

Raipur, Thursday, February 15, 2024 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh

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Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Assured income of ₹ 6,000 given to farmers under PM Kisan every year

₹ 2 lakh 80 thousand crore given to 11.8 crore farmers till now



BRIEF



Young women click selfies during 'Saraswati Puja' celebrations, in Nagaon district, Wednesday.

Resign

■ New Delhi: Vibhakar Shastri, grandson of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, resigned from the Congress on Wednesday. In a post on X, Shastri said, "Hon'ble **Congress President Shri** Kharge ji! Respected Sir, I hereby tender my resignation from the primary membership of Indian National Congress, Regards, Vibhakar Shastri."

Badrinath Dham

■ Dehradun: The doors to the Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand will be opened for devotees at 6 am on May 12, the temple committee said on Wednesday. Keeping with tradition, the date and time for the opening of the temple gates were announced after a religious ceremony at Narendra Nagar Palace on the occasion of Basant Panchami on Wednesday, chairman of **Badrinath-Kedarnath** temple committee Ajendra Ajay said.

Deer census

High Court on Wednesday asked the DDA to conduct a census of spotted deer in the city's 'Deer Park' and suggested that some of them may be translocated to other green areas of the national capital if the existing facility was overburdened.

Seized

■ Thane: Police seized banned gutkha and tobacco products with an estimated value of Rs 2.95 crore from three trucks in Thane district and arrested three men, a senior officer said on Wednesday.

Defused

■ Mendhar: The Indian Army on Wednesday defused an old explosive shell near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. The Automatic Grenade Launcher (AGL) shell was found during patrolling by the troops in Balnoi area of Mankote sector, they said.



SENSEX 71,822.83 **BULLION** GOLD 61,230

69,544

SILVER

Modi inaugurates Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple

Abu Dhabi, Feb 14 (PTI)

Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday inaugurated Abu Dhabi's first Hindu stone temple amid devotional chants and in the presence of spiritual leaders of the Swaminarayan

Dressed in a light pink silk dhoti and kurta paired with a sleeveless jacket and stole, the prime minister participated in rituals of a ceremony to dedicate the temple to the people.

The prime minister also participated in "Global Aarti", which was performed simultaneously at over 1,200 temples of the Swaminarayan sect worldwide built by Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). Earlier, Modi met people from different faiths who contributed to



PM Modi with spiritual guru of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Mahant Swami Maharaj during the inauguration of the BAPS Hindu Mandir, in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Wednesday.

the construction of the first Hindu stone temple here. The prime minister also offered water in the virtual Ganga and Yamuna rivers at the temple before proceeding to inaugurate the temple built on a 27-acre site in Abu Mreikhah, near Al

Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway, at a cost of around Rs 700 crore. According to the temple authorities, the grand temple has been built as per an ancient style of construction and creation mentioned in the Shilpa and

Rajnath, Munda and

other Union ministers

discuss farmers' issue

Senior Union ministers, includ-

ing Rajnath Singh and Arjun

Munda, on Wednesday held

discussions on the ongoing

farmers' protests and ways to

address the issues, according

to sources. The meeting in the national capital assumes significance against the backdrop of

farmers from Puniab marching

towards Delhi and Harvana

Police using tear gas shells to

stop them at the Shambhu bor-

Singh, also a former agriculture

minister, deliberated upon vari-

ous farmer issues with Munda.

who is currently in charge of

held discussions with farmer

groups, the sources said.

the agriculture ministry. Munda

is also one of the ministers who

der between the two states.

Defence Minister Rajnath

Hindu scriptures which describe the art for mandir design and construction. "The architectural methods have been clubbed with scientific techniques here. Over 300 high-tech sensors have been installed at every level of the temple to measure temperature, pressure and movement (seismic activity). The sensors will provide live data for research. If there is any earthquake in the region, the temple will detect it, and we will be able to study," Swami Brahmaviharidas, head of international relations for BAPS, told PTI.

No metal has been used in the construction of the temple and fly ash has been used to fill up the foundation, replacing 55 per cent of cement in the concrete mix, reducing the carbon footprint of the

Quake hits parts of Assam

Guwahati, Feb 14 (PTI):

An earthquake of 3.7 magnitude hit the central part of Assam on Wednesday evening an official bulletin said. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or damage to property, it said. A National Center for Seismology report said that the quake was recorded at 7:23 pm, and its epicentre was in Kamrup Metropolitan district on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river.



RAJYA SABHA POLLS

Ashok Chavan nominated from Maha

Mumbai, Feb 14 (PTI):

The BJP on Wednesday fielded former Congress stalwart Ashok Chavan as its candidate for Rajya polls Sabha Maharashtra, the move the ex-chief minister hailed as the trust reposed in a new entrant like him

by the party leadership. "I cannot describe my feelings in words. The BJP has reposed trust in me even though I joined the party yesterday. This is a

Aiit Pawar-led NCP fields Praful Patel

In a surprise move, the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Wednesday said it would field senior leader Praful Patel for the coming election to the Rajya Sabha even though he is already a member of the Upper House of Parliament. Patel has four years of his Rajya Sabha term left, but the decision to field him again was taken due to some "technical issues", the party's Maharashtra unit chief Sunil Tatkare told reporters. The former Union minister, who is currently the NCP's working president, will resign from his existing membership of the House after getting elected and take oath afresh, Tatkare added.

responsibility," Chavan told reporters. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

Union Home Minister

Amit Shah, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and state BJP president Chandrakant Bawankule.

Farmers stay put at Delhi border, tear gassed again



One of the injured farmers after police fired tear gas shell to disperse them during their 'Delhi Chalo' march at the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border, in Patiala district, Wednesday.

Chandigarh, Feb 14 (PTI):

Haryana security personnel lobbed tear gas shells on farmers from Punjab at Shambhu border between the two states as thousands of protesters stayed put there on Wednesday, the second day of their 'Delhi Chalo' march.

The police action came whenever any group of

Mumbai, Feb 14 (PTI):

A bull shark, the species

which can live and breed

in freshwater, nearly bit

off one leg of a 30-year-old

man in the Vaitarna river

in Maharashtra's Palghar

district, prompting his fel-

low villagers to kill the

fish, a forest official said

fish with razor-sharp teeth

took place when a group of

residents from Manor vil-

lage, out to collect wood

and for fishing, entered

A large fish sprang up a

surprise attack and

grabbed the left leg of one

of them, identified as

Vickey Govari. Hearing

his screams, the others

pulled him to the shore, he

The encounter with the

on Wednesday.

the river.

said.

the protesting farmers tried to move towards the

barricades Some farmers also pelted stones at the security personnel who were positioned close to the barricades.

The police have deployed a drone to keep an eye on the protesting farmers who are demanding a legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP).

In their bid to save their

friend, they began hitting

the fish, eventually killing

However, the fish, later

identified by wildlife ex-

perts as a bull shark, had

ripped off the calf muscle

of Govari's left leg, leaving

the nearest hospital,

where he is receiving med-

ical care for the serious in-

juries sustained to his leg,

The bull shark was

about seven feet long and

weighed nearly 130 kg,

said Pawan Sharma, who

is the founder and presi-

dent of non-profit RAWW

(Resqink Association for

Wildlife Welfare) and also

the honorary wildlife war-

den with the state forest

department.

he said.

Govari was rushed to

the shin bone exposed.

it, the official said.

A few youths even flew kites at the Singhu border in order to bring the drone down by entangling the unmanned aerial vehicle

Maha man enters river for **Pakistan Rangers** violate ceasefire fishing, shark bites his leg

Wednesday violated ceasefire agreement by resorting to unprovoked firing at a Border Security Force (BSF) post along the International Border here, officials said. BSF personnel manning the border outpost in Makwal retaliated befittingly to the firing from across the border, with the exchange lasting for over 20 minutes, beginning at 5.50 pm, officials said. They said there was no casualty or damage on the Indian

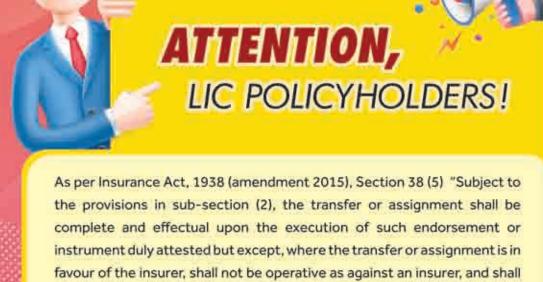
Last year, on the intervening night of November 8-9, a BSF iawan was killed in Pakistan tor of Samba district -- the first death on this side since February 25, 2021, when a

in the kite strings.

Jammu, Feb 14 (PTI):

Pakistan Rangers on

Rangers firing in Ramgarh secrenewed ceasefire was agreed upon by the two countries.



not confer upon the transferee or assignee, or his legal representative, any right to sue for the amount of such policy or the moneys secured thereby until a notice in writing of the transfer or assignment and either the said endorsement or instrument itself or a copy thereof certified to be correct by both transferor and transferee or their duly authorized agents have been delivered to the insurer:

Provided that where the insurer maintains one or more places of business in India, such notice shall be delivered only at the place where the policy is being serviced."

Hence only those assignments registered with LIC of India, are taken cognizance of.

Please note to register assignment of LIC policies, by giving notice to the servicing branch only, if not done earlier. This would facilitate prompt claim settlement to rightful titleholders of the policy, even if the claim settlement requirements including production of policy bonds are dispensed with or modified.

Contact your Agent/branch with all requirements for prompt claim settlement,

BEWARE OF SPLINDUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS, IFDAY is not involved in activities like setting enumer



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Har Dal Aanke Saath

Flyover construction on NH Trainee officers from to be completed by Mar 31 other states visit Patan

Four flyovers are being constructed on the Durg -Raipur National Highway. Kumhari, Transport Nagar, Power House and Chandra Maurya Supela flyover work is in progress at a cost of Rs 349 03 crore Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary inspected the flyover construction work with NH officials. She directed the officials to complete the remaining construction work of the flyover soon. Officials informed that the flyover work in Kumhari flyover from Raipur towards Durg has been completed. Traffic has temporarily started on the left carriageway. Similarly, the



slope from Durg towards Raipur and the rectification work of bow-stream on the right side are likely to be completed by March. Finishing work is in progress. The remaining work of this flyover, drain work on 1050 meter length on both sides has not started. Work is in progress on 1050 meter length on both

and bridge load test and finishing work on the bowstream slap has not started. Approach work Transport Nagar flyover, complete finishing and bridge load test work is in progress. The remaining work of the said overbridge, drain work and service road work of 400 meters length on both sides

complete and traffic movement has started temporarily. Its remaining work, drain work and service road work of 1660 meter length on both sides is in progress. Similarly, after the completion of work on Chandra Maurya to Supela flyover, traffic movement has started temporarily. Its remaining work of 1990 meters on both sides, drain work and service road work is in progress. Officials said that the entire work of the flyover will be completed by March 31, 2024. On this occasion, Executive Engineer of National Highway BS Rao, Project Manager P Parthi, BK Shah and other officials

A team of officers from different states of the country undergoing training related to MGNREGA visited Patan block of Durg district on a study tour on Wednesday. This team of officers associated with MGNREGA included officers from six states, who are currently serving as trainees. During the visit, they oversaw the water treatment plant in village Patora. Detailed information about this project was given to them.

All the team members reached village Chhata of Patan block. In village Chhata, information was given about how farmers are saving rain water and using it in their farming. and stop dam done under MGNREGA was shown to them. MGNREGA Project Officer, Block Program Coordinator, Dalim Lata and RES SDO RS Gaur gave detailed information to the entire team. Along with technical information, they also gave information about the work done in the

Homeopathy can do miracles in genetic disorders: Dr Wankhede

benefited from it. He said that this project has increased the irrigation capacity for about 265 acres and the water source has also improved. After reaching village Patora, they saw the work of a water treatment plant. The water treatment plant here has also been honoured by the

number of Patan block officials and MGNREGA employees were present. Trainee officers from many states across India including Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh. Kerala. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Chhattisgarh

On this occasion, a large

SSV celebrates Basant Panchami

Sri SankaraVidyalaya, Sec-X celebrated Basant Panchami on February, 2024 with great religious zeal. The Sankara family worshipped Goddess Saraswati, by performing puja in the school temple. The atmosphere was filled with an aura of religious fervour by worshiping Goddess Saraswati. It is believed that without her blessings, the world would be shrouded in ignorance, as she represents enlightenment and is also considered the deity of knowledge, wisdom, music, and perform-SaraswatiVandana was sung by Vandana Mishra,

Verma, Rupali Sakhre with a group of teachers.

Ramachandran (President- SSES) expressed his views and gave best wishes for Basant Panchami. Principal

SSES), TR Venkatraman (Treasurer- SSES), appraised the gathering and wished for health and prosperity to members of the management and staff members. The puja concluded with sweets and prashad distribution to staff and students.

Bhilai, Feb 14:

Under the aegis of Sanjeevani Arogya Vahini Welfare Society, a homeopathic seminar was organized at a hotel in Nehru Nagar on Sunday, Bhilai. Homeopathic doctors from different cities including Bhilai, Korba, Bilaspur, Ambikapur, Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari and Sakoli attended the seminar. Famous homeopath Dr Sahdev Wankhede from Akola, Maharashtra was the keynote speaker in the seminar. Dr Wankhede remembered the fathers of homeopathy, and Dr Heinemann Prafulla Vijaykar. He lit the lamp and garlanded

their portraits before

The topic of the seminar Miracles Homeopathy on which Dr Sahdev Wankhede gave a demonstration on the treatment of genetic disorders and auto-immune related diseases through predictive homeopathy, which included Lichen Planus, Schizophrenia, Brain Haemorrhage, Rheumatic Arthritis with Hard Disease, Acute Renal

He described in detail the treatment of homeopathy on various diseases. In the seminar, Durg MLA Lalit Chandrakar was present as the chief guest. Special guest was senior homeopathic doctor of the state and former Principal of Raipur Homeopathic College, Dr Satyajit Thakur. Principal Dr Dilip Pimple, Vice Principal Dr Nirmal Bhoi, Dr Uttam

Umesh Chitlangya (social worker), District Judge Qureshi, social worker Manoj Thackeray, social worker Neeta Chaurasia, BJP district in-charge Dr Sunil Sahu and were present as special guests. President of Sanjeevani

Arogva

Chawla, Industrialist Health Minister and con-

Vahini, Dr

Laxprad raised a demand establishing Government Homeopathic Medical College in Durg Bhilai area. He emphasised on the need of open-Government ing Homeopathic Dispensaries in the state. He urged the government to pay maximum attention to the development of Homeopathy. MLA Lalit Chandrakar assured that he will initiate to fulfil the demands and discuss the issues with the

SP#3 crosses 20,000 T

cerned officials. Special Guest Umesh Chitlangya appreciated the organisers and said that homeopathy is an easy and simple method of treatment. Dr Laxprad presided

over the programme. Dr Subhash Rajpal and Dr Mansa Dwivedi compeered the program. Dr Ranu, Dr Sarvashree, Dr Leena Vora, Dr Dilip Dewangan, Dr. Ajay Devgan, Dr Rakesh Rathore, Dr Anuradha, Dr Nirmala Gupta and Dr Anjali played a vital role in making the program successful. Dr Narendra Saini, Dr Rajesh Soni, Dr Chandan Agrawal, Dr Badri Prasad, Dr Santosh Sahu, Khedu Das and students of Homeopathy Medical College attended

DAV IPS organises health camp

Bhilai, Feb 14:

DAV Ispat Public School organized a health camp for its students from classes Nursery to XII. This health camp was divided in two slots for effective and smooth management for its students. The first phase was held on 09 January 2023 . The school invited Ophthalmologist Dr Pratik Jain and a Dentist Dr Durgesh Soni. The students underwent a thorough and detailed check up of their height, weight, body mass index and oral hygiene. The team of doctors handled the students very gently dealing with them with the utmost care and affection. The observation of the doctors was mentioned by them in the health cards of each and every student which was provided by the school.

The second phase of the health camp was organised



on 24 January 2024. The school maintains a health card for its students right from the time of the admission of the child. The card reflects a detailed and brief summary of his/ her vision and oral condition with suitable remarks by the experts if any needed for further check up and follow up. The details of the observation as found by the Doctors were mentioned in written in the health cards of the students duly signed by them.

The main motto of the school in organising such health check ups every year is to make the students aware of their physical health and to try to stay healthy by following a good food habit. Such health camps also ensure the well being of each and every child and in case any is not well (if observed) they can go for further check up to the specialists. The children, through such yearly check ups, come to know

health and well being and in a way are motivated towards following a regular check up in all the other

fields of health. Priyanka Principal Shukla, expressed her gratitude towards the team of Doctors who had consented for a visit to the school with the purpose of a free check up of the students. The Doctors stated that it was very nice of the school to organise every year such free health camps for the

Book Fair at St Thomas College

Failure and Neck Tumour.



College, Bhilai nas conducted a Book Fair on 9th February at the college campus. The event featured a diverse range of students academic, reference books and various literary works by renowned authors. The Fair was hosted by Central Book Raipur and House, Bhagwati Bhawani Book Depot, Durg. Staff and students had the opportunity to explore various genres and love reading books. The College administrator Rev Fr Joshi Verghese and Principal Dr MG Roymon supported the event.

Bhilai, Feb 14:

Maintaining its upward trend in production, Bhilai Steel Plant's Sinter Plant 3 that produces sinter for the blast furnaces of the Plant has crossed the 20,000 Tonnes production figure on 13th Feb 2024. Highest ever production of 20,025 Tonnes was recorded by Sinter Plant 3 on 13th Feb 2024, surpassing the previous best figure of 19,960 T recorded on 5th Jan 24.

On 13th Feb 2024, best ever A Shift production of 6680 T and best ever C Shift production of 6640 T was recorded in SP 3. AK Dutta, CGM (Sinter Plants) thanked all associated shops and departments for their support that enabled SP 3 to achieve this milestone production on 13th Feb 24.



Director Bhilai Plant, Dasgupta, Anirban Executive Director (Works) Anjani Kumar congratulated the entire Team of SP 3 and all associated shops and departments for crossing the 20,000 T milestone in daily production, urging them to maintain the upward trend. Senior officers of the plant also congratulat-

It is worth mentioning that best ever production of 4.88 Million Tonnes (MT) has been recorded by SP 3 during the April to

ed the leadership and col-

lective of SP 3.

In-charge January ten month period of current fiscal, surpass ing the previous best of 4.43 MT recorded in corresponding period of last fiscal year 2022-23. This enabled the plant to achieve highest ever sinter production of 7.21 MT from both SP 2 and SP 3 for the April to January period of current fiscal year, surpassing previous best of 6.62 MT in corresponding period of last fiscal year 2022-23. SP 3 also achieved its best ever monthly production of 5,38,154 T in the month of Jan 24, surpassing the previous best of 5,38,095

JLNH & RC Doctors win laurels at All India Steel Medical Officers' Conference

Bhilai, Feb 14:

The 43rd All India Steel Medical Officers Conference-2024 was held recently in Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. As many as 500 delegates from around the country, including renowned speakers, had gathered on this occasion. Chanakva Choudharv. Vice President (Corporate Services) Tata Steel inaugurated the Conference.

12 Doctors from the Medical and Health Services Department of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant took part in the five-day Conference, along with seven other Steel Plant Hospitals. There were seven categories of competitive papers in the Conference, including Long Paper, Short Paper, OHS Paper, TQM Paper, MBBS Poster, and PG along Posters, with

Debate, Symposium, and Panel Discussion.

in his address, appreciated the Doctors' role in providing quality healthcare to Steel Employees and stated that such conferences shall aid the Medical Fraternity to keep pace with the advancements in medical science, and by staving informed the Medical Professionals shall contribute to creating a sustainable healthcare system.

Chanakya Choudhary,

In his Welcome Address, Air Vice Marshal (Dr) Sudhir Rai, GM (Medical Services-Tata), welcomed the delegates and stated that I hope all the doctors will strive towards fostering a harmonious balance between the well-being of our workforce, the community at large and the environment, in line with the theme of the confer-

Participating in the debate. Dr Ravindranath M. CMO I/c (M&HS-BSP) made an impactful presentation at the conference on

about their own physical

'Pharmaceuticals- a Boon or Bane'. Dr Pramod Binayake, CMO (M&HS-BSP) shared his insights in the panel discussion titled 'Sustainable Health for Steel Employees', and elucidated various aspects of life style diseases among Steel Employees and steps to be undertaken to overcome the morbidity associated with it, to sustain a healthy steel industry. Dr Pratiba Issar, ACMO (M&HS-BSP), and HoD of Radiology, took part in the panel discussion as an expert of Radiodiagnosis and gave insights on the topic 'Breast Diagnostic Modalities and Treatment'. Dr Subodh

Saha, ACMO (M&HS-BSP)

effectively co-ordinated the team's participation at AISMOC and also chaired a talk on 'Abnormal Bleeding - Who, Why, Where and When' by Dr Sukesh Nair. Dr Gurmeet Singh, Senior Consultant (M&HS-BSP)'s talk on

'Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the future Healthcare' was appreciated at the conference. Dr Mala Choudhary,

Senior Consultant (M&HS-BSP) presented a Research Paper "Occupational Heat Stress

An invisible threat impacting steel workers" and bagged the first prize in the OHS category. Dr Anirudh Mene, Deputy CMO (M&HS-BSP) presented his work titled "Improving waiting time for dressing at Burn Unit-A 6 sigma approach" in the

TQM category and bagged the second prize, while Dr Manish Dewangan, Chief Consultant (M&HS-BSP) presented a Scientific Work of Research Department of Surgery on Laparoscopic Surgery of Inguinal Hernia and was awarded the third prize in the Long Paper award category. Dr Amit Agrawal presented the experience of the Department of Anaesthesia on the topic, Surgical Management of Fracture Clavicle using the Clavipectoral Fascia Plane Block and was awarded Third Prize in the Short Paper Category. Dr Vidhan Sarkar,

Senior Medical Officer (M&HS-BSP) gave a presentation on the outcome of Nutritional Support provided to Tuberculosis Patients under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Programme, Dr Palash Tewari, ACMO

(M&HS-BSP)'s poster on 'Interesting Presenting As Metastasis in Oral Cavity', and Dr Santosh Nashine, Dy. CMO (M&HS-BSP)'s, presentation on the 'Determination Pulmonary Hypertension in Patients with End Stage Renal Disease' in the PG poster category was high-

ly appreciated. Various HoDs Medical Departments debated on various issues in the Medical field, at the unique PRO-CON Debate session organised under the All India Steel Medical Officers' Conference-2024.

The Conference provided an enriching academic experience through talks from eminent faculties from across the country. The Steel Oration address by Air Marshal (Dr) Rajan Choudhary titled "The COVID Story" and Keynote Address by Air Marshall

(Dr) Pawan Kapoor on 'Sustainability through Healthcare Quality Intervention' were appreciated by the delegates. Various cultural events were also held during the five-day Conference. Dr Minakshi Mishra

recorded in March 23.

Organizing Secretary AIS-MOC-2024 in Vote of thanks appreciated the Doctors' team from Bhilai Steel Plant for setting a benchmark and re-activating the AISMOC post COVID. She also thanked BSP's Medical and Health Services Collective for guiding the Tata Team in organizing this year's All India Steel Medical Officers' Conference. The Conference concluded with a resolve to follow up on the sustainability theme, quality and OHS initiatives and with a forthcoming AISMOC plan tentatively at IGH Rourkela in 2025.

CM to visit Ramlala along with entire cabinet

In March after assembly session; flags off 'Aastha' train with 1344 pilgrims

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 14: A special

train with pilgrims left for

the Assembly session con-

cludes, we will go to

Ayodhya with the entire

cabinet in the month of

March to have darshan of

BJP to launch beneficiary

convention at LS

segments from Feb 20

Raipur, Feb 14: Rajya Sabha

member and Chhattisgarh in-

charge of the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) Beneficiary conven-

tion Baburam Nishad on

Wednesday highlighted the

achievement of the BJP-led

Government at Centre and

urged the party workers to

reach both those who are avail-

ing the benefits as well as to

those who are not able to avail

the benefits so that they could

also be informed about the wel-

fare schemes of Centre. State

BJP President Kiran Singh Deo

said that the BJP workers have

already identified nearly 40

lakh people who have avail the

benefits whereas they would

further collect information

from people about the other

public welfare schemes includ-

ing the PM Housing Scheme.

He said that BJP would launch

campaign at Lok Sabha seg-

ments on February 20 and 21

whereas the above campaign

would be taken up at Mandal

श्री. विष्णु देव साय

माजनीय मुख्यमंत्री एतीमगढ़ भामल

level on February 22 and 23.

Ayodhya from Raipur on Wednesday, days after Lord Ram Lalla's idol was consecrated in the temple in the Uttar Pradesh town. Ramlala. "On February 14, 1889, the first passenger Chhattisgarh Minister Vishnu Deo Sai train from Raipur to flagged off the "aastha" Bilaspur departed on the train with 1,344 pilgrims auspicious occasion of on board. Speaking on the Basant Panchmi. In an auspicious coincidence. occasion he said that we 1.344 devotees departed to wish that the devotees of Ram return with the bless-Ayodhya for the darshan of Lord Ram Lalla on the ings of Ram Lalla for the occasion Chhattisgarh. The Chief Wednesday," the chief Minister said that after minister said.

As soon as Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai flagged off the Aastha train going towards Ayodhya Dham at Raipur Railway Station. The whole atmosphere echoed with the chants of Jai Shri Ram. This echo continued till the last bogie of the train departed. 1344 Ram devotees left for Ayodhya Dham for the darshan of Ram Lala through this

People were so excited on the occasion that it was difficult for them to express it in words. He said that building a grand temple in Ayodhya Dham was the dream of all of us. PM Modi completed it. Also, it

was the dream of all of us to have darshan of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya Dham, Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai today fulfilled the dreams of the people. Shri Ram is our nephew, hence we have love and affection for him, said CM

Bhagwat Nirmalkar, a traveler going from Tilda Nevra to Ayodhya Dham, said that we are going to Ayodhya Dham from Mata Kaushalya's Ramlala is our nephew, hence we also have affectionate feelings towards

On this occasion, MP Sunil Soni, Dharamlal Kaushik, Munat, Raiesh Khushwant Saheb, Anuj Sharma and other public representatives were present. Also IG Amresh Mishra, Commissioner Public Relations Mayank Srivastava, Collector Gaurav Singh, SP Santosh Singh and other officers

BJP's Devendra Pratap files nomination for Rajya Sabha



Raipur, Feb 14: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Pratap Singh on Wednesday filed nomination papers for the only Rajya Sabha seat from Chhattisgarh for which election will be held on February 27.

The ruling party chose Singh as its candidate in place of its incumbent Rajya Sabha member from the state, Saroj

He submitted his papers to assembly secretary and

राष्ट्रीय कमि मक्ति दिवस

कृमि से छुटकारा, सेहतमंद भविष्य हमारा

0 1 से 19 वर्ष के सभी बच्चे जो 10 फरवरी को कृमि मुक्ति की दवा

लेने से वंचित हो गए हैं उन्हें आज 15 फरवरी को स्कूलों एवं आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों में

कृमि मुक्ति की दवा एल्बेंडाजोल खिलाई जाएगी।

वया आप जानते हैं ?

कृमि संक्रमण से बच्चों में हो सकती है

खून की कमी (एनीमिया)
 कुपोषण
 कमज़ोरी
 थकावट एवं अन्य बीमारियां

कृमि संक्रमण से बचाव के उपाय

election officer Dinesh Sharma in the afternoon.

Singh was accompanied by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, other ministers and Saroj Pandey as he reached the Vidhan Sabha complex.

Formal announcement of his nomination would be on February 20 as he is the only person to file nomination.

Earlier, he reached Assembly premises from the State BJP office situat-

१५ फरवरी २०२४

मॉप अप दिवस

ed at Kushabhau Thakre premises during which the party workers congratulated him over his nomination.

Devendra Pratap Singh is a scion of the erstwhile Gond tribal royal family and an active member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. His great grandfather Raja Chakradhar Singh was famous as a patron of classical dance and music.

Singh is at present a member of the Zila Panchayat of Lailunga in Raigarh district. He is also a member of the Railway Advisory Committee.

Of the five Rajya Sabha members from Chhattisgarh, BJP MP Pandey's term is set to expire. The other four MPs are KTS Tulsi, Phulodevi Netam, Ranjeet Rajan and Rajiv Shukla, all from the Congress.

In the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly, the ruling BJP has 54 MLAs while Congress has 35. The Gondwana Gantantra Party has one member.

Chhattisgarh Vyapam releases exam calendar

Raipur, Feb Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board has issued notifications for enexaminations. trance Dates have been fixed for 11 entrance examinations. The first entrance exam will be held on May 30th in the morning for Pre-MCA and Post Basic Nursing.

The examination for MSc Nursing will be held on May 30th in the evening whereas the entrance examination of Pre-B.Ed and D.El.Ed will be conducted in different shifts on June 2. PET exam will be held on June 6, PPHT exam on June 6, B.Sc. Nursing on June 13, Pre-BA B.Ed., B.Sc. B.Ed. exam on June 13, PAT, PVPT exam on June 16 and PPT exam will be held on June 23. The entrance examination will start from May 30th and continue till June 23rd. More than three lakh candidates appear for the entrance examinations. The examination will be held in two shifts, but the time has not been decided yet. The date of the application process has also not been decided yet, which will be announced later. Right now only the date of entrance examination has been decided. For more information, students can visit Vyapam's website vya-

pam.cgstate.gov.in.

Govt to close down Rajiv Mitan Clubs: Verma

BJP members question the significance of Club

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Chhattisgarh Government would close down the Rajiv Mitan Club scheme launched by the erstwhile Congress government.

Announcing this in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly during the Hour, Question Minister for Sports & Youth Welfare Tankram Verma said that the state government would also probe into the expenditure incurred during the previous regime.

Minister Verma made



replying to a question raised by the Congress Savitri Manoj Mandavi. Minister informed that nearly one lakh Rajiv Mitan Club was formed by Congress government through which various sports events including training programme and Ramayan Mahotav were organized.

Budgetary provision of nearly Rs 132 crore was made for the Mitan Club and added that nearly Rs 40 crore is remaining.

Ruling BJP Members Chandrakar, Dharmjeet Singh and Rajesh Munat questioned the significance of formation of Rajiv Mitan Club and also sought investigation into the working of the Clubs.

Rajesh Munat form Raipur West alleged that Youth Congress workers resorted to political use of the funds through the Mitan Club which was strongly opposed by Mandavi. Savitri Sangeeta Sinha and Kunwar Singh Nishad claiming that Club helped in the encouragement of local and traditional sports.

Munat reiterated demand for the closure of Mitan Club. In his reply, the Sports Minister Tankram Verma said that Rajiv Mitan Clubs would be closed down and the investigation would be carried out on all the expenditure done.

BJP MLA alleges embezzlement of cash from liquor shops positing and showing ex-

Alleges that there is no checking of records of daily sales and deposit made in treasury

Demands action against those involved

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 14: BJP MLA Dharmjeet Singh said that there are 700 IMFL and country liquor shops operational in the state and the employees from the placement agencies are employed in it. Though security guards have been deployed for safety in these shops, but due to lack of monitoring by the departmental officers, the agencies are dictating their own terms.



Even though instructions have been given for running of government liquor shops, but there is no one to strictly adhere to it and the placement agencies are openly violating the rules and regulations. In all the 700 liquor shops in the state, neither the stock has been matched, nor any exact amount of sales made is there with accounts and they are dependiture on their own.

Citing an incident of theft of cash of more than Rs 25 lakh from liquor shops of Kanker, Surajpur and Dantewada on 31/12/2023, Singh said that the reality is such that there is no confirmation of the fact, as to whether the daily amount of sales made is deposited in the treasury or not and no responsible is paying any attention towards it. It is only in the name of surprise inspection that hefty amount is being recovered from each shop.

MLADharamjeet Singh charged that the irregularities in cash transactions in the IMFL and country liquor shops all over the state is going on since 2019 and not only officers, but even the placement agencies are

taking the Excise department for a ride. It was during the winter session of VS from Nov 25 to Dec 6, 2019), a case was unearthed on Nov 26 in Vidhan Sabha that a total of Rs 2856 cr worth of amount has not been deposited in the treasury and it was shown as one for miscellaneous expenditure and for payment of those working for Placement Agency . This is sheer violation of government rules and part of economic embezzlement of funds and crime as well. Since no accountability was fixed for this, therefore the Placement Agency and officers are openly running the liquor shops as per their dictats and this in turn is posing huge revenue loss and scam worth crore, with no action on the accused







Our government is working steadfastly to make the life of every person in society easy. Be it senior citizens, divyangian, tribal people or the deprived sections of the society, our topmost priority is to serve and protect the interests of 130 crore Indians."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



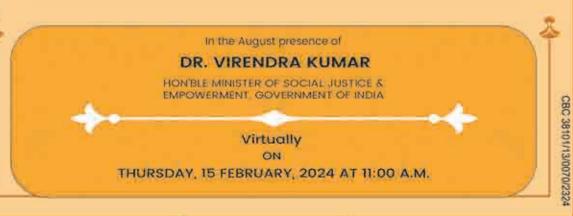
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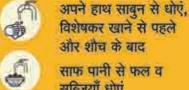


खुले में शौच न करें, हमेशा शौचालय का उपयोग करें

हमेशा साफ पानी पीएं

नाखून साफ और छोटे





विशेषकर खाने से पहले और शौच के बाद साफ पानी से फल व सिवजयाँ धोएं









स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़

CM promotes health awareness with BP and diabetes checks

Inaugurates threeday health camp at **Ch'garh Legislative Assembly**

Raipur, Feb 14:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated a health camp organized by the Health Department in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly today by being the first to undergo a health checkup. His blood pressure and blood sugar were tested doctors. Chief Minister extended his well wishes to the health team of the Assembly for

Emphasizing the importance of regular



detection and treatment of diseases, he spoke about the initiative taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi like the establishment of a Wellness Center in a remote area of Bijapur district, to ensure

access to quality health-

care for all During the event, Chief Minister Sai also released the health card for the Assembly Dispensary. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Health Minister Shvam Bihari

Dayaldas Baghel, as well as MLAs Kiran Singh Deo, Sampat Agrawal, and Anuj Sharma, along with other senior officials were also present.

Suresh Chandravanshi conducted health checks for other dignitaries including Health Minister Shri Jaiswal, MLA Shri Singh Deo, and MLA Shri Agrawal. The health camp, scheduled from February 14 to February 16, offers a range of medical services including specialists in medicine, microbiology, gynaecology, ophthalmology, E.N.T, dermatology, psychiatry, radiodiagnosis, pathology, and biochemistry, catering to the health needs of honourable members of the Assembly, officials,

Mahapran Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala' was the harbinger of spring: V-C

Prog organized on **Vasant Panchami and** Nirala Jayanti in Hindi department of CU

Bilaspur, Feb 14:

A program was organized on the occasion of Basant Panchami and Nirala Department under the School of Arts of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Central University) in Worship of Bilaspur. Goddess Saraswati marked the celebration of Basant Panchami and the birth anniversary of the eminent poet of the Chaayavad era of Hindi Mahapran literature, Tripathi Survakant 'Nirala'. On this occasion, the importance of Basant Panchami and the literary contributions of Nirala were highlighted together.



program, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Alok Kumar Chakrawal, extended his best wishes to everyone on the worship day of Goddess Saraswati, Basant Panchami, and Nirala Jayanti. He shared his memories associated with Nirala ji's family from Prayagraj, stating that Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala' is the true harbinger of spring. In his literature, society and nature are depicted with equal

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chakrawal said

Nirala is included with the four main pillars of the Chaayavad era of Hindi poetry Jaishankar Prasad, Sumitranandan Pant, and Mahadevi Verma. His poetry not only portrays reality with prominence but also provides a sublime background to elements such as love, romance, revolution, national pride, and humanity.

Before this, the guests lit the ceremonial lamp and offered flowers before the oil paintings of Goddess Saraswati and Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'. The guests on the stage were

Dr. Gauri Tripathi, the Head of the Hindi Department, welcomed and introduced the Nirala Jayanti program by shedding light on Nirala's personality and works in the context of his various poems. The Registrar, Professor Shrivastava also expressed his thoughts on the occasion of Basant Panchami and Nirala Jayanti. The guests were hon-

ored with the books of Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'. At the end of the program, thanks were given by the Dean of the Arts Faculty, Prof. Brajesh Tiwari, and the program was conducted by Dr. Ramesh Kumar Gohe, Assistant Professor of the Hindi Department. On this occasion, Deans of various Schools, department heads, and students were present.

Saraswati Puja at BSSPA



The Bharat Sevashram Sangh Pranavanand Academy radiated with spiritual fervour on February 14 as special worship ceremonies were conducted to honour Goddess Saraswati. the epitome of knowledge and wisdom, on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. Amidst a serene atmosphere, adorned with the melodious rendition of

bhajans by dedicated teachers, students, and parents joined hands in reverence to Mata Saraswati.

The puja, marked by heartfelt devotion, witnessed enthusiastic participation from children and their families. The culmination of the ceremony was met with the joyous distribution of prasad, symbolizing blessings and prosperity bestowed by the di-

15-year-old child gets new life in MMI Narayana Hospital

Every year, February 15th observed International Childhood Cancer Day. The purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about cancer in children and work towards the proper treatment of cancer. Cancer is not only a major concern for adults but also a significant cause of mortality in children. The importance of this day is heightened so that we can detect cancer in children at the right time and spread awareness about it.

The main types of cancer prevalent in children include leukaemia, brain and central nervous system tumours, lymphoma, medulloblastoma, and retinoblastoma.

Recently in Kondagaon district, there was a 15year-old boy named him to the MMI Narayana



Umesh who was battling a rare disease called amyloidosis, affecting one in fifty lakh people. Umesh's parents passed away a when he was few years ago, and now he lives with his elder brother. His elder brother works as a peon, and their financial situation is not very stable.

Umesh's illness started five months ago, causing severe abdominal pain, fever, chest and abdominal swelling, making it difficult for him to walk. Local doctors suspected a serious illness and referred

Hospital in Raipur. Dr. Yashwant Kashyap, a medical oncologist, diagnosed Umesh with amyloidosis, a rare disease where protein accumulates near the abdominal cavity, was also suffering from blood cancer. Dr. Yashwant Kashyap boosted Umesh's morale and initiated treatment. chemotherapy and immunotherapy in the early months, gradually improving his condition. Now, Umesh has completely re-

Taking into consideration Umesh's financial condition, MMI Narayana Hospital extended significant support to him both mentally and economically. The hospital and social organizations raised funds for Umesh's treatment, ensuring that financial constraints did not hinder his medical care. Umesh's

covered from cancer.

are grateful to Dr. Yashwant Kashyap and MMINarayana Hospital. Umesh, now healthy, aspires to become a doctor to ensure timely treatment for others like him. Recognizing the signifi-

cance of cancer aware-MMI Narayana Hospital is offering a free cancer consultation and 50% off on diagnostics throughout the month of February. If anyone experiences symptoms such as unhealed ulcers, lumps in the breast, swelling in the neck or face, difficulty swallowing, changes in the colour or size of moles. blood in saliva or stool, prolonged menstruation, abnormal weight loss, loss of appetite, a lump on the upper or lower body, they are advised to call 8821818181 for more information and appointments.

Parents' waiting room and drinking water room unveiled

At Shri Gujarati School

Raipur, Feb 14:

The Shri Gujarati English Medium School, Shri Gujarati Secondary School, Primary and Pre-Primary School, located within the Shri Gujarati School Complex in Devendra Nagar, Raipur, marked the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami with reverence and grace. From 08:30 am to 10:30 am on February 14, the schools came together to organize a serene and dignified "Ma Saraswati Puja and Havan." Esteemed members of the management committee and school officials were present on the occasion.

During the ceremony, the newly constructed "Parents' Waiting Hall" and "Drinking Water Room" were inaugurated and presented to the pub-

the Patron Committee Ramji Bhai Patel, along with Vice President Magan Bhai Patel and others, the inauguration signified a step towards en-

hanced facilities for both

parents and students.

Moreover, the occasion was made even more special as students gathered in the Parent's Hall to celebrate 'Matru Pitru Diwas' by paying homage to their parents through worship and honour, informs Anis Memon Principal, Shri Gujrati Hindi Medium Hr Sec School and Dr Shailesh Sharma Principal Shri Gujrati English Medium

Citizens of Balco got relief from traffic jam

Helpline number issued to deal with traffic accidents and jams

Korba, Feb 14:

Korba city being an industrial city, there is movement of thousands of heavy vehicles every day bypass from road Dhyanchand Chowk of the district to Ring Road Risdi via Parsabantha Chowk, due to which there is a possibility of jam and accident. To get rid of this, after receiving instrucfrom Superintendent of Police, the Balco police station had directed the Balco management several

times in the past to take

appropriate and concrete



steps through verbal and correspondence to solve this problem.

In the same context, under the leadership of Balco police station incharge Nitin Upadhyay, a meeting was organized with the key officials of Balco and letters have been written regarding making the traffic from Dhyanchand Chowk to Risdi Chowk smooth and

jam-free and instructions have been given to take concrete steps. . In this regard, Balco management officials informed that for parking of heavy vehicles, they have created a 100 capacity parking lot in Rumgada Road near S-Drive, 40 capacity parking in Ring Road in front of Sharma Petrol Pump and 60 capacity parking near Coal Gate inside the plant.

been built for heavy venicles and in the east there is a parking with a capacity of 70 vehicles near the coal gate inside the plant. For the traffic management from Dhyanchand Chowk to Risdi Chowk, 20 security guards of G4S and one incharge have been appointed who stay on the road 24 hours and monitor the traffic management. Balco management has done the work of widening roads Dhyanchand Chowk to Parsabantha and the work widening from Parsabantha Chowk to Risdi Chowk is going on. To get rid of ash and flying dust on the said route, two

A new parking with a ca-camp sweepers have been being continuously sprayed from two water tanker vehicles.

Apart from this, a team has been formed by Balco Nagar police station for traffic management in which head constable Laxmikant Kharsan Mohd. No. 8770134124, Constable Himachal Kanwar Mohd. 9340723983, Constable Anil Sahu 7999589084, Mohd. Constable Harish Maravi Mob.No. 7987623060 and Security Incharge of LT4 Devdhan Tiwari Mohd. 7748841843 in respect of which the helpline number has been pasted through pamphlets at vari-

Neighbour murdered 8-year-old son of a businessman After kidnapping him him to go on a trip. After

due to an old rivalry

Jagdalpur, Feb 14:

On Wednesday morning, the body of Ved Verma, the missing son of Gautam Verma, Director of Verma Electronics, resident of village Usribeda, was recovered from Pallinaka town under Parpa police station area of ??the district and sent to Mecos for postmortem. According to the information received, the neighbour of Gautam Verma, the operator of Verma Electronics in village Usribeda, along with one of his associates, mur-

MP demands new train from Bikaner-Korba, Korba-Rourkela



dered his eight-year-old son due to an old rivalry The two murder accused Nitish Kushwaha and Hansraj Sethi have been arrested by the police.

According to the information received from the police, on Tuesday evening, Ved Verma, S/o Usribeda resident Gautam Verma was sitting outside his house. Then the neighboring accused youth Nitish Kushwaha took the child Ved with him, telling

this, Nitesh along with his friend Hansraj took the child Ved Verma to the forest of Palli, 40 km away from village Usribeda. Where the boy Ved Verma was strangulated and murdered by slitting his throat with a knife. When child Ved Verma did not return home till night, the family started searching. When the family caught the accused youth Kushwaha, he told that he had murdered him due to a three-year old rivalry. The body has been brought to Mecos for post-mortem. Police have arrested both the accused.

Amitesh Pathak appointed National VP

Raipur, Jan 14:

The Jaycees Chamber of Commerce has appointed Amitesh Pathak as the National Vice President for the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, and Assam for the year 2024.

The decision to appoint Amitesh Pathak as the National Vice President of JCOM for the year 2024 has been made by the Jaycees Chamber of Commerce (JCOM). Following this appointment, Amitesh Pathak has been entrusted

with the responsibility for the regions of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa, and Assam.

Amitesh Pathak, who has been working as a sen-



ior advocate in Raipur since 2014 and served as the President of JCI Raipur Capital in 2018, National Officer in 2019, and Zone Officer for Zone 9 in 2021 and 2022, was the Zone Chairman of JCOM for Zone 9 in 2023. He has played a significant role on various platforms during his journey.

To congratulate and wish him on his appointment, heartfelt congratulations have been extended to Amitesh Pathak by JC

Agrawal, JC Amitabh Dubey, JC Leena Vadher, JC Chitrank Chopra, Zone President 2024 JC Aman Shukla, Zone President 2023 JC Akash Sundrani, JCom Zone Chairman 2024 JC Anchal Panjawani, Zone Vice President JC Ankit Choudhary, JC Karan Gupta, JC Neha Shelman, and Mandal Members, Advisory Committee Members, all former presidents, and all former presi-

Amitesh Pathak has worked at a high level in his professional and social life, and it is hoped that his appointment will enable him to reach new heights of excellence and prosperity for JCOM.



Minister's attention to the needs of rail passengers of Korba

Korba, Feb 14:

Korba Lok Sabha constituency MP Jyotsna Charandas Mahant has written a letter to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav regarding rail passenger facilities in the district. The MP has said in the letter that Korba is an industrial city as well as a black diamond and electricity city with a population of about 18 lakhs whose needs are met by the business establish-



ments of the district. In the urban area itself, lakhs of people are involved in small and big businesses as well as for medical and higher education, due to which they have to travel to Bilaspur, Bhatapara, Raipur, Durg, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon and other places. The best medium for this is rail transport.

In view of the facilities. the MP has requested to provide relief to the passengers of the district by getting approval for the

tween Bikaner-Korba-Bikaner Khatushyamji Express via Churu, Shekhawati, Jaipur, Kota, Katni and Bilaspur. In this regard, necessary initiative has been taken by the public representatives of Bikaner, Ratangarh and Amer Jaipur but unfortunately this proposal has been rejected by the Bilaspur Railway Administration. Similarly, a passenger train has been sought for Korba-Rourkela-Korba Intercity Express via Champa Bypass Raigarh route. The MP has demanded extension Tirupati-Bilaspur Tirupati

up to Korba.

rail facility. The MP has asked for a new train bebi-weekly Fatehpur Ringas, gers 17481/17482

The MP has informed the Railway Minister that all passenger trains between Korba-Gevra Road have been canceled for about eight months. The road between Korba, Kusmunda and Gevra Road is very dilapidated due to which the passengoing towards Kusmunda-Gevra have to face many difficulties, hence with immediate effect some passenger trains should be run till Gevra Road as before. For passenger facilities, 18238 Chhattisgarh Express should be extended up to Gevra Road/Korba. The pit line under construction at Korba station is in progress since 2006 but unfortunately it has not been operationalized till date. Train number 08745/08746 has been canceled indefinitely by the Bekaran Railway Administration

for the last 4-5 months, for which necessary steps should be taken. After reaching Bilaspur,

the rake of 18233 Narmada Express should be run as train number 08212-Bilaspur-Gevraroad passenger and in return as fast passenger, it should be left from Gevraroad at 19.50 hrs and reach Bilaspur by 22.00 hrs. The MP has told the Railway Minister that from September 29, 2023, train facility is currently available from 09.35 am to 18.40 pm for coming from Bilaspur to Korba. That means there is no train facility between 9 hours. The MP has expressed to the Railway Minister that the above demands should be implemented immediately as per the expectations of the Korba residents.

BJD backs Vaishnaw in RS polls; no tieup, says BJP

Bhubaneswar, Feb 14 (PTI):

The ruling BJD in Odisha on Wednesday announced that it will sup-Ashwini BJP's Vaishnaw in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in the state. Earlier in the day, the candidature of Union minister Vaishnaw was announced by the BJP. Soon after the development, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, in a statement said, the BJD supports Vaishnaw's candidature for the "larger interest of the state's railways and

telecom development". "The Biju Janata Dal will support the candidature of Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union minister for railways, communication and information and technology, for the larger interest of

Darul Uloom

Deoband bars politicians

until LS polls Saharanpur (UP), Feb 14 (PTI):

Darul Uloom, an Islamic educa-

tional institution located in

Deoband, announced on

Wednesday that its 'Ulemas'

will not meet with leaders of

political parties or click photo-

graphs with them until the Lok

Sabha elections. Ashraf

Usmani, a spokesperson of

Darul Uloom Deoband, de-

scribed the step as being taken

under the direction of the insti-

tution's 'Mohtamim' (head)

Abul Qasim Nomani. Usmani

told PTI that crores of people

in the country follow the deci-

sions of Deoband Darul Uloom.

At the time of elections, many

political leaders often turn to

Darul Uloom, take photos with

the Ulemas and share them on

Garhwa (Jharkhand), Feb 14 (PTI):

Jairam Ramesh remarked

on Wednesday that Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

criticised the Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act

(MGNREGA) before the

Covid-19 pandemic but

recognised its importance

later. Ramesh made these

comments while interacting

with MGNREGA workers at

Ranka block in Jharkhand's

He highlighted that the

PM had strongly criticised

MGNREGA before the pan-

demic, but later realised its

Garhwa district.

Senior Congress leader

state's railways and tele- has not sought BJD's supcom development in the ensuing election to Rajya Sabha-2024." Patnaik said the statement. Vaishnaw was elected to the Upper House of Parliament with the BJD's support in 2019.

The Congress lambasted

both BJP and BJD, alleging that "they are together and betraying the people of Odisha". He arrived at Biju International Patnaik Airport here Wednesday. Speaking to PTI, he said, "I am a disciplined worker of the BJP. I want to express my gratitude and thanks to the party leadership and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving me an opportunity to serve once

The BJP, however, said it

port for Vaishnaw.

Speaking to media persons here, Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "Our candidate Ashwini Vaishnaw will file his nomination papers tomorrow for the RS elections. We have sufficient numbers and will win the polls in the prevailing political scenario in Odisha." He also claimed that the "BJP has not sought support from any-

"In politics, if somebody extends support, why shall we refuse? The BJP will fight and if anyone wants to contest, one can file a nomination," Samal said.

He, however, asserted that there will be no alliance between the BJD

ing state elections and Lok Sabha polls alone in Odisha. AICC in-charge of Odisha, Ajoy Kumar, and state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak strongly criticised the BJP and the BJD over the ruling party's support to Vaishnaw.

In a post on X, Kumar said, "BJP-BJD bonhomie! The tactical larger plan' of the two erstwhile married alliance' is on the move! BJD always backed BJP'. Now the Odias understand why CBI- ED never conducted a raid on the CM and his close aide Mr Pandian even though the state witnessed massive scams'." The Congress leader recalled the train accident in Balasore in June last year while at-

FOOT MARCH



RSS volunteers take part in a 'Path Sanchalan' on the foundation day of Banaras Hindu University and 'Basant Panchami', in Varanasi, Wednesday.

CBSE issues advisory for students appearing in board exams

In view of traffic restrictions in Delhi

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

The CBSE issued an advisory on Wednesday for the students appearing in the board exams in view of the traffic restrictions imposed in Delhi, advising them to leave their homes early to arrive at the examination centres in time. Traffic restrictions are currently in place in the national capital in view of the farmers' "Delhi Chalo" march.

The board exams for Classes 10 and 12 will commence from Thursday.

significance as a crucial tool

for providing employment

strongly criticised MGNRE-

GA before Covid pandemic.

But, after the pandemic, he

realised that there is no al-

ternative to MGNREGA in

the hands of the govern-

ment to provide jobs," he

Ramesh was accompa-

Congress president Rajesh

Thakur, Jharkhand in-

charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir,

NSUI national in-charge

Kanhiya Kumar, and several

other leaders during the in-

Jharkhand

by

"Prime Minister had

More than 39 lakh students will appear in the

exams this year from India and 26 other countries. In Delhi, more than 5.8 lakh students will take the exams at 877 centres. "As the examination

starts at 10.30 am, hence, all the students have been directed to reach their examination centres on or before 10 am," the advisory read. It cited the current situation in Delhi and said it is expected that there will be traffic issues that might cause a delay

in reaching the examina-

'PM criticised MGNREGA before Covid,

realised its importance after pandemic'

"Hence, all the students are advised to leave their homes early so that they can reach well on time as per instructions issued by the CBSE. It is advisable to use metro services to reach the examination centres which are playing smoothly," it read.

The advisory also requested all the students of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) across India and other countries to plan their journeys to reach the examination centres

on or before 10 am, looking into the local conditions, traffic, weather conditions, distance etc., as the students will be allowed to enter the centres only up to 10 am and not thereafter.

"All schools are requested to help and guide the parents and students. Students are once again advised to visit their examination centres in advance and make a plan for their travel so that they can arrive before or on time on all examination

Dalit seer, farmer leader among BJP's four RS poll candidates from MP

Cong fields local **functionary**

Bhopal, Feb 14 (PTI):

The BJP on Wednesday nominated four candidates, including a Dalit seer and a farmer leader, while the Congress fielded its local functionary for the upcoming elections to five Rajya Sabha seats from Madhya Pradesh. All the candidates are likely to get elected unopposed.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) nominated the party's Tamil Nadu leader and Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan for the Upper House of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh. Apart from him the saffron party also fielded Dalit seer Umesh Nath Maharaj, backward class woman leader Naroliva and farmer leader

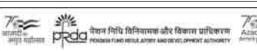
Banshilal Gurjar. The Congress nominated its state party unit treasurer Ashok Singh, A total of five seats are falling vacant in the state and as per the numerical strength, the BJP is set to win four and the Congress one. The elec tions are scheduled to be held on February 27.

Umesh Nath Maharaj is the Peethadheeshwar of the Shri Kshetra Valmiki Dham Ashram in Ujjain. belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC) cate-

During the last Prime Minister Narendra Simhastha (Kumbh) mela held in 2016, Union Home Minister Amit Shah not only took a holy dip with Umesh Nath Maharaj and his fellow seers on the Valmiki Ghat in the Ujjain district, but also ate food with them, sources

in the Dham said. "I lead a normal life and I have taken it in a normal manner. Saint life is first and foremost for me. That's why everybody, the entire nation and Avantika (Ujjain) is happy about it," Maharaj said. He described Modi as a man of high thinking, who takes everyone along. "Everybody asks the

meaning of 'taking everyone along', but there is no need to express it in words," he said. Party's another candifarmer Banshilal Gurjar from Mandsaur said, "The party has given such a big honour to a farmer leader like me. I am grateful for it. I have worked for the cultivators all my life and will continue to do so for their welfare."



PENSION FUND REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY B-14/A, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI BHAWAN, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA KATWARIA SARAI, NEW DELHI - 110 016

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from Indian citizens for appointment as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust), New Delhi on Contract /Deputation basis for an initial period of three (03) years, which may be extended for another period of two (02) years, if the Authority so desires. The details of eligibility criteria, mode of selection, emoluments and application form etc. are available on PFRDA's website i.e. www.pfrda.org.in_as well as NPS Trust's website i.e. www.npstrust.org.in and also on the website of National Career Service www.ncs.gov.in.

Corrigenda/ Addendums/ Notices (if any) relating to this

vacancy notification shall be issued only on the website of PFRDA/NPS Trust

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER

Please visit our website www.pfrda.org.in for



The last date for receipt of application is 04 April, 2024 (Thursday).

HR Department

complete information or scan the QR code



At 71.09 lakh, Delhi Metro records highest-ever daily ridership on Feb 13

said.

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

The Delhi Metro on February 13 registered the highest-ever count of daily passenger journeys at 71.09 lakh, a record achieved on a day when huge traffic jams were reported in the NCR amid heavy security arrangements in view of a farmers' march to the national capital. The urban transporter shared the data in a post on X on Wednesday, saying it has surpassed its previous milestone accomplished September.

The count of daily passenger journeys in Delhi Metro had stood at 71.03 lakh on September 4 and 69.94 lakh on August 29 in 2023 around Raksha Bandhan festival.

On Tuesday, the Delhi Metro had regulated passengers' entry and exit at nine stations by shutting some gates for several hours in view of the farmers' march towards Delhi. The commuters were allowed to enter or these stations exit

through other gates.

figures The February 12 stood at 70.87 lakh which rose to 71.09 lakh on February 13, officials said. Journey or line utilisation is calculated by the number of corridors passengers use to reach their destinations. On weekdays, the average count of daily passenger journeys in Delhi Metro stands at around 65 lakh, a senior official said.



Jairam Ramesh

Though Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was scheduled to participate in the programme as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the second leg of his yatra in the Palamu region was can-Ramesh emphasised that

MGNREGA was passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in 2005 when Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister and Sonia Gandhi was chairman of the national advisory coun-

He outlined the three objectives of the scheme, including securing jobs for jobless families, ensuring wages credited to workers' bank accounts within 15 days, and strengthening public properties in every

block and district.

the role of Belgian-born Indian welfare economist Jean Dreze in conceptualising MGNREGA, who was also present during the programme. NSUI national incharge Kanhiya Kumar highlighted two major issues identified during the public hearing.

"Workers want the guarantee that the scheme will be implemented properly and they will get the wages on time. A Jharkhand minister said they do not receive the state's share against the scheme from the Centre on time and the state government has to give wages from

Ramesh acknowledged its other funds.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक

Circle Office, Plot No. A-48, Ring Road No. 2 Gaurav Path, Bilaspur, Ph.: (07752) 432710/729

SHRI RAHMANALI. BOUNDARY: EAST-6.00 M WIDE ROAD, WEST-HOUSE

NO. LIG 117, NORTH-HOUSE NO. LIG 109, SOUTH-HOUSE NO. LIG 111

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers, Partners and Guarantors have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but the same have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Partners/Guarantors and Branch Name Amount Details of Properties / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced Date of NPA 05.02.2024 Rs. 4,76,932.14 EM OF CONSTRUCTED RESIDENTIAL HOUSE SITUATED LIG 110 AT DEEN DAYALAWAS YOJNAIN CHHATTISGARH HOUSING BOARD COLONY, JORATAL, KAWARDHA, DIST- KABIRDHAM BORROWER- MR. RAHMAN ALI KHAN S/C RAHMAT ALI, CO BORROWER- MR FAIYAZ HASHMI S/O RAHMAN ALI, BOTH OF THEIR ADD : H. NO. 5, SHANKAR CHATRAR MARG dani building, lohara road, tehsil-AREA 900 SQFT, CONSTRUCTION IN AREA 430 SQFT IN THE NAME OF

(whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Security Interest Act 2002.

The authorized difficer of C.G. Raiya Sanakan Barik Mydt Ahit Nagar. Naya Raipur in exercise of the powers Usis 13 (12) of Securitzation and construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had used notice to its borrowers / constituents to repay the amount, notice is reby given to the borrowers/constituents mentioned below, and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property describe, rein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Azt. Read with rule 9 of the said Rules there in the borrowers are asked repay the said amount within the 30 days from the date of notice publish by the bank. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with properties detailed below and any dealing with the said pro-if all be subject to the charge of C. G. Rajya Sahakari Baink Mydt. Pendri Raipur Branch For the Amount mentioned against the borrowers/constituents.

C.G. RAJYA SAHAKARI BANK MYDT. (APEX BANK) HEAD OFFICE , ATAL NAGAR, NAYA RAIPUR (C.G.)

POSSESSION NOTICE

(Rule 8(1))

Description of the immovable properties and details of borrowers i constituents dues etc

No	Name of the Borrower	Details of the property	Notice	in notice	
			Date of Possession taken		
1	2	3.	4	5	
1.	Krishnamurli & Shri Gundbala	No.07 (Santoshi Nagar), RMM Teh	23.01.2024 10.02.2024	Mortgage Loan Rs. 12,29,781.00 & OD Properly Loan Rs. 10,19,485.00 As pe date 15.09.2023 * Interest charged in foure and other expenses of any amount deposited in the Arc.	
	ce : Raipur to : 13.02.2024	,		Authorized Officer C.G. RajyaSahakari Bank Mydt. Office, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur (C.G.)	

State Bank of India

RACPC- ZONAL OFFICE, BYRON BAZAR, RAIPUR (C.G) Ph:-0771-4089154,4267586 | Fax: 0771-4040334

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) [See rule 8 (1)]

KAWARDHA, DIST -KABIRDHAM (CG),

BRANCH-KAWARDHA 208520

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the STATE BANK OF INDIA under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement.) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The horrowers in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property wil

be subject to the charge of STATE BANK OF INDIA, for amount mentioned below and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the

Demand Notice Dt. Outstanding Name of the Borrower Description of the Immovable Property / Guarantor Possession Notice Dt. Amount 1. Mr. Sanjay Poragade S/o Shri (1) 12.10.2023 Rs. 2741497.88/- Khasra no 305/43, Ward No-04, P.H.No 108/37 Champatal Poragade +Interest & Other Khata No. 1418. Area- 1125 Soft, Gondwara, District (2) 13.02.2024 & Tehsif- Raipur (C.G.). Boundaries: North- Road South-Land of Jha , East-Land of Jai Prakash , West-Land of Jha

GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

ss, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Griftum Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as Poorswalls Housing Finance Limited as the name Poor

Vinereas, the unusualized complish Authorised white in Common Housing Finance Limited with effect from 17 Nov 2023 (Previously known as Magna Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Component of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Interest Act and with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Public 2002, issued as demand notice below distinct calling upon the below Bornowers to respect the amount mendoded in the notice within 60 days from the date of recept of the said note. The bornowers having fished to repay the amount mendoded in the notice within 60 days from the date of recept of the said note. powers confurred on him? her under Section 13 (4) of the sed Act med with Rule 8 of the seid rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on the delea mentioned herein below rowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of secured Creditor the amount and nee

Sr. No	Company of the Compan	Description of Property	Possession taken Date	Date of statutory Demand Notice	Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1	KAMLA PANDEY, ASHISH PANDEY,	All That Piece And Piecel Of Survey No. 2001/12 P.H.No. 15 Village Kaderpur R.J. Cinde Antibiagour Tahisi Antibiagour Dist. Surgiusi Adm. 10.009 Hect. City Of-Antibiagour Saheli Gali Shiv Mandir, Chinattegarh 497001 East By:- Road, West By:- House Of Reikha Snigh, North By:- Road. South By:- House Of Shambhu Ram Jamike.		06/11/2023	Loan No. HM0106/H/16/100006 Rs. 339677.913- (Rupees Three Lash ThirtyNine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy- Seven Paise NinetyOne Only) payable as in 06/11/2023 along with interest in 15.8 p.a. 88 the resization.
2	Mohammad Asad, Bilkish Begum M S Rab	All That Piece And Parcel Of Mortgaged Property Of Part Of Abadi Kh. No. 870. Municipal House No. 180 & 161, 2300 Sq.Ft. Stanted At Raigur Khas, Abdul Raigl. Ward No.41, Betlind Masjid Othortapare, Raigur, P.C. No. 106 A. Ric Raigur-1, Raigur (C.G.)	12/02/2024	14/11/2022	Loan No. HL/0022/H/13/100048 Rs. 4205742,140000006l. (Rupees FourtyTwo Lakin Five Thuusand Seven Huntred FourtyTwo Paise Fourteen Only) payable as on 14/11/2022 along with interest @ 13.80 p.s.

Meeting held for preparation of Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela

Secretary of Religious Trust and Endowment Department, Anbalagan P, Raipur Commissioner Sanjay Managing Director of Tourism Board Jitendra Shukla, Director of Department, Culture Vivek Acharya jointly took various measures regarding the preparations for organizing Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela here. In the meeting, Rajim instructed the officials of the department related to Kumbh Kalp Mela to ensure necessary arrangements at the fair venue also took stock of the construction works being done for the development of Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela.

Dhamtari Gandhi, Namrata Gariaband District Senior Superintendent of



Superintendent of Police Anianeva Vaishnav, District Dhamtari Panchayat CEO Roma Srivastava, Gariaband District Panchayat CEO Rita Yadav and other officials were present.It is noteworthy that Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela, starting from 24th February Magh Purnima, is pro-

posed till Mahashivratri 08th March 2024. During inspection. Divisional Commissioner Alang, while observing the updated status of preparation at Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela site, noted construction and repair of roads at the fair site, construction of temporary helipad, parking

site, parking arrangements for traffic control, repair of approach roads of Rajim Mela, patch re-Ghatarani, repair of roads leading from Gariahand Panchkoshidham, Bhuteshwar Nath Dham and all religious places

Negligence of contractor of NH-930

Dalli-Rajhara, Feb 14:

Due to the negligence of the team of contractor Kanhaiya Lal Agrawal of famous National Highway 930 of Balod district, the residents of the area are suffering the consequences in such a wav that the number of accidents on National Highway 930 has crossed double digits and the number of deaths in accidents in road accidents has increased too. It is known that during the Congress rule, Kanhaiya Lal Agrawal had got the work of construction of almost all the National Highways Chhattisgarh which in-

Kawardha, Khairagarh, Narayanpur areas. Complaints have been received about Kanhaiya Lal Aggarwal being negligent in the National Highway work everywhere.

Similarly, Highway 930 of Balod district from Jhalmala to Chandrapur What Project Manager says

The work on National Highway 930 is being expedited. The work of installing sign boards will be done on the diversion route and due to shortage of labourers, work is incomplete at some places on the route.

> Sunil Sharma Project Manager KLA

the news since the beginning due to negligence in the work. Due to the nexus of contractors and departmental officials, hundreds of potholes have appeared on the highway up to Gram Panchayat Bhainsbod, Danitola, Kusumkasa, Armurakasa Manpur Chowk, due to which road accidents are happening every second day. It may be noted that a few days ago, a constable posted at Rajhara police station had died in a road accident near Armurkasa. Even after that the departmental officers did not open their

villagers of Khamhartola in Manpur Chowk, along with

Khairagarh, Feb 14:

ber Sanjay Bais, protested and demanded action against the contractor. Due to the assurance of the administration, the movement was postponed. But due to the nexus between the contractor and departmental officials, the negligence again reached its peak.

SP SR Bhagat assures FIR

Taking serious note of the continuous negligence on the National Highway 930 in Balod district and the road accidents taking place on bad roads, Balod District Superintendent of Police SR Bhagat has blamed the contractor of National Highway 930 and the departmental of-

Bright Spark Academy's

National Highway 930 has less number of workers. Sometimes they come for work. sometimes they don't, due to which the work is going on at a slow pace. The work will be expedited soon.

Wasim Shaikh **Engineer-National** Highway 930 Balod

constable posted at Rajhara police station. Considering him a co-accused, he has given assurance that the crime will be registered under Section 304 (A) and taken investigation. Superintendent of Police SR Bhagat said that the contractors and officials of National Highway 930 should rectify their negligence, otherwise due to negligence in the road accidents occurring on National Highway 930 and being the root cause of the accident, he has assured to register a

Free facility of X-ray, sonography and ECG in district hospital

Bilaspur, Feb 14:

The executive meeting Jeevandeep Committee of the District Hospital was organized under the chairmanship of Collector Avnish Sharan and in the meeting, it has been decided to make X-ray, ECG and sonography facilities free for all patients. This facility is already available free of cost to pregnant mothers in the hospital.

The Collector directed to provide free facility of Sonography, Purchased an ambulance in the hospital, made better arrangements for beds in Nutrition Rehabilitation Center and gave instructions to complete the work of



Hummer Lab soon and necessary instructions were given to Civil Surgeon Dr. Anil Gupta this regard. Corporation Commissioner

Kumar, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. Anil Srivastava, MLA representatives, doctors and other members of the committee were pres-

Health Department meeting concludes

Dhamtari, Feb 14:

A meeting of the Health Department was concluded here under the chairmanship of Collector Ms. Namrata Gandhi, and on the Collector conducted a detailed review of the departmental schemes. Under the eradication programme, all block medical officers were instructed to motivate their medical contacts like medical stores, private nursing homes, NGOs to become Nikshay Mitras.

During the review of leprosy eradication program, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. S.K. Mandal said that the number of patients registered in the district is 99 PB cases and 96 MB cases under treatment. On this, the Collector directed that if any new case is registered, the people around it should be surveyed and medicines



should be provided immediately to reduce its impact and publicity should be done to create awareness among the people.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, the Collector has given instructions to make 100% Ayushman cards by coordinating with the sub-divisional officers. In the meeting, evaluation of quality under Kayakalp, Lakshya, Muskaan program to all the government hospitals

of the district, was also ac-

ties of the organization. In the fest students of Nursery, PP-1, PP-2, Class-1 and Class-2 gave a captivating dance performance on traditional western and religious songs, while comedy dances and Children also gave attrac-

Verma and Akanksha

Verma, were present as

the chief guest. Director of

the organization, Mrs.

Harpreet Kaur Suri,

presided over the discus-

sion with the parents

while giving information

about the positive activi-



Chhattisgarhi which were highly appreciated. In the last session of the function, students of classes 3, 4 and 1, 2 presented a group drama filled with public spirit which enlivened the function. On this occasion, the students selected in the Olympiad examination were honoured by the guests with gold medals and citations.

Teachers Amita, Ekta. Alkama and Latika were

honored by school direc tor Mrs. Harpreet Kaur Suri with citations for their special work. The ceremony was conducted and vote of thanks was given by Ms. Tejaswini Patkar. Principal Mrs. Amita Srivastava, Ekta Yaday, Latika Shastri, Dhvani Kataria, Riya, Arsia, Alkama, Neha, Jagriti, Deepti and other teachers of the institution had commendable contribution in making the

Collector inspects crops affected by hailstorm and unseasonal rain

Kawardha, Feb 14:

District Collector Janmejay Mahobe along with Revenue, Horticulture, Agriculture and Crop Insurance Company here visited various villages of Kawardha, Pipariya and Sahaspur Lohara tehsil to inspect the damage caused to Rabi crops due to unseasonal rain and hailstorm. The Collector reached village Baiji, Dudhiya, Sahaspur Lohara tehsil Gorakhpur, Sighori, Bazaar Charbhatha, Gaidpur, Danighatoli of Pipariya Gaidpur, tehsil, discussed with the farmers there and reached their fields. After the in-



spection, the Collector told the farmers that based on the damage to the crops, the damage will be assessed under the Insurance Company and Natural Disaster Revenue Book Circular and a case will be prepared to compensate the farmers as per the rules. On the instructions of the Collector, SDM PC Kori also inspected the wheat crop in

Showcases preparedness and collaboration

Sipat. Feb 14:

The 3rd battalion of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Cuttack, Odisha, successfully conducted a district level Mega Mock Drill at NTPC Sipat on Feb 14, focusing on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) defence strategies and collaboration. A preliminary table top meeting was held on 13.02.2024 with various stakeholders, including district administration authorities, State Disaster Response Force, CISF Security & Fire wings, and NTPC Management to identify various roles and responsibilities as per Onsite Emergency



Plan and ensure smooth conduct of the drill in coordination with various agencies/authorities

On Feb 14, a live demonstration was given to protect against chlorine gas leakage. The preparedness drill is testament to the commitment towards proactive crisis management. At the end of the program, Shri Anil Shankar Sharan, GM(O&M) extended his gratitude to NDRF, SDRF and CISF teams participating in this drill and praised them for their

CECians Arpita and Yash

dedication and hardwork during the mock drill. Shri Shiv Kumar Kanwar, Dy Collector Bilaspur, Shri S K Thakur, DIG, SDRF, and Shri Pawan Joshi, DC, NDRF and Shri Vijay Singh Potai, Asst. Dir, IHS, Bilaspur applauded the seamless collaborative conduct of the drill. Other officials from District Administration, GMs and HODs of NTPC Sipat and NTPC employees were also present during the drill. The Mega Mock Drill served as

a vital platform to test and evaluate the efficacy of existing protocols while identifying areas for improvement. Moving forward, NTPC Sipat remains steadfast in its mission to strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities, thereby safeguarding the well-being of our communi-

BJP District V-P LK Rayudu is committing assault: Rathore

Bijapur, Feb 14:

Congress District Committee President Lalu Rathore, while addressing the press conference in Bijapur on Wednesday, said that senior Congress worker of District Congress Committee and MLA representative Bhairamgarh

Abhishek Thakur. While going to the SBI Bank branch of Bhairamgarh, Bharatiya Janata Party Bijapur District Vice President Luv Kumar Rayudu reached on the road and while abusing Abhishek Thakur, he attacked Abhishek Thakur fatally with an iron rod due to which Abhishek suffered injuries on his chest and hand. In a peaceful



Luv Kumar Rayudu is definitely a matter of concern. Such incidents deteriorate mutual harmony. The administration should take this incident seriously and take immediate legal action against BJP District Vice President Luv Kumar Rayudu. Otherwise, the Congress District Committee will agitate regarding such incidents for which the entire responsibility will be on the govern-

ment administration.

Addressing the press

District Committee Congress President Lalu Rathore further said that BJP District Vice President is closest to former MLA Mahesh Gagda and this is the reason why Luv Kumar Rayudu has the full protection of former MLA Mahesh Gagda. That Luv Kumar Rayudu is engaged in hooliganism by beating people in broad daylight. Ever since the BJP government was formed in the state, people with criminal

tendencies like Luv Kumar

tection of former MLA Mahesh Gagda. In the press conference, Lalu Rathore said that on one hand BJP gives the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, while on the other hand, people with criminal tendencies like Luv Kumar Rayudu are engaged in beating people under the patronage of former MLA Mahesh Gagda in the district. Congress Committee wants to ask Bijapur BJP whether they support the act of Luv Kumar Rayudu, who spread violence by beating with rods under the protection of former MLA Mahesh Gagda, or will they take action against Luv Kumar Rayudu?

Rayudu have got the pro-

grabbed package of 5.70 Ll Bilaspur, Feb 14: Chouksey Group of Colleges,

Bilaspur is delighted to share the selection news of Arpita Tiwari and Yash Sinha. students from the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) branch, Session 2023-24, being selected in Campus Recruitment Drive by Learning Routes Pvt. Ltd. with a lucrative package of 5.70 LPA. Yash Sinha's remarkable academic journey at Chouksey Group of Colleges has been a testament to his dedication and proficiency in the field of **Computer Science and** Engineering, His hard work and commitment have not only



earned him recognition within the academic community but have now opened doors to a promising career with Learning Routes Pvt. Ltd. Arpita Tiwari's outstanding academic performance has caught the attention of the selection team. Her exemplary

have positioned her as an

exceptional talent in the field.

skills and commitment, as recognized by mentors and peers.

Expressing joy on this achievement, Arpita and Yash Sinha stated, "We are honored to be selected by Learning Routes. Company has given an exciting opportunity to us to advance in our educational and career pursuits." On this occasion of success, the management team of Learning Routes highlighted the significance of selecting an outstanding students. The company hopes that selected students will further contribute to excellence by showcasing their talent and resilience in overcoming challenges.

Learning Routes, a leading education technology company, identified Arpita's and

Yash's potential during the selection process and extended tem an offer with a competitive package of 5.70 LPA. This accomplishment is not only a testament to their academic excellence but also to the quality of education and guidance provided by Chouksey Group of Colleges. Expressing his gratitude and excitement, Yash Sinha said, "I am thankful for the education and support I received at Chouksey Group of Colleges, which has played a significant role in my success. Arpita Tiwari said, "Joining Learning Routes is a fantastic opportunity, and I am eager to contribute my skills to the company."

BUSINESS COUNCIL MEETING

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Indian diaspora celebrates inauguration of Abu Dhabi's first stone Hindu temple

Abu Dhabi, Feb 14 (PTI)

Members of the Indian diaspora in the UAE dressed in traditional attires on Wednesday expressed joy in attending the inauguration of the first Hindu stone temple in Abu Dhabi, which has addressed their long-pending

Dancing their way to the entry of the temple, Rangnekar, dressed up in a traditional Maharashtrian saree, led the group of people from her state.

"Our Ganpati now has a temple here. It is like an early ganpati mahotsay celebration for us this vear. We have been waiting for this for years," Rangnekar, who has been living in the UAE for 32 years, told PTI.

The temple is even more special for members of the Oriya community as it is the first temple in the UAE to have a Jagannath idol.



A group of devotees cheer as they pose for photographs before the opening of the first stone-built Hindu temple in the Middle East, in Abu Mureikha, 40 kilometers (25 miles) northeast of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Feb. 14.

"There are temples in other parts of the UAE but there is no Jagannath idol there. It is a magical moment for us," said Kartik Singh, who works for an oil and gas compa-

ny here.

Women from Bengali families performed "dhuni nach" at the entry of the temple premises.

"This is performed when we welcome Ma

Durga and today we are welcoming our gods to the land we call home now," Stupta Das, an engineer, told PTI. Children from Tamil Nadu dressed in traditional mundu

from Bengaluru who used to live in the UAE till 2022 has come from India especially to attend the inauguration.

"I had even laid a brick when the construction was going on, though I have moved back to India now but I didn't want to miss the occasion. I used to miss going to a temple when I was here," she told PTI.

The first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi is set to be inaugurated later Wednesday. While the consecration ceremony for the idols began in the morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a dedication ceremony.

The temple has been built by the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha on a 27-acre site in Abu Mureikhah, near Al Rahba off the Dubai-Abu Dhabi Sheikh Zayed Highway, at a cost of around Rs 700 crore.

Indian lecturer wins compensation over race discrimination case against UK university

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak speaks with business leaders during the first

meeting of his Business Council inside 10 Downing Street, central London,

London, Feb 14 (PTI):

Wednesday Feb. 14.

An Indian lecturer who had earlier won her case of discrimination on the grounds of race against University Portsmouth has been awarded over GBP 450,000 as compensation by an Employment Tribunal in England.

Dr Kajal Sharma had won her case back in December 2022 after an Employment Tribunal in Southampton ruled that she had been discriminated against when overlooked for a role as a "visible" member of the university's ethnic minority staff. Her "marked Indian accent" was noted in the

judgment at the time and she had been doing for five recently a judge concluded years, meant that a hundred per cent of the black that "unconscious bias" was at play in the way the and minority ethnic staff academic, who was appointed to a five-year fixed term secondment as Associate Head for Organisational Studies and Human Resources Management at the university starting January 2016, was treated. Sharma has now been awarded the compensation with the possibility of around GBP 300,000 additionally, based on her pension calcula-

reapplying for their job had not been recruited. whereas 11/12 of white staff applying for their jobs had been recruited," noted the tribunal, dubbing the recruitment decision "statistically significant". The hearing in the case

Southampton, was also told about a series of related issues involving Sharma's treatment during bereavement following the death of her father in

छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित ग्राम-उरला, पो - बी.एम.वाय. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक / 4268 / छगद्मस / क्रय / 2024

tions. "The fact that the

claimant was not success-

ful in applying for the job

/ मिल्क पार्लर निर्माण एवं प्रदाय कार्य हेत् निविदा सचना /

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा मिल्क पालेर निर्माण कार्य तथा निर्धारित स्थान में प्रदाय कर, स्थापित करनें हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है. जिसकी निविदा जगा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 15.03.2024 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट :www.cgcoopdairyfed.in पर उपलब्ध है।

प्रबंध संचालक

Burj Khalifa lit up with Indian Tricolour to welcome PM Modi



Dubai, Feb 14 (PTI): The iconic Burj Khalifa was lit in the Indian tri-colour as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with the UAE President and India was the guest of honour at this vear's World Governments Summit here.

On Tuesday, prime minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with the UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the two countries inked 10 agreements for collaboration in key sectors like energy, infrastructure,

NATO is a "sacred com-

mitment" for the US,

President Joe Biden has

said as he slammed his

Trump for his recent re-

South Korea says

North Korea fired

cruise missiles

Seoul, Feb 14 (AP): South

Korea's military says it has

detected North Korea firing

multiple cruise missiles into

waters off its northeastern

coast in its fifth test of such

South Korea's Joint Chiefs

of Staff on Wednesday didn't

immediately provide the exact

numbers of missiles fired or

The launches were North

Korea's six missile-launch

event this year, also including

a January 14 test of the coun-

try's first solid-fuel intermedi-

Tenders has been Participated.

G-07772/1

weapons since January.

how war they flew.

ate range missile.

Donald

encouraging

predecessor

investments. Burj Khalifa was also lit up with the words **Guest of Honour Republic of** India' on Tuesday ahead of keynote address at the 2024 **World Governments Summit** on Wednesday. Extending a "warm welcome" to Modi, **Dubai's Crown Prince Sheikh** Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum on Tuesday shared on X two images of the Buri Khalifa, lit up with colours of the Indian flag and logo of the World

NATO a 'sacred commitment'; Trump looks at it as a burden: Biden

Washington, Feb 14 (PTI): Russia to attack certain Presidential polls, under-

military alliance by call-

ing the comments "dan-

and

Biden said the remarks

by Trump, his likely chal-

lenger in the November 5

pm (The last date & time for submission of

bid response, after which no bids can be

11.30 am (The date of opening of Envelop-

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

A&Banine)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

MAHANADI PROJECT RAIPUR

(CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (Tender Cancel Notice)

26.12.2023, F.R.L. Survey and Boundry Stone Work, Repair of D/S

Floor of first fall and development of Garden on Right side of

Moorumsilli dam, Vide publication No. G. No. 06722. Due to Single

System Tender No. 150259/ NIT No.: 07/SAC/2023-24 Dated:

Executive Engineer

Water Management Dn., Rudri Code No. 38

For Chief Engineer,

Mahanadi Project, Raipur (C.G.)

gerous"

American'

nations of the 74-year-old scored the urgency of

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MAHANADI PROJECT RAIPUR

(CHHATTISGARH)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

(5th Call)

CORRIGENDUM NO. 2

06379. Construction of Protection Well and Damaged Piching on DIS of New Rudri Barrage. The following amendments are given below due to unforeseen circumstance

Earlier Published in E-procurement Website Present Amendment in E-procurement Website

Bid Due Date and time: 26.12.2023, 17.30 | 1. Bid Due Date and time: 02.01.2024, 17.30

Bid Open Start Date and time: 27.12.2023, 2. Bid Open Start Date and time: 03.01.2024

A&Bonline)

In Tender System No. 149042 NIT No.: 06/SAC/2023-24 Dated: 05.10.2023, G.No.

US allies.

House.

"We extend a warm wel-

come to the Republic of India, the guest of honour at this year's World Governments Summit, and to His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. The strong ties between our nations serve as a model for international cooperation," the post read.

"The @WorldGovSummit has evolved into one of the world's leading platforms for sharing governance best practices, success stories and initiatives, and envisioning the future of government. It is a pleasure to have India as a distinguished guest at this international event, where it will showcase its innovations, initiatives and projects across diverse sectors that are a model for accelerating development for government service delivery," it said.

passing a USD 95 billion

foreign aid package for

Senate, but it faces politi-

cal headwinds in the

The bill just passed the

Indian armed forces team tours UK's Defence Academy to deploy its Carrier

London, Feb 14 (PTI):

Armed forces participants from the Higher Defence Management Course (HDMC) of India met with senior UK defence officials as part of International Strategic Management Tour to Britain this week.

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) said the visit reflected the strengthening ties with counterparts in India, with the UK-India defence partnership getting a boost through such educational visits and joint staff talks.

The delegation from India follows the UK's announcement during the visit last month of Rajnath Singh of plans the Indian Ocean Region "Major General James Director

Roddis, Strategy at Strategic Command, met with parfrom Management Course (HDMC) of India," the MoD said in a statement.

Strike Group (CSG) to

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं वन बल प्रमुख, छत्तीसगढ़ अरण्य भवन, सेक्टर-19 नया रायप्र (शाखा-प्रशा.राज/सम.)

Corrigendum Tender for Outsourcing of the Canteen Service at Aranya Bhawan, Nava Raipur (C.G.)

Last date of submission of bid has been extended to 26.02.2024 at 2 PM which will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM

> Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Fores (Administration Gazetted / Coordination)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता. लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक २ (छत्तीसगढ़)

ई-प्रोक्युरमेट निविदा सूचना

(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

दिनांक 09.02.2024 निम्नांकित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "ढी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के टेकंदार लु निविदा आर्मिजत की जाती 🌓 ऑनलाईन निविदा ढाउनलोड करने की अंतिम

एन,आई.टी. क./ मिविदा ता.	कार्य का नाम	कार्ग भी अनुसारित ज्यागत (साध्य में)	
1	2	3	
NIT NO. 248 Tender No. 152772	बर्तीयाबाक्त एवं भाटापास अनुविधाम जंतर्गत नाद्याट से बर्तीदाकाकार नार्ग (राज्य नार्ग क -10) के कियी 19/2 में 38/10 = 10.00 कियी. एवं 32/2 से 37/10 = 8.00 कियी. कुल लम्बाई 18.00 कियी. में बी. टी. येंच मरनमत कार्य।	रू. 182.73 लाख	

एएरोजन निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य वर्ते क्रांबर शक्ति विस्तान निर्विता विकासि निर्विता प्रस्ताताम ।। अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रावणीरमेंट वेम परित्र https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in क्षाउनलोड की जा सकती है। (शशि रू. 100.00 के नान ज्युव्धिशयस स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनलम राशि कः 10.00 के नान ज्युव्धिशयल स्टाम पर एनेकजर-3 का शपथ पत्र विस्केपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2 10 में संलग्न संशोधित प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें है

निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट प किया जावेशा, पथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेशा (

अधीक्षण अभियंता

लो.नि.वि.. रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)

Credible Chhottisgorh आपकी थी चाह, हमने बनाई राह

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA 15-A, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075



60 Ministry of Cul

pm (The last date & time for submission of

bid response, after which no bids can be

11,30 am (The date of opening of Envelop

Executive Engineer

Water Management Dn., Rudri Code No. 38

For Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project, Raipur (C.G.)

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)

SCHEME FOR AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUNG ARTISTES IN DIFFERENT CULTURAL FIELDS

Off-line Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Scholarships from Young Artistes of Outstanding promise in the fields of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical Dances, Light Classical Music, Theatre, Visual Arts and Folk Traditional and Indigenous Arts.

Please note Applications are invited for the Batch Year 2022-23 with effect from 15th February, 2024. There are 400 scholarships available this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture Government of India and CCRT i.e. www.indiaculture.nic.in & www.ccrtindia.gov.in.

31st March, 2024 is the last date for submission of applications.

ONLY OFF-LINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

CBC 09127/12/0012/2324



CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)

Plot No. 15-A, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075



SCHEME FOR THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP TO OUTSTANDING PERSONS IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE

Offline Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Junior and Senior Fellowship for undertaking research oriented projects in the field of Performing, Literary, Plastic Arts and New

Applications are invited for the year 2022-23 with effect from dated 15th February, 2024. There are 200 Junior & 200 Senior Fellowships for this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture

> www.indiaculture.nic.in www.ccrtindia.gov.in

31st March, 2024 is the last date for submission of applications.

ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

CBC 09127/12/0010/2324



icm२ भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद

"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

Adv.No.ICMR/Tech-Rect/TO-B&C/01/2024-Estt.

Dated: 31st January 2024

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR TECHNICAL OFFICER POSTS

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is an Autonomous Organization, under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of aith & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. ICMR is dealing with biomedical/health research in various areas, in collaboration with National nternational agencies, through its Headquarters at New Delhi and 27 Institutes/ Centres and various field stations, situated across the

ICMR invites online applications, from Indian Citizens, to fill up following Technical Officers Group 'A' positions under ICMF Hors. New Delhi for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment with all India transfer liability under the Council:

Stream and No. of posts	Рау эсан	Age
Bio-Medical Engineering -01	Pay Level-10 of Pay Matrix (Rs.56,100-1,77,500) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time	Not exceeding 35 years
	Pay Level-11 of Pay Matrix (Rs.67,700-2,08,700)	Not exceeding 45 years
Electrical Engineering -01	(7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as	
Computer/Information Technology Engineering -01	admissible from time to time	
Artificial Intelligence Engineering -01		
Programmer +01	č.	
Mechanical/Mechatronics / Instrumentation Engineering -02		
	Bio-Medical Engineering -01 Civil Engineering -01 Electrical Engineering -01 Computer/Information Technology Engineering -01 Artificial Intelligence Engineering -01 Programmer -01 Mechanical/Mechatronics /	Bio-Medical Engineering -01 Pay Level-10 of Pay Matrix (Rs.56,100-1,77,500) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time. Civil Engineering -01 Pay Level-10 of Pay Matrix (Rs.56,100-1,77,500) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible from time to time. Computer/Information Technology Engineering -01 Artificial Intelligence Engineering -01 Programmer -01 Mechanical/Mechatronics /

Posts are identified suitable for Persons with Benchmark Disability

The last date of receipt of online applications is up to 08th March, 2024 till 5:30 PM. For essential eligibility criteria and other general terms and conditions. Please visit website of ICMR i.e. www.icmr.nic.in.

Assistant Director General (Admin)

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 135

INDIA in Turmoil

NDIA, once a beacon of hope for a united opposition against the ruling coalition, now stands at the precipice of disarray and defeat. The volteface of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the defection of key leaders like Ashok Chavan in Maharashtra, and the disarray within constituent parties highlight a worrying trend that demands immediate attention. Nitish Kumar's abrupt departure from the Mahagathbandhan and subsequent return to the NDA fold epitomizes the political opportunism that plagues our nation. His maneuvering not only undermines the trust of voters but also weakens the fabric of opposition unity. With the loss of key MLAs from the RJD, the opposition finds itself in disarray, further exacerbated by Ashok Chavan's defection to the BJP in Maharashtra. The Congress, once a stalwart of Indian politics, is now grappling with its own internal turmoil. As seasoned leaders like Chavan defect to the ruling party, the Congress's inability to secure alliances with regional players like the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party reflects a lack of strategic foresight. Without cohesive alliances, the opposition stands fractured and vulnerable in the face of a resurgent NDA. The recent decision of the Rashtriya Lok Dal to join the NDA underscores the shifting political landscape. Despite the BJP's adeptness at forging and breaking alliances, the opposition remains mired in indecision and discord. While the BJP capitalizes on its successes, the opposition languishes in a state of disunity, unable to present a formidable challenge to the ruling coalition. As the Lok Sabha elections nearing, the need for a strong and unified opposition has never been more pressing. The INDIA bloc, formed with the noble objective of providing an alternative to the NDA, now teeters on the brink of irrelevance. If the Congress and its allies continue to falter, INDIA risks becoming a mere footnote in the annals of Indian political history. It is imperative that opposition leaders set aside their differences and rally behind a common vision for the country. They must prioritize the interests of the nation over petty squabbles and personal ambitions. Only through unity and resolve can the opposition hope to stem the tide of the NDA's dominance and offer voters a credible alternative. The decline of INDIA is not inevitable, but it requires concerted effort and unwavering commitment from all stakeholders. Now is the time for opposition leaders to demonstrate true leadership and steer the bloc away from the precipice of oblivion. The fate of our democracy hangs in the balance, and it is incumbent upon us all to ensure that INDIA rises from the ashes and regains its rightful place in the political arena.

The Delhi Chalo Agitation A Crucial Moment for Farmer Rights

Yash Pal Ralhan n the heartland of India, where the agricultural backbone of the nation thrives, a fervent cry for justice echoes once more. The Delhi Chalo agitation, initiated by farmers, resounds with the urgency of long-standing demands: a guaranteed minimum support price (MSP), debt waivers, and pensions for the agrarian workforce. Yet, as the saga unfolds against the backdrop of a looming parliamentary hiatus and amidst the cacophony of political posturing, it becomes evident that the time for introspection and action is upon us all. The timing of this agitation, as some speculate, coincides with the announcement of impending elections. However, to reduce it merely to political maneuvering is to trivialize the genuine grievances of those toiling the soil. The Congress, in its perennial critique of the ruling government's approach to rural issues, highlights a systemic neglect of the rural populace in favour of urban-centric agendas. Conversely, the BJP, amidst its defense of schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, faces accusations of overlooking the fundamental needs of the farming community. This resurgence of farmer discontent marks a departure from previous protests, as a multitude of unions unite under the banner of Delhi Chalo. Yet, their journey is met with formidable resistance, as authorities fortify the borders and employ drones to enforce restrictions. The clash between farmers' determination and governmental barricades epitomizes a struggle for the soul of Indian agriculture. Central to the farmers' demands is the issue of MSP, a contentious topic that transcends mere economic discourse. While economists debate the efficacy of government-fixed MSPs, farmers persist in their call for income security amidst fluctuating market conditions. The dichotomy between market demands and farmer needs underscores the complexity of agrarian policymaking, requiring a delicate balance between corporate interests and agricultural sustainability. As the legal and political battle unfolds, the judiciary enjoins all parties to uphold the sanctity of individual freedoms while maintaining law and order. Yet, beyond legal intricacies, lies a moral imperative to address the plight of those who till the land. For too long, the rural voice has been drowned in the clamor of political rhetoric, relegated to the margins of national discourse. The Delhi Chalo agitation represents a watershed moment in India's agrarian landscape—a clarion call for justice, equity, and dignity for those who feed the nation. As farmers take center stage in advocating for their rights, it is incumbent upon policymakers to heed their voices and forge a path towards inclusive growth. The future of India's agricultural sector hinges not on political expediency but on a steadfast commitment to the welfare of those who sustain the very fabric of our nation.

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

BASANT PANCHAMI FESTIVAL



Hindu devotees offer prayers after taking holy dip in the Ganga river on the occasion of Basant Panchami festival during the annual 'Magh Mela' festival at Sangam, in Prayagraj, Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Empowering Women: A Call for Education, Values and Cultural Preservation



ndia's values and culture never allow injustice and atrocities on anyone and certainly not on women. Rather, it teaches the lesson of "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devta ". Both our history and present are full of such examples where women have proved their importance, superiority, and superiority over men. Be it spirituality, science and technology, law, art, music, commerce and management, education, administration, politics, governance, forces, medicine, agriculture, industry etc. Not only in the past, but even today in India, many women are working in top positions in various fields. They remain the pillars of the system in most families and are always ready to walk shoulder to shoul-

Nowadays, the situation of women in our country looks different. While, on one hand, women are becoming empowered, self-reliant, and reaching the pinnacle of progress in every field, on the other hand, women of all ages are becoming victims of physical, economic. sexual, and emotional harassment. The incidents of molestation, assault, kidnapping, dowry harassment, feticide, rape, murder, exploitation, acid throwing etc. are increasing day by day. According to the National Crime Records Bureau 2019-21 data, the total crimes registered against women in 2021 increased by 15.3 percent compared to 2020, and the crime rate rose

from 56.5 (2020) to 64.5 percent (2021). If the perpetrators of these crimes are traced, the involvement of relatives and family members is more visible. Even young people are registering their names among the perpetrators of crimes. Through a live-in relationship, society/families believed that young couples could understand each other and strengthen their relationship before marriage, ensuring stability in married life. However, it seems that this is not always the case, as it has also become a medium for crime and exploitation. Facts and situations are making it clear that in today's Kaliyuga era, the thread of purity in relationships is becoming weak. There is no age limit for the culprit. Attraction towards the opposite sex of minors, teenagers, and vouth can be understood, but committing a crime is a matter of greater con-

The current statistics regarding crimes against girls/women are not good. Keeping in mind this, both the state and central governments of our country are working hard and trying their level best to stop or lower the crimes against females. They have taken various measures to stop crime against women on one side and on other side trying to strengthen the empowerment of women. Various NGOs are also engaged in creating awareness and environments at their level to reduce crimes against women. Despite all this, crimes against females are not decreasing; instead, they are increasing. Some relate it to the increasing population of India, but in my opinion, the population cannot be used as a shield. In this condition, various questions come to mind. Why are crimes against women increasing despite various measures? Are the people of India becoming uncultured? Is increasing drug addiction behind crimes against women? Is female illiteracy responsi-

ble? Is poor economic status responsible? Are women who are not self-reliant responsible for this situation? It is said that to find the solution to the problem, one has to look into the problem itself. Women will have to be aware of the crimes being committed against them, stand against crime, face adversity strongly, empower themselves, reduce dependence on males, and protect themselves. If necessary, one will have to approach the police or court, even if the culprit is a family member. Only then can women truly protect themselves from crime. Women will also have to move forward to take action under the law instead of hiding crimes and will not have to remain silent until the culprit is punished. The government is also requested to review the prevailing rules and regulations and see what are the shortcomings in the system due to which criminals escape from punishment for their crimes. If possible, the rules and regulations can be made stronger in terms of punishment. Most of the governments seem to be working towards this direction. In fact, governments from the Center to the State are providing reservations in every field and formulating and implementing various schemes to ensure women's empowerment through participation, especially in political and economic spheres.

In my view, only education, values, culture, and resources (being financially strong) can truly empower women. Thus it is necessary for every parent and government to ensure the education of a child whether it is male or fe male. Efforts must be made so that not a single girl is deprived of her right to education. Because it is only through education and skills that our girls and women can become capable of differentiating between right and wrong, good and bad, and will be in a position to make the right decisions independently. Education can also help in making them socially and economically strong, providing numerous opportunities for a successful career, and establishing their own identity. And above all, education will not only protect adult females from exploitation but also safeguard their children from all kinds of

Women should also learn and adopt good values and culture from family and society. Because these two characters will help in providing extra confidence and strength. But stereotypes, non-scientific beliefs, and misconceptions should be avoided. Women should always make efforts to become financially, physically, and mentally strong because these are the characteristics that can make women stronger, more capable, independent, and empowered. It is now the duty of every female to be aware of the beneficial schemes of the government, rights, and duties granted by the constitution. It is also the responsibility of parents to impart good values and culture to their children from an early age, and to explain to female children from childhood the difference between good touch and bad touch, good friends and bad friends, good habits and bad habits, and good relationships and bad relationships. A lesson of vigilance towards love jihad will have to be taught in the current

The central and state governments are providing various beneficial schemes and reservation facilities to empower women in education, employment, health, social security, and legal assistance. But to take advantage of all these, women will have to move forward. Girls/Women will have to find their own strength, bring out and sharpen the hidden skills, powers, qualities, and talents they have. In conclusion, I would like to say that the girls/women of India will have to in crease their self-confidence, boost morale, and understand that they were neither weak before nor will they remain weak in the present and future. They have lived with self-respect and will continue to do so in the future. They unite and collectively follow zero tolerance regarding female atrocities and crimes (minor or major). In fact, women can be considered empowered in the true sense only when they develop the courage to oppose crimes against any women and develop the habit of saying no to crime and exploitation (inside or outside the home) committed against them.

Politics of Maldives

Maldives may uphold religious politics on India using Turkey and may need alternative power like gain.Unfortunate on the fate of Maldives they lost vision of live examples of debt traps on Srilanka and on other destabilising roles by China for the win of Chinese goals. It is truly the failure of politics within Maldives. No one have a role on it, other than Maldives. Atleast respect should be maintained in thoughts and words by Maldives politicians. What insecurity does Maldives feel on the presence of Indian forces? What troubles are given by Indian forces? Morale of Maldives politics is good on Indian stand? Only Maldives can decide this.

Karan Singh, Chennai Required

ExaminationHigh Court judges, the second highest constitutional authorities in the judicial system, are required to undergo a written and oral examination if they seek appointment as State Consumer Commission Chairman post-retirement.This process, initiated to address concerns over favoritism in appointments, was acknowledged by the CJI to be detrimental to the dignity of judges. The Solicitor General concurred, suggesting it was a result of a court order. However, the CJI emphasized that such examinations compromise judicial dignity and suggested challenging the court's decision. While the need to maintain dignity is paramount, the responsibility lies with individuals rather than institutional rules.

N Ashraf, Mumbai **Economic Growth**

There has been a 17.3% annualised increase in direct tax collections to 18.38 lakh crore in 2023-24 up to February 10, with a 20.25% jump in net revenue after paying ?2.77 lakh crore in refunds, the finance ministry reported on Sunday, indicating increased compliance and a robust economy. Undoubtedly the country's economy is growing hurriedly but there is no benefit of it. Most part of country is still suffering from poverty and miserable conditions and poor people are starving even middle class also complaint desperate inflation. If this economic growth doesn't benifit the countrymen administrations should ponder over it.

Ibne Faroog, Ausanpur

Well-Decision by Qatar

Eight former Navy personnel who were detained on espionage charges in Qatar have been released of which seven have returned to India. The decision by Oatar comes as somewhat of a diplomatic win for India since it takes place weeks after PM Narendra Modi's meeting with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on the sidelines of the COP28 Summit in Dubai, where the former said that the well-being of the Indian commu-

nity in Oatar had been discussed. Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

Ups & downs of Power Politics in Bihar - II



Er. Prabhat Kishore

n the opposition party of Bihar. there was internal fight in the SSP between the upper and backward caste lobbies for leadership in which Karpoori Thakur, a Nai, succeeded. Daroga Roy govt. (16th Feb. 1970 to 22nd Dec. 1970) fell down and Karpoori Thakur became CM on 22nd Dec. 1970 with the support of the Jansangh. He too became a victim of defections and had to resign on 2nd June 1971. A forum of like minded legislatures named "Pragatishil Vidhayak Dal" was formed and its leader Bhola Paswan Shastri took over as CM for the third time. He again fell to kept legislature united and resigned on 27th December 1972; followed by President Rule on 9th Jan. 1972.

In a span of just 5 years since 1967 to 1972, the People of Bihar have faced 9 chief ministers. In a bid to eradicate the unstable political scenario, Congress was voted to power in 1972 election with 167 seats. The Congress continued its traditional game and in place of Ram Lakhan Yaday, the leader of the legislature party in the dissolved assembly, Kedar Pandey, a Brahmin, was made the CM (19.3.1972 to 02.07.1973). Pandey Government step down within one year and for the first time in the history of Bihar a Muslim leader Abdul Gafoor (02.07.1973 to 11.04.1975) was made the CM to counter the heavyweights Mishra brothers. Gafoor had to resign following the JP movement. Taking emotional sympathy of the assassination of the then railway minister Lalit Narayan Mishra in a Bomb explosion in Samastipur in 1974, his younger brother Dr. Jagannath Mishra, a Brahmin, become the CM (11.04.1975 to 30.04.1977) and during his tenure emergency was imposed on 25th June 1975. On 30 April 1977, Vidhan Sabha was dissolved and Bihar came under President's In general election of June 1977, the

Janata Party came to power with a landslide victory in the state. Despite strong President Satyendra Narayan Sinha, Karpoori Thakur was elected the leader of the legislature party and took oath as the CM (24.06.1977 to 21.04.1979). Thakur gained name & fame, when he implemented long-awaited Backward Class reservation in State Government services as well as institutions and distribute appointment letters to all unemployed engineers in the state. Under the patronage of Satyendra Narayan Sinha and even the blessings of JP, there were aggressive protests against the reservation. Ultimately, Karpoori Thakur had to resign and Ram Sundar Das, a Chamar, took charge of the CM (21.04.1979 to17.02.1980). The key of power was with S.N. Sinha and Dasji had no control over the administration. President's Rule was imposed on 17th February 1980, and the Vidhan Sabha was dissolved.

Congress return to power in the Midterm election in 1980 and Dr. Jagannath Mishra (08.06.1980 to 14.08.1983), became the CM for the second time. Mishra's worst functioning angered the Congress high command Chandrashekhar Singh, a Rajput (14.08.1983 to12.03.1985) was made the CM. The general election in 1985 was fought under Singh's leadership and the Congress returned to power, but surprisingly he was stepped down and State Congress President Bindeshwari Dube, a Brahmin, was blessed as the CM

(12.03.1985 to13.02.1988) by the Party high-command. Dubeii has full support of the MLAs, but Congress High Command pressurized him to resign and a new face Jha Azad, a Brahmin, (14.02.1988 to 10.03.1989), was made the

In the meantime, V.P. Singh started his activities against Bofors Scam & corruption and lateron Socialists also joined him. To counter V.P. Singh in the coming the Vidhan Sabha election, the Rajput leader Satyendra Narayan Sinha (11.03.1989 to 06.12.1989) was made the CM, his long awaited dream. He tried his best to implement the popular welfare schemes and to sort out unemployment issues. But in V.P. Singh wave, the Congress loose in Lok Sabha election and Satvendra Sinha was stepped down. Dr. Jagannath Mishra (06.12.1989 to 10.13.1990), who had the image of a corrupt politician in the public, was again made the CM. Dr. Mishra hampered all those popular ongoing works, which were of no personal benefit. Corruption has reached the highest level ever since independence. In the 1990 general election of Vidhan Sabha, Janata Dal came to power and the Congress was ousted for-

In 1990, there was direct fight for leadership in Janata Dal between Devilal supported Laloo Prasad and V.P. Singh supported Ram Sunder Das. Das had an edge over Laloo, but at the last moment Chadrashekhar supported Raghunath Jha jumped into fray spurring some upper caste MLAs, who were loyal to Dasji. Nitish Kumar and Sharad Yadav were instrumental in favour of Laloo Prasad. a Yadav. who was elected leader and sworn in as the CM (10.03.1990 to 25.07.1997). Due to technical reason President's Rule was in force since 28.03.1995 to 4.5.1995. For his involvement in Fodder Scam, Laloo Prasad had no way other than to step down. Laloo surprised everyone, when he put forward his house-wife Rabri Devi for the post of CM. Rabri Devi was elected the leader of the legislature party and in its history, Bihar saw its first women CM (27.7.1997 to 2.3.2002). Although, for short time President's Rule have been imposed since 11.02.1999 to 9.3.1999.

In the general election of 2000, no single party secured majority. Governor Vinod Narayan Pandey invited Nitish Kumar, a Kurmi, (3.3,2000 to 10,3,2000) to form the government, but he could not succeed to gather majority mark and resigned within 7 days. Rabri Devi was once again sworn in as the CM with the support of the Congress, whose all legislatures got ministerial berth and its leader Sadanand Singh was chaired as Vidhan Sabha speaker.

(Author is a technocrat & academician.)

BRIEF

Appointment



New Delhi: Railway PSU IRCTC on Wednesday announced the appointment of Sanjay Kumar Jain as its Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect. Prior to this role, Jain was Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Northern Railway, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) said in an exchange filing. "...the appointment of Saniav Kumar Jain has been approved by the Government of India (Ministry of Railways) for the post of CMD on immediate absorption basis...for a period with effect from the date of his assumption of charge of the post and till the date of his superannuation i.e. 31.12.2026 or until further orders,

Terminal building

whichever is the earlier," IRCTC said.

New Delhi: Dehradun airport's new terminal building, constructed at a cost of Rs 486 crore, was inaugurated on Wednesday. With the new terminal building, inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia, the airport

will be able to handle

3,240 passengers dur-

AC models

ing peak hours.



New Delhi: Panasonic launched its 2024 lineup of air conditioners, with 60 new models mostly across inverter AC range. This also includes India's first matter-enabled room ACs, powered by its IoT plat form Miraie, a statement from Panasonic Life Solutions India (PLSIND) said. A matter-enabled device can be set up in a few seconds, connecting it to customer's network, smart speakers, ACs "We developed and manufactured our new range of ACs, keeping the evolving needs of our consumers in mind.

Solar project

■ New Delhi: NTPC on Tuesday said its green energy subsidiary has commissioned a 14 MW capacity of Ayodhya Solar Photovoltaic Project. NTPC Green Energy Ltd, a whollyowned subsidiary of NTPC, is setting up a 40 MW solar project in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. "Consequent upon successful commissioning and due approvals, first part capacity of 14 MW out of 40 MW Ayodhya Solar PV Project of NTPC Green Energy Limited, is declared on commercial operation with effect from 27.01.2024," it said.

Wholesale inflation eases to 3-month low of 0.27 pc in Jan

Food prices cool

New Delhi, Feb 14:

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to a threemonth low of 0.27 per cent in January, mainly due to moderation of food prices. including vegetables. The WPI inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.39 per cent.

In January 2023, it was at 4.8 per cent and in December 2023 it was 0.73 per cent. "The annual rate of inflation based on the All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 0.27 per cent (provisional) for the month of January, 2024 (over January, 2023)," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. The

INFLATION A	Inflation Rate 2022-23 WPI		
and W	All Commodities	4.80	151.1
Wholesale Price Index	Primary Articles	3.84 4.06	181.0
	Food Articles	2.67	188.7
for JANUARY 2024	Non-Food # 16 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	4.70	162.3
Inflation Rate WPI (Prov.) 0.27% 151.1	Fuel & Power		154.8 15.00
DEC 0.73% DEC151.6	Manufactured Products	3.06	139.8

previous low level of WPI inflation was recorded in October 2023, when it was (-) 0.26 per cent.

In January, food inflation declined to 6.85 per cent, from 9.38 per cent in December 2023. Within food articles, inflation in vegetables eased to 19.71 per cent from 26.3 per cent in December. Inflation in potatoes was in the negative zone. The prices of fruits, eggs, milk, fish, and milk have eased. In the fuel and power segment, inflation was (-) 0.51 per cent in January, as against (-) 2.41 per cent in December 2023. In manufactured products, inflation was (-) 1.13 per cent, as against (-) 0.71 per cent

in the previous month. The Reserve Bank in its bi-monthly monetary policv earlier month held in-

view to bring down Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation at 4 per cent. Retail inflation still rules over 5 per cent.

As per government data, the month-overmonth change in WPI index for January, 2024 stood at (-) 0.33 per cent, as compared to December, 2023. The index for primary particles declined by 1.04 per cent to 181 in January, 2024 from 182.9 for December.

Prices of minerals (0.93 per cent) increased in January, this year over December 2023. On the other hand, prices of crude petroleum and natural gas (-) 0.33 per cent, non-food articles (-) 0.49 per cent and food articles (-) 1.36 per cent declined in January, 2024 as compared

Coal India maintains top position among CPSEs

New Delhi, Feb 14:

The government on Wednesday said Coal India Ltd (CIL) has maintained the top position among all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in Government

Marketplace (GeM) procurement. GeM is an online platform for public procurement in the country. As on February 14, 2024, the procurement through GeM has soared to Rs 63,890 crore, which is 300 per cent of the annual target of Rs 21,325 crore, the coal ministry said in a statement. "The ministry of coal has achieved a remarkable milestone in Government

Marketplace (GeM) procurement, surpassing its target for the fiscal year 2023-24," it said. "The significant increase in GeM procurement not only highlights the ministry's dedication but also underscores the robust collaboration and contributions from coal PSUs.

Finance Minister to review economy at FSDC meeting on Feb 21

New Delhi, Feb 14:

Finance Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to review the state of the economy amid global challenges at a meeting of the Financial Stability and Development (FSDC) Council February 21. The 28th meeting of the high-level panel to be held here will be attended by all financial sector regulators, including RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, sources said. This would be the first meeting of the FSDC after the passage of the Rs 47.6 lakh crore Budget for 2024-25, focussing on capital expenditure with an outlay of Rs 11.11 lakh crore. In the meeting, the Finance Minister will review the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues. Sitharaman is likely to stress key priorities highlighted in the interim Budget, the way forward for



various future policies and measures that the government has proposed to take in many sectors, sources said. Besides, the council may also review the progress of measures approved earlier for further development of the financial sector, and to achieve inclusive economic growth with macroeconomic stability. The FSDC meet ing will also review activities undertaken by the FSDC sub-committee chaired by the RBI governor and the action taken by members on the past deci-

RBI Guv asks banks to remain vigilant against build-up of risks

Mumbai, Feb 14:

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Wednesday asked banks to remain vigilant against build-up of risks in the banking system as there is no scope for any complacency. The Governor held meetings with MD and CEOs of public sector banks and select private sector banks as part of RBI's continuous interaction with the senior management of regulated/supervised enti-

ties. The Governor in his remarks complimented the banks on their improved financial performance and that of the whole banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement. "While noting the resilience of the domestic financial system with healthy balance sheets of

banks, he observed that



there is no scope for any complacency and banks should continue to maintain their vigil around build-up of risks, if any," it said. Das highlighted the issues relating to business model viability; outlier growth in personal loans; adherence to co-lending guidelines; bank exposure to the NBFC sector; and liquidity risk management. He also spoke on matters concerning IT and cyber security preparedness, operational resilience, digital frauds: and strengthening of the internal rating

Panagariya chairs first meeting of 16th Finance Commission

New Delhi, Feb 14:

16th Finance

Commission (XVI-FC) on Wednesday held its first under the Chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya here. During the meeting, the commission discussed its Terms of Reference, as per the order by the President of India and notified by the Ministry of Finance on December 31, 2023, an official statement said. The distribution between the Union and states of the net proceeds of taxes, which are to be, or may be, divided between them under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution and the allocation between states of the respective shares of such proceeds, are among the Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by the Cabinet. Another ToR is



erning the grants-in-aid of the revenues of states out of the Consolidated Fund of India and the sums to be paid to states by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues. It will also suggest measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities, as per the ToR. The commission acknowledged the need for wideranging consultations

with various stakeholders, including state governments, local bodies, Union ministries, and experts, it said. The XVI-FC recognised that it will be carrying out a detailed analytical work and would require to rope in all the expertise that it can garner, including that from leading research organisations, leading think-tanks and other organisations working in the area of fiscal federal relations, it

said. The panel will make recommendations available by October 31, 2025, covering an award period of five years commencing on April 1, 2026. The chairman and members were welcomed by the Commission's Secretary Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey and other officials of the Finance Commission, the

Rupee rises 5 paise to close at 83.03 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 14:

The rupee appreciated 5 paise to close at 83.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking positive domestic equities. Forex traders said strength of the American currency in the overseas market and elevated crude oil prices weighed on the local unit and restricted a sharp uptick. At the interbank foreign exchange, the local unit opened at 83.11 against the greenback. It hit an intra-day high of 83.02 and a low of 83.12. It finally settled at 83.03 (provisional) against the dollar, higher by 5 paise from its previous close of 83.08. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on strong US dollar and risk aversion in global markets. Rising Stock markets extend gains on



crude oil prices may also put pressure on the said Anuj Choudhary, Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary added that

any bounce back in domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may remain cautious ahead of India's trade balance and US re-

GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks during the ET Now Global Business Summit 2024, in New Delhi.

Road Min plans to double defect liability period

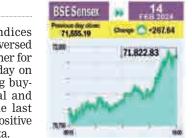
New Delhi, Feb 14:

The road ministry is planning to double the defect liability period under engineering-procurement-construction (EPC) contracts to 10 years to improve the quality of construction, a senior government official said. Under the EPC model, the responsibility for maintenance of national highways lies with the government after the defect liability period (5 years) is over, during which the contractor is responsible for maintenance. The government funds the entire infrastructure project under the EPC model, while the private sector partner only provides engineering and construction assistance.

fag-end buying; SBI, Reliance shine Benchmark indices

Sensex and Nifty reversed losses and closed higher for the second straight day on Wednesday following buying in energy, metal and utility stocks in the last hour of trade amid positive domestic inflation data.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 267.64 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 71,822.83 points, extending gains for the second day. The index opened lower and fell further to a low of 70,809.84 points during intra-day trades. Positive inflation data helped the index recover losses and hit a high of 71,938.59 points. The broader NSE Nifty also gained



96.80 points or 0.45 per cent to end the day at 21,840.05 points. "Nifty opened gapdown tracking the weak US markets however strong recovery in the select heavyweights not only pared losses but also helped the index to close around the day's high," Ajit Mishra, SVP -Technical Research. Religare Broking Ltd said.

biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 4.24 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, Axis Bank, Maruti, NTPC PowerGrid, ITC and Nestle India. Reliance Industries jumped 1.15 per cent to end at Rs 2.962.60 apiece on BSE. taking its market valuation to a record of Rs 20 lakh crore. Shares of SBI closed at Rs 743.35 apiece. In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, TCS, Infosys and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to a three-month low of 0.27 per cent in January mainly due to moderation of food prices, including

NMDC delivers strong Q3 and 9M performance in FY24

Hyderabad, Feb 14:

Yet again India's largest Iron Ore Producer, NMDC delivered a strong financial and physical performance in Q3 FY24. Surpassing its previous record, the mining major registered45% and 64% increase in turnover and PBT (after exceptional expenditure) respectively over CPLY in the third quarter. Setting new benchmarks with its exceptional performance, NMDC recorded its highest

ever production and sales volume with 12.22 MT and selling 11.39 MTin the third quarter of FY24, marking a growth of 15% and 19% in production and sales respectively over corresponding period last year. NMDC's turnover and PBT (after exceptional expenditure) for Q3 FY24 is Rs. 5,410 crore



increase of 45% in turnover and 64% in PBT over CPLY. While the Profit After Tax (PAT) for Q3 FY24 increased by 68% to Rs.1.492 crores. The 9 months cumulative production stood at 31.78 MT and sales figure reached 31.94 MT. With its exceptional9month

cumulative production and

sales since company inception,

NMDC has entered the fourth

quarter of FY24 on a strong

tion and 24% in sales over CPLY, NMDC has also declared 1st Interim Dividend of Rs 5.75 per share which is 575% of face value of Rs 1 per share. Commenting on the performance, Amitava Mukheriee CMD (Additional Charge) said, "The steel demand in India is rapidly growing and is expected to continue its upward momentum, directly aligning with the overall GDP growth. To match the increased demand for steel, NMDC has been ramping up its production capacity and is creating a secure supply channel to meet the domestic demands of the industry. The company's financial and physical figures demonstrates our prudent investments in technology and innovation that are reaping us high returns.'

New Delhi, Feb 14:

Passenger Vehicles (PV) sales in India kicked off on a strong note in 2024 with wholesales rising 14 per cent year-onyear to 3,93,074 units last month, the best-ever figure for January driven by robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body SIAM said on Wednesday. As per the data issued by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), dispatches of passenger vehicles from manufacturers to dealers stood at 3,46,080 units in January

Two-wheeler wholesales rose 26 per cent to 14,95,183 units last month

3,93,074 units in January, up 14 pc **AUTO SALES** units sold 2024 **JANUARY 2024** Total Passenger Vehicles 299,098 T,908,906 10.30% 21.97%

PV wholesales clock record

compared with consumer sentiments, 11,84,376 units in January while the two-wheeler last year. "Passenger vesegment witnessed good hicle sales have remained growth in January as resilient led by positive well as the rural market

Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Aggarwal said. Though the commercial vehicle sector did not

continues to recover.

of

Society

grow in January 2024, it is likely to see good offtake in the next two months of this financial vear, he added. Threewheeler wholesales witnessed a growth of 9 per cent at 53,537 units as against 48,903 units in January 2023. "Passenger vehicles and three-wheelers continue to post their highest-ever sales till date, in FY 24, for the period April to January,' SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon said.

momentum. Cumulative figures have soared by 19% in produc-

SRRSSS mobilizes support for cow welfare project

Progress made in identifying land for Gauthan and cattle care facilities

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 14: Ram Sushrusha Seva Samiti convened its monthly meeting, showcasing another stride in their commitment to Gau Seva (cow service) in Khairagarh. Where in the earlier meeting of the committee running in the name of Shri Ram Gau Seva Kendra, it was informed that with public cooperation, about 13 acres of land has been selected by the committee for the Gau Seva work and necessary efforts are being made to purchase it.

The committee shared plans to utilize this land for the establishment of Gauthan (cow shelters) and other facilities aimed at the comprehensive care of cattle. While the land has been identified, the process of acquiring it is



still underway, with efforts being made to secure the necessary funds through public cooperation.

The envisioned facilities on this land will provide ample space for grazing, as well as the treatment of injured cows, fulfilling the objectives of the Gau Seva initiative. Committee offi-

New employment opportunities

New employment opportunities will be created in village income by the operation of Cow Seva Kendra. After the meeting, active members of the committee, Nitesh Jain and Ramakrishna Shastri (Maruti) said that the villagers of the area will also get the opportunity to create new employment. For this purpose, manufacturing of items made from cow dung and cow urine is also included in the action plan of the committee.

cials stressed the importance of community support in realizing this project, urging donors to contribute towards the purchase of the identified land. This initiative underscores the collaborative spirit of the community in safeguarding the welfare of cows and reflects the continued dedication of Ram Rama Sushrusha Seva Samiti towards this noble cause.

Rural tourism initiative

The committee will make every effort to promote rural tourism by including a Vedic school and a temple along with the operation of a Gau Seva center in the village income. For which preliminary preparations are being made and a meaningful action plan has also been made in the meeting.

Rlys to develop Uslapur station to increase punctuality of trains



New platform and yard overhaul promises swift and efficient service

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur. Feb 14: Uslapur station is undergoing a remarkable transformation, poised to emerge as the shining example of modern railway infrastructure in Bilaspur. As part of the ambitious Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, comprehensive enhancements are underway, aimed at not only

improving operational efficiency but also fostering commercial development.

Plans have been laid out to construct a new platform along with a meticulous remodelling of the station yard, ensuring smoother train operations and reduced congestion. Additionally, a second entry, ticket house, parking facilities, lifts, and an expanded FoB bridge are among the planned upgrades, all designed to elevate the passenger experience to new

One of the key highlights of this endeavour is the im-

plementation of a Bilaspur-Uslapur flyover line, facilitating the seamless movement of passenger trains towards Katni direction.

This innovative ap proach not only addresses the issue of cross-movement at Bilaspur station but also promises enhanced punctuality, a boon for commuters and stakeholders alike. Moreover, the expansion of facilities at Uslapur station is expected to catalvze economic growth in the region, attracting businesses and investors keen on leveraging the improved

OPERATION AMANAT

SECR's remarkable campaign for passenger security

Goods worth over Rs 2 cr restored to owners

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur/Raipur, Feb 14: In a testament to its commitment to passenger welfare, South East Central Railway has launched the "Operation Amanat" campaign, led by its Railway Protection Force (RPF). With a focus on reclaiming lost and left luggage, this initiative underscores the railway's dedication to ensuring a seamless and secure travel experience for passengers.

Over the past 10 months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. the RPF of South East Central Railway has executed an exemplary feat by recovering belongings of 960 passengers across Bilaspur, Raipur, and Nagpur. These recovered items, valued at more than Rs 2 crore, were diligently re-



turned to their rightful owners, showcasing the integrity and diligence of the railway

The success of "Operation Amanat" is attributed to the concerted efforts of RPF posts stationed in various locations including Bilaspur, Champa, Korba, and many others. Through vigilant train and station patrolling, railway nersonnel ensured the safe deposition of left luggage, upholding the highest standards

of honesty and transparency.

Passengers whose belongings went missing during their journey availed various channels to report their losses, including lodging complaints with TTEs, RPF, station masters, or through digital platforms like the Rail Madad App and helpline number 139. Prompt action by railway authorities facilitated the swift recovery and return of valuables to their rightful owners.

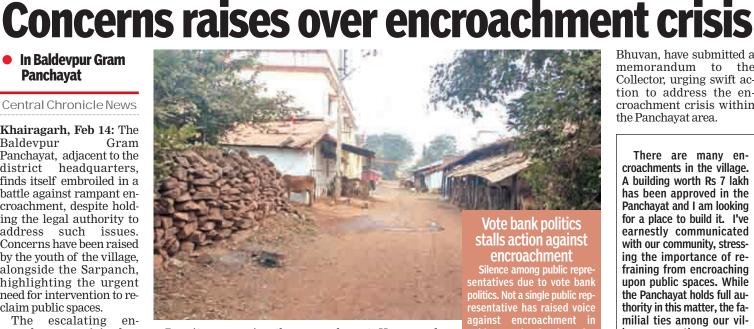
In Baldevpur Gram

Panchayat

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 14: The Baldevpur Gram Panchayat, adjacent to the district headquarters, finds itself embroiled in a battle against rampant encroachment, despite holding the legal authority to address such issues. Concerns have been raised by the youth of the village, alongside the Sarpanch, highlighting the urgent need for intervention to reclaim public spaces

The escalating croachment crisis has reached a tipping point, leaving no room for the construction of essential infrastructure such as playgrounds. Village streets have become with encroachchoked ments, hindering the movement of agricultural equipment and posing significant challenges for rural beneficiaries.



Despite possessing the rights enshrined in the Panchayat Raj Act, the Gram Panchayat has found itself constrained in its efforts to tackle encroachment effectively. Section 56 of the Chhattisgarh Panchayat Raj Act 1993 explicitly empowers the Gram Panchayat to manage public land and combat en-

croachment. However, despite the provision for action, the encroachment persists, prompting the youth and leaders of Baldevpur Gram Panchayat to seek assistance from the Collector.

Sarpanch Shyam Sundar, along with youth members including Dinesh, Sunil, Kewal, including Kumbhkaran,

memorandum to the Collector, urging swift action to address the encroachment crisis within the Panchayat area.

Bhuvan, have submitted a

There are many encroachments in the village. A building worth Rs 7 lakh has been approved in the Panchayat and I am looking for a place to build it. I've earnestly communicated with our community, stressing the importance of refraining from encroaching upon public spaces. While the Panchayat holds full authority in this matter, the familial ties among our villagers sometimes pose a challenge to enforcing regulations. However, buoyed by the unwavering support of conscientious youth, I am committed to leading initiatives aimed at upholding the integrity of our village.

- Shyamsundar Sahu, Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Baldevpur

Collector inspires students in surprise visit to JEE, NEET coaching center

Commitment to academic excellence and future opportunities

Central Chronicle News

Sukma, Feb 14: Collector Haris S conducted a surprise inspection at the JEE NEET Coaching Center, engaging with students and offering valuable guidance for their preparation towards the JEE and NEET entrance examinations. The visit aimed to bolster the confidence of students from classes 11th and 12th, providing them



with essential encouragement and insights into succeeding in these competitive exams.

Emphasizing the Chief Minister's vision to empower the district's youth in the fields of medical and engineering, Collector motivated students to

strive for success in challenging examinations like Medical and JEE. The visit underscored the administration's commitment to nurturing talent and providing opportunities for educational advancement. Notably, under

students from the district are undergoing rigorous preparation for medical and NEET entrance exams. They benefit from residential facilities and online monitoring through the Jio Embibe platform, receiving expert training from qualified instructors. The presence of Nodal Officer Ashish Ram, Saurav Kumar Fellow, Principal M. Santoshi, and dedicated teachers further highlights the collaborative effort to support aspiring students on their academ-

Central Chronicle News Dhamtari, Feb 14: In response to directives from

Collector Namrata Gandhi, Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat, Roma Srivastava, undertook an inspection of Barua Garden situated at Gangrel Dam. During the visit, Srivastava emphasized the importance of enhancing livelihood opportunities for women through tourism

and self-help groups. Srivastava articulated the need for meticulous planning in the development of Barua Garden to ensure convenience for tourists and sustainable livelihoods for



CEO district panchayat inspects Gangrel Dam

women's groups. She underscored the significance of incorporating features such as children's play areas, tribal-themed gates, lush green spaces, and amenities like water coolers and seating arrangements to elevate the tourist

Furthermore, Srivastava directed officials to prioritize infrastructure elements including food stalls, parking facilities, and cleanliness initiatives led by local women's groups and voluntary organizations.

Collector but even after a wed has passed, no action has bed

To expedite the technical aspects of garden development, the Sub-Divisional Officer Engineering Services, Dhamtari, was tasked with preparing a comprehensive technical estimate.

Present during the inspection were Municipal Corporation Commissioner Poyam, Divisional Officer Revenue Vibhor Agarwal, Avinash Masram, Deputy Director Panchayat, Assistant Project Officer Dharam Singh, District Coordinator of Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) Ravindra Verma, along with other officials from the District Panchayat and various departments.

Collector sets deadline for resolving pending cases

Stringent measures against corruption in administrative processes

Collector's guidance, 108

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Feb 14: In a decisive move towards expediting administrative processes and ensuring transparency, Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh chaired a meeting at the Collectorate meeting room. Addressing the gathering, Langeh underscored the imperative to resolve pending cases related to land division, demarcation, and transfers within stipulated timeframes.

He directed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Tehsildars, and Revenue officers to streamline operations and eliminate the need for beneficiaries to make repeated office visits for minor tasks. Any deviation from this directive would result in immediate and stringent action.

Asserting a zero-toler ance policy against corruption, Langeh emphasized that all work must

adhere strictly to established rules. He warned against any form of solicitation for monetary gain in exchange for services, emphasizing the obligation to serve all segments of society equitably. Specifically addressing issues raised in the Jan Chaupal, Langeh in-



structed Tehsildars to swiftly address instances where Patwaris demand illicit payments for land measure-

ments or documentation. During the review of schemes such as Mahtari Vandan Yojana and PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Langeh emphasized the im-

portance of maximizing beneficiary enrollment and promptly registerapplications through the designated portal. According to the information, more than 50 thousand applications have been received so far under Mahtari Vandan Yojana. Langeh

gave instructions to motivate the youth for recruitment in Agni Veer and Army so that the youth can come forward to serve the

The meeting also saw a comprehensive review of major government schemes including Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, MNREGA, and Jal Jeevan Mission. Langeh took stock of pendcases from the Honorable High Court, advocating for their swift resolution. Additionally, he sought updates on initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the procurement and distribution of paddy.

In closing, Langeh reiterated the urgency of addressing grievances received through Jan Chaupal, PG and Public Grievance Portal, emphasizing the need for timely re-

Complete door-to-door survey work soon: Collector

Central Chronicle News

Sukma. Feb 14: Ensuring inclusive governance and community engagement, Collector Haris S chaired a comprehensive meeting addressing various developmental initiatives in the district. Among the key directives issued, the Collector emphasized the completion of door-to-door survey work in Chhindgarh and Sukma blocks, aiming to expedite the distribution of government scheme benefits to eligible beneficiaries. Under the Mahtari Vandan Yoiana, instructions were given to streamline the application process to achieve 100 percent coverage of eligible beneficiaries within the district's target. Additionally, the Collector directed



the three block CEOs to oversee applications under this scheme diligently. Focusing on the empowerment of traditional craftsmen and artisans, the Collector instructed the registration of individuals associated with traditional professions under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana. Motivating beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yoiana to com-

tizing their construction were also highlighted. In preparation for the upcoming Ramaram on February 20th and the district fair on February 21st, the Collector emphasized the importance of proper management. Officials and staff from relevant departments were instructed to ensure their presence during the fairs, with detailed directives issued to facilitate seamless execution. The meeting also reviewed various departmental works including the ODF status, undisputed demarcation, caste-resident applications, forest rights recognition certificate, Jal Jeevan Mission, and health department initiatives under the Swachh Bharat

plete sanctioned houses and priori-

India seek quick middle-order solutions against fearless England

Rajkot, Feb 14 (PTI)

India will need to be ruthless and tactful in equal measure while dealing with an unpredictable England when the third chapter of a riveting Test series begins here on Thursday. After England shocked India in the series opener at Hyderabad, the hosts came back strong in Vizag to get on level footing, leaving the five-match series perfectly poised.

The brilliance of Yashasvi Jaiswal (321 runs) and Jasprit Bumrah (15) allowed India to make a comeback in the series but concerns remain over a misfiring middle-order, which will now be relying on the young talent to deliver the goods.

Skipper Rohit Sharma's form with the bat before the eight-day break only added to the growing concern surrounding the Indian batting, which will be without K L Rahul in this game and Virat Kohli for the entirety of the se-

Over the last one year or so, Rohit's aggressive approach with the bat has not yielded him big scores



India's Shubman Gill with batting coach Vikram Rathour during a practice session.

demands the Indian skipper to perhaps contemplate changing gears

Rahul's unavailability for the third Test has put forth the possibility of Mumbai batter Sarfaraz Khan getting his long awaited debut in the longest format. The domestic run machine could be teaming up with one-Test old Rajat Patidar to occupy two of the most

coveted batting spots in the middle order.

Wicketkeeper Bharat's persistent failures with the bat has raised the possibility of India turning to Uttar Pradesh's 23-year-old Dhruv Jurel, who is known for his aggressive batting. With an average of 46.47 in 15 First-Class matches, Jurel has given a

about being in the top 100 from a very young age and it felt very good when it happened. It was certainly an emotional day after working for years," Nagal told PTI in an interview after his first-round win in the Bengaluru Open on Tuesday night. The 26-yearold, who is seeded second here, entered the second round of the tournament with a breezy 6-2, 6-2 win over Frenchman Geff Blancaneaux. But he is not ready to rest on his laurels and has set his eyes on bigger achievements. "Yes, it was a big moment (entering top 100). But now I am

in a new tournament, you

know, tennis, you need to

take it week by week. So,

emotions have come down

now. While in Bangalore I

am focusing on this tour-

and represent my country

in the Olympics. It's one of

my goals, and it really mo-

tivates me and I really

want to play the Olympics,

and take a medal back for

the country," he said. Top

56 players in the ATP (men)

and WTA (women) rank-

ings, as on June 10 this

year, will get direct qualifi-

cation for the July-August

Paris Games provided the

number per country does

not exceed four.

"But the real goal is to go

nament.

With the pitch here at Rajkot not expected to be a rank turner, a debut here

would only help Jurel ease into the world of top flight cricket. For England, it would be

all about taking the right steps as they have done so far in India. Back from their Abu Dhabi base where the players spent time away from the game, the relaxed mood in the camp is easily perceptible.

Tom Hartley's confi-

Time: 9:30 AM IST.

dence has grown multifold from the time he stepped on the Indian shores. His probing line and lengths have persistently questioned the Indian batters and with the bat, his aggressive approach has matched the team's philosophy.It remains to be seen if sharing spin bowling workload is taking more out of Joe Root than it should, but England will have no other option but to lean on the seniormost batter for wickets given Jack Leach is ruled out of the series with a knee injury. He will also be expected get back to his consistent ways with the bat.

Mooney to captain Gujarat **Giants in WPL** season two

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI)

Australia's Mooney will captain Gujarat Giants in the Women's Premier League beginning on February 23, the franchise announced on Wednesday.

Mooney was named captain for the inaugural season as well but got injured after the first game and could not take further part in the competition. India all-rounder Sneh Rana had led the side in her absence.

Rana has been named vice-captain for season two.

Gujarat had finished last in the five-team competition in 2023.

"They (Mooney and Rana) will be part of the leadership group with head coach Michael Klinger, mentor and advisor Mithali Raj, and assistant coach Nooshin Al Khadee," said the team in a statement.

Gujarat Giants will open their campaign against Mumbai Indians in Bengaluru on February 25.

India stun China 3-2 in BATC women's competition



Sindhu making winning return

Shah Alam, Feb 14 (PTI):

Two-time Olympic-medallist P V Sindhu made a winning return from a lengthy injury lavoff as India stunned formidable China 3-2 in the women's competition of the Badminton Asia Team Championships here on Wednesday.

With just two teams in Group W, India were assured of a knock-out round berth even before their opening match but the team made its mark in

the top-seeded Chinese team.

Sindhu, who was missing in action since October last year due to a knee injury at the French Open, led the way as she beat higher-ranked Han Yue 21-17 21-15 in 40 minutes to give India 1-0 lead in the

The 28-year-old, who won a silver in the 2016 Olympics followed by a bronze in the Tokyo Games, is currently ranked 11th while Yue is world number eight.

The pair of Tanisha Castro and Ashwini Ponappa then lost to Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning 19-21 16-21, followed by

Ashmita Chaliha's 13-21 15 21 loss to world number nine Wang Zhi Yi as India trailed 1-2 after three matches.

India were on level terms when Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand beat the Chinese duo of Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min 10-21 21-18 21-17 in one hour and nine minutes in the women's doubles.

In the deciding match, Anmol Kharb punched way above her weight as the 472nd-ranked Indian emerged 22-20 14-21 21-18 winner over world number 149 Wu Luo Yu in a gruelling one hour and 17 minute contest to give

Top-100 dream realised, Sumit Nagal eyes Olympic glory next



Bengaluru, Feb 14 (PTI):

His dream of being inside the global top-100 has been realised but Sumit Nagal is nowhere close to being a content man as the Indian tennis ace says he now faces the challenge of improving or holding on to his standing for direct entry into Grand Slams and the Paris Olympics.

Nagal's victory in the re-cent Chennai Open propelled him to a career-high world No. 98, and he is the first Indian to achieve the since Prajnesh Gunneswaran did that in

"Every tennis player dreams about being in the top 100. I have dreamt

Ramkumar Ramanathan shocks top seed Luka Nardi to enter quarterfinals



Bengaluru, Feb 13 (PTI):

Indian Davis Cupper Ramkumar Ramanathan made a remarkable comeback to shock top seeded Luka Nardi to enter the singles quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open here on Wednesday.

Ramkumar, a wildcard entrant, prevailed over the Italian 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 in little over two hours in their prequarterfinal match at the KSLTA Stadium.

The match began on an ominous note for the Indian star as Nardi broke his serve in the very first game of the opening set.

From that point onwards, Ramkumar was not able to offer any kind of

fight to his higher-ranked opponent, who used a heavy first serve and precise ground shots to choke his opponent. While Nardi landed a whopping 86 percent of his first serve inside the box, Ramanathan barely managed to cross the 50 percent mark. But Ramkumar seemed a totally transformed player in the second set as he engaged Nardi more effectively in rallies, exploring the deeper areas of the court to keep the Italian pinned on the baseline. The salient feature of Ramkumar's transformed game was the improvement in his first and second services, as he

found more zip in them in

Thakur hands over Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest



FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand and Hungarian chess legend Judit Polgar during Chess Olympiad Torch hand-off ceremony, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 14.

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

Sports minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday handed over the Chess Olympiad Torch to Budapest, the Hungarian capital, which will host the 45th edition of the prestigious tournament this

During a function at the Dhyanchand National Stadium here. Thakur handed over the torch to FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich and representatives of the host

The tradition of organ-

ising the torch relay was first initiated by India in June, 2022 ahead of the 44th edition of the Chess Olympiad in Chennai in July-August. More than 2500 players

had taken part in the Olympiad in Chennai and India had finished with nine medals, including historic women's team bronze.

"Chess is an intellectual legacy that India probably offers to the world, and it is not merely a sport, but a reflection of strategic depth and philosophical wisdom. The elegant sport not only sharpens the mind but also teaches invaluable lessons of patience and resilience and takes one onto the path of intellectual pursuit of strategic mastery," said Thakur during the cere-

mony. Indian Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand and Hungarian GM Judit Polgar were also present during the ceremony.

Bumrah poised to unleash reverse swing magic in Rajkot: Zaheer Khan



New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

Former India pacer Zaheer Khan feels the Rajkot pitch will be similar to the ones in Hyderabad and Vizag, bringing reverse swing into play once again. Jasprit Bumrah put up a reverse swing masterclass in Vizag for a match haul of nine wickets as India lev-

elled the series "I hope the pitch is on similar lines to the one in

Hyderabad and Vizag,"

Zaheer told JioCinema. 'On that kind of a sur-

face, we should be able to see a good contest between bat and ball for the first two days and spin comes into play on the third day.

'You'll see some reverse swing as well. And on the fourth and fifth days, you'll have the spinners dominating. "If that is the pattern, it will make for a nice viewing experience for all the spectators and the fans will

South Africa bowls out New Zealand for 211, leads by 31 in the 2nd cricket test

Hamilton, Feb 14 (AP):

Dane Piedt took a career-best 5-89 as South Africa bowled out New Zealand for 211 to take an unexpected first-innings lead Wednesday on the second day of the second cricket test. South Africa was bowled out for 242 after resuming Day 2 at 220-6 and New Zealand conceded a 31 run lead as bowlers dominated and 14 wickets fell in the day.

New Zealand had been 183-9 and the deficit might have been greater but for a late innings of 33 by the redoubtable Neil Wagner.

Piedt reached the high point of a checkered test career as he captured the wickets of Tom Latham, Kane Williamson, Will Young and Glenn Phillips to highlight an excellent bowling performance by the Proteas. Dane Paterson took the wicket of Devon Conway (0) in the first over of the New Zealand in-

nings and finished with 3-39. Four batters, two from each team, were out bowled off an inside edge



South Africa players celebrate the dismissal of New Zealand's wicket keeper Tom Blundell.

and another was caught behind off an inside edge onto the pad on a day of inconsistent bounce at Seddon Park. There were signs the usually seamer-friendly pitch wasn't performing to character when parttime spinner Rachin Ravindra

bowled 21 overs for New Zealand on the first day. Off-spinner Piedt came into his own in the middle session when the ball turned sharply and he asked questions even the best New Zealand batters couldn't an-

England are not difficult to beat, they just play differently: Jadeja

Rajkot, Feb 14 (PTI):

India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja on Wednesday said England are not a difficult side to beat and the hosts only need to get used to their ultra attacking style of play to secure the five-match Test

series. England shocked India in the series opener in Hyderabad before the hosts came back strong in Visakhapatnam to get on level footing. The third Test begins here on Thursday. "I won't term England as (one of the most difficult) teams. It hasn't been easy for other teams to come to India and win. They have an aggressive style of play. We need to get used to that and plan accordingly for them," said Jadeja on

the eve of the game. "If it wasn't for small mistakes in the second innings of first Test, we wouldn't have lost,' said the player who missed the second Test due to a hamstring injury. Jadeja said it was imperative



for India to stick to their plans and not try playing differently against England's aggressive

"It is better to keep the (bowling) lines as simple as possible in Test cricket because their batters look to play their strokes at every opportunity," he said.

"If we adjust according to that, it is possible that we may end up giving more runs and not get wickets as well. We will keep it simple and let them do whatever they want to, we have our game plan and if we stick to it then there are chances of being successful,"

Jadeja said.

'Country can't progress if women sit at home'

Jaipur, Feb 14 (PTI)

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said it is difficult for a country and society to progress if half of the population, that is women, sits at home.

"Out of 140 crore people in the country, 70 crore are women. If they will sit at home, then how will the country and society run? How will the country progress? To run the country, to run the family, the cooperation of both men and women is necessary," Murmu said while addressing tribal women associated with self-help groups at Beneshwar Dham of Dungarpur dis-



President Droupadi Murmu being received by CM of Rajasthan Bhajanlal Sharma upon her arrival in Jaipur.

country is progressing forward due to the coopera-

trict. She said that the tion of men and women and people are looking towards India with high ex-

pectations. "I am confident that in the future also you (women) will play a leading role in making India a developed nation. The future of the entire India will be bright because of the strength of your success. I wish a bright future for all your daughters and sisters." Murmu said.

The president called the life values of the tribal community exemplary and urged everyone to learn from them to live efficiently by living in harmony with nature.

Rajasthan Bhajanlal Minister Sharma, and Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria were present on the occasion.

Maha Guv presides over the 38th Convocation



Mumbai, Jan 14: Maharashtra

Governor and Chancellor of universities Ramesh Bais presided over the 38th Annual Convocation of the Dr Paniabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV) Akola through online mode. Gold and Silver medals and Cash prizes were given to 79 graduating students. Minister of Agriculture and Pro Chancellor of the University Dhananjay Munde addressed the Convocation through online mode. The programme held at PDKV Akola campus was attended in person by Dr Z P Patel, Vice Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Dr Sharad Gadakh, Vice Chancellor of PDKV, former vice chancellors and vice chancellors of agricultural universities and MAFSU.

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

With the ruling party

naming 28 candidates for

the elections to 56 seats,

their profiles underscore

the BJP's determination

to recognise its grass-

roots organisation work-

ers, who might not be

much known in outside

political circles, while

KITE FLYING



People fly kites during the 'Basant Panchami' festival, in Jalandhar, Wednesday.

NAVY VETERAN RELEASED FROM QATAR

'We survived only because of our defence training'

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 14 (PTI): Ragesh Gopakumar, one of the 8 ex-Indian Navy personnel released by the Qatar government, said on Wednesday that they survived the prison days only due to their defence training.

Expressing joy and gratitude over returning home and being reunited with his family after spending months in captivity in the tiny gulf nation, he also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government for their release.

"We are just happy to be alive... happy to be home," a relieved Gopakumar told

"Prison and confinement is something terrible," he said, adding he and his colleagues survived only because of the training they



Ragesh Gopakumar

underwent as Defence

He along with seven other former Navy personnel returned on Monday, nearly three-and-a-half months after a Qatari court handed them death sentence that was subsequently commuted to varying jail

Gopakumar, who served as a Petty Officer in the

Navy, said he had retired in 2017 and later joined the Oman Defence training company as a communications instructor.

resides Balaramapuram, a suburb located over 16 km away from Kerala's capital city.

Whenever someone enquired what the plight of his family had been when he was in prison, he would

ask them to imagine a situation where a husband who used to speak to his wife at least five times a day suddenly stopped calling her.

The former Navy veteran attributed his release to his family's prayers and the efforts of the Union govern-

Lavishing praises on Prime Minister Modi, he said it was only because of his personal intervention that their release was made possible.

Gopakumar said all of them were hopeful that they would step out of the prison "if Modiji intervened" but had no idea how long it would take.

He also expressed grati-

tude to the central governfactoring in social equament for having made tions as well. arrangements to bring the Three of the new families of the jailed Dharmshila names Gupta of Bihar, Medha ex-Naval officers to Qatar.

Maharashtra and Maya Many senior BJP lead-Naroliya of Madhya ers and outgoing Rajya Pradesh - are associated Sabha MPs, including with the party's 'Mahila seven Union ministers Morcha' (women's wing), such as Dharmendra an ode to Prime Minister Pradhan and Bhupender Narendra Modi's repeat-Yadav, have not been ed emphasis about the renominated by the party higher approval the BJP for the biennial Rajya enjoys among women Sabha polls amid strong voters. Among the 28 outgoing indications that several MPs, the BJP has renomof them may contest the upcoming Lok Sabha inated only four - its pres-

ident J P Nadda, two Union ministers and an articulate national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi sending a strong signal that its Rajya Sabha members cannot take their high-profile perch for granted and are expected to use the platform to connect with the

stituencies of their own. Ashwini Vaishnaw and L Murugan are the min-

masses and cultivate con-

isters who have been renominated.

Only 4 of 28 outgoing MPs get RS renomination from BJP

No outgoing Rajya Sabha member of the BJP who has served two or more terms has been repeated except Nadda, who is set for a third term.

Notably, none of the party's national officebearers figure among the 28 soon-to-be Rajya Sabha MPs, even though many of their lower-profile state organisation leaders have made the cut. "I will call it decentrali-

sation and democratisation of the selection process. The visibility that comes with moving around in political circles in Delhi or comments to the media makes no difference to the current national leadership," a senior party leader said.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Mansukh Mandaviya,

Parshottam Narayan Rane and V Muraleedharan are five other ministers whose term is ending in the Upper House and who have not been renominated by the BJP.

Other senior leaders who have not been repeated are the party's chief spokesperson and its media head Anil Baluni, former Union minister Javadekar and former Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi.

Several of them are being talked about within the party's circles as probable candidates for the Lok Sabha elections expected to be held in April-May.

The biennial elections to fill 56 seats of Rajya Sabha will be held on February 27. The last date for filing of nomina-

FARMER'S PROTEST

Parents worry how children will reach board exam centres amid restrictions

With school board exams from slated to begin Thursday, residents of areas near Delhi's Tikri and Singhu porders are worried about how children will reach exam centres amid traffic and security restrictions in view of the farmers' protest.

Adding to their woes, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has called a 'Bharat Bandh' on Friday in support of the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation -- a march by farmers of Punjab to the national capital to press the Centre to accept their demands, including the enactment of a law guaranteing minimum support price (MSP) for crops. The restrictions in areas around the Delhi-Haryana border points, which have been fortified

J&K's Pulwama, in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday.

came into effect on Tuesday, the day the march began.

Children are not being able to reach coaching classes, how will they reach exam centres, a local of Tikri said and added that the restrictions have added to the concern of parents, who are already battling the "stress of exams".

A group of girls, whose centre is exam Government Boys Senior Secondary School. Tikri Kalan, said because of the meters from their village.

with metal barricades and early and look for an auto or concrete blocks to stop farm- a bus to reach our exam ceners from entering the city, tre in time," said a girl of the group that travelled from cannot be late." A woman,

Those who have vehicles

have decided to use the metro rail to avoid traffic "My exam centre is in south Delhi's Mehrauli, which

is around 40 km away. I have to reach the centre at 8 am. I won't travel by car due to heavy traffic. Instead, I will take the

metro to reach there," said Suraj Upadhyay, a class 12 student and resident of Tikri

for my exam. I can wait for an hour outside the centre but I Mundaka to visit their centre. who resides near the Singhu border, said, "There are a lot of traffic restrictions because of which children are not able to go for coaching centre or play." "This is impacting their studies and may affect their scores in the exams," another

> parent said. On the SKM's decision, a parents group said that "as concerned parents, we are in agony and compelled to raise our voices against the proposed nationwide strike or

Malik's petition in which

he sought a direction to

However, their hard work could go in vain if they are unable to reach their examination centres due to railroad blockades and non-availabiliof transport services, said.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, farmers are also demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pensions for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstate the Land Acquisition Act 2013.

Anthology of 'Indian Detective Fiction' tells gripping tales from the subcontinent

New Delhi, Feb 14 (PTI):

Featuring over 35 compelling whodunits, a new two-volume anthology, "The Hachette Book of Indian Detective Fiction", is touted to be a one-of-its-kind collection of detective fiction from India and the subcontinent.

Showcasing stories by seasoned writers and translators -- including Satyajit Ray, Sharatchandra Sarkar, Rabindranath Tagore and Vikram Chandra - and new voices, the anthology invites readers to unravel mysteries with every turn of the page, masterfully showcasing distinctive instances of the genre.

It is edited by writer and

होटल पिकाडली के पीछे, रायपुर

to the New Wave of contemporary writing in the genre.

It should be a treat for students, connoisseurs as well as general readers keen to discover more about the way this form can illuminate both historical and contemporary socio-political and cultural dilemmas pertaining to the transition into modernity in our spaces,' said Saint in a statement.

Be it the story of a murder of an adult industry star spiralling into a web of deceit or the curious case of

www.baidyanath

six deaths and the common link of a box of arseniclaced sweets, the book packs in everything from whodunits, supernatural mysteries, to serial murders and absurd crimes. Other contributors to the collection include Ambai, Gita Subramanian, Anii Menon, Sumit Bardhan, Tanuj Solanki, Anirudh Kala, Ankush Saikia, Giti Chandra, Madhulika Liddle, Shashi Warrier and Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay.



Printed and Published by Sameer Maheshwari on behalf of Ramgopal Investments Pvt. Ltd. at Navbharat Press, Navbharat Bhawan, Press Complex, Raipur. Editor in Chief - Sameer Maheshwari. Editor: Sameer Shukla (Responsible for selection of news under PRB Act.), $Phone: (0771)\ 4911922\ Fax: (0771)\ 4257703\ , Postal\ Regn.\ No.\ C.G.\ / RYPD.N.\ / 62/2022-24,\ Regd.\ No.\ 26172/74/RNI$