra Soni, District Media Incharge Balkrishna Agarwal, District Convenor of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao



Mathura Soni, and Minority Morcha District President Kuldeep Singh Dheeraj expressed their views on the personality and work of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay.

The program was conducted by District General Secretary Rakesh Chaturvedi and the vote of thanks was expressed by

District Vice President Kubersingh Sarrati and many workers including Kallusingh Rajput, District Treasurer Mukesh Dubey, Media co-in-charge Tapas Sharma, Backward Class Morcha state members Ashish Gupta, Medical Cell District Convenor Dr. Praveen Kumar Rai and others were present.

## Hostel superintendent and principal removed

**■ Proposal sent for suspension of superintendent**

Jagdajpur, Feb 13:

On Monday, the students of Eklavya Adarsh Residential School Darbha had staged a dharna blocking the Dharampura road in support of their problems. As soon as Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development Amit Bhatia got information about this, he reached the spot and took cognizance. He has immediately relieved the hostel superintendent and principal from their responsibilities. A letter has been sent to Bastar Commissioner for the suspension of the Superintendent. According to the infor-



mation received, Superintendent and Principal Milap Singh Thakur has been relieved from the post of Principal on charges of negligence in the running of the Eklavya Adarsh Residential School Darbha

and Saligram Pachauri has been ordered to take charge in his place. While removing Padlam Singh Baish from the post of Superintendent, Stanislay Tigga (Principal Pathah) has been ordered to do the job.

## Posters, pamphlets distributed for road safety Every year 5000 baby parrots are sold openly

Dhamtari, Feb 13:

As per instructions by the Ministry of Road Transport New Delhi, National Road Safety Week is being observed all over the country. In this as per instructions by SP Anjaney Vasharney, DSP Traffic Maishankar launched campaign to create awareness about 'road safety, life safety', health mind- healthy body; and 'healthy mind keeps people safe'. To meet up this objective, traffic awareness posters were pasted in the e-rickshaws to create awareness among general public about traf-



fic rules and regulations on occasion of traffic awareness on the 27th day here on Saturday.

In order to create

awareness about traffic rule, the NCC cadets also distributed pamphlets about traffic rules to vehicle riders stopping at

the traffic signal points in the district and made an appeal to take all necessary precautions for road safety and use helmets in two wheelers and wear seat belts while driving four wheelers.

In this series, a Traffic Charid (Yatayat Rath) moved around in the city with music and songs related to traffic awareness and making an appeal to all to strictly adhere to traffic rules. In the above programme, SI Khemraj Sahu, Head constable Bhenuram Verma, Jitenra Kridutt, R Ganpat, Didolkar and NCC cadets were present.

**■ In the markets of Bastar**

Jagdajpur, Feb 13:

These days, Bastar's famous Karansua is being sold at the rate of Rs 1500 per pair in Sanjay Market of the city. Despite this, people are desperate to buy it. It should be known that parrot is a wild bird and its buying and selling is completely prohibited. Parrot rearing is an old hobby of people. People keep parrots as family members.

Due to this, the demand for Karansua is highest especially in Bastar. There



are more than five species of parrots in Bastar. The parrot here is being sent to different places in the country. Due to this, from

Bijapur to Dhanpunji on one side and from Charama to Konta on the other side, innocent baby parrots are being caught

and sold openly in the markets.

These days, small children of Karan Sua species are being sold openly in Sanjay Market of the city at the rate of Rs 1500 per pair. Whereas the biggest forest officer office of the division is just 100 meters away in the market.

Retired forest officer Banshilal Vishwakarma said that every year at least five thousand baby parrots from Bastar are caught and sold by the villagers. No action is being taken against the villagers selling parrots. They are simply explained and left, so they are not alert and have no fear.

## Wife of slain 'gau sevak' returns govt's Rs 5 lakh aid

**■ Seeks death for accused**

Kawardha, Feb 12:

The wife of a 'gau sevak' (cow shelter worker) who was murdered last month in Kawardha city on Monday returned Rs 5 lakh given as financial assistance by the state government and sought death penalty for the accused.

Sadhran Yadav (48) was killed allegedly by six persons on January 20 on the outskirts of Kawardha city when he was heading to his village Lalpur on a bicycle.

All the accused were arrested by police and a portion of the house of main accused Ayaz Khan was also demolished by the au-

thorities in Kawardha town after the incident.

On Monday evening, the deceased's wife Pramila Bai Yadav reached the Collectorate here and submitted a demand draft (DD) of Rs 5 lakh in the name of the collector along with a letter.

"My husband was brutally killed by Muslims in an ISIS pattern by slitting his throat. After the afore-said incident, the state government had given me Rs 5 lakh as assistance. I am unable to accept this assistance. My family expects justice from the government. The way my husband was killed by slitting his throat, justice should be ensured to me by slitting the throats of the accused," she said in the letter.

## SECL clocks fastest 150 million tonne coal production since inception

**■ Company achieves 150 MT coal production for the record fifth time ■ Gevra, Kusmunda and Dipka megaprojects make significant contributions**

Korba, Feb 13:

SECL's annual coal production has crossed 150 million tonnes in the financial year '23-24. The company has touched the figure of 150 million tonnes of coal production a month early, registering an increase of 16.95 million tonnes (12.73%) as



compared to the last financial year. If we look at the

coal production of SECL in the last 5 years, SECL

has produced 167 million tonnes in the year 2022-23, 142.52 million tonnes in the year 2021-22, 150.61 million tonnes in the year 2020-21, 150.55 million tonnes in the year 2019-20 and Coal production of 157.35 million tonnes has been recorded in 2018-19. Thus, SECL has crossed the figure of 150 million tonnes of coal production for the record fifth time since its inception.

**SECL's megaprojects played an important role**

**Korba:** SECL's megaprojects have contributed significantly to this achievement of the company. The country's largest Gevra mine has contributed 46.11 million tonnes of coal, Kusmunda 38.5 million tonnes and Deepka 26.3 million tonnes. Thus the total share of these megaprojects in company's total production stood at around 74%. SECL has delivered historic results this year in overburden removal also, and the company has already surpassed last year's total OBR and is on track to achieve the highest annual OBR since inception. On this occasion, CMD SECL Dr Prem Sagar Mishra and Functional Directors have congratulated the SECL team.

**RS POLLS**

## BJP picks Gond royal family scion DP Singh from Chh'garh

Raipur, Feb 12:

Devendra Pratap Singh, the BJP's pick for the Rajya Sabha election from Chhattisgarh, is a scion of the erstwhile Gond tribal royal family and an active member of RSS. He is the incumbent Zila Panchayat member from Lailunga in Raigarh district, a party functionary has said. The BJP on Sunday chose Singh as its candidate for the lone vacancy from Chhattisgarh, replacing Saroj Pandey, who is retiring from the Upper House of Parliament.

Of the five RS members from Chhattisgarh, the term of Pandey from BJP is set to expire. The other four Rajya Sabha members are KTS Tulsii, Phuldevi Netam, Ranjeet Rajan and Rajiv Shukla of Congress. "Devendra Pratap Singh, a scion of erstwhile Gond (tribal) royal family of Raigarh, is the incum-

bent Zila Panchayat member from Lailunga in Raigarh district," a party functionary said. He is also a member of the Railway Hindi Advisory Committee, Ministry of Railways. Singh, an active member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), is the grandson of the late Raja Chakradhar Singh, a patron of classical dance and music, he said. "Congratulations to my elder, the king of Raigarh, the strong signature of Gond community, simple and gentle natured, respected brother Shri Devendra Pratap Singh ji for (being nominated as) Rajya Sabha (candidate)," State Finance Minister OP Choudhary wrote on his X handle. In the 90-member state Assembly, the ruling BJP has 54 MLAs while the Congress has 35. The Gondwana Gantantra Party has one member in the assembly.

## Bastar Police Ch'garh reunites 943 missing persons with their family

Jagdajpur, Feb 13:

Under Operation Muskaan being run by Bastar district police, 943 out of 1003 boys/girls/adults who went missing between 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023 have been searched and reunited with their families. Thus, by searching 94 percent of the missing persons, Bastar Police has achieved first position in the state of Chhattisgarh.

According to the information received from the police, in the year 2023, out of 351 missing persons (06 boys, 64 girls, 193 women and 88 men), 316 (06 boys, 63 girls, 166 women and 81 men) were found. Whereas before 2023 (from 01 January 2007 to 31 December 2022), 56 missing boys/girls/adults have been searched and returned to a total of 407 families. The cases registered include minors of the years 2017 and 2019. Which were searched on technical basis and obtained from Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Also, in the year 2012, a missing adult was traced from Maharashtra. This important achievement of Bastar Police was the result of tireless efforts and hard work of all the officers/employees of Bastar district.

## Over 46.22 lakh women in the state have filled out applications of MVY

**■ Ch'garh Govt's initiative towards promoting women empowerment**

Raipur, Feb 12:

A large number of applications are being filled under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana launched by the Chhattisgarh Government to promote women empowerment. So far, 46 lakh 22 thousand 926 applications have been received in the state.

As per the instructions of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, eligible women are being encouraged to fill out applications and avail the benefits of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana. There is a lot of enthusiasm among women to submit their applications, and a large number of women are gathering at the camps set up in all the districts.



Women state that with the Rs 1,000 they receive every month from the Chhattisgarh Government, they will be able to meet their small day-to-day needs and lead a respectable life. The beneficiaries will receive Rs 12,000 annually under the scheme.

District wise applications received: Under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, as of now, 01 lakh 64 thousand 501 applications have been received in Raigarh district, 02 lakh 11 thousand

503 in Janjgir-Champa, 01 lakh 45 thousand 502 in Balrampur, 01 lakh 45 thousand 04 in Balodabazar, 01 lakh 02 thousand 494 in Kondagaon, 01 lakh 56 thousand 270 in Kawardha, 01 lakh 71 thousand 102 in Surajpur, 37 thousand 273 in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki, 01 lakh 30 thousand 66 in Gariaband, 01 lakh 85 thousand 318 in Bemetara, 01 lakh 55 thousand 280 from Sarangarh-Bilaigarh, 04 lakh 57 thousand 166 in Raipur, 01 lakh 62 thousand

763 in Rajnandgaon, 01 lakh 12 thousand 609 in Sakti, 74 thousand 939 in Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai, 01 lakh 53 thousand 576 from Mungeli, 01 lakh 83 thousand 725 in Balod, 55 thousand 631 in Dantewada, 01 lakh 28 thousand 216 in Dhamtari, 01 lakh 39 thousand 293 in Jashpur, 01 lakh 51 thousand 428 from Korba, 94 thousand 878 in Kanker, 01 thousand 44 thousand 619 in Bastar, 02 lakh 42 thousand 258 in Durg, 42 thousand 762 in Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, 02 lakh 22 thousand 705 in Bilaspur, 01 lakh 73 thousand 630 in Surguja, 47 thousand 657 in Koriya, 35 thousand 494 in Sukma, 70 thousand 885 in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, 02 lakh 93 thousand 933 in Mahasamund, 14 thousand 491 in Narayanpur, and 15 thousand 955 in Bijapur.

## Annual festival Umang jointly organised by three schools

**■ In Bahana Kadi**

Mandir-Hasoud, Feb 13:

In Bahana Kadi region, located near the capital Raipur, annual festival program, Umang was jointly organized in two primary schools and pre-secondary school. The Chief guest was Arang MLA Guru Khushwant Saheb, and was presided over by Ashok Banjare, Sarpanch, whereas special guest Krishna Verma alongwith Anil Sonwani Gajendra Yadav were also present.

Apart from them, teachers, Sarpanch Ashok Banjare and Panchayat representatives were also present. The same Chhattisgarh's cultural folk dance Sua Karma Dadria Panthi Rawat Nacha along with Chhattisgarhi Remix was presented by the school children through the stage, other than many other programs.



Chief Guest Guru Khushwant Saheb Arang Vidhayak, in his address, while congratulating all the teachers and parents, said that the teachers work as hard for the education of children as they do in school, therefore parents should also work at home to educate their children, so that the quality of

children's education improves. The MLA also expressed his gratitude to the villagers on his first visit to the village after the assembly elections and said that whenever anyone is in need, they should remember him and also talked about standing by everyone in happiness and sorrow.

## Shehbaz affirms Nawaz Sharif to become PM for record fourth time



Lahore, Feb 13 (PTI):

Pakistan's former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister for a record fourth time.

"I had said that Nawaz Sharif would become

prime minister for the fourth time. And I maintain today that he is going to be the PM for the fourth time," Shehbaz told a press conference at the party's headquarters here on Tuesday.

When asked whether he was no more favourite to grab the top post, he said: "My candidate for the PM slot is Nawaz

Sharif."

The now 74-year-old leader, Nawaz Sharif first took power in 1990 but was forced out three years later by corruption allegations — a theme that has dogged his career. He came to power for the second time in 1997 and held the prime minister's post till 1999 when he was deposed in

a military coup after plotting to sideline army chief of staff Pervez Musharraf.

More than a decade later he was back in power in 2013, but fresh graft allegations emerged when his children were named in the 2016 Panama Papers leak for holding offshore companies. He was later convicted over separate corruption allegations and disqualified from office for life — the third time that he failed to complete a full term.

Shehbaz, the three-time former prime minister's younger brother, talking about the allegation of rigging in the recently concluded February 8 polls said that in several areas Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) stalwarts lost and independents won.

### Bilawal's PPP split over govt formation

The Bilawal Bhutto-led Pakistan Peoples Party which won the third largest number of seats in the National Assembly in the elections appears to be split on whether to join a coalition government or sit on Opposition benches. The Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the PPP which met in Islamabad to deliberate on the post-poll scenario and proposals regarding the coalition government has decided to reach out to all political parties, including the PTI-backed independents, for a possible power-sharing deal. Addressing a press conference after the CEC meeting on Monday night, Senator Sherry

Rehman said, "The PPP will approach all (political) parties, and a committee will be set up." The committee will be formed on Tuesday, while the CEC meeting which ended without reaching any final decision will also resume at 3 pm. A highly reliable source within the party said this was the main reason for the party's central executive committee which met on Monday. They failed to reach a final decision on whether to form a coalition government with the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif led Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) or sit on Opposition benches with the independents elected on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) tickets.

### Imran Khan rules out coalition with PML-N, PPP

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday dismissed the idea of forming a coalition government with any of the main political parties in Pakistan and termed them as the "biggest money launderers" being brought to power. The 71-year-old Khan, also the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, was speaking with journalists at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. Khan and many of his party colleagues are lodged in jail for many months in connection with convictions in multiple cases. In the February 8 general elections, independent candidates,

mostly backed by Khan's PTI, won 101 seats in the 266-member National Assembly, another former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's party (PML-N) won 75 seats and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's party (PPP) won 54 seats. A coalition government appears inevitable as no single party has got the majority in the National Assembly and Pakistan stares at a hung Parliament. Negotiations between Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have been going on for two days. Independents became an easy target.

## ROYAL WHITE HOUSE MEETING



President Joe Biden, center, and first lady Jill Biden, second right, pose for a photo upon greeting Jordan's King Abdullah II, second left, Queen Rania, right, and Crown Prince Hussein, left, on the North Portico of the White House.

## Senate passes \$95.3 bn aid package for Ukraine

Washington, Feb 13 (AP):

The Senate early Tuesday passed a USD 95.3 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, pushing ahead after months of difficult negotiations and amid growing political divisions in the Republican Party over the role of the United States abroad. The vote came after a small group of Republicans opposed to the USD 60 billion for Ukraine held the Senate floor through the night, using the final hours of debate to argue that the US should focus on its own problems before sending more money overseas. But more than a dozen Republicans voted with almost all Democrats

to pass the package 70-29, with supporters arguing that abandoning Ukraine could embolden Russian President Vladimir Putin and threaten national security across the globe.

"It's been years, perhaps decades, since the Senate has passed a bill that so greatly impacts not just our national security, not just the security of our allies, but also the security of western democracy," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who worked closely with Republican Leader Mitch McConnell on the legislation.

The bill's passage through the Senate was a welcome sign for Ukraine amid critical shortages on the battlefield. Yet the

package faces a deeply uncertain future in the House, where hardline Republicans aligned with former President Donald Trump the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination, and a critic of support for Ukraine oppose the legislation. Speaker Mike Johnson cast new doubt on the package in a statement Monday evening, making clear that it could be weeks or months before Congress sends the legislation to President Joe Biden's desk if at all. Still, the vote was a win for both Senate leaders. McConnell has made Ukraine his top priority in recent months, and was resolute in the face of considerable push-back from his own GOP

conference.

Speaking directly to his detractors in a floor speech on Sunday, McConnell said that "the eyes of the world" were on the US Senate. "Will we give those who wish us harm more reason to question our resolve, or will we recommit to exercising American strength?" McConnell asked.

Dollars provided by the legislation would purchase US-made defense equipment, including munitions and air defence systems that authorities say are desperately needed as Russia batters the country. It also includes USD 8 billion for the government in Kyiv and other assistance.

## Indonesia's presidential election has high stakes for US and China

Jakarta, Feb 13 (AP):

When Indonesians cast their votes on Wednesday for a new president in one of the world's biggest elections, the stakes will also be high for the United States and China.

The Southeast Asian nation is a key battleground economically and politically in a region where the rival global powers have long been on a collision course over Taiwan, human rights, US military deployments and Beijing's aggressive actions in disputed waters, including the South China Sea.

Outgoing President Joko Widodo's foreign policy avoids criticism of Beijing and Washington but also rejects alignment with either power. The delicate balancing act has



Workers arrange ballot boxes prepared for the Feb. 14 election at a stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Feb. 13.

won considerable Chinese trade and investment for Indonesia, including a USD 7.3 billion high-speed railway that was largely funded by China, while Jakarta has also boosted defence ties and intensified military exercises with the US.

These policies would likely continue if election frontrunner Prabowo Subianto, the current defence minister whose vice presidential running mate is Widodo's eldest son, wins, according to analysts.

"None of the major

structural features of defense and foreign policy, I think, will change," said Evan Laksmanna, a Southeast Asia security expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore.

Subianto adheres to a policy of neutrality and has publicly praised the US and China. He cited America's historical role in pressuring the Netherlands to recognise Indonesian sovereignty in the 1940s, during a forum in November at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Jakarta.

"This is part of history and we cannot forget this debt of honour," said Subianto, who also extolled China's importance to Southeast Asia. "China is a great civilisation. It

has contributed a lot and now it is very, very active and contributing a lot to our economy."

Former Education Minister and Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan, a presidential candidate who is trailing Subianto in most independent surveys, said he would shift what he called Widodo's "transactional" foreign policy to one anchored on principles if he triumphs in the elections.

"When a country invades another country, we can say this is against our basic values. Even though we are friends, if rights were violated, we can reprimand them," Baswedan told The Associated Press in an interview last month without saying which country he was alluding to.

## World enters era of increasing instability

London, Feb 13 (AP):

The world has entered an era of increasing instability as countries around the globe boost military spending in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Hamas attack on Israel and China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.

That's the conclusion of a new report on Tuesday from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, which also highlighted rising tensions in the Arctic, North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and the rise of military regimes in the Sahel region of Africa as contributing to a "deteriorating security environment".

The London-based think tank has compiled its annual estimate of the global

military situation for the past 65 years.

"The current military-security situation heralds what is likely to be a more dangerous decade, characterised by the brazen application by some of military power to pursue claims evoking a might is right' approach as well as the desire among like-minded democracies for stronger bilateral and multilateral defence ties in response," the report said.

Global defense spending rose 9 per cent to USD 2.2 trillion last year as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now entering its third year, heightened concerns that China and other militarily powerful states may try to impose their will on neighbors, the IISS said.

The increase was even steeper in NATO, which has

supported Ukraine as a bulwark against further Russian incursions into Europe. The alliance's non-US members have boosted military spending by 32 per cent since Russia invaded Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014, the institute found.

Ten European members reached the alliance's goal of spending 2 per cent of economic output on defense last year, up from just two in 2014.

European defence spending received renewed attention in recent days after former US President Donald Trump told a campaign rally that when he was president he told an unidentified NATO state he would "encourage" Russia to attack alliance members that didn't meet their funding commitments.

## CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS



Performers from the Salgueiro samba school parade during Carnival celebrations at the Sambadrome in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## UN Secretary General following election situation in Pakistan

United Nations, Feb 13 (PTI):

In the wake of the general elections in Pakistan, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is following the situation in the country "very closely" and has urged the authorities and political leaders to refrain from violence and avoid actions that could increase tensions.

Stephane Dujarric,

Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, made these remarks at the daily press briefing here on Monday.

"On the elections in Pakistan, I can tell you that he is indeed following the situation very closely and continuing to monitor the situation following the general elections," Dujarric said while responding to a question

on the Secretary-General's reaction to the outcome of last week's election in Pakistan.

Guterres calls for resolving all issues and disputes through the established legal frameworks and for human rights and the rule of law to be fully respected in the interest

of the people of Pakistan.

"The Secretary-General urges the authorities, and political leaders to maintain a calm atmosphere and to reject and refrain from all forms of violence and avoid any actions that could increase or enflame tensions," Dujarric said.

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
No.P-HQ/GAZE-31028/183. Date : 09.02.2024

**NOTIFICATION**

Short Notification is issued for engagement of 01 CMP (SMO/Pathologist) for one year, purely on yearly contract basis in Central Hospital, South East Central Railway/ Bilaspur. For more details i.e. eligibility, qualification, age, experience and other terms and conditions may please log on to SECR website <https://secr.indianrailways.gov.in>. Recruitment/News/Press released → Recruitment → HQ → GAZ Section.

**Dy. Chief Personnel Officer (Gaz.), For PCPO, CPR/10/432**  
**S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**

South East Central Railway @secrail

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**  
**ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट निविदा सूचना**

क्र. 66/न.पा.नि./जोन क्र. 07/2023-24 दिनांक 13/02/2024

नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जोन क्र. 07 अंतर्गत सड़क श्रेणी में घंजीकृत ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से सरल क्र. 01 फार्म 'ABC' एवं सरल क्र. 02 फार्म 'A' में निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

सिस्टम टेंडर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा दाखलना/सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि
152826	जोन क्र. 07 क्षेत्रांतर्गत जल प्रदाय हेतु विविध सामग्री क्रय कार्य।	30.00	05-03-2024
152827	जोन क्र. 07 क्षेत्रांतर्गत सव्यवस्थित पम्प रिपेयरिंग कार्य।	25.00	05-03-2024

उपरोक्त निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित, निविदा वस्तामेज न अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 14/02/2024 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

जोन कमिश्नर, जोन क्र. 07 न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

Green City, Clean City, Dream City.



# CENTRAL Chronicle

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## Farmers' Delhi Chalo

### Long-Term Agricultural Solutions Need Of The Hour

The resolute march of farmers from Punjab towards Delhi marks yet another chapter in the ongoing saga of agrarian discontent in India. Their demands, notably the legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) on crops, encapsulate the profound challenges facing the agricultural sector. However, as the farmers take to the streets once again, it's imperative to reflect on the broader implications and seek sustainable solutions beyond immediate concessions. The 'Dilli Chalo' march, echoing the fervour of previous protests, underscores the deeply entrenched grievances of the farming community. The demand for MSP is not merely a matter of economic security but a symbol of the precarious livelihoods dependent on agriculture. Yet, while the demands are justified, the approach warrants scrutiny. Undoubtedly, the right to peaceful protest is sacrosanct in a democracy, serving as a vital mechanism for citizen engagement. The historic farmers' agitation of 2020-21 demonstrated the potency of collective action in forcing policy reversals. However, the current protest risks being overshadowed by political maneuvering as elections loom large on the horizon. It's essential for farm unions to recognize the broader ramifications of their demands. While MSP ensures income stability for farmers, its universalization could exacerbate existing challenges such as water scarcity and environmental degradation. A holistic approach is needed, one that balances the imperative of income security with the imperative of sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, the reliance on ad hoc measures like protest marches highlights the systemic failures in governance and policy implementation. The recurring cycle of protests reflects a deeper malaise within the agricultural sector, characterized by policy neglect and inadequate institutional support. The government's response, characterized by heavy-handed security measures and dialogue rhetoric, falls short of addressing the root causes of agrarian distress. While dialogue is essential, it must be accompanied by concrete policy actions aimed at addressing the structural inequities that plague Indian agriculture. The formation of committees and promises of dialogue, while ostensibly constructive, risk becoming mere rhetorical exercises unless backed by genuine political will and commitment to reform. The farmers' demands, ranging from MSP guarantees to debt waivers, are symptomatic of systemic failures that require comprehensive policy interventions. In Haryana, the deployment of paramilitary forces underscores the growing militarization of agrarian protests, reflecting a worrying trend of securitizing dissent. The heavy-handed approach adopted by authorities not only undermines democratic principles but also exacerbates tensions, further entrenching the cycle of confrontation. As farmers continue their march towards Delhi, it's incumbent upon policymakers to heed their demands with sincerity and urgency. However, beyond short-term concessions, what is needed is a concerted effort to reimagine Indian agriculture in a manner that ensures the dignity and prosperity of those who till the land. The 'Delhi Chalo' march serves as a clarion call for action, not just for the government but for all stakeholders invested in the future of Indian agriculture. It's time to move beyond the politics of appeasement and embrace a vision of agriculture that is sustainable, equitable, and resilient in the face of evolving challenges. Only then can we truly honor the toil and resilience of our farmers and secure the future of generations to come.

## Political Exodus

### Loyalties Tested and Alliances Shattered

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee



In the contemporary political landscape, the departure of former Maharashtra chief minister (CM), Ashok Chavan, from the Congress party to potentially align with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comes as little surprise. Despite decades of staunch ideological opposition to the BJP, Chavan's impending move underscores a disheartening reality: ethics and ideology seem to hold little sway in today's political sphere. Gone are the days when political adversaries remained steadfast in their convictions. Instead, we witness a disconcerting trend where erstwhile opponents swiftly transform into allies, leaving the electorate bewildered and disenfranchised. The spectacle of political theatrics has become all too common, with every maneuver meticulously orchestrated for maximum impact. Chavan's defection marks the third high-profile exit from the Congress ranks in as many months. Milind Deora's alignment with the Shiv Sena and Baba Siddique's move to the NCP serve as poignant reminders of the fluidity of political allegiances. One cannot help but wonder how many more defections loom on the horizon, casting doubt on the cohesion and stability of the Congress party. Amidst this tumultuous landscape, it is essential to recall Chavan's involvement in the Adarsh scam—an egregious display of corruption that drew vehement condemnation from the BJP. Yet, with his anticipated integration into the BJP fold, Chavan's past transgressions risk being whitewashed in the pursuit of political expediency. His resignation from the Congress, ostensibly to secure a more favorable position within the ruling party, raises questions about his true motivations and principles. The political dynamics in Maharashtra further complicate the situation. While the Congress retains a stronghold in Vidarbha, particularly in Nagpur, its influence wanes in other regions of the state. Within the broader context of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the Congress plays a pivotal role, albeit with diminishing clout. Chavan's decision to depart from the party begs the question: what compelled him to abandon a position of power that he once held? Speculation abounds regarding the underlying factors driving Chavan's departure. Is he fleeing perceived threats from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), akin to Ajit Pawar's recent ordeal? Or perhaps, like many of his contemporaries, Chavan finds himself unwilling to relinquish the allure of political power, even at the cost of betraying his professed ideals. At its core, Chavan's defection epitomizes the inherent struggles within contemporary politics—the relentless pursuit of power, irrespective of ethical considerations or ideological convictions. In this ruthless game of survival, alliances are forged and broken with alarming frequency, leaving the electorate disillusioned and distrustful.

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 under 50-60 words. Submissions can be sent via email to editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

## GANESH JAYANTI

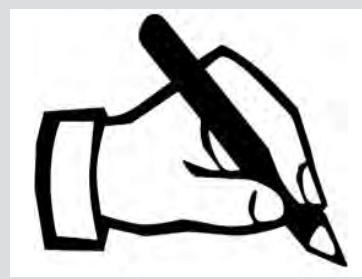


Devotees light earthen lamps on the occasion of 'Ganesh Jayanti' at Latashil Ganesh Mandir, in Guwahati, Tuesday, Feb. 13.

## A++ NAAC accredited colleges must be awarded university status



DR. MANMOHAN PRAKASH



Since last many years NAAC evaluating Universities and Colleges on 0 to 4 point scale and awarded grade A,B,C with one to three +ve sign. It is proven fact that very few Colleges and Universities get A++ grade from NAAC. Certainly good grade help these institutions in making brand value and image building among the society and in education world. On the other side Good students always in search of good ranking colleges or universities for admission. In Madhya Pradesh Ujjain and Indore district Madhav Science College and Holkar Science College respectively achieved A++ Grade from NAAC. Both the institutions are well known and prestigious colleges in Central India and achieved A grade for continuous two cycles. Now these Colleges has become the first choice for the students of Madhya Pradesh and adjoining states to study Science sub-

jects. Both the Government colleges have good Class rooms, Labs, Library and Sports grounds. In other words we can say infrastructure wise and teaching and learning resources point of view they are at par to university. Besides, both these institutions have sufficient land to enhance the further infrastructure and facilities. My question is why such good grade colleges are not upgraded into state residential universities? All states and UGC must think over it. It is an established fact that the State like MP, there is already a shortage of good government higher education institutions and universities. In such a condition, should the government colleges which have received the best grades under the six criteria of NAAC evaluation, and proved that they are a good teaching and learning institution then why not be upgraded to residential universities to maintain and enhance their ex-

cellence? It is also a known fact that number of government universities is less as compared to private universities and that to having devoted to specialized higher education are very less. In my opinion upgrading these good ranking colleges into universities will put less financial burden on government in comparison to establish a new university, because these institutions already have high-class infrastructure like class rooms, laboratories, research facilities, libraries, play grounds, teachers and supporting staff. Justice also says that those institutions which are doing good, bringing glory to the city and state in the country and abroad, should get the opportunity of upgradation.

Therefore, from the point of view of innovation in higher education, the government of MP should think to upgrade Madhav Science College, Ujjain and Holkar Science College, Indore into an independent science University. Education Policy 2020 also recommends establishment of good educational institutions. Upgradation of good colleges into University is less expensive and effective way to promote good institute into higher level. Here it is also worth keeping in mind that in Madhya Pradesh, when there is Rajeev Gandhi Technological University for engineering and technology subjects, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi

Vishwavidyalaya for agriculture subjects, Nanaji Desmukh Veterinary Science University for Veterinary, Makhana Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication for journalism, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hindi University for promoting teaching in Hindi, Maharishi Panani Sanskrit evam Vedic Vishwavidyalaya Sanskrit, National Law Institute University for Law, LNCT Vidhyapeeth University for Sports, MP Medical Science University for Medical Science, then why can't there be science universities for science subjects?

My suggestion and submission is that college having A++, grade with NAAC, must get preference of upgrading in university instead of establishing new universities. This way the state government may increase the number of University in ratio of increasing students. This act will also show the government commitment towards imparting the good education with less fees in comparison to private universities. Establishment of Science University in state will also help in (1) promoting the scientific temper, (2) promoting the interdisciplinary research, (3) enhance innovation, research, Patent and consultancy and (4) increase the number of trained and skilled science person.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Showering Respect

In an election year, the Central Government's announcement of Bharat Ratna recipients, including posthumous awards to former Bihar Chief Minister Karpuri Thakur, former Prime Ministers Chaudhary Charan Singh and PV Narasimha Rao, and agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, along with former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani, raises concerns about potential political motivations. Despite their undeniable contributions to the nation, the timing of these honors prompts questions about political agendas. Throughout history, governments have utilized civil honors for political advantage, even awarding former Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru during his own tenure. To safeguard the integrity of such honors, the establishment of an all-party committee for selection would mitigate politicization and preserve the dignity of the award.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

### Bharat Ratna Award

The Narendra Modi-led BJP government's decision to confer the Bharat Ratna on three eminent figures is commendable. Whatever the political motivation behind these awards may be. But by awarding the Bharat Ratna to the statesmen of such stature, the government has lent more glory to the award itself.

Jahangir Ali, Mumbai

### Food Waste

The issue of food waste intersects with the stark reality of hunger and malnutrition, particularly evident in the context of those struggling to afford even two meals a day. With millions worldwide facing food insecurity, the recent suggestion by the Central Government to integrate lessons on food waste into school curriculums aims to foster awareness among students. Shocking statistics from the United Nations, revealing that approximately 931 million tons of food were wasted globally in 2019, underscore the urgency of addressing this issue. Despite ample resources, food waste persists in our country, exacerbating the plight of the hungry and malnourished. This paradox highlights the need for a shift in mindset towards valuing food and combating wasteful practices, especially among those blinded by material wealth.

N Ashraf, Mumbai

### Democracy not Mobocracy

Bareilly town in Uttar Pradesh witnessed a few incidents of violence on Friday as thousands of supporters of Islamic cleric Tauseef Raza Khan came out on streets in response to his call for "jail bhara" in protest against what he called "anti-Muslim policies of the government". Muslims' dignity and rights are being trampled under the government's feet. Those who raise voice against corruption and tyrannical ruling party, they are being jailed and the opposition parties are being weakened. The current situation shows that the nation is not moving to right turn, therefore, all countrymen should make their all efforts to let the country remained democracy not mobocracy.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

## Easy to reach Mars but difficult to dispose of 'open defecation'



Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

Behavior change plays an important role in the success of sanitation programs in India. While the construction of toilets is essential infrastructure, ensuring their sustained use requires addressing socio-economic and cultural factors that influence people's attitudes and practices towards sanitation. The mere construction of toilets does not guarantee their use. Deep-rooted habits, convenience, and socio-cultural norms associated with open defecation act as barriers. Even access to toilets, proper hand washing, and menstrual hygiene management require behavioral changes for

optimal health benefits. Sustainable sanitation requires community ownership and active participation in program design and implementation. India became the fourth country in the world (after Russia, the United States, and the European Union) and the only emerging country to launch a Mars probe into space. But it remains part of a group of 45 developing countries with less than 50% sanitation coverage, where many citizens practice open defecation either due to lack of access to toilets or by personal choice. For India, providing access to toilets in some form or the other is the easy part. The most difficult thing is to get people to use them. In rural areas, toilet rejection varies by gender. An ongoing study based on 300 focus groups with men across the country has revealed that they prefer open defecation instead of toilets because it: saves water; Provides access to fresh water and an airy environment; Reduces toilet wear and tear; Saves women from being embarrassed in the eyes of men; And offers a convenient excuse to avoid stubborn wives and mothers. Public agencies try to

persuade families to invest in toilets for the safety of their young girls. But in villages, focus group-based studies with female teachers and girls revealed that a central benefit of open defecation is that it provides opportunities for same-gender social interaction for women. In many areas girls and women are not allowed to gather in public places to debate issues, exchange ideas, or simply relax together. Adolescents face even greater restrictions as older women often allow freer discussion among the youth. In this regard, open defecation provides an excuse to talk and spend time together, free from other constraints. Thus, eliminating open defecation in such villages first requires alternative safe gender-based spaces for social interaction. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a very important and major program of the Government of India. But it is not just about building toilets. Rather, under, such toilets should be developed that people can use. Most importantly, it is also related to the system of disposal and treatment of dirt. This is very clear but how to carry it out is still a million-

dollar question. Governments should ensure that toilets are accessible to all, especially marginalized groups, and consider affordability through subsidies or micro-financing schemes for better success of their sanitation programs. Design toilets that ensure privacy and dignity, especially for women and girls, while taking into account cultural sensitivity. Provide training and support for proper toilet operation and maintenance, while being concerned about water availability and waste disposal. Addressing the specific hygiene needs of women and girls, including menstrual hygiene management facilities and safe hygiene options during pregnancy. Connect with religious leaders and community elders to address culturally sensitive issues and integrate sanitation practices with existing belief systems. Empower local leaders, women, and sanitation workers to support sanitation practices and break sanitation-related taboos. Train to address. Introduce performance-based incentives for toilet use and recognize champions of change within communities. Achieving success in sanitation programs in India

depends on promoting behavior change. This includes dealing with socio-economic and cultural factors, raising awareness, involving communities, increasing access, and using behavioral insights. Through these efforts, the government can encourage sustainable toilet use and improved sanitation practices across the country. For an emerging country like India, it is easier to participate in exploratory missions to Mars than to tackle the sanitation challenge. The former can be addressed through a linear process led by an advanced, well-resourced Indian Space Research Organisation, while the latter requires systemic change involving thousands of towns and villages. For India to meet its goal of eliminating open defecation, collaboration and coordination among different types of systemic actors, generation of knowledge products in the form of accessible curriculum for masons and building and using only safe toilets is required. Community participation will be required.

(Writer is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, All India Radio and TV panelist.)



BRIEF

Cost structure



New Delhi: E-commerce in India is at a nascent stage and cost structure of logistics is the biggest challenge for the segment, a top official of Flipkart said on Tuesday...

Lower govt borrowing to prop up growth, moderate inflation: Das

New Delhi, Feb 13:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said lower government borrowings than the market estimates will free more capital for the private sector...



Shaktikanta Das

stabilise inflation, how much stabilise I would not like to quantify. It should help in moderating inflation level." Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her interim Budget had proposed to borrow Rs 14.13 lakh crore by issuing dated securities to meet revenue shortfall in the next financial year starting on April 1...

gross borrowing estimate of Rs 15.43 lakh crore, which was the highest ever. The lower borrowing estimate for 2024-25 is on account of growing tax revenue and the government's resolve to meet its fiscal consolidation roadmap.

Observing that the quantum of borrowing is very important for monetary policy, Das said, "While making monetary policy it is one of the factors which is taken into consideration. I would say it is growth inducing, and it helps in moderating inflation levels." On the debt-GDP ratio, Das said it has touched a high of 88 per cent during the COVID period and since then it is moderating. With the government further lowering its fiscal deficit target to 5.1 per cent for the next financial year and 4.5 per cent in the subsequent year, the debt-to-GDP ratio should further come down...

India needs to grow at 7-8 per cent annually: Rangarajan

Hyderabad, Feb. 13:

India needs to grow at seven to eight per cent annually in order to become a developed nation with USD 13,000 per capita income by 2047, former Reserve Bank Governor C Rangarajan said on Tuesday. Asserting that innovation cannot be a single solution to reduce inequalities or poverty, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said besides faster growth rate, the country may need social safety nets such as subsidies in kind of cash and basic income...



Rangarajan, Chancellor of the University, presided over the function in virtual mode. In his speech, referring to the innovations in technology, Rangarajan opined that model economic growth has been spurred by a rapid and persistent observation of technology.

He also said that economists have estimated that one half of the growth experienced by the developed countries in the last one and a half centuries or more has been due to technology. The former RBI Governor said more and increased attention has to be on increasing the livelihood opportunities for the people at the bottom of the pyramid and technology should focus on innovations that provide the poorer people the facilities that are affordable and accessible. An inclusive innovation leads to affordable access to quality goods and services, which helps create livelihood opportunities for excluded populations on a long-term sustainable basis.

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Investment

New Delhi: Angel investment platform Inflection Point Ventures is planning to make fresh investments in the range of Rs 150-200 crore in startups this year, a senior company official said. The company announced partial and full exit from 14 firms with an average 61 per cent internal rate of return in 2023.

IndianOil launches Phase 7 of 'Parivartan- Prison to Pride'



Mumbai, Feb 13:

Mr. Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, IndianOil, launched Phase 7 of 'Parivartan- Prison to Pride' and Phase-4 of 'Nayi Disha - Smile for Juvenile' today, in the presence of top international IndianOil sportspersons and prison authorities. Phase 7 of Parivartan and Phase 4 of Nayi Disha will reach out to 11 prisons and 12 Juvenile homes, covering around 1115 participants across 14 states.

value of 'Nation First'. Going beyond the physical and mental well-being, it aims for a positive transformation in the lives of prison inmates and juveniles, through sports. Sports has been successful in instilling discipline, teamwork and perseverance and giving a purpose. In fact, the various global recognitions that we have received so far for this endeavour, strengthen our resolve to push the envelope further to make a tangible impact." Elaborating on 'Nayi Disha', specially tailored for the young inmates in juvenile homes, Mr. Vaidya said, "We realize that the formative years are vital and have thus chalked out this initiative to help steer the youth towards a trajectory of growth. By coaching them in various sports, we hope to channelize their energies constructively instilling discipline, resilience, and self-confidence."

Okaya EV announces price reductions across entire product line-up



New Delhi, Feb 13:

Okaya EV, India's fastest-growing electric vehicle brand, has announced a substantial reduction in the prices of all its electric vehicle models, making electric scooters more affordable with discounts up to INR 18,000 valid till 29th Feb 2024. Okaya's electric scooter models now start at INR 74,899 allowing customers to enjoy a range of 75 kilometres per charge. The Faast F4, now available at a reduced price of ₹1,19,990, down from the previous ₹1,37,990, boasts a range of 140 to 160 kilometres per charge and is equipped with two batteries, providing a total output of 4.4 kWh, highest battery capacity in the industry.

Equipped with the BLDC Hub motor, all Okaya Electric Scooters are ICAT certified under AIS 156 Amendment III Phase 2, ensuring every ride is safer with robust IP67 waterproof and dust-resistant electric scooters.

Okaya EV is committed to promoting sustainable transportation options and making electric vehicles more accessible to the general public. Okaya EV two-wheelers are equipped with an LFP (Lithium iron phosphate) battery, deemed the safest technology for Indian weather conditions. Only a few electric scooter companies are utilizing LFP Technology, which boasts a longer lifespan compared to NMC batteries. LFP batteries are highly safe, can function well in high-temperature Indian weather conditions, and exhibit improved discharge and charge efficiency.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Under Rule-8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002] Punjab National Bank. Includes details of property, borrower, and possession dates.

Resignation

New Delhi: Paytm Payments Bank Ltd independent director Manju Agarwal resigned from the board due to personal reasons, Paytm said in a regulatory filing on Monday. Agarwal resigned from PPBL a day after RBI issued an order to Paytm Payments Bank to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

NAME CHANGE

It is to the general public that I, Seema D/o Late Shri TULSI RAM SAHU, resident of 12/A, Street-7, Sector-1, Bhillai Dist. Durg (C.G.) have changed my old Name SEEMA D/o Late Shri TULSI RAM SAHU, So in future I should be recognized by my new Name that is SEEMA SAHU W/o SURENDRA KUMAR SAHU in all government and the other documents.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance. Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC 492/2018 in O.A. No. 780/2017 INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK vs M/s. H S INDUSTRIES E-Auction No.16/2024

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance. Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC 454/2018 in O.A. No. 513/2016 INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK vs M/S SHRI BAJRANG BRICKS E-Auction No. 22/2024

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance. Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division) 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC 163/2017 in O.A. No. 508/2016 INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK vs M/S SHRI RAM FLY ASH BRICKS E-Auction No. 26/2024

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 72 OF INDIAN PARTNERSHIP ACT, 1972

It is hereby informed that following changes in constitution of the partnership firm M/s ALLIANCE TRANSPORT SERVICES, 603, Barsana Enclave, Mohba Bazar, RAIPUR (CG) 492099 has taken place w.e.f. 11/01/2024-

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR resident of MAIN ROAD, SADAR WARD NO. 10, JAGDALPUR, PIN 494001, BASTAR (C.G.) have changed my old name KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR to my new name that is KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR in all Government and other documents.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR resident of MAIN ROAD, SADAR WARD NO. 10, JAGDALPUR, PIN 494001, BASTAR (C.G.) have changed my old name KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR to my new name that is KUMKUM DUGGAR D/O LAXMI CHAND DUGGAR in all Government and other documents.

Place : Raipur For, ALLIANCE TRANSPORT SERVICES Sd/- (Jasvinder Singh Sawhney) Partner

KUMKUM DUGGAR MAIN ROAD, SADAR WARD NO. 10, JAGDALPUR, PIN 494001 BASTAR (C.G.)

(VATSALYA KUMAR) RECOVERY OFFICER Place : Jabalpur Date : 31-01-2024

(Vaatsalya Kumar) Recovery Officer Place-Jabalpur Date-31/01/2024

(Vaatsalya Kumar) Recovery Officer Place-Jabalpur Date-31/01/2024

## SECR spearheads groundbreaking infrastructure development

**Bilaspur-Jharsuguda fourth railway line project work on fast track for infrastructure development**

**Major investment of Rs 2135 crore set to transform railway connectivity**

Raipur/Bilaspur, Feb 13:

In a significant move towards enhancing infrastructure and connectivity, the South East Central Railway has embarked on the fast track development of the Bilaspur-Jharsuguda Fourth Railway Line Project.

Over the years, South East Central Railway has been a pioneer in infrastructure development



within its jurisdiction. Numerous projects aimed at enhancing passenger facilities, including foot over bridges, road over bridges, road under bridges, and new railway lines, have been successfully completed.

The current focus lies on the 206 km stretch between Bilaspur and

Jharsuguda, a key segment of the Mumbai-Howrah main line. The construction of the fourth railway line, estimated at approximately Rs 2135 crore, is progressing steadily.

Significant progress has already been achieved under this ambitious project, with various segments

witnessing the completion of construction activities. Specifically, between stations, key sections including Brajrajnagar-Lajkura (04 km), Champa-Saragaon (09 km), Lajkura-Belpahar (05 km), Jharadih-Kharsian-Robertson (14.20 km), Himgir-Belpahar (13 km), Brajrajnagar-Jharsuguda (10.50 km), Gataura-Jayaramnagar-Latia (18 km), Janga-Himgir (20.50 km), and Sakti-Jhadih (10 km) have seen the successful completion of approximately 106 km of the fourth railway line. The completion of these projects will not only increase capacity but also pave the way for the operation of new trains, thereby enhancing mobility and improving the speed and punctuality of passenger services.

## Police Chief mobilizes medical community

Combined effort to combat crime, drug abuse

Arang, Feb 13:



To address crime and drug abuse, S.N. Singh, the in-charge of the local police station, convened a crucial meeting with medical directors from across Arang. The gathering served as a platform to discuss strategies for curbing the illegal sale of banned medicines and promoting community safety.

During the meeting, In-charge Singh issued a stern warning to those engaged in the illicit trade, emphasizing the imposition of strict penalties for offenders. He urged medical operators to play an active role in combating this menace, assuring them of confidentiality if they provide valuable information to the police.

Recognizing the pivotal role of medical pro-

professionals in safeguarding the well-being of society, Singh appealed to them to assist in freeing children and youth from the grips of drug addiction. Highlighting the influx of banned medicines from neighboring states, he stressed the importance of collective action to stem the flow of illicit substances.

In response, the med-

ical operators present at the meeting pledged their full cooperation with the police administration. They affirmed their commitment to uphold ethical standards by refraining from selling any prohibited substances now and in the future.

The robust turnout at the meeting, which saw the participation of

prominent figures such as Vinod Gupta, Santosh Chandrakar, Manoj Chandrakar, Brajesh Soni, Sujit Chandrakar, Pradeep Sahu, and Krishna Kumar Chandrakar, underscores the community's resolve to collaborate with law enforcement authorities in ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all.

## Tehsildar's joint operation stuns illegal transport mafia

Anwari, Feb 13:

Concerns raised over illegal transportation activities in the vicinity of Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara have prompted swift action from local authorities. Complaints have been circulating for some time regarding the unauthorized movement of sand and mud without the requisite peeth paas.

Responding to these grievances, Tehsildar Balram Tamboli and Naib Tehsildar Jyoti Singh launched a coordinated operation at designated locations, sending stern warning through the ranks of the illegal transport mafia. Numerous vehicles were apprehended during the oper-



ation for transporting sand without proper documentation. In a dramatic turn, one hiwa driver abandoned his vehicle and fled the scene upon realizing the severity of the crackdown.

Tehsildar Balram Tamboli emphasized that such enforcement actions will con-

tinue unabated in the future, with stringent measures to be taken against both illegal transporters and those engaged in unauthorized excavation activities. The operation resulted in the seizure of eight hiwa vehicles, with a corresponding case registered and transferred to the Bhakhara police station for further investigation.

The successful operation saw the participation of Revenue Inspector Soni, Patwari Devendra Sahu, Hemant Chandrakar, Kotwal Ganesh Garg, and other members of the police station staff, highlighting the collaborative effort to combat illegal activities and uphold regulatory standards.

## 'Efforts to ensure maximum resolution of cases'

**In Nat'l Lok Adalat on Mar 09**

Bilaspur, Jan 13:

As per directions of Justice Ramesh Sinha, Chief Justice and Patron in Chief, Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority, instructions have been issued to all District Judges/Chairman DLSAs and Judges of Family Court that more number of old pending compoundable cases, Cases under Negotiable Instruments Act, Family Court matters, Motor Accident Claims Cases, Civil and Criminal Cases be identified and notices be served upon concerned stakeholders

through concerned departments for ensuring maximum resolution of cases in upcoming National Lok Adalat on 09th March 2024.

During virtual meet on 08th February 2024, Justice Goutam Bhaduri, Executive Chairman, CGLSA also addressed all District Judges/Chairman DLSAs, Judges of Family Court, Chairman Permanent Lok Adalat, CJM and Secretary, DLSAs for taking special efforts to address and resolve matters related to Land Acquisition, Cheque Dishonor, Cases of Senior Citizens, Women and Cases pending for over 05 years and 10 years and further directed that efforts should also be undertaken for resolution of matter



CJ Ramesh Sinha

under Pre Litigation with inclusion of more cases for the same in coordination with concerned Department, Financial and Banking Institution. Further letters have also been issued to Chief

Secretary, Chhattisgarh Government, Principal Secretary, Law and Legislative Affairs Department, Mantralaya, Raipur for necessary instructions to all District Collectors and concerned departments for undertaking maximum matters pending before Revenue Courts in upcoming National Lok Adalat. Also for ensuring effective service of summons to concerned Litigants and stakeholders, letter has also been issued to Director General of Police for necessary directions to concerned subordinate officials. CGLSA has further appealed Managing Director, CG State Power Distribution Company for rebate in

surcharge on Electricity matters being taken up during upcoming National Lok Adalat.

It is pertinent to mention that Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha also appreciated the Judicial Officers in a State Level Meet on 14th October 2023 for their performance in National Lok Adalat 2023.

As per instructions of NALSA, during this year 2024, National Lok Adalat would be conducted on 09.03.2024, 11.05.2024, 14.09.2024 and 14.12.2024 throughout the Nation across all Courts at all levels being High Court, District Courts, Tehsil Courts, Family Courts, Forum and Tribunal including all Revenue Courts.

## Sacred rituals commence at Shri Ram Janaki Temple

**Traditional ceremonies to enrich spiritual life**

**Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 13:** The Shri Ram Janaki temple, nestled in the serene village of Kotni Kala along the banks of the river Sone, is set to become a beacon of spiritual enlightenment with the commencement of the Lok Kalyan Shri Padma Purana and Mahanarayan Yagya. Beginning on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami, Wednesday, February 14, devotees will be immersed in the sacred teachings and rituals led by esteemed scholars. The festivities will culminate on Wednesday, February 21,

with the conclusion of the Upanayana Sanskar amidst the fervour of the Yagya. Furthermore, on Saturday, February 24, devotees will gather for the final Havan ceremony followed by the distribution of Bhandara Prasad, symbolizing the culmination of divine blessings. Throughout this spiritual journey, participants will be treated to daily religious sermons, soul-stirring kirtan recitals, and the enchanting rendition of Bhajans, all conducted by eminent scholars. The organizing committee, led by Shri Guru Charan Das Maharaj, extends a warm invitation to the community to partake in these sacred rituals and reap the spiritual rewards.

## NSS Camp in Mohrenga promotes legal awareness

DLSA empowers communities; NALSA schemes bring justice to doorsteps

Kharora, Feb 13:

The National Service Scheme Unit at Amity University Chhattisgarh organized a transformative seven-day special camp from February 6th to 12th, in the vibrant village of Mohrenga, Kharora. Aimed at fostering community empowerment, the camp conducted a series of awareness campaigns covering vital topics such as women and child safety, cleanliness, legal aid, self-protection, technical and modern education, and healthcare.

During the sixth day of the camp on Sunday, February 11th, paralegal volunteers from the District Legal Services Authority, Raipur, namely Tuleswar Sahu and Shankar Lal Sahu, took the initiative to educate attendees about the various



schemes and initiatives offered by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). They provided valuable information about NALSA's free legal advice assistance scheme, along with the NALSA helpline number 15100. Additionally, they shed

light on upcoming events such as the National Lok Adalat, Public Utility Lok Adalat, and Permanent Lok Adalat.

Furthermore, the volunteers highlighted NALSA's commendable efforts in providing legal services to disaster victims, promot-

ing friendly relations and protecting children, implementing poverty alleviation programs, supporting unorganized sector workers, catering to senior citizens' legal needs, and aiding acid attack victims.

The presence of esteemed individuals including Dr. Prasanna Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator of the National Service Scheme Unit at Amity University Chhattisgarh, Dr. Arunima Sur, Program Officer, Abhishek Singh, and dedicated NSS volunteers, underscored the collaborative effort to empower communities through legal awareness and access to justice. This endeavour not only informs citizens about their legal rights but also ensures their active participation in shaping a fair and just society.

## Facilitation centers open doors to Vishwakarma scheme benefits

**Manendragarh, Feb 13:** In a significant move towards empowering traditional artisans and craftsmen, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, under the Government of India, has initiated the Vishwakarma Scheme. Aimed at providing modern tools and toolkits to enhance skills, competency, and productivity, as well as offering collateral-free loans, the scheme is set to revolutionize the livelihoods of artisans across the region.

To ensure seamless access to the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, a facilitation center has been established in various blocks across the Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur district. The first phase of verification for scheme applications will be conducted online by the Sarpanch of the respective Gram Panchayats. To facilitate this process, Sarpanchs are required to undergo onboarding and registration. Block-wise facilitation centers have been meticulously established for the online and free registration of both Sarpanchs and applicants. In the development block of Baikunthpur, the District Panchayat Baikunthpur

serves as a facilitation center from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Meanwhile, the Public Service Center in Odgi Naka extends its services from 10:00 am to 08:00 pm. For assistance, Md. Iqbal can be reached at 88395-47446, and Praful Patel is available near Lok Seva Kendra SBI Patna, reachable at 87178-40780 during operational hours from 08:00 am to 08:00 pm.

In the Development Block Khadgawan, the Public Service Center at Bachara Podi, managed by Tikhesh Kumar (mobile number: 70897-75774), operates from 08:00 am to 08:00 pm. Similarly, in front of the Manendragarh Public Service Center Collectorate, Ms. Reena Pandey can be contacted at 81033-24221 within the same operational hours. In the Development Block Bharatpur, the Public Service Center at Janakpur is open from 08:00 am to 08:00 pm, with assistance available at mobile number 9131208409. Lastly, in the Development Block Sonhat, near Gramin Bank Katgodi, Ritesh Sahu can be reached at 97539-61511, and ISECT Sonhat is contactable at 738988425, both accessible from 08:00 am to 08:00 pm.

## Ayushman Card drive in Kabirdham District

**Accessible healthcare coverage for all residents**

Kawardha, Feb 13:

In a monumental effort to extend healthcare coverage to all residents, Kabirdham district launches a grand campaign to facilitate Ayushman card enrollment under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, spearheaded by Collector Janmejay Mahobe.

Under the dynamic leadership of Collector Janmejay Mahobe, a comprehensive strategy has been devised to ensure the inclusion of all beneficiaries. Rural health coordinators, community health officers, Mitani trainers, educators, and NGO volunteers are mobilized to expedite the process of Ayushman card registra-



tion, dissemination of scheme information, and downloading of cards.

From February 12th to 18th, special camps will be organized across all sub-health centers and door-to-door centers in both urban and rural areas. Residents are urged to bring their Aadhar and ration cards for swift processing. The Ayushman card guarantees free medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh at reg-

istered hospitals.

To enhance accessibility, camps are strategically placed around residential areas and health centers, ensuring maximum participation. Dr. B. L. Raj, Chief Medical and Health Officer, Dr. Rakesh Premi, Nodal Officer, and DPM Shrishti Mishra emphasize the importance of community engagement in making this campaign successful.

Furthermore, the government has developed a user-friendly web application for easy enrollment and card download. By simply logging into the official website of Ayushman from Google Play and entering their mobile and ration card numbers, residents can access complete information on their mobile devices, ensuring seamless access to healthcare benefits.

## Raipur district hosts inspiring sports competition

**Tilda development block shines as champion**

**Kharora, Feb 13:** The Government Higher Secondary School in Nimora development block, Abhanpur district, Raipur, played host to the district-level sports competition for children with special needs, marking a milestone in inclusive education.

Students from classes 1 to 12 representing all five development blocks of Raipur district - Tilda, Dharsiwa, Arang, Abhanpur, and urban Raipur - showcased their talents in various sporting events tailored to accommodate their unique abilities. Remarkably, children from the Tilda develop-



ment block emerged as the frontrunners, clinching an impressive tally of 31 awards and earning the title of champion development block. Jahire Sir, the Development Block Education Officer of Tilda, expressed pride in this achievement, extending heartfelt congratulations to all participants. Arya Sir, Assistant

Development Block Education Officer of Tilda, echoed this sentiment, applauding the remarkable efforts of the children and their dedication to excellence. The event also garnered recognition from Santosh Sharma, B.R.C.C, Suvridha Singh, B.R.P., and Dhameshwari Yadav, S.E., all of whom play pivotal

roles in nurturing the development of these exceptional students.

The success of the program owes much to the contributions of CAC Tulsiram Sahu, Surendra Verma, and Himachal Choubey, whose unwavering support and dedication ensured the smooth conduct of the competition.

## Jurel, Sarfaraz in line for debuts, Shubman Gill skips optional training

Rajkot, Feb 13 (PTI):

An injury-hit India could well go into the third Test against England with two debutants in domestic run-machine Sarfaraz Khan and hard-hitting keeper-batter Dhruv Chand Jurel on a track that will be quite similar to the first two Test matches.

However last match's centurion Shubman Gill however did not attend the optional training on Tuesday. It must be noted that Gill had hurt his right index finger while fielding in the second Test in Visakhapatnam. He didn't field during the England second innings and also said that the injury isn't too serious.

With Shreyas Iyer being dropped and KL Rahul yet to recover, doors have opened for Sarfaraz, who has been one of the most prolific performers in Ranji Trophy.

In case of Jurel, it is his superior batting quality that could get him the nod ahead of Kona Bharat,



India's Dhruv Jurel during a practice session.

who has failed to score a single half-century in seven successive Tests.

With Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz and Jurel batting between Nos 4 to 7, three of the four middle order players (other being Ravindra Jadeja) will go into the Test match with a collective experience of solitary game. Patidar made his debut in Visakhapatnam.

With a transition phase looming large, a glimpse into the future of India's

were both part of a new-look slip cordon when India began their training here at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium. While Patidar, positioned at gully and Sarfaraz at first slip did attract attention when the training session got underway, it was also the sight of a lean and bubbly young keeper Jurel taking some sharp catches which sparked a lot of interest.

Accompanying them at the second slip was the dashing opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who at times celebrated taking catches as if he was playing a game, throwing the ball high in the air in jubilation.

Having had a look at the pitch upon arrival, Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid watched the proceedings from a distance for a while before the Indian skipper decided to join the catching session for a brief period of time.

The coach, meanwhile, was again spotted having a long chat with the local groundsmen close to the end of the session.

## Russell and Rutherford earn West Indies 37-run consolation win

Perth, Feb 13 (AP):

Andre Russell and Sherfane Rutherford smashed half centuries in a record-breaking sixth-wicket stand to propel the West Indies to 37-run consolation win over Australia in the third and final Twenty20 match on Tuesday.

Russell destroyed the pace and spin of Adam Zampa late in the innings to score 71 off just 29 balls while Rutherford contributed 67 off 40 deliveries as West Indies posted 220-6 after winning the toss and electing to bat.

David Warner briefly kept Australia in the hunt for a 3-0 sweep in the series with 81 off 49 balls before the home team faltered against offspinner Roston Chase and was restricted to 183-5. Chase, one of the two changes West Indies made for the final game, derailed Australia's pursuit with the wickets of Warner and Josh Inglis in one over to end up with 2-19.

Australia fast bowler Xavier Bartlett, who impressed in his ODI debut against the West Indies,



Australia's players pose with the trophy after winning the series following their defeat in the third Twenty20 international cricket match against the West Indies at Perth Stadium in Perth on February 13.

continued to prosper in white-ball cricket by getting openers Johnson Charles and Kyle Mayers in his debut T20 after Josh Hazlewood was rested for the final game.

Charles edged Barlett's fifth delivery to wicket-keeper Inglis and Mayers played a short ball back onto his stumps in the pacer's second over.

Zampa had Chase (37)

clean bowled soon after the batting powerplay and when Powell edged Aaron Hardie behind the wickets the West Indies stuttered at 79-5 in the ninth over.

But Russell and Rutherford didn't get bogged down against the pace and revived things with a strong partnership.

They raised the best-ever sixth-wicket stand in a T20 international by contribut-

ing an aggressive 139 runs off just 67 balls. Zampa's penultimate over went for 28 with Russell clubbing four sixes and a four and the legspinner finished with 1-65 the most expensive figures by an Australia in a T20. Russell, who hit seven sixes and four boundaries, finally holed out at mid-off in the last over of fast bowler Spencer Johnson (1-49).

## Mandhana jumps two places to world No. 4



Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI):

India opener Smriti Mandhana has jumped two spots to grab the fourth position in the latest ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings for batters.

The 27-year-old from Mumbai surpassed South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt, who slumped to fifth place after a lacklustre show in the ODI series against Australia.

England's Nat Sciver Brunt, Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu and Australia's Beth Mooney occupy the top 3 positions in the batting chart, which also has India skipper

### ICC Women's ODI batting rankings

Harmanpreet Kaur static at the 10th place.

Mandhana, who is set to represent the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Women's Premier League, last played ODIs in the bilateral series against Australia. She had made 63 runs at an average of 31.50.

In the bowling chart, which is headed by England's Sophie Ecclestone, spinner Deepti Sharma slipped a place to number four. The Indian, however, moved a place to the fifth spot in ODI all-rounder list.

Among bowlers, South Africa's Marizanne Kapp has climbed seven places to take the second position after grabbing four wickets in the last two ODIs against Australia.

An all-round performance of 75 and 3/12 in the second match in North Sydney that helped South Africa register their first ever ODI victory over Australia also helped Kapp retain eighth position in batting and consolidate her top ranking in the list of all-rounders.

## Ravindra takes 3 wickets, South Africa reaches 220 for 6 at stumps

Hamilton, Feb 13 (AP):

Rachin Ravindra took three wickets and slammed the brakes on South Africa's scoring to give New Zealand a slight edge Tuesday on the first day of the second cricket test.

Ravindra claimed the key middle-order wickets of Zubayr Hamza, Keegan Petersen and David Bedingham and bowled 21 overs at a cost of only 33 runs to swing the day just in New Zealand's favor.

New Zealand faced an unexpected obstacle late in the day when Ruan de Swardt posted his maiden half century and the burly allrounder Shaun von Berg, making his test debut at 37, shared an unbroken partnership of 70 for the seventh wicket.

De Swardt was 55 not out and von Berg was unbeaten on 34 as South Africa reached 220-6 at stumps.

On a day of unusual decisions, New Zealand left out regular spinner Mitchell Santner, who took six wickets in the first test, included four seamers and ended up leaning heavily on Ravindra's left-arm spin.



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra (C) celebrates a South African wicket with his teammates.

South Africa captain Neil Brand also made the unexpected decision to bat on winning the toss, becoming only the second captain in the last 11 tests at Seddon Park to do so. The pitch appeared green at first and there was some help early for the seamers as Matt Henry, Will O'Rourke and Neil Wagner shared wickets in the first session. South Africa was

64-3 at lunch. O'Rourke, who claimed his first test wicket, said "it was pretty challenging, probably a little bit slower than what we were expecting."

Ravindra came into his own after lunch when he helped New Zealand slow South Africa's scoring rate. He bowled his first 13 overs, including six maidens, at a cost of only 15 runs. When he left the at-

tack at the approach of the second new ball, he had taken 3-33 from 20 overs. He came back to bowl the last over of the day.

His were key wickets. Bedingham made 32 and 87 as South Africa's leading scorer in the first test; Petersen made 45 and 16 and Hamza 22 and 36. All made starts again on Tuesday but Ravindra prevented them going on.

## Ben Stokes has changed cricket in a lot of respects, says Ollie Pope

Rajkot, Feb 13 (PTI):

England captain Ben Stokes has changed the game of cricket in a "lot of respects", says batter Ollie Pope, as the maverick all-rounder gears up for his 100th Test appearance in a couple of days' time.

Stokes, who has carved a niche for himself by playing some of the most outstanding knocks in the history of the sport in high pressure situations, has also produced a fine example of himself as a leader by inventing a new approach to Test cricket known as 'Bazball'.

Having also played a vital role in England's white-ball revival, Stokes is on the cusp of joining the list of players in Test cricket history who have played more than 100 games.

"He has probably changed the game in a lot of respects, he has just got a way of bringing out the very best of him when the team needs it. Even in the Ashes at Lord's, which I remember thinking about 'how does he obviously take it to a new level when all the pressure is on him,'" Pope told the media



here after the SCA Stadium after England's training session on Tuesday.

England will take on India in the third Test from Thursday.

"The amount of times he's done that over his career of 99 Tests so far is unbelievable," Pope said.

"It's unbelievable. For anyone to play 100 Tests is an unbelievable achievement. He's obviously had his highs and his lows in his career, but what he's done (since) he's been captain, he's been amazing and there's so many special moments that he can look back on his career," he added.

## Wawrinka advances to face Jarry at the Argentina Open

Buenos Aires, Feb 13 (AP):

Three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka has advanced to a round-of-16 match against third-seeded Nicol Pietrangeli Jarry at the Argentina Open. Wawrinka, who is ranked No.60, overcame pressure from the home crowd Monday to beat Pedro Cachan 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-2 at the clay court tournament in Buenos Aires. Past U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 to Laslo Djere in an earlier match. Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz is due to start a clay court swing in South America here on Wednesday. The No. 2-ranked Alcaraz will also play at the Rio Open later this month in Brazil.

## Joseph, Hunter win ICC Player of the Month awards

Dubai, Feb 13 (PTI):



bered.

Defending a modest 216 to prevent an Australian victory in the second innings, Joseph grabbed 7/68 four of which were bowled to skittle the home side out eight runs short of the target.

The win saw the West Indies claim a historic 1-1 draw, with Joseph sealing the Player of the Series award for his impressive debut. This latest accolade means he is the first West Indian to win the men's award since its inception in January 2021.

Joseph, said, "To get such an award on the world stage feels special. I totally enjoyed every moment of that experience playing for West Indies in Australia, especially the magic of the final day at the Gabba. Taking the wicket to win the match was a dream!

## PSL hit by pullouts of overseas cricketers

Karachi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Several high-profile international cricketers have pulled out of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) due to the overlapping of dates with other franchise-based tournaments and many cricket boards denying permission to their players to compete in domestic T20 competitions.

The PSL begins in Lahore on February 17 and all the six franchises have been hit hard with several players opting for the Bangladesh Premier League, ILT20 and SA20 leagues.

PSL side Multan Sultans have lost several players they had initially signed up for the upcoming season, with England pace bowler Reece Topley being the latest to pull out due to an injury. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) also said it had not issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to Topley to play in the PSL. Some other boards are also having second thoughts about giving no-objection certificates for PSL.

## It's not that you won't see rank turners going forward: Kuldeep Yadav

Rajkot, Feb 13 (PTI):

India spinner Kuldeep Yadav on Tuesday said that rank turners might come into play in the on-going Test battle against England but admitted that sporting tracks, like the ones seen in the first two games, are "good for cricket".

The two sides have assembled here for the third Test starting at the Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) Stadium from Thursday, with the series poised at 1-1.

"Overall, everything is important. The fast bowlers also come into play, like you saw in the last match. So (good wickets) are good for cricket. It is not (the case) that you will not get to see rank turners going forward. Hopefully, in the future you will see (turning tracks)," Kuldeep said while addressing a media conference ahead of India's training session on Tuesday. A depleted



India were pushed by an aggressive England, who beat them comfortably in the first Test, but the hosts bounced back in the second. Both the matches were played on pitches

that were not predominantly spin-friendly and had something for everyone.

"I have no idea. I haven't played on rank turners. I did not play in the last series (Border-Gavaskar series in February-March last year) at home," he replied when asked why there were no rank turners for the first two Tests.

"I do not know what our approach or thinking would be. It is basically the team management's decision. Obviously, all of you also want to watch good cricket. For good cricket, it's important (that the wickets are good)," he said.

Kuldeep chose to sidestep when asked whether rank turners should be there or not.

"I do not know that, I enjoy playing, whenever I get an opportunity to play, whether it is on a flat track or on a rank turner...batting too is important for us, not just spin bowling," he said.

## Deflated India eye better show against mighty Dutch in women's FIH Pro League

Rourkela, Feb 13 (PTI):

Their morale hitting rock-bottom after slumping to their fourth defeat, India await another tough contest in the women's FIH Pro League when they take on the undefeated Netherlands here on Wednesday.

It has been rough sailing for the Indian women's hockey team of late. After failing to qualify for the Paris Olympics, the side has also been faring poorly in the ongoing Pro League matches in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

The Savita Punia-led side has played five matches in the Pro League so far, out of which it has lost four and won one.

The home team's campaign started with three successive defeats against China (1-2), the Netherlands (1-3) and Australia (0-3) before it beat the USA 3-1.

The Indians then slumped to their second defeat at the hands of China (1-2) here on Monday.

## 'Centre gave Bharat Ratna to Charan Singh, but doing 'injustice' to farmers'

Ambikapur, Feb 13:

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said the Centre has honoured Chaudhary Charan Singh, who championed for farmers' causes, and agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan with the Bharat Ratna but has been doing "injustice" to cultivators. His remarks came against the backdrop of the 'Delhi Chalo' march call given by thousands of farmers demanding a law on minimum support price (MSP) and the national capital being made a virtual fortress with authorities stopping them from entering the city.

Addressing a press conference in Chhattisgarh's Surguja district headquarters Ambikapur during the



Jairam Ramesh

Congress' ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', Ramesh also targeted Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar for joining hands with the BJP and termed him "Palti Kumar" (one who does somersault).

Notably, security in Delhi has been intensi-

fied with multi-layer barricades, concrete blocks, iron nails and walls of containers at border points to stop the 'Delhi Chalo' march of farmers from entering the national capital on Tuesday, after talks between farm leaders and the Centre remained inconclusive.

Ramesh said, "A few back back, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Bharat Ratna (country's highest civilian honour) for great farmer leader Charan Singh and the 'father of green revolution' Swaminathan posthumously and we welcome the decision."

"But the government, which has announced the prestigious honour for the two legends, has been

committing injustice to farmers," he claimed.

Farmers have been staging protests in support of three-four demands which the Modi government promised to be fulfil when it rolled back three 'black' farm laws, Ramesh said.

He said farmers have been demanding a law on minimum support price and that the MSP should be fixed at 1.5 times the production cost of the crops, as per the formula of Swaminathan.

The third demand of farmers is loan waiver. The Modi government waived loans amounting to Rs 14 lakh crore of "chandadata" (donation givers) but not the Rs 1 lakh crore loans of "annadata" (referring to farmers), Ramesh claimed.

## VINTAGE RADIO COLLECTION



Dinesh Mathur shows his collection of vintage radios on the occasion of World Radio Day, in Bikaner, Tuesday.

## ADANI-HINDENBURG ROW

### Review plea filed against SC's Adani verdict

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of its January 3 verdict by which it refused to transfer the probe into allegations of stock price manipulation by the Adani Group to a special investigation team or the CBI. In a significant win for the Adani Group, the apex court had declined to order a CBI or SIT probe and said in its judgement that market regulator SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" into the allegations and its conduct "inspires confidence".

The petition claimed there were "mistakes and errors" in the judgment, and in light of certain new material that have been received by the counsel for the petitioner, there were sufficient reasons for a review of the verdict.

The review petition has been filed by Anamika Jaiswal, who was one of the petitioners in the case.

The plea, filed through advocate Neha Rathii, said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had in its report only updated the court about the status of the 24 investigations it undertook following the allegations, whether they were complete or incomplete, but did not disclose any findings or details of action taken.

"It cannot be concluded that there has been no regulatory failure unless the findings of the SEBI investigations are publicly reported," it said.

In its verdict, the apex court had noted the SEBI has completed its investigation in 22 out of the 24 matters where allegations had been levelled against the Adani Group.

"There are apparent errors on the face of the impugned order dated January 3, 2024 wherein this court rejected the petitioners prayer to constitute a court monitored SIT into the massive fraud involving market manipulation through offshore entities owned by promoters of Adani Group. Hence, the impugned judgment, is liable to be reviewed," the plea said.

The apex court had delivered its verdict on a batch of petitions on the Adani-Hindenburg Research row over allegations of stock price manipulation by the Indian business conglomerate.

The Adani Group stocks suffered a bloodbath on the bourses after the Hindenburg Research made a litany of allegations, including those about fraudulent transactions and share-price ma-

## Maha Guv presides over 11th Convocation of MAFSU



● Through online mode

Mumbai, Jan 13:

Maharashtra Governor and Chancellor of universities Ramesh Bais presided over the 11th Annual Convocation of the Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU) through online mode.

Degrees were awarded to 1769 candidates, while gold and silver medals were given to 95 candidates. Three graduating students were given cash prizes.

The Message of Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil was read out on the occasion.

Vice Chancellor of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Science University Mathura Dr A K Shrivastav delivered the Convocation address while MAFSU Vice Chancellor Niteen Patil read out the University's Report.

Former vice chancellors of the University, vice chancellors of other universities, Heads of Department, teachers and graduating students were present.

## SHAMEFUL TRUTH

### Woman earns Rs 2.5 lakh in 45 days by forcing children to beg

Indore, Feb 13 (PTI):

A 40-year-old woman has managed to earn Rs 2.5 lakh in just 45 days by forcing her eight-year-old daughter and two sons to beg on the streets of Indore.

The woman's family, who are part of a group of around 150 people involved in begging in the city, owned land and a two-storey house in Rajasthan, an NGO has claimed.

"The woman, Indra Bai, was recently found begging at the Luv-Kush intersection on the Indore-Ujjain road. We found cash to the tune of Rs 19,200 in her possession," Rupali Jain, president of Pravesh, an organisation working with the administration to make Indore a beggar-free city, told PTI

on Tuesday. The mother of five had forced three of her children, including her eight-year-old daughter, to beg on the city streets.

While the girl was placed under the care of the Child Welfare Committee, the woman's sons, aged nine and 10 years, fled after seeing her team, Jain said, adding that her remaining children were in Rajasthan.

Indra has informed that she earned Rs 2.5 lakh in alms in the last 45 days, of which she had sent Rs 1 lakh to her in-laws, deposited Rs 50,000 in a bank account, and invested Rs 50,000 in fixed deposit schemes (FDs), she said.

The woman's family also owned land and a two-storey house in Rajasthan, Jain said. "Indra's hus-

band had purchased a motorcycle in her name, and the couple would roam around the city on the two-wheeler," she said.

After being caught, Indra allegedly had an altercation with a woman NGO worker, and she was arrested under section 151 (arrest to prevent the commission of the cognisable offence) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), sub-inspector Ishwarchandra Rathod of Banganga police station said. The woman was produced before an assistant commissioner of police (ACP) court, which remanded her judicial custody, he said. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a pilot project to make 10 cities, including Indore, beggar-free.

## SARASWATI PUJA PREPARATIONS



Students of Sanskrit College make 'rangoli' on the eve of 'Saraswati Puja', in Kolkata, Tuesday.

## JEE-Main: 23 candidates bag 100 score in first edition of exam

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Twenty-three candidates have bagged the perfect 100 score in the engineering entrance exam JEE-Main with a maximum of them being from Telangana, the National Testing Agency announced on Tuesday.

Over 11.70 lakh candidates had appeared for the first edition of the crucial exam.

Among the candidates who scored 100 NTA scores, seven are from Telangana, two from Haryana, three each from Andhra Pradesh,

Rajasthan and Maharashtra, two from Delhi and one each from Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

According to NTA officials, NTA score is not the same as percentage of marks obtained but normalised scores.

"NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-session papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one session. The marks obtained are converted into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of

examinees," a senior official explained.

The Examination was held in Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The Examination was also conducted outside India in Manama, Doha, Dubai, Kathmandu, Muscat, Riyadh, Sharjah, Singapore, Kuwait City, Kuala Lumpur,

L a g o s / A b u j a , Colombo, Jakarta, Moscow, Ottawa, Port Louis, Bangkok, and

Washington D.C. It was conducted in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, and Oslo for the first time.

While the first edition of the exam was conducted in January-February, the second edition is scheduled in April. Based on the results of JEE-Mains Paper 1 and Paper 2, the candidates will be short-listed to appear for the JEE-Advanced exam, which is a one-stop exam to get admission into the 23 premier Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

## Doors open for higher education in technical institutions

Bengaluru, Jan 13:

Over the last five decades, Karnataka has stood as a pillar of leadership in higher education. It remains the preferred destination for individuals aspiring to build a career in engineering, considering its array of diverse colleges, outstanding educational offerings, and a remarkable track record of high job placement rates post-graduation. The state's commitment to higher education has cultivated a substantial pool of skilled professionals, attracting significant global demand.

The COMEDK UGET and Uni-GAUGE entrance examination is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 12, 2024, as a combined examination for admissions to over 150 Engineering colleges in Karnataka and 50+ reputed private and deemed universities across India, respectively. This unified examination is tailored for colleges affiliated with the Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA) and Uni-GAUGE member universities offering B.E./B.Tech programmes. The online exam will be conducted across 200+ cities in India, in 400+ test centers. This year, it expects over 1,00,000 students to appear for the examination. Candidates from across

India can apply for the exam.

Applicants can register at www.comedk.org or www.unigauge.com. The application process is open online from February 01, 2024 to April 05, 2024.

Adds P. Muralidhar, CEO, ERA Foundation: "We firmly believe that a student's merit and aptitude should be the sole criteria for choosing where to pursue further studies. Uni-GAUGE has been meticulously designed to adhere to the highest standards of fairness and objectivity as a testing platform. We take pride in our contribution to the holistic development of tomorrow's workforce."

New Delhi, Feb 13 (PTI):

Veteran post-modernist artist Rameshwar Broota has showcased his recent paintings and sculptures at a solo exhibition in Shridharani Art Gallery here. Put together by Vadehra Art Gallery, Broota's latest show features his recent works in the artist's revelator period of abstraction in which he is drawn to exploring an inner journey of the human condition motivated by deep self-awareness.

"His quintessentially laborious means of layering paint and scraping the surface with a blade to create unique variations in tone often leads to patterns and images emerging serendip-

itously in his compositions, which sometimes appear as a chaotic conclusion or genesis of time, technology, nature and mankind itself," the organisers said in a statement.

Apart from the paintings, the exhibition also features a collection of multi-dimensional resin sculptures bearing calligraphic texts and found objects. The marks and layers held inside the glass-like opaque resin sculptures invites the viewers to examine the works more closely.

"We are excited and honoured to have Rameshwar Broota's exhibition after a gap of six years. The show brings together a comprehensive

body of work with his signature style scratch paintings and resin sculptures," Roshini Vadehra, director of Vadehra Art Gallery, told PTI.

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