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BRIEF

PM Modi hoists BJP's party flag during the BJP National Council meeting, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Anticipatory bail

New Delhi: A court here on Saturday granted anticipatory bail to a 54-year-old doctor of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) accused of raping a colleague on the pretext of marriage. Additional Sessions Judge Ravindra Kumar Pandey granted pre-arrest bail to the male doctor, a professor of neurosurgery, against whom Delhi Police had registered a case under penal provisions of rape, unnatural offences, causing miscarriage without woman's consent, and criminal intimidation.

ED summon

Bhubaneswar: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned senior BJD MLA and former Odisha Minister Prafulla Samal and his son over an alleged money laundering case, sources said on Saturday. The probe agency has issued summons to Samal and his son Prayaskanti in connection with Barapada Engineering College land irregularities, they added.

Fire

Mumbai: Around 15 commercial units and some houses were gutted in a fire that broke out in a residential structure in Mumbai's Govandi area early on Saturday, in which nobody was injured, an official said. The fire brigade received a call alerting it about the blaze at 3.55 am, he said.

Arrested

Bokaro: As many as 11 inter-state cybercriminals were arrested in Jharkhand's Bokaro district, while three others managed to escape, police said on Saturday. The police recovered 41 mobile phones, 36 SIM cards of different companies and other documents related to the crime from their possession, a police officer said.

Order

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has ordered the removal of Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) vice-chancellor Ramesh Goyal in connection with an alleged scam involving the recruitment of teaching faculties in 2017-2019, Raj Niwas officials said on Saturday.

Weather

High 32 Low 19

MODI AT BJP MEET

'Focus on devp agenda, ensure winning 370 seats'

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked BJP members to build the party's Lok Sabha poll campaign around the government's development and pro-poor welfare initiatives besides the measures to enhance the country's global standing, asserting that winning 370 seats will be a true tribute to its key ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Addressing a meeting of the BJP's national office-bearers before the start of its convention, he said every party worker should focus on polling booths in the next 100 days, the period by which the upcoming Lok Sabha polls are likely to be over, and ensure at least 370 more votes for the party at every polling station than



Attendees during the BJP National Council meeting, in New Delhi, Saturday.

in 2019. Briefing reporters on Modi's speech, BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde said the prime minister told the meeting that the opposition will engage in "tu tu-main main" (petty squabbling), unwarranted and divisive issues but they must not be distracted and remain focussed on its development agenda.

Modi said, "370 is not merely a number for the

and Kashmir, in August 2019 soon after returning to power for a second time.

The Lok Sabha has 543 seats, and the BJP had won 282 and 303 of them in 2014 and 2019 respectively. Modi has set a target for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to win over 400 seats.

In a post on X later, Modi said, "Addressed the @BJP4India National Office Bearers. Complimented every Party Karyakarta for their exceptional efforts to serve people. Discussed ways to deepen our Party's grassroots level connect across all sections of society. Over the last decade, BJP has made a mark as a party of development and good governance. Our schemes, initiatives and reforms have transformed several lives."

Gulzar, Sanskrit scholar Rambhadracharya selected for Jnanpith Award

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been named the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award, the Jnanpith selection committee announced on Saturday.

Sampooran Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, is celebrated for his works in Hindi cinema and is considered one of the finest Urdu poets of this era.

Rambhadracharya, the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer of more than 240 books and texts, including four epics. In a statement, the Jnanpith selection committee said, "It

has been decided to give the award (for 2023) to eminent writers from two languages: Sanskrit litterateur Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and well known Urdu litterateur Shri Gulzar."

Gulzar received Sahitya Akademi Award for Urdu in 2002, Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2013, Padma Bhushan in 2004, and at least five National Film awards for his works.

Some of his finest works include the song "Jai Ho" for film "Slumdog Millionaire", which received an Oscar award in 2009 and Grammy Award in 2010, and songs for critically acclaimed films as "Maachhis" (1996), "Omkaara" (2006), "Dil Se..." (1998), and "Guru" (2007), among others.

Will 'unhappy' Nath exit Cong, join BJP?

Bhopal, Feb 17 (PTI):

The buzz over senior Congress leader Kamal Nath's possible switch to the BJP grew louder on Saturday with the former Madhya Pradesh chief minister saying if there would be any such thing, he would inform the media first, and his son Nakul Nath dropping Congress from his bio on social media.

Congress leaders from Madhya Pradesh, however, stressed on the decades-old ties between Kamal Nath and the party to dismiss the speculation that he may cross over to the BJP. Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari recalled how former prime minister Indira Gandhi had described Nath as her "third son".

GSLV rocket successfully injects meteorological satellite into orbit

Sriharikota, Feb 17 (PTI):

Moving ahead on its mission to study the Earth and ocean surfaces, ISRO on Saturday successfully launched its next generation weather observation satellite INSAT-3DS onboard a GSLV rocket into a precise orbit.

The flawless mission prompted the ISRO to virtually heave a sigh of relief over the challenging GSLV rocket technology, as the director of today's mission said the "naughty boy has matured into an obedient, disciplined boy," apparently referring to its past unsuccessful missions.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said the success gave the space agency "greater confidence," as the GSLV will be next deployed in the NISAR mission, a collaborative effort with the US' NASA. The INSAT-3DS satellite, weighing 2274 kg is a follow-on mission of the third generation meteorological satellite to be placed



GSLV-F14, carrying INSAT-3DS satellite lifts off from the SDSC-SHAR, in Sriharikota, Saturday.

in a geostationary orbit and is funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The objective of the mission is to provide continuity of services to existing operational INSAT-3D (launched in 2013) and INSAT-3DR (September 2016) for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces, weather forecast

and disaster warning, as well as to provide satellite aided Search and Rescue Services (SAR) among others.

At the end of the 27.5 hour countdown, the nearly 52 metre tall GSLV-F14 lifted-off majestically from the second launch pad at this spaceport here, at a prefixed time of 5.35 pm.

The three stage rocket with a cryogenic upper stage, after a flight of about 20 minutes, got separated from the vehicle as planned and placed the satellite into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

Later, scientists at ISRO would undertake a series of manoeuvres to place the satellite into the Geostationary orbit in the coming days. The rocket carries imager and sounder payloads, data relay transponders, satellite aided IR transponders which would be used to study cloud properties, fog, rainfall, snow cover and depth, fire, smoke, land and ocean among others.

Rajkumar Santoshi gets 2 years jail

Jamnagar, Feb 17 (PTI):

A court in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Saturday sentenced renowned filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi to two years in jail and also directed him to pay Rs 2 crore to the complainant in a cheque return case.

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TN FIREWORKS UNIT BLAST

Four women among 10 killed



Virudhunagar (TN), Feb 17 (PTI):

Ten people including four women were killed in an explosion at a fireworks factory in this district on Saturday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin directed two state ministers to coordinate the rescue and relief activities.

The Chief Minister said a sudden explosion in a firecracker manufacturing unit in Kundayiruppu village in Vembakottai resulted in the death of ten

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Scrutinise Mahtari Vandan Yojana forms within time limit: Amitabh

Chief Secretary reviews works related to Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Road Safety and Jail Department

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh Government, Amitabh Jain chaired a review meeting through video conferencing. He reviewed the schemes related to Mahtari Vandan Yojana, Road Safety and Jail Department.

He gave instructions to Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary regarding Mahtari Vandan Yojana being run under Women and Child Development. He said that all the applications under Mahtari Vandan Yojana should be examined within the time limit. The Collector said that more than 3 lakh ap-



lications were received in the district, which are being examined. The Chief Secretary said that after examining the documents in the application, the list of eligible and ineligible Aadhaar should be re-

leased within the time limit. He instructed to complete verification of all applications promptly. While giving instructions regarding road safety, he said that campaigns should be run

to make all citizens aware. It is mandatory for two-wheeler drivers to wear helmets and for four-wheeler drivers to wear seat belts. He gave instructions to make the public aware especially in urban areas, highways and other busy traffic areas. During the video conferencing, CEO District Panchayat Ashwini Dewangan, District Transport Officer Shailabh Sahu, Commissioner Municipal Corporation Lokesh Chandrakar, Lovesh Dhruv and Ashish Dewangan along with Jail Superintendent RR Rai and other officers were present.

Cancer detection camp organised for women

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: On the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, a mega camp was organized in the district hospital with the aim of promoting the control and screening of breast cancer and cervical cancer. Thousands of women visited the camp without hesitation.

District Collector and other prominent women representatives also got themselves examined in this camp. The Collector appealed to all citizens to join this important campaign so that the society can be freed from diseases like breast cancer and cervical cancer.



She said that due to global climate, living conditions and eating habits, today 01 out of every 22 women is likely to get breast cancer. She said that it was very good that such a large number of women visit-

ed the camp. It shows that women are conscious about their health.

The test facility is available in the district hospital. District Administration appealed to the women to

get themselves tested for cancer. Collector expressed gratitude to all the doctors and medical staff participating in the camp. On this occasion, Chief Medical Officer JP Meshram and other doctors were present.

School students conduct Voter Awareness Program

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: On the instructions of District Education Officer Abhay Jaiswal, a voter awareness campaign was conducted in various government schools of the district. The students of Government Higher Secondary School, Khursipar, formed a human chain and visited door to door.

They detailed the voters of Khursipar area about the importance of voting and asked them to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha elections. Students of Swami Atmanand English Medium School gathered



in large numbers with the message of voting awareness and took out a long rally in village Nagpura to make people aware about voting.

Students of Government Higher Secondary School, Kosa Nagar Bhilai made a SVEEP formation and

gave the message of voting. Similarly, other government schools took out rallies at the city and village level, formed human chains, organized street plays and various types of competitions and gave the message to the voters of Durg district to ensure cent percent voting.

Safety Awareness Week inaugurated in CO&CCD

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Departmental Safety Awareness Week was inaugurated at the Coke Oven and Coal Chemical Department (CO & CCD) of Bhilai Steel Plant on 15th February 2024. The CO & CCD is observing the Safety Awareness Week from 15th February to 21st February 2024.

Dr Ashok Kumar Panda, ED (F&A) inaugurated the Safety Awareness Week by lighting the ceremonial lamp and hoisting the safety flag in the presence of Tarun Kanrar, CGM (CO&CCD), Praveen Rai Bhalla, CGM (Safety & Fire Services), and other senior officials, personnel, and contractual workers in large numbers.

Speaking on the impor-



tant of safety, Chief Guest Dr AK Panda stated that safety at the workplace is of paramount importance, along with productivity in the Plant.

I wish all the participants a bright future for putting forth their sincere efforts to

show the important aspects of health, environment, and safety through their drawings, slogans, rangolis, and paintings, Dr Panda said.

A series of safety-related activities were organized during the inaugural func-

tion, including the exhibition of safety-related rangoli, slogans, and posters along with a street play on safety staged in front of Welfare Building No 04, and a House Keeping competition between different sections of CO&CCD for clean-

ing of scrap and unwanted materials, to promote a safe working culture among the employees and to create a hazard-free working atmosphere to achieve accident-free production.

Series of programmes including poster exhibition, model presentation, essay competition, hazard analysis competition, tool box talk competition, dramas, songs, slogans, quiz, and other safety activities and motivational games, shall be organized under the guidance of Departmental Safety Officers BC Mandal, PM Rajendra Kumar, as a part of this week-long Safety Awareness Week at Plant's CO & CC Department, from 15th February to 21st February 2024, to motivate the BSP collective to adhere to safety measures.

Wire Rod Mill records new high in production

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Bhilai Steel Plant's Wire Rod Mill has made a new day record production of 1663 Tonnes on 15th Feb 2024 as against the previous best of 1654 Tonnes on 19th Nov 2023 in TMT 10 and 8 mm profile.

The Mill that rolls out Electrode Quality wire rods for electrode industry and TMT wire rods in both earthquake resistant (EQR) and high corrosion resistant (HCR) grades has recorded an impressive growth of 23.6% in production during April 23 to Jan 24 period over corresponding period last year. The Mill produced 3,80,268 T of wire rods in April to Jan period as against 307664 T in corresponding April to Jan period of last fiscal year.

It is worth mentioning that increased production by Wire Rod Mill in the current fiscal year has been facilitated by replacement of Pinch Roll Unit with in-house resources. Pinch Roll Unit of B strand which is of a different design has been fixed in C strand of the Mill. To execute this job, WRM team had to modify the foundation and base frame of both strands. The job was done with the support of Plant's Engineering Design Dept that helped with the



drawing for base frame and Machine Shop under Mechanical Organisation that helped in preparing the base frame

As regards production of value-added special steel grades, Wire Rod Mill has rolled TMT Fe-550 grade for the first time

in the current fiscal year. During the April to Jan period of the current fiscal year, the Mill produced 23825 T of Electrode Quality in grade (EWN) IS-2879. The Mill produced 1,41,969 T of TMT wire rods during the April to

Jan period of the current fiscal year. This included 1,35,745 T in TMT (EQR) grade and 6223 T in TMT (HCR) grade. The Mill produced 2,07,467 T of special grade plain wire rods during April-Jan period of current fiscal year as against 1,75,132 T recorded in corresponding period last year.

CGM (Merchant Mill and Wire Rod Mill MK Goyal has congratulated members of the Wire Rod Mill collective for their efforts leading to increased production and thanked all associated departments for their support. Senior officers of the Plant have also congratulated the WRM Team and leadership and supporting departments for the efforts made to enhance production from the Mill.

Free Health Camp organised at Kamkasur

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Bhilai Steel Plant conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Kamkasur Village Panchayat, near Dulki Mines on 15th February 2024.

A team of Medical and Health Professionals from BSP and personnel from BSP's CSR Department conducted the camp. A total of 28 villagers, including men, women, and children, were examined



at the Medical Camp and free medicines were distributed to them.

It is noteworthy that Health Camp is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health &

Medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts health camps from time to time in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical and health facilities to the communities within which it works.

Uday Mahavidyalaya celebrates Basant Panchami



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Saraswati Puja program was organized at Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul-Bhilai, on the occasion of "Basant Panchami". The gathering offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati. The students

enthralled everyone with bhajan and kirtan. BED Students of fourth semester prepared Khichdi as Prasad. Principal Dr Alipa Sahu explained the importance of Basant Panchami and extended best wishes to become a person of character by

keeping speech, behaviour and actions under control. Assistant Professor Kalavati Rao, Dr Prabha Sahu, Neelam Chauhan, Purnima Sahu, Ranjana Tripathi, Kalpana Gupta, Reshmi Bano, Anita Sahu, Satnam Singh and students were present.

Electrical Zone employees felicitated with Shiromani Awards

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 17: Employees of the Electrical Zone of Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded the 'Pali Shiromani' and 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance, under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The award ceremony was organized recently. TK Krishna Kumar, CGM (Electrical) was the chief guest on this occasion.

Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Deputy Manager (PSD), was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani Award' for his excellent performance during the quarter of July to September 2023, while Raj Kumar Nayyar, AGM (ERS) was awarded 'Pali Shiromani' for the quarter of October to December 2023. Ram Krishna Shastri,



Senior officials of the CMCT (PSD) was awarded the 'Karm Shiromani' Award for the month of September 2023, while Rajeshwari Nareti, ACT (PSD), and Jeewan Lal Paikra, Master OCT (ERS) were awarded the Karm Shiromani Awards for their commendable work performance in the months of October and November 2023, respectively.

Electrical zone including Prakash, GM (Telecom), PK Padhi, GM (ERS), RR Thakur, GM (PSD), Ravindra Kumar GM (PSD-II), Betsy George, GM (PSD-I), S Lakshmi, GM (TPIE), Md Ashraf Siddique, GM (HME), Akshaya Kumar Nayak, GM (CRME), and Subhash Rathore, GM (ETL), were also present on this occasion, along with Anurodh Darhe,

AGM (Electrical) and other senior officials.

Mementos and certificates were presented to the awardees, along with a Letter of Appreciation to their respective spouses. During the programme, the awardees were appreciated for their achievements at the workplace. Dameshwari Belsar, Section Officer, compered the programme, while, Girish Kumar Madharia, Assistant Manager (Personnel Office-P&E Zone), proposed the vote of thanks.

Those employees of Bhilai Steel Plant, who demonstrate innovation in their work to achieve the goals of the company by following all the safety standards with the resources available in their work area, are felicitated with Shiromani Awards by the Plant Management.

OBITUARY

Harjinder Singh



Bhilai: Sundar Nagar resident Harjinder Singh left for heavenly abode at the age of 84 years on Friday. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Rannagar Muktidham. He was the father of Kulbinder Singh (Robin) and Indermohini Kaur (Mala) and father-in-law of SPS Jaggi (Retired Director, Shipping Corporation) and Jyoti Bakshi (HoD, Botany, St Thomas College).

Following CM's directives, Raipur Collector celebrates his birthday with school children

Smt. Bunda Bai Sahu extends birthday wishes to the Collector with a rendition of the 'Sohar' song

Collector urges people to organise the 'Nyota Bhoj' for school children with nutritious meals

'Nyota Bhoj', a community-driven initiative, underway in the state to enhance the nutritional intake of schoolchildren



panied by his family, commenced the day by offering prayers to Goddess Saraswati before joining the children at Government New Primary School Dharampura. He meticulously served meals and engaged with each child to understand their preferences, ensuring everyone enjoyed the meal, including puri, vegetables, dal, rice, kheer, and cake. SP Santosh Singh, DFO Vishweshwar Rai, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Abinash Mishra, and District Panchayat CEO Vishwadeep were present and served meals to the children. The Collector, alongside his wife, Dr. Sunita Singh, and their children, Aadya Singh and Akshara Singh, have taken

lunch with the students. Children at Government New Primary School in Dharampura were overwhelmed with joy during the lunch. They expressed gratitude to Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh with heartfelt gestures like offering flowers.

They also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, and School Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal. They expressed their aspirations of becoming a collector, inspired by the event.

Smt. Bunda Bai Sahu, President of Saraswati Mahila Group, extended birthday wishes to the Collector with a rendition of the 'Sohar' song. Smt. Sahu has been providing

meals to the school since the inception of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

The Collector encouraged both officials and citi-

zens to celebrate significant occasions with school children and organise the 'Nyota Bhoj' for them with nutritious meals. Interested individuals were urged to contact the authorities, and if needed, the administration will make a system to register for a monthly program where people can share their auspicious moments with the schoolchildren. They will be honoured by the administration for their contribution to the noble cause.

In Chhattisgarh, following Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's directive under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana, a community-driven initiative called "Nyota Bhoj" is underway to enhance the nutritional intake of schoolchildren.



GNI Workshop on Data Journalism, Electoral Data Interpretation held



Raipur, Feb 17: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Govt MV Post Graduate College, Bhanupratappur in association with Google News Initiative (GNI) India Training Network and DataLEADS organize a Workshop on "Data Journalism, Electoral Data Interpretation, Mapping Tools for Journalists, Digital Investigation and Online Verification" at the college auditorium.

Prof. Ramesh Kumar Darro, Principal (I/c) in his presidential address said to achieve the goal in your life, you should be hardworking and curious to learn new technology.

Ritesh Kumar Nag, Coordinator IQAC and Programme Officer NSS in his welcome address said the mass media students should visit the local Gram Panchayat and Nagar Panchayat offices to collect data for data journalism. He also

added that the media students should be prompt in all forms of communication to ensure a bright future. Tupesh Kumar Kosma, Assistant Programme Officer NSS motivates the students for field based investigative journalism. He also added digital investigation and online verification tools are very much required in the age of digital media.

The resource person of the workshop Bichitrnanda Panda, Trainer, GNI India Training Network and Assistant Professor, Amity School of Communication, Amity University, Raipur train the students of B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication in the technical sessions on Data Journalism, Electoral Data Interpretation, Mapping Tools for Journalists, Digital Investigation and Online Verification. He demonstrated the reverse

image search, utility of Google Lens, InVID, Yandex, Google Street View to debunk misinformation. He also demonstrated the data analysis and visualization tools like Google sheets, Tabula, Pinpoint, and MS Excel.

The Google News Initiative India Training Network is an initiative to support journalists, fact-checkers, and media educators across India in their fight against misinformation. Google News Initiative, in collaboration with DataLEADS, has established one of the world's largest fact-checking initiatives in India. The Network supports journalists and media educators with digital training and upskilling opportunities.

Sridam Dhali, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication coordinated for the entire session and proposed the vote of thanks.

Implementation of mosquito eradication, animal sterilisation programs discussed at MiC meeting



Raipur, Feb 17: Seven agendas were discussed at meeting of Mayor-in-Council (MiC), held at Mahatma Gandhi Sadan in Raipur Municipal Corporation headquarters under the chairmanship of Mayor Aijaj Dhebar today. Speaker Pramod

Dubey, Municipal Commissioner Abinash Mishra and MiC members were present at the meeting.

Discussion was held over mosquito eradication programme for effective control on mosquito menace in all 70 wards of

Raipur Municipal Corporation. The MiC members saw power-point presentation on this.

Discussion was also held on sterilisation of stray cattle to control stray cattle menace in the city in accordance with the central government's act.

Over 61 lakh ration card holders apply online for renewal

Renewal to be done till 25th Feb

Raipur, Feb 17: The work of renewal of all 77 lakh ration cards currently prevalent under the public distribution system in Chhattisgarh is going on from January 25. As of February 17, 61 lakh 28 thousand 959 ration card holders have submitted applications for renewal. People are taking full advantage of the online facility provided by the Food Department for renewal of ration cards and are submitting applications for renewal of ration cards through the Food Department's app from their mobiles.

It is noteworthy that the work of ration card renewal is being done till 25 February 2024. According to the infor-

mation received from the department, a new mobile app of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has been prepared by the Food Department for ration card renewal. It can be downloaded by going to the Play Store. It can be downloaded by the beneficiary from the website of the Food Department <http://khadya.cg.nic.in>. Ration card holders can submit electronic application for renewal online through this app in their mobile. For those beneficiaries who do not have Android mobile or where there is no mobile connectivity, the facility of submitting electronic application for renewal of ration cards through online process at the fair price shop level is also being provided.

Instructions for meeting of District Road Safety Committee every month

Raipur, Feb 17: An important meeting of all Divisional Commissioners and Collectors was held today by Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain from CHIPS office Raipur through video conferencing. After reviewing the updated status of important schemes of the government from the districts, the Chief Secretary gave necessary guidelines regarding the future action.

The Chief Secretary instructed the districts to compulsorily organize the meeting of the District Road Safety Committee every month. He also directed to organize public

Public awareness programs related to road safety be organized: Chief Secretary



awareness programs regarding road safety every month in the districts. Instructions were given to organize programs among the community by ensuring their participation on various topics related to easy transportation like good driving habits, mandatory use of helmets, seat belts, drunken driving etc. During the review, Chief Secretary Jain assessed the need for additional jails in the state and also reviewed the need for land acquisition for expanding the ca-

capacity of existing jails and setting up new jails.

Secretary General S Prakash, Mrs. Shammai Abidi, NN Ekka, Additional Director General of Police Traffic Pradeep Gupta and Chairman Inter-Departmental Lead Agency (Road Safety) Sanjay Sharma, all the Divisional Commissioners, all the District Collectors and departmental officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Collector hears public grievances at district level grievance redressal camp



Out of 125 applications, 72 resolved on spot

Raipur, Feb 17: The process of issuance of domicile certificate, transfer of name and loan book which used to take a week, was completed within an hour today and documents were immediately handed over to the beneficiaries at

district level public grievance redressal camp organized at Collectorate here on the instructions of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. Earlier, camps were also organized at tehsil and revenue division level.

Divisional Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Alang and Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh met the common citizens and heard their grievances.

Some grievances were redressed on the spot. The Collector instructed the officials to fix some of the issues by setting a time limit.

As many as 31 applications regarding name transfer were received from the applicants in the camp, out of which 22 applications were resolved on the spot and the remaining are under process. A total of 02

applications for account division were received in which the case was registered. Out of 05 applications for demarcation, 03 applications were resolved on the spot, the remaining are under process. Moreover 08 applications for Kisan-Kitab were received and all the applications were resolved on the spot. As many as 19 applications for caste/income/residence certificate were received and all the applications were resolved on the spot. Revenue staff of all the tehsils were present in the camp. The Collector went to the tables of all the tehsils to know the status of their applications and also talked to the applicants. Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh, while addressing the revenue officers, said that they should treat the citizens with sensitivity. He said that he himself will go to the spot tehsil wise and review it and get information about the ground reality of the pending revenue cases.

CM Sai, MLAs attending BJP's national convention



Raipur, Feb 17: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday attended the National convention of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) underway at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. According to information received, several MLAs including the Ministers and State Office-bearers are

attending the mega BJP meet. Discussion on the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections are being held during the national convention. Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Raipur Lok Sabha member Sunil Soni and other office-bearers are also attending the meeting.

Cyclist Indersen to embark on tour to create blood donation awareness

Raipur, Feb 17: City Cyclist Indersen Agrawal will embark on nearly 4500 Kms tour from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in the month of February to create awareness about blood donation. Providing the above information, he said that he is an active member of blood donation committee and has donated blood for nearly 75 times.

He said that the above trip would be completely a solo trip which would begin from February 16 from Kanyakumari for nearly 40 days. Prior to the above, Indersen has successfully completed a 14-day tour from Manali to Khurdgala covering a distance of 540 Kms as well as Narmada Parikrama covering distance of 3400 Kms.

Yoganandam College's annual sports meet gets underway

Raipur, Feb 17: Principal Dr. Amitabh Banerjee on Saturday inaugurated the annual sports meet of Government J Yoganandam Chhattisgarh College here. According to the information received, Nagesh Markam won the Shot Put event whereas Ukesh Nag and Satavram secured second and third positions respectively. In the girls category, Bharati Singh secured first position whereas Poyal Komre and Jayanti Tara secured second and third positions respectively. Panchram won the Discus Throw event for boys whereas Priyabka Sahu won the event in girls category. Ved Prakash won the Slow Cycle rally whereas Anapurna won the girls category. In the Tug-of-War event, the Commerce Faculty defeated Science Faculty to clinch the title.



IIIT-NR organises Annual Techno-Cultural Fest Technovate 5.0



Naya Raipur, Jan 17: International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Naya Raipur, has kickstarted the celebration of its 3-day, Annual Techno-cultural fest, Technovate, with full enthusiasm.

The festival started with an Inauguration Session on February 16, 2024. The Inauguration started with lighting of the lamp by all the present dignitaries. It was followed by a Welcome Address and Glimpse of Technovate 5.0 by faculty coordinator, Dr. Satyanarayana Vollala. It was followed by an address by Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, Director and Vice Chancellor, IIIT-NR. It was then followed by an Address by Ms. Priyanka CREDA

(Chhattisgarh State Renewable Energy Development Agency). The Inauguration ended by a Vote of Thanks by Student Coordinator, Aryansh Verma.

After the inauguration ceremony, Hack-O-Harbour, a hackathon, commenced, featuring problems from the fields of AI/ML, web3, cybersecurity, and Capture the Flag cybersecurity competition. Additionally, there was Algo Sprint, a coding contest. A Tech Expo showcased stalls from various tech companies, and a comic expo also took place, which included a book fair, screening events, quizzes, and stalls. Alongside, a canvas painting competition called Rang Mela took place. In terms of sports,

there were basketball, table tennis, and cricket tournaments. There was also 'Awaaz' nukkad natak competition, in which, thoughts were presented through music, drama, and dialogues. Artists expressed their opinions and inspired the audience on various social issues. Additionally, in the competition, JNM College presented domestic violence, NIT Raipur focused on 'Morality', BIT Durg addressed 'Moral Policing', Shankara College emphasized on 'Justice Above

'Silent Owl'.

On the second day of the festival, an array of technical activities are lined up, including Pitchathon, Robolution Hackathon finals, and Quiz competitions. Attendees can also look forward to an EDM night featuring 'DJ Pablo' and 'Nitro Fun', Esports finals, and captivating Art and Photography galleries. The third day consists of Dance contests, Fashion shows, Speech and Debate competitions, Coding Speedrun, Robowars, and the



All', and IIIT-NR discussed 'False Patriotism'. Attendees enjoyed a Silent Disco with music by

Bollywood night featuring performances by Nikhil D'Souza and Vaani Bhasin.

Police nab 6 suspects involved in gang war

● Seize weapons and car

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 17: Chaos gripped the streets of Jagdalpur as gang warfare reared its ugly head once again, with a harrowing incident unfolding at the new bus stand under Bodhghat police station's jurisdiction. In a brazen act of aggression, henchmen from one gang opened fire on the leader of a rival faction, brandishing a pistol and threatening his life.

Authorities swiftly apprehended six suspects, identified as Raj Duga, Chirag Sahu, Kishore Chalan, Mohammad Altaf, Trinath Durga, and Hemant Dhruv alias Taklu, who were allegedly involved in the attempted murder. Police seized a cache of incriminating evidence, including a country-made pistol, cartridges, knives, nine mobile phones, and a car purportedly used in the commission of the crime.

The accused have been charged under sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act, as



well as sections 506, 307, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code. Following legal proceedings, all six individuals were remanded to judicial custody.

According to police reports, the confrontation unfolded when Raj Duga accosted the victim, Amit Sharma, near the Sulabh toilet at the new bus stand, issuing threats and brandishing a firearm. Prompt action by the victim, who reported the incident to authorities, led to the swift

initiation of criminal proceedings and the formation of dedicated teams to track down the perpetrators.

Efforts by law enforcement bore fruit as four of the accused were apprehended, with Raj Duga, Chirag Sahu, Kishore Chalan, and Mohammad Altaf attempting to evade capture by fleeing to neighbouring Rai Odisha. However, diligent pursuit by police teams resulted in their eventual arrest.

Subsequent investigations and statements from the suspects led to the capture of the remaining two individuals, Trinath Durga and Hemant Dhruv alias Taklu, within Jagdalpur's jurisdiction.

Interrogations revealed a sinister plot to eliminate the victim, underscoring the gravity of the situation and the importance of swift and decisive police action in maintaining law and order within the community.

9th class student hanged himself

Korba, Feb 17: 15-year-old Atul Rathiya hanged himself at his house in CSEB police post area under Civil Lines police station. The deceased was a Class 9 student of CSEB Beacon School. The father of the deceased told that Atul had returned home late in the night on which he was given advice. The matter came to light when he did not wake up the next morning. On receiving information about a school student committing suicide, the police conducted Panchama on the spot. Police said that this incident happened due to normal reason. CSEB Chowki Police has registered a case under 174 CrPC in this case and is busy taking further action.

Rapist of elderly woman sent to jail

Korba, Feb 17: In a shocking incident that has rattled the community, a 56-year-old woman fell victim to a brutal gang rape in Korba. The perpetrators, two assailants, abducted the woman while she was relieving herself outdoors, forcing her onto a motorcycle before transporting her to a nearby forest where they subjected her to a terrifying ordeal.

The harrowing assault unfolded within the jurisdiction of the Rajgamar police post. According to reports, the widow had ventured out of her home for a routine necessity around 10:30 pm on Friday night. It was then that she encountered Sohan and Ram Kishan, who coerced her to

accompany them against her will.

The assailants transported the helpless woman to Sagoun Bari, located above the Chhachan Jhorkhi forest, where they took turns raping her and issuing threats. The victim's cries for help attracted the attention of villagers, prompting the perpetrators to flee the scene in a bid to evade justice.

Fortunately, the victim received timely assistance from compassionate villagers, who provided her with support and brought her safely back home. Recounting her traumatic experience, she promptly informed her family of the horrific ordeal she had endured.

Upon receiving the victim's complaint, authorities swiftly launched an investigation, leading to the apprehension of the perpetrators. Both Sohan and Ram Kishan were apprehended in the village, where they confessed to their reprehensible actions during police interrogation.

Revealing a disturbing detail, Korba CSP Bhushan Ekka disclosed that one of the arrested culprits was on the verge of marriage in the near future. Both individuals were promptly presented before the court, which subsequently remanded them to judicial custody, ensuring they face the full force of the law for their despicable crime.

Bank of Baroda clinches title



Raipur, Feb 17: The spirited atmosphere of cricket fever swept through Raipur, Chhattisgarh as the late Shri Shyam Lal Goyal Memorial Cricket

Tournament, a beloved tradition spanning two decades, returned to Goyal Chemical, Saddu. Kicking off on February 10th, the tournament reached its

crescendo with a thrilling finale on Sunday, February 11th.

Ten teams, predominantly comprising employees from banking estab-

Late Shyam Lal Goyal Memorial Cricket Tournament

lishments, vied for supremacy in this fiercely contested competition. The inauguration ceremony witnessed a gathering of esteemed bank officials, underscoring the significance of this sporting event. Over the course of the tournament, 18 electrifying matches, including nail-biting league fixtures and gripping knockout encounters, kept spectators on the edge of their seats. The final showdown, in particular, was a spectacle to behold, brimming with moments of exhilaration and tension that had the crowd roaring in excitement. In a display of sheer determination and skill, Bank of Baroda emerged

victorious in the title clash. Opting to field after winning the toss, they restricted the opposition to 111 runs in 10 overs, claiming 7 wickets in the process.

Bank of Baroda chased down the target in just 7 overs, securing a resounding triumph. The closing ceremony of the tournament was graced by the presence of B.L. Agarwal, CMD of Heera Group, who extended his heartfelt congratulations to all participants. Encouraging them to uphold the spirit of sportsmanship, Agarwal urged everyone to carry forward the legacy of camaraderie and fair play in future endeavours.

Joyous celebration marks Basant Panchami in Kampa

Birkoni, Feb 17: In a display of unity and cultural richness, the spirit of Basant Panchami was joyously celebrated in the quaint town of Kampa. The occasion was further illuminated with the concurrent observance of MatruPitruPujan Divas, creating a harmonious blend of reverence and festivity. The Government Primary and Pre-Secondary School in Kampa resonated with jubilation as the School Management Committee, led by President BhojSahu, along with esteemed members KisanPrajapati and Parents, orchestrated a memorable event. The vibrant gathering included prominent community figures such as Khandelwal, Narsingh Yadav, JalesSahu, and esteemed guests. Sandul coordinator Sahadev Ram Dhruv and dedicated teachers graced the occasion with their presence, further enriching the festivities.

Highlighting the essence of the event, awards were bestowed upon talented individuals for their contributions to the cultural program, symbolizing the spirit of recognition and appreciation. The atmosphere was filled with pride and admiration as deserving recipients were applauded for their exemplary performances. Expressing gratitude for the resounding success of the event, organization head Yashwant Kumar Sahu extended a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective effort that made the celebration possible.

Amarkantak, Feb 17: The three-day national seminar on Folk and Tribal Elements in Indian Art began with great enthusiasm on Feb 16. The program started with the invocation by Dr. Shiva Kant Tripathi. After this, lamps were lit by the guests in front of Mother Saraswati. Chairman of the seminar was renowned artist Prof. While addressing, MarutiNandan Tiwari said that the elements of tribal art are visible in Indian art from the very early period, which can be seen in the paintings carved by them. Tiwari said that Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) is located in a



tribal dominated area, which is playing an important role in preserving and promoting the tribal art culture.

Chief guest Prof IS Nigam while addressing said that tribal art is known as folk-dependent or free or native art. Ancient Indian

texts show that craftsmen took inspiration from ancient texts and writers took inspiration from ancient craftsmen. Former Chairman of Art History Congress, Prof. AP Jamkhedkar described rock painting as a separate and distinct category of art

in the context of global arts. General Secretary of the organization Prof. D.S. In his address, Somashekhar presented the outline of the latest achievements of the organization since its inception and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the divine and grand organization of the said national seminar by the university.

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. RanjuHasiniSahu appreciated the organization of the said seminar by the Department of Ancient Indian History. Seminar coordinator Prof. AlokShrotriya welcomed the guests attending the seminar.

Senior teacher of the university, Prof. who is presiding over the program. ByomkeshTripathi expressed his gratitude to the guests by mentioning the various aspects of tribal art and expressed hope that this three-day SamudraManthan will reveal various new and unique elements of tribal art.

On this occasion Prof. Awadhesh Kumar Shukla, Prof. Shailendra Singh Bhaduria, Prof. Ajay Bagh, Prof. A. P. Singh, Registrar Prof. N. S. H. Murthy, Prof. Jitendra Sharma, Prof. Neeti Jain, Prof. Poonam Sharma, Prof. Raksha Singh, Prof.

Prabuddha Mishra, Dr. Shiva Kant Tripathi, Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain, Dr. Janardan B., Dr. Govind Mishra, Dr. Manoj Pandey, Dr. Hareram Pandey, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Dr. Trimbak Pandey, Dr. Kirti, Neeraj Kumar, Sangram Singh, Satyam Dubey, Rajat Singh, IditDawa, Nagendra Shukla, Hemant Kumar, PankajPandro, LalitaLahri, Shivangi Singh, Poonam and a large number of students of the university were present. The vote of thanks was given by the Head of the Department, Dr. Mohan LalChadhar and the program was conducted by Dr. Manoj Kumar.

Three-day national seminar begins at IGNTU

Official language Award Conferred to Satish Singh

Rajbhasha Hindi Samman Competition was organized by Café Social and Inbook Foundation in November 2023, in which entries of stories were invited. The result of the competition was announced in the first week of February 2024.

The story "Ilaam" by Satish Singh, a banker, poet, storyteller, and senior columnist, was awarded the second prize in this competition, while Meenakshi Dubey of Indore, Madhya Pradesh got the first prize and Chandraprakash of Akola, Maharashtra got the third prize & consolation prizes were given to other 5 storytellers. Mr. Singh will be given Rs.25,000/-, Mrs. Dubey will be given Rs.51,000/- and Chandraprakash will be given Rs.15,000/- while each consolation prize winner will be given an amount of Rs. 2,500/-.



and MBA (Finance) and has also done Diploma in Hindi Journalism from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi in the session 1994-95. Singh has been writing freelance on banking and economic topics for the last 15 years and had also been actively involved in mainstream journalism for 5 years.

More than 2500 articles, more than 500 songs, ghazals, poems and more than 5 dozen stories of Singh have been published. A music album of Singh "Piya O Re Piya" was released in December 2021. He has also published 3 books and has been honoured with more than a dozen awards.

Singh is originally a resident of Patna, Bihar and is currently posted as Assistant General Manager, Learning & Development Department in the Local Head Office of Ahmedabad Circle of State Bank of India.

Swar Dhvani 2024: A Melodic Journey

Sweta Sinha

Swaranjali Delhi, in association with Dhvani Foundation, orchestrated Swar Dhvani 2024, a captivating classical music festival that mesmerized audiences with its enchanting performances.

The event commenced with the vibrant Taal of Teen Taal, skillfully presented by young tabla prodigy Master Rudraksha, accompanied by the soulful strains of Sarangi expert Janab Akram Hussain.

Mohanveen artist Monideep Mitra enraptured listeners with his rendition of Raag Madhubanti, embellished by the intricate tabla rhythms of Amrithesh Sandilya.



came Pt. Chetan Joshi on flute and Dr. Vipul Kumar Ray on Santoor for a duet recital, accompanied by Siddhartah Chatterjee on Tabla and Ankit Parikh on Pakhawaj, weaving melodies in Raag Patdeep. Vidhushi Saniya Patankar, a vocalist from Pune, graced the audience with her performance in Raag Bhoopnat, accompanied by the harmonious strains of Devendra

Verma on Harmonium and Amrithesh Sandilya on Tabla.

Subrata De mesmerized the audience with his unique rendition of Rag Nandeshwaree, accompanied by Saptak Sharma on Tabla, showcasing the beauty of Jhaptal and Teen Taal.

Iman Das from Bengaluru then took the stage, enchanting listeners with Raag Bihag & Manjh Khamaj Bihag, E

kaan Mo- Vilambit Ektaal, Chinta Na Kar Re-Jhaaptaal, Jhumjham Dhumdham - Teentaal, Thumri- Lagi Tose Naina in Manjh Khamaj accompanied by the skilled tabla beats of Prabhakar Pandey and the harmonium melodies of Lalit Sisodia.

The grand finale featured the young tabla maestro Pandit Yashwant Vaishnav from Mumbai, accompanied by Pt. Mrinal Upadhyay on Pakhawaj, weaving intricate rhythms in Taal Teentaal, harmonized by Lalit Sisodia on Harmonium.

As the evening drew to a close, Pt. Susamoy Mishra extended heartfelt gratitude to all performers and attendees, marking the end of a mesmerizing musical journey.

Classifieds

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AAP govt wins trust vote

Kejriwal says no party MLA defected

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The Aam Aadmi Party government on Saturday won a trust vote in the 70-member Delhi Assembly with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claiming that his party has emerged as the biggest challenger to the BJP, which "wants to crush it by any means". Kejriwal, who is also the national convener of the AAP, won the confidence motion with the support of 54 MLAs and said no legislator of his party defected.

Out of 62 AAP MLAs in the Delhi Assembly, 54 were present in the House during the trust vote, two were in jail, two others were unwell, three were out of station and one was not present due to a wedding in his family, the AAP national convener said. Kejriwal had moved the motion of confidence in the Assembly on Friday and accused the BJP of trying to poach his party's MLAs.

Since seven of the eight BJP legislators were suspended for the remainder of the session for allegedly interfering during the Lieutenant Governor's address on Thursday, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri was the

only opposition MLA who was present in the House during the trust vote.

He said there was no need for the confidence motion as the AAP government enjoys a majority in the House. "But the chief minister has lost the confidence of the people of Delhi," Bidhuri said. "There are many serious allegations of corruption against the government and it has failed on many fronts. Kejriwal and his minister Atishi are not cooperating with a police enquiry on the BJP's complaint over their MLA

poaching allegations," the leader of the opposition said in the House.

On his part, the chief minister said the AAP government has a majority in the House but it needed to bring the motion of confidence because "the BJP was trying to poach party MLAs" and topple his government. Kejriwal claimed his party will "free" the county from the BJP in 2029 even if the saffron party wins the Lok Sabha polls this year.

The AAP convener also alleged that the BJP was

spreading a "rumour" that the Delhi Assembly will be dissolved after the Lok Sabha polls and the city will be governed as a Union Territory.

"This country is not anyone's property. They cannot dissolve the Assembly just like that. I challenge the BJP to contest elections on this issue. The BJP should clarify whether they will dissolve the Assembly after Lok Sabha polls," he said, asking the AAP MLAs to tell people that if they voted for the BJP, it would snatch their right to vote.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Service (Banking Division), 797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC-148/2019 in O.A. No. 475/2018 UNION BANK OF INDIA vs SHRI ROHIT GAWALI E-Auction No. 32/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: https://www.bankenauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs. 14,53,837.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Seven only) payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 475/2018 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with Interest at 12.00% p.a. with simple interest from 01-05-2018 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-Auction : 21.03.2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

Lease Land and shed at Plot No. B-1, area admeasuring 2080 sq.ft., situated at Gokul Nagar, Chandra Shekhar Ajab ward no. 52, Mathpura, District Raipur C.G. Property in the name of Rohit Gawali s/o. Shri Kanhaiya Gawali. Upset Price: Rs. 14,60,000.00 (Rupees Forteen Lakh Sixty Thousand only)

Conditions of Sale: 1. Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.bankenauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id: -mpcg@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@bankenauctions.com.

2. Intending bidders are advised to go through website: https://www.bankenauctions.com for auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids.

3. Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also after on DRT will not be responsible for this.

4. 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs. 1,46,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Forty Six Thousand only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 31067074055 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT, Jabalpur with STATE BANK OF INDIA, RIDGE ROAD BRANCH, JABALPUR. (IFSC Code: SBIN0007208) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form.

5. Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 19.03.2024 online.

6. A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest.

7. Online bidding with commencement from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs. 15,000.00 (Rupees Fifteen Thousand only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system.

8. The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited.

9. In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account no. 31067074055 mentioned in SL. no. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited.

10. The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with pondage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account no. 31067074055 mentioned at SL. no. 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

11. Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint basis".

12. The properties can be inspected on 07.03.2024 Between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours.

13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price.

14. Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason.

15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Shri Rajendra Kumar, Senior Manager, Mob. No. 9111012092 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc.

16. Details regarding e-Auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.bankenauctions.com Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id: -mpcg@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@bankenauctions.com.

17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Rajendra Kumar, Senior Manager, Mob. No. 9111012092

18. The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank/ Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place : Jabalpur (Vaatsalya Kumar) RECOVERY OFFICER Date : 09.02.2024

Registered Office: Plot No. C-21, Tower C (1-3 floors), G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 Corporate Office: No. 27/A, Developed Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 Branch office: Branch office at Ground Floor, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedinaka, Raipur, C.G. - 492001

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE [See rule-8(1) (For Immovable Property)]

Whereas, Hinduja Leyland Finance/ the Authorised Officer/s of Hinduja Leyland Finance under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Act, 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13 read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice (s) date of receipt of the said notice (s).

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 properties described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the (Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The Borrower's / Guarantor's / Mortgage's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Hinduja Leyland Finance, for the amount and interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of the Account	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of demand notice	Amount	Possession Date
1.	CRNGNG 00682	Borrower:- M/s Maa Durga Associates Co-Borrower 1: Mr. Jaswant Singh Co-Borrower 2: Mrs. Jasweer Kaur Co-Borrower 3: Mr. Devender Singh All 1-4 are having: - Address:1 MIG-01, Tatibandh Infront of Bharat Mata School, Raipur (C.G.)-492001	All That Piece and Parcel of Land Bearing No. MIG-1, PH NO- 103, YO BHARATMATA SCHOOL, TATIBANDH, DIST- RAIPUR, C.G. 492001. North- G.E. Road, South- MIG/2, East-Road, West- Private Land	21.09.2023	Rs. 11,35,66,612.23/- as on 14/09/2023	17/02/2024 (Symbolic Possession)

Date: 17-02-2024 Place: Raipur Authorised Officer Hinduja Leyland Finance

Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006 PH: 0788 - 2261892, 2264992, E-mail: recovery.durg@bankofbaroda.com

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of movable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets under agreement of Hypothecation of movable assets. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable assets charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:

The auction will be online e-auction through website https://bob.auctiontiger.net on 21.03.2024 between 02.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Sr. of Contact No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Brief Description of the Asset to be sold	Total Dues (Rs.)	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Amount (In Rs. Actual)	Account No in which amount to be deposited / IFSC Code
01	Awanti Bai Kurud Chowk, Bhilai 6232020420	Mrs. Navraj Kour Toyota Urban Cruiser CG 07 CE 9917	Rs. 8,39,434/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 6,50,000/- Rs. 65,000/-	87610015181869 BARBODBKURD
02	Awanti Bai Kurud Chowk, Bhilai 6232020420	Mrs. Ruby Agrawal Renault Triber RXZ AMT CG 07 CD 4280	Rs. 5,85,048/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 4,25,000/- Rs. 42,500/-	87610015181869 BARBODDBKURD
03	Jamul 6232020417	Mr. Najir Ahamad BAXY EXPRESS G LOAD SUPER KING CG 07 BK 3530	Rs. 1,37,795/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 63,000/- Rs. 6,300/-	87600015181869 BARBODBJAMU
04	Nandani Road, Bhilai 6232020409	Mr. Uday Kant Mishra Lohiya Humrahi Passenger CG 07BG 2008	Rs. 1,26,310.50/- +interest & other charges	Rs. 15,000/- Rs. 1,500/-	50410015181869 BARBONANDAN

The last date for submission of EMD shall be on 20.03.2024. The interested bidders may inspect the asset at site between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. on 12.03.2024 to 14.03.2024. Bid increment amount will be Rs.5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousands Only). All further detailed terms & conditions of sale can be accessed from our website of e-auction agency https://bob.auctiontiger.net. Email: chhattisgarh@auctiontiger.net STATUTORY 30DAYS SALE NOTICE. The Borrowers / Guarantors are hereby given notice to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any will be recovered with interest and cost from them by legal avenues.

Date: 18.02.2024, Place: Bhilai, Chhattisgarh Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

STATE BANK OF INDIA

SARB, Block B-1, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Ph : 0771-4919730 Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) Mob: 7771012456, 8889375554, 8817876067, 8052611114

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Appendix - IVA [See Provision to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property hypothecated/mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic / physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 06.03.2024 & 11.03.2024 (11:00 A.M. TO 4.00 P.M.) for recovery of dues mentioned in Coloum "D" due to State Bank of India. Secured Creditors from below mentioned Borrower and Guarantors.

Sr. No. (A)	Borrowers and Guarantor Details (B)	Brief Description of Assets Other known Debt Encumbrances, If Any & Title Holder Name (C)	Recovery of Arrears Property Being Sold for (D)	Reserve Price EMD (Earnest Money) Bid Increment (E)	Date & Time of E-Auction
1	M/s Arvind Agencies Prop. Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur S/o Shri B.L. Thakur (b) Shri Apurv Thakur S/o Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur S/o Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur S/o Shri B.L. Thakur (c) Ms. Neha Thakur D/o Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur & Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur S/o Shri B.L. Thakur	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and building situated at Kh. No. 52/3 & Kh No. 52/4 (part of Kh. No. 52/1) Ph. No. 41/47 (new 10), Akalakra Road, Janjgir, Tehsil - Janjgir, Dist. - Janjgir Champa (C.G.), Area - 0.101 hect. in the name of Shri Arvind Kumar Thakur S/o Shri. B.L. Thakur. Bounded (as per Title Deed) North : Main Road, South : Land of Manglu Rathore, East : Land of Dhaniram Rathore, West : Land of Dileram Rathore (Physical Possession) *Kh. No. 52/3 (included Kh. No. 52/4) both are part of Kh. No. 52/1 Note: The property under sale is the subject matter of case pending in the court of Additional District Judge-II Janjgir, Distt. - Janjgir Champa (C.G.) (Civil Case No. 83/2022 Kailash Chandra Gupta & others Vs Arvind Kumar Thakur & others).	₹ 31,21,192.85 + Interest & Other Charges. Demand Notice Dt. 05.05.22	₹ 1,44,00,000 ₹ 14,40,000 ₹ 25,000.00	06.03.2024 Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
2	Borrower- Mr. Jagdish Konark and Mrs. Neha Konark	Residential Building Situated at Ph. No. 62, Kh. No. 1012/02, Ward No. 04, Plot No. LIG-01, C.G. City Phase-II, Dadar Road, Bhitai-3, Charoda, Tehsil- Dhamdhia, Distt. Durg, C.G. (Area: Land- 64.52 sqmtr: Builtup Ground Floor 40.97 Sq.Mt, First Floor 40.97 Sq.Mt). Boundaries: North - Plot No. 71, South - LIG-02, East - Road, West- Open Land (Physical Possession)	₹ 26,16,705.00 + Inlt. + Exp. & costs, charges etc. Less the amount recovered therefor. Demand Notice Dt. 05.09.2022	₹ 25,00,000.00 ₹ 2,50,000.00 ₹ 25,000.00	11.03.2024 Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
3	Borrower- Mr YASHISH VAISHYA SMT USHA VAISHYA	Residential building situated at PH No. 177, KH No. 555/10, Ward No. 58, Nahar Para, Urla, Durg 2, C.G. Area : Land - 1290 sq ft. Boundaries: North- Road , South- House of Madan Manikpuri, East- House of Itwari, West- House of Chetan Thakur. (Physical Possession)	₹ 29,68,773.00 + Inlt. + Exp. & costs, charges etc. Less the amount recovered therefor. Demand Notice Dt. 13.06.2022	₹ 29,00,000.00 ₹ 2,90,000.00 ₹ 25,000.00	11.03.2024 Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-Auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd. Auction web page/portal https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. Bidders/buyers have to transfer the EMD amount to their Global EMD Wallet using online mode by registering with respective e-auction web portal of https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposit in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned office/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The payment of all statutory /non- statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc., owing to any authority or to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of successful bidder only. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. https://www.sbi.co.in and https://www.ibapi.in (website details) given.

This publication is also a 15 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

For Serial No. 1:- Inspection of Property Date & Time : Between 19.02.2024 to 05.03.2024 (as per prior appointment)

For Serial No. 2 & 3 :- Inspection of Property Date & Time : Between 19.02.2024 to 08.03.2024 (as per prior appointment)

Date: 18.02.2024, Place: Raipur Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Raipur

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) & Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged / charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer the Canara Bank (secured creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 06.03.2024 from 12.30 Noon to 2.30 pm for recovery of bank dues to the Canara Bank (secured creditor).

Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantors	Description of Properties & Name of Property Owner	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Dt. Out Standing Amt.	Reserve Price EMD Amt. Bid Increment Amt.	Branch Name & IFSC Code
M/s Ajanta Thread and Cosmetics, Proprietor Mr. Ganesh Ram Mahobiya, Gol Bazar, Habib Complex, Sabji Mandi Shop No. 07, Dongargarh - 491445.	All that part and parcel of commercial shop no. 08 situated at plot no. 1267/1 & 1268/1, sheet no. 2, Habib Complex, Ward no. 17, Situated at village - Dongargarh, Teh. - Dongargarh, Dist. Rajnandgaon - 491445. Area: 241.10 Sqft. Boundaries: North: Shop No. 9, South: Sabji Mandi Gali, East: Shop No. 12, West: Shop No. 07.	01.02.2022 20.04.2022 ₹ 12,71,818.53 as on 01.02.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 13,68,000/- ₹ 1,36,800/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. Dilyendu Biswas (Mo. 7806005903) Dongargarh Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0005260 Email: cb5260@canarabank.com
M/s AR Industries, Proprietor: Mrs. Samrun Nisha W/o Abdul Gaffar, 552, Kavilash Nagar, Near Shiv temple, Birgaon, Raipur 493221; Guarantor: Mr. Abdul Gaffar S/o Alladin Khan, 562, Kavilash Nagar, Shiv Temple Road, Birgaon, Raipur 493221.	All the part and parcel of Land & Building at part of KH No. 85/25, PH No. 108 at Dhan laxmi nagar banjara mata Ward No. 5, Bhanpur, Raipur owned by Abdul Gaffar S/o Alladin Khan. Area - 700 Sqft. Boundaries: North: Land of Jawahar Lal Yadav, South: Road, East: Land of Devki Devi, West: Land of Bindal.	03.06.2022 25.08.2022 ₹ 20,49,295.00 as on 03.06.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 9,90,000/- ₹ 99,000/- ₹ 10,000/-	Smt. Sarita Kumari (Mo. 9452503197) TP Nagar Branch Raipur A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0005306 Email: cb5306@canarabank.com
1. M/s. Ashok Construction, Proprietor- Mr. Ashok Sharma, Block No. 27, Plot No. 15, Motilal Nehru Nagar (East) Bhilai, 2. Mr. Ashok Sharma, Block No. 27, Plot No. 15, Motilal Nehru Nagar (East) Bhilai, 3. Mr. Jagdish Prasad Sharma, Block No. 27, Plot No. 15, Motilal Nehru Nagar (East) Bhilai.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting PH No. 36, KH. No. 492/2 (part) Village - Sankra, Tehsil & Dist. Rajnandgaon in the name of Mr. Ashok Sharma. Bounded: North- Govt. Land, South- Land of Toran, East- Land of Surrender, West- Dharsa. Area- 10000 Sq.Feet.	02.04.2022 08.06.2022 ₹ 8,77,447.00 as on 02.04.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 8,10,000/- ₹ 81,000/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. Sandeep Deshmukh (Mo. 9425503197) Smriti Nagar Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0001973 Email: cb1973@canarabank.com
M/s. Shri Ganpati Udyog, Proprietor: Mr. Someshwar Prasad Singh S/o Kameshwar Prasad Singh, MCD Godown, Dhamdhia Road, Chikhili, Durg & Guarantor: Mr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, Plot No. 16/17, Block No. 17, Dakshin Gangolri, Supela, Bhilai.	Property 1- Movable: Plant & Machinery located at MCD Godown Dhamdhia Road Chikhili- Durg in the name of M/s. Shri Ganpati Udyog, Proprietor Mr. Someshwar Prasad Singh. Property 2- Immovable: All the part & parcel of lease hold G-1 started commercial cum residential building situated at plot no. 17, Block no. 17, South Gangolri Commercial Market, Near Circus Ground, Supela, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh standing in the name of Mr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh S/o Mr. Someshwar Prasad Singh, measuring 1308.00 Sqft. Bounded: On the South- Plot No. 16, On the North- Plot No. 18, On the West- Road, On the East- Plot No. 2.	07.11.2022 09.01.2023 ₹ 1,05,78,903.55 as on 07.11.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 3,40,000/- ₹ 34,000/- ₹ 10,000/- ₹ 78,30,000/- ₹ 7,83,000/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. Kapil Ganesh Gaud (Mo. 9739675979) Bhilai Main Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0000298 Email: cb0298@canarabank.com

1. M/s. Bhavesh Milk Collection Center Proprietor: Mr. Balram Vishwakarma & 2) M/s. Jai Durg Engineering Works Proprietor: Mr. Kanhaiya Vishwakarma, Both Add.- H No 812K, Shankar Nagar, Durg-491001.	All the part and parcel of property consisting of a double storied residential building situated near Saraswati School, Shankar Nagar East, Ward No. 11 KH No. 1306/69, PH No. 16/24 Dist. Durg. Owned by Shri Balram Kumar Vishwakarma S/o Deviprasad Vishwakarma. Area-1925 Sqft. Boundaries: North: Road, South: Road, East: Others House, West: Road	01.06.2021 17.09.2021 ₹ 43,69,987.47 as on 01.06.2021 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 42,12,000/- ₹ 4,21,200/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. L Venkat Raman (Mo. 7000781900) Durg Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0000289 Email: cb0289@canarabank.com
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1. Mr. Surjit Singh Pothiwal S/o Hari Singh Pothiwal, H No. 892 K, Street No. 1, D, Ward No. 60, Risali Bhilai Dist. Durg. 490006 & 2. Mrs. Dimple Kaur W/o Surjit Singh Pothiwal, H.No. 892 K, Street No. 1D, Ashish Nagar East, Ward No. 60, Risali, Bhilai, Dist. Durg 490006	All the part and parcel of residential land and building situated at Plot No. 9, Block No. 24, Sector 3, Bhitai-3, Dist. Durg. Area: 484 Sqft. Boundaries: North- Part of Block 23, South- Road, East- Plot 8, West- Plot 10	17.12.2022 02.03.2023 ₹ 9,96,422.00 as on 17.12.2022 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 8,91,000/- ₹ 89,100/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. Pramal Singh Sindodiya (Mo. 898162199) Vaishali Nagar, Bhilai Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0005491 Email: cb6491@canarabank.com
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M/s Hardik Enterprises, Flat No. 101, Block-B, Empressia Apartment New Rajendra Nagar, Raipur, C.G.	Plot no. 93, Kh. No. 550/3 (part), PH No 109/39, Saddu Kushabhau Ward no. 26, RIC- Raipur-1, Tehsil & Dist. - Raipur, C.G to the extent of area 1650sqft. Boundaries of the Property- East- Plot No. 80, West- Road, North- Plot No. 92, South- Plot no. 94.	21.08.2023 23.10.2023 ₹ 1,56,64,110.47 as on 12.01.2024 + future interest & costs, expenses etc.	₹ 16,83,000/- ₹ 1,68,300/- ₹ 10,000/-	Mr. Ritesh Kumar Kawale (Mo. 9326911967) GE Road, Raipur Branch A/c No. 209272434 IFSC CODE: CNRB0002555 Email: cb2555@canarabank.com
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M/s Rahul Dodeja S/o Anoop Kumar Dodeja, MIG -5, Shankar Nivas NPHB Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG 492001 (Borrower) and Mrs. Kajal Dodeja W/o Anoop Dodeja, MIG -5 Shankar Nivas NPHB Colony Katora Talab, Raipur CG- 492001 (Co-Borrower)	Flat No. 602 , 6th Floor, I Block, Green Glory, Part of Khasra No. 1211/22, 1320/21, 1216/19, 1217/19, 1218/31, 1211/23, 1320/22, 1216/20, 1217/20, 1218/32, P.H. No. 63, situated Shankar Nagar, Maharashtra Valmiki Ward No. 28, R.I.C. -Raipur-1, Tah and Dist Raipur, C.G. Boundaries of the Property- East-Colony Road, West- Colony Road, North- Flat-1, 601, South- Open Space.	30.08.2023 01.11.2023 ₹ 1,02,65,357.79 as on 16.02.2024 + future
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3554 permanent houses approved for Baiga families

- In Kabirdham district
- Approval of Rs 11.98 crore for housing construction
- On instructions of Deputy CM Vijay Sharma

Kawardha, Jan 17:

Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to connect the special backward tribes with the mainstream and provide them all basic facilities, is being implemented rapidly in Chhattisgarh. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Vishnu DevSai and as per the guidelines of Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, 3554 houses have been approved for Baiga families under this



scheme in Kabirdham district of the state, out of which 2996 houses have been approved as the first installment for the construction of permanent houses and for the same, Rs 11 crore 98 lakh has been released. Baiga families predominate in 179 villages of Bodla development block and 77 villages

of Pandariya in Kabirdham district. For these families, 2081 houses have been approved in Bodla development block and 1474 houses in Pandariya development block. An amount of Rs 40,000 each has been issued to Baiga families as the first installment for the construction of 2996

houses in the first phase. Apart from this, basic facilities like electricity, water, roads, education, health and other basic facilities will be provided in these villages under the scheme. It is noteworthy that under Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojana, an amount of Rs 2 lakh will be given in 4 installments to Baiga families for the construction of houses. The first installment will be Rs 40,000 for starting the house, the second installment will be Rs 60,000 when the house is at chair level, the third installment will be Rs 80,000 for casting the house and Rs 20,000 will be given for completion of the house. Apart from this, 95 days wages will be paid under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

10 cases registered for illegal excavation and transportation of minerals

Two hiwas, 1 JCB and 12 tractors seized

Bilaspur, Jan 17:

The Mineral Department in the district is continuously taking action against illegal excavation and transportation of minerals and on the basis of information and complaints received through various mediums, action was taken on a total of 10 cases of illegal excavation and transportation of minerals from February 13 to February 16. Two trucks, 1 JCB and 12 tractors have been seized in the action and contractor M/s Sanjay Kumar Kedia, Baradwar has been fined Rs 3.81 lakh for not certifying the validity of the mineral being used in road construction work. Deputy Director of Mining Department said that during the investigation in



Bhiloni, Masturi and Koni areas, after taking action on 8 cases of illegal sand transportation, a total of 8 tractors containing mineral vehicles were seized and kept for security in Koni police station, Pachpedi police station and Mineral Investigation Naka Lawar:

Apart from this, during the investigation in Rahangi area on 15th February, a case of illegal transportation of soil and mud was registered and two highways were seized and kept in Chakarbanta police station for security. Similarly, on February 16,

after registering a case of illegal soil and mud in Kaimadih (Sipat) area, 4 tractors and 1 JCB were seized and kept in police station Sipat for security. Further action will be taken on the seized mineral laden vehicles under the provisions of Mineral Act.

Facility of safe transportation for women and girls

- On instructions of Deputy CM Vijay Sharma and MLA Bhavna Bohra

Kawardha, Jan 17:

On the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Pandaria MLA Mrs. Bhavna Bohra, seats were reserved for women and girl students in the buses operating under the jurisdiction of Kabirdham district under the permit conditions. The women and students of the district have thanked Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma and Pandariya MLA Mrs. Bhavna for providing easy and safe transportation facilities. Buses are also being continuously inspected in this regard by the Transport



Department and under the guidance of Collector Janmejy Mahobe and District Transport Officer Mr. ML Sahu, surprise inspection of buses was conducted here by Transport Inspector Mr. Ramchandra Kunjam. He explained to the drivers about the above while making women and girl students sit on the seats during the journey and also instructed to operate the passenger bus by following the instructions as per the permit conditions.

Illegal brick kiln operating from Bazaar Ataria

Bazaar-Ataria, Jan 17:

Reportedly a flood of illegal brick kilns are operating in the region, particularly in the surrounding villages including Sonpuri, Amghatkada Chowk, Udaipur, Khapri, Singhairi of Bazaar Ataria area of Khairagarh development block of KCG district. The influential people of the village are taking advantage of the exemption given to the potter caste, and the business is running rampant in rural areas without departmental permission and depositing royalty. Even the Gram Panchayat under which this business is being done is not aware; owing to this the Mineral Department is losing revenue worth lakhs of rupees. Also these days, the



demand for red bricks has increased in the area and new brick kiln operators are being created every month., despite this, the

price of bricks is skyrocketing. Mainly the beneficiaries of PM Awas are facing problem as the beneficiaries get only Rs 25 thou-

sand as the first installment, out of which only Rs 4 thousand are able to buy bricks and in such a situation, it has become difficult to buy building material, leave alone buying bricks to build the house of PM Awas. Interestingly the Mineral Department does not take any information from the Gram Panchayats on illegal brick kilns, and illegal Murum mining and other issues, due to which illegal red brick kilns are being operated indiscriminately and the environment in the village is being polluted. Also migration is reported in these villages as people coming from different states have started settling while the number of brick kiln operators is continuously increasing.

Roads sink into darkness as no street lights working

Anwari, Jan 17:

In Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara, the main roads here plunge into darkness, as evening arrives as reportedly the street lights of the divider in Nagar Panchayat Bhakhara situated on the main road from Raipur to Dhamtari are switched off and similarly, in other wards here too, they are switched off. The lying street lights are not being switched on. The residents of the city have complained many times to get the street lights lying closed in the wards, but despite many complaints, these street lights are not being repaired and people are having to bear the brunt of them, due to which, thieves are becoming



active and committing theft and robbery every day by taking advantage of the switched off lights and small and big incidents like road accidents keep happening at night.

Apply soon in the corporation to get your own house

- Under PMAY; take advantage of the opportunity
- Corporation is going to allot 986 residential houses, applications can be made till Feb 26

Korba, Feb 17:

Municipal Corporation Korba is going to allot 986 houses out of the houses built in Dadarkhurd under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), to those who do not have their own houses and to those who are living in rented houses. This is a better opportunity to get a house, you can submit your application to the corporation before 26th February. Municipal Corporation Korba has constructed 2784 residential houses (flats) near Dadarkhurd settlement under the PMAY



"MorMakan-MorAas", in the said huge residential colony of 2784 residential houses, various facilities including roads, drains, water, electricity etc. Basic facilities have been provided, along with this work will also be done on facilities like garden and community hall in the colony. The said residences are built in the form of flats and are located in the ground floor, first floor, second floor and third floor. In the said residential colony, earlier 174 houses were allotted to the eligible benefi-

ciaries, now again the corporation is going to allot 986 houses, for this the corporation has invited applications from the interested people till 26th February, the people willing to take the house can fill the entire form. Submit your filled application form to PMAY located at Saket, the main administrative building of the corporation. Can be deposited in the branch. To get the format of the application form, the concerned person will have to deposit a fee of Rs 100 to the corporation fund.

Counter opened at Saket Bhawan entrance

In view of the convenience of the general public, on the instructions of Commissioner Pratishtha Mamgai, a counter has been set up near the entrance of Saket Bhawan, the main administrative office of the corporation. Persons wishing to get a house can go to that counter and get the format of the application form and pay Rs 100. The filled application can be deposited at the counter by depositing the fee in the corporation treasury.

One BHK will be available for Rs 3.25 lakh

One BHK is available in the said residential colony for only Rs 3 lakh 25 thousand. People will get the flat whose carpet area is 327.64 sq.ft. The said amount can be paid in easy monthly installments. The flats which are currently being allotted include 170 flats in the ground floor; 272 flats in the first floor; 272 flats in the second floor; There are 272 flats in the first floor and 272 flats in the third floor.

Allotment through lottery on March 11

After the persons desirous of taking a flat in the said residential colony have submitted their applications to the Corporation and after the last date fixed for this purpose, the applications will be scrutinized and the list of eligible and ineligible applicants will be displayed in the notice board of the office on 04 March. Residential houses will be allotted through lottery on March 11, 2024.

INC city bandh successful in support of farmers' Bharat Bandh



Bagbahara, Jna 17:

Supporting the call of one-day Bharat Bandh by the farmers of the country, the Congress workers organized a bandh in Bagbahara and the event was completely peaceful and successful. To make the bandh a success, Congress workers had made an appeal to close the city through loudspeakers, due to which the shops

also remained, closed spontaneously almost in the morning, though medical shops, vegetable markets, educational institutions, government offices, etc. were kept free from the bandh. On the instructions of the State and District Congress and under the guidance of MLA Dwarkadhish Yadav, the demands of the farmers were highlighted and supported. Mainly responsible for

making the program successful were Daula Chandrakar, Ravi Nishad, Bhubendra Thakur, DurgaSagar, Ganesh Sharma, Navneet Saluja, DeveshSahu, Tamradhwaj Baghel, Mayank Sharma, Lakshir Chhabra, KartalNayak, Ramkumar Thakur, Setram Baghel, Rajesh Soni, Manta Yadav, Bhaktaram Manjhi and many others.

Kala Jatha group reaching every village

- To give information about the schemes
- Movie focusing on the schemes is being shown through LED van

Jagdulpur, Feb 17:

According to the route chart identified by the Public Relations Department of the State Government in the rural areas of the district, promotion of ambitious and public welfare schemes of the Central and State Government through LED vans and art troupes in Haat Bazaars and Gram Panchayats being done. In various Gram Panchayats of the district, the artists of Kala Jatha Dal are giving information about the public welfare schemes of the government through their



interesting presentations. Under this, till now public welfare schemes of the government have been promoted in Gram Panchayat Kesharpal, Bhanpuri, Deora, Retavand and Lamker of Bastar development block of the district, Nagar Panchayat Bastar and Gram Panchayat Chingitrai of Darbha development block. Mahtari Vandan Yojana, purchase of paddy at support price,

Ramlala Darshan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Yojana to the villagers through Kala Jatha Dal, including information about various public welfare schemes of the government.

The art troupe is making the villagers aware about these schemes through message-oriented songs, dramas and skits. At the same time, information is being given to the villagers by showing movies focused on the schemes through LED vans. Seeing this with rapt attention the villagers are becoming aware of the information about the schemes.

Yadav Adarsh Seva Sansthan unveils annual calendar

Chhurikala, Feb 17:

The Yadav Adarsh Seva Sansthan's annual calendar publication marked a significant moment for the Yadav Samaj of District Korba, unveiling a roadmap for community engagement and development.

Amidst a gathering of esteemed members of the Yadav community, the calendar was launched during a program held in village Gangpur near Nagar Panchayat Chhuri. District President of Yadav Adarsh Seva Sansthan, Dr. P.L. Yadav, along with Hiralal Yadav, Gorelal Yadav, Ramgopal Yadav, Jeevan Yadav, and dedicated women workers, graced



the occasion with their presence. Dr. P.L. Yadav emphasized the importance of active participation and engagement within the society, urging members to attend weekly and monthly meetings to contribute ideas and insights towards the organization's functioning. He highlighted ongoing initiatives and encouraged dialogue around various schemes aimed at community welfare. Echoing this senti-

ment, Hiralal Yadav stressed the significance of collective effort, particularly in empowering marginalized groups such as the disabled and women. He reiterated the society's commitment to providing support and opportunities for their advancement. With a shared vision to uplift and empower the community, Gorelal Yadav and Jeevan Yadav reaffirmed their dedication to fostering inclusive growth and solidarity. The event witnessed a large turnout of men and women from the Yadav community, underscoring the collective determination to work towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Pakistan's CEC, Chief Justice involved in poll-rigging, alleges senior bureaucrat

Islamabad, Feb 17 (PTI):

A senior Pakistani bureaucrat on Saturday alleged that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice were involved in poll-rigging in the recent election as he resigned from his post, taking the "responsibility for all this wrongdoing".

Former Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chattha's remarks came amidst jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party began nationwide protests against alleged rigging and stealing of its mandate in the February 8 elections. Speaking to reporters at the Rawalpindi

Cricket Stadium, Chattha said the candidates who were "losing" the elections "were made to win".

"I am taking the responsibility for all this wrongdoing and telling you that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice are also completely involved in this," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Chattha resigned from his office after "accepting responsibility" for manipulation of poll results, it said.

He said "stabbing the country in its back does not let" him sleep.

"I should be punished for the injustice I have done and others who were involved in this in-

justice should also be punished," Chattha said.

The former bureaucrat said there was "pressure" on him to the extent that he contemplated suicide but then resolved to present matters before the public.

"It is my request to the entire bureaucracy to not do anything wrong for all these politicians," he said.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has strongly rejected the allegations Chattha has made against the chief election commissioner.

In a press statement, it said, "The Election Commission of Pakistan strongly rejects the allegations levelled by the Commissioner

Rawalpindi on the chief election commissioner or the election commission and no official of the election commission never issued any instructions regarding changing the election results to the Commissioner Rawalpindi.

"Neither is the commissioner of any division ever appointed as a District Returning Officer, Returning Officer or Presiding Officer nor do they ever play a direct role in the conduct of elections." However, it said that the matter would be investigated. Punjab's caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has also ordered an "impartial probe" into the allegations made by Chattha.

Imran Khan's party begins protests against polls rigging

Prohibitory orders imposed in Islamabad

Islamabad/Lahore, Feb 17 (PTI): Authorities on Saturday imposed prohibitory orders here in Pakistan's capital as jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party began nationwide protests against alleged rigging and stealing of its mandate in the recent elections.

Criticising the outcome of the polls, which saw the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party-backed independent candidates emerging as the

largest group by winning over 90 National Assembly seats, the PTI announced holding countrywide "peaceful protests" against what it termed "record-high rigging".

The protests began with a march in Wana in South Waziristan of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The party has decided to sit in the Opposition in Parliament.

"The PTI has called for country-wide protests against the unprecedented, massive, brazen rigging in general elections

2024, where PTI's win of 180 National Assembly seats and a two-thirds majority in the parliament, was cut down to half," the party said in a statement.

"The 2024 elections would be remembered in the country's history due to the scale of rigging," PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan said.

The Islamabad police have said that section 144 is in force in the city and the security is on "high alert", as the PTI is set to begin its countrywide protests, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Recognising a Palestinian state is not a taboo for France: Macron

Paris, Feb 17 (AP):

French President Emmanuel Macron says recognising a Palestinian state is not a 'taboo' for France, as international frustration grows with Israel's actions in the Palestinian territories.

France and the EU have long supported a two-state solution in the Mideast, but as part of a negotiated settlement. With talks long stalled and Israel's offensive against Hamas in Gaza deepening, some European countries are voicing support for recognising a Palestinian state

sooner. "Recognising a Palestinian state is not a taboo for France," Macron said Friday at a meeting in Paris with Jordan's King Abdullah. "We owe it to Palestinians, whose aspirations have been trampled on for too long. We owe it to Israelis, who lived through the worst antisemitic massacre of our time. We owe it to a region that is seeking to rise above those who promote chaos and seed revenge."

Macron did not elaborate on when and under what conditions France



could recognise a Palestinian state, and France is unlikely to take such a decision unilaterally. But France holds important diplomatic weight, as one of just five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"Our partners in the region, notably Jordan, are working on it, we are working on it with them. We are ready to contribute to it, in Europe and in the Security Council," Macron said.

He also called for a cease-fire in Gaza and warned that an Israeli offensive in Rafah on the border with Egypt would

lead to a "humanitarian disaster without any precedent."

Britain's Foreign Minister David Cameron said earlier this month that his country could officially recognise a Palestinian state after a cease-fire in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects Palestinian statehood, and there have been no substantive negotiations on a two-state solution since 2009. A move by some of Israel's key allies to recognise a Palestinian state could put pressure on Israel to resume negotiations.

Top diplomats from US, China hold 'constructive' talks on issues dividing them

Munich, Feb 17 (AP):

Top diplomats from the US and China on Friday held a "candid and constructive" discussion on issues vexing their strained relations over Taiwan, the situation in the South China Sea, Russia's war against Ukraine and synthetic opioids, the State Department said.

The meeting between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference marked the latest and highest-level meeting between the two sides since U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks late last year in California.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Blinken emphasized the importance of maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait as well as expanding on nascent counternarcotics efforts.

Blinken also raised concerns about China's support for Russia's defense

industrial base that Washington sees as helping Moscow's military operations against Ukraine.

"The two sides had a candid and constructive discussion on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage competition in the relationship," Miller said.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Wang called on the U.S. to remove sanctions against Chinese companies and individuals.

Wang emphasized that Washington's policy of "de-risking" economically from Beijing "has become de-Sinicizing, building a tall fence" and de-coupling from China" and "will come back to bite the U.S. itself," according to a Ministry readout Saturday morning.

He also called on the U.S. to stop searches of Chinese nationals. Recently, Chinese state media published reports of Chinese citizens being searched at the U.S. border.

Indian-origin man jailed for life over 30-year-old UK murder

London, Feb 17 (PTI):

An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a court here for murdering a woman 30 years ago after he was connected to the brutal killing through his strand of hair found at the crime scene.

Sandip Patel, 51, was found guilty of the murder of Marina Koppel by stabbing her at least 140 times at her flat in the Westminster area of London in 1994 and sentenced at the Old Bailey court in the city on Friday.

The Metropolitan Police said innovative work by its forensics team on his hair found on a ring worn by Koppel finally brought Patel to justice all these years later.

"This was a great team effort with the forensic scientists, fingerprint experts, the forensic manager and the investigating team all playing their part in solving Marina's murder," said Dan Chester, Operational Forensic

Manager and the Met Police's Forensic Lead for Cold Case Homicide Investigations.

"Forensic techniques and technologies are constantly evolving, and the police will continue to review serious unsolved cases and, where possible, pursue new opportunities to enable both the prosecution of those responsible and to exonerate the innocent. This includes cases specifically related to violence against women," he said.

Marina, who was 39 at the time of her death, lived and worked in her flat during the week and spent time with her husband in Northampton during the weekend. It was an unconventional relationship as Marina worked as a masseuse and occasional sex worker, but the two were happily married, the court heard. She was described as a loving mother and worked hard to send money home to her family in Columbia, including her two children who were being cared for by her family there.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR (CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice Main Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

Table with 4 columns: S. No., System Tender No./Date, Name of Work, PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs). Includes details for bridge construction projects.

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (A Statutory Body of the Govt. of India) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 Phone No.: 011-29581000 Website: www.aicte-india.org

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of the post, Remuneration (Monthly), No. of the posts, Mode of Appointment. Lists Assistant Innovation Director and Innovation Officer positions.

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID NOTICE 1. Approval under Regulation: 86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2019 for determination of Transmission Tariff from DDCO to 31.03.2024 for 2 nos. of 400kV line bays at Padghe (PG) GIS for termination of Padghe (PG) - Kharghar 400 KV D/C (quad) line under "Western Region System Strengthening Scheme - XIX".

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise) Corp. Office: 'Saudamini', Plot No. 2, Sector-26, Gurugram-120011, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719 Reg. Office: B-9, Quab Institutional Area, Kirtiema Sana, New Delhi-110 016, Tel.: 011-2650112, 2650121 Website: www.powergrid.in. CIN: L40101DL1989G0303121 A Maharatna PSU

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st CALL)

System Tender No.: 152677 / NIT No.: 37/SAC/2023-24 Balod, Dated : 15.02.2024 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 07.03.2024 at 17.30 Hour Name of work: Repair work of office building of Quality Control Sub Division, Mahamoti Nala Canal Sub Division No 03, Construction of Residential Building, Kharkhara Mahndipath Canal Project Sub Division No 01 & Kharkhara Mohndipath Canal Project Sub Division No 03 Office Building including electrification & Tube well drilling under Kharkhara Mohndipath Medium Project in Block Dondilohara of District Balod. Probable Amount of Contract- Rs. 278.93 Lakhs

कार्यालय आयुक्त आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास ब्लॉक-डी भू-तल, इन्द्रावती भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर छत्तीसगढ़ Phone No. 0771-2263708, Fax No.-2262558, www.tribal.cg.gov.in, Email-cfdg@nic.in क्रमांक/133/रा.यु.डो./2023-24/12380 नवा रायपुर दिनांक 15/02/2024 'संक्षिप्त विज्ञापन' राजीव युवा उद्यान योजना वर्ष 2019 के अंतर्गत छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा परीक्षा की कोचिंग हेतु पात्र अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रण वर्ष 2024-25

कार्यालय आयुक्त, आदिम जाति तथा अनुसूचित जाति विकास इन्द्रावती भवन, ब्लॉक-डी (भू-तल) अटल नगर, जिला रायपुर (छ.ग.) फोन.-2263708, 2262558, फैक्स-2262558 Email Id- pmscstobe@gmail.com

क्रमांक./ऑ.लॉ.पो.पै.छ./162/2023-24/12401 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 15/02/2024 -: तिथि में वृद्धि सूचना प्रकाशन:- वर्ष 2023-24 में अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के लिए ऑनलाइन पोस्ट मेट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति (कक्षा 12 वीं से उच्चतर) हेतु विज्ञापित छत्तीसगढ़ एवं छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य के बाहर अध्ययनरत (छ.ग. के निवासी) जो शासकीय/आशासकीय महाविद्यालयों, विद्यापीठों, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज, मेडिकल कॉलेज, नर्सिंग कॉलेज, पॉलिटेक्निक एवं आई.टी.आई. आदि में अध्ययनरत हैं। जिनका संस्थाओं में प्रवेश विलम्ब से हुआ है तथा जिन पाठ्यक्रमों का परीक्षा परिणाम विलम्ब से घोषित हुआ है, ऐसे अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग के विद्यार्थियों को विभाग द्वारा संघालित पोस्ट मेट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति को वापस रखते हैं, को सूचित किया जाता है कि शिक्षा सत्र 2023-24 हेतु ऑनलाइन पोस्ट मेट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति (कक्षा 12 वीं से उच्चतर) के पंजीयन, स्वीकृति एवं वितरण की कार्यवाही http://postmatric-scholarship.cg.nic.in/वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन की जा रही है। जिसके अंतर्गत संस्थाओं के प्रस्ताव/स्वीकृति लॉक करने हेतु विभाग द्वारा वर्ष 2023-24 हेतु निम्नानुसार तिथि में वृद्धि की जा रही है:-

Table with 3 columns: क्र. (Sl. No.), प्रक्रिया (Process), अंतिम तिथि (Final Date). Lists dates for application submission and proposal lock.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Power Play

Congress Under Siege by IT Department

As the political climate heats up with the approaching General Election, the Congress party finds itself embroiled in a contentious battle with the income tax (I-T) department. Just months shy of the pivotal electoral event, the Congress alleges that the department has dealt a severe blow by freezing its primary bank accounts. This action has significantly hampered the party's operational capabilities, impeding its ability to pay salaries and utilize funds garnered through its crowdfunding initiatives. The Congress contends that this aggressive stance by the authorities stems from what they describe as 'flimsy grounds' – namely, the delayed filing of income tax returns for the fiscal year 2018-19. This recent development underscores a concerning trend of governmental interference in the functioning of opposition parties, raising valid questions about the impartiality and integrity of our democratic processes. Despite enduring a string of electoral setbacks in recent years, the Congress remains a formidable force in Indian politics, serving as the primary opposition to the ruling dispensation. Any attempts to disrupt its functioning under the guise of regulatory compliance must be scrutinized and condemned. The Congress's predicament is not an isolated incident but rather indicative of a broader pattern of alleged targeting by central agencies, including the Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Income Tax Department. Such actions have been consistently decried by opposition parties as politically motivated and designed to intimidate and coerce dissenting voices. In this light, the timing of the purported crackdown on the Congress raises suspicions of an orchestrated effort to undermine political opponents in the run-up to the elections. Earlier this week, the Congress's Madhya Pradesh unit raised serious concerns regarding the manner in which certain party leaders were summoned by the Income Tax Department. The decision to call them to New Delhi, rather than conducting proceedings locally, further fuels speculation of ulterior motives behind these actions. This sentiment is compounded by the backdrop of previous instances where opposition figures have been subjected to what many perceive as harassment and intimidation tactics by government agencies. The recent verdict by the Supreme Court, declaring the electoral bond scheme unconstitutional, further underscores the need for transparency and accountability in political financing. It is imperative for the government to dispel any perception of wielding investigative agencies as tools of political vendetta. The onus lies squarely on the ruling dispensation to uphold the principles of democracy and ensure a level playing field for all political stakeholders. As the nation braces itself for a crucial electoral battle, it is incumbent upon all stakeholders to uphold the sanctity of democratic institutions and processes. The integrity of our democracy hinges on the fair and equitable treatment of all political entities, regardless of their ideological leanings. The targeting of opposition parties undermines the very essence of democracy and erodes public trust in the institutions meant to safeguard it. It is imperative for the government to demonstrate its commitment to democratic principles by refraining from the politicization of regulatory agencies and ensuring a level playing field for all political actors. Only through such measures can we uphold the integrity and vitality of our democratic system.

Bridging Healthcare Divide

Reforming Medical Education in India

India's healthcare sector is at a critical juncture, facing a pressing need to address the scarcity of medical professionals amid surging demand. The recent report from the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare has spotlighted this urgent issue, urging comprehensive reforms in medical education. With millions of aspiring medical students competing for limited seats, it's imperative to not only expand capacity but also uphold the highest educational standards. The glaring gap between the demand and supply of medical seats is evident, with millions of students vying for a fraction of available spots. This disparity not only dashes the hopes of numerous aspiring doctors but also hampers healthcare delivery, particularly in rural and remote regions. The committee's proposal to establish new medical colleges attached to district or referral hospitals holds promise. By leveraging existing infrastructure, the government can substantially boost seat numbers without compromising quality. These colleges can serve as hubs for medical education and healthcare delivery, catering to diverse populations. However, mere expansion isn't enough; maintaining educational quality is paramount. The committee rightly stresses the importance of equipping new institutions with modern facilities, competent faculty, and robust curriculum frameworks. Standardizing the admissions process through a national entrance examination can ensure fairness and transparency. A uniform test will level the playing field for all aspiring medical students, curbing malpractices in admissions. Stringent regulatory frameworks, such as the Minimum Standards Regulations (UG-MSR), are crucial for maintaining consistency and excellence across medical colleges. Monitoring mechanisms must ensure compliance, with a focus on enhancing postgraduate education and research. Transforming medical education requires collaborative efforts. Partnerships with industry, academia, and professional bodies can enrich learning experiences and align curricula with evolving healthcare needs. Technology, including virtual reality and telemedicine, can revolutionize learning, but equitable access is vital. Addressing the medical education crisis demands a multi-faceted approach. The committee's recommendations provide a roadmap for action, necessitating coordinated efforts from policymakers, educators, healthcare providers, and students. Only through collective action can we build a resilient medical education ecosystem to meet the healthcare needs 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 email to editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com.

NARMADA PRAKATYOTSAV



Artists perform during 'Narmada Prakatyotsav' at the Upper Lake on the occasion of 'Narmada Jayanti', in Bhopal.

Beyond Quotas: Bridging The Discrepant In Examination Fees

SHIVANSHU K. SRIVASTAVA



In the pursuit of a truly inclusive society, reservation policies have been implemented to address historical disadvantages faced by specific sections of the population. However, a critical examination of the application fees for government examinations reveals an ironic incongruity, particularly in the case of candidates falling under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category. The EWS quota, conceived to uplift economically disadvantaged individuals, has encountered an unforeseen hurdle in the form of uniform application fees for both EWS and Open (General) category candidates. This discrepancy raises questions about the effectiveness of reservation policies when financial barriers impede the very individuals these policies aim to support. The essence of the EWS quota lies in providing opportunities to those who face economic hardships. However, the identical application fees for General and EWS candidates in various government examinations, including Judicial Services and Civil Services, hinder the intended upliftment. EWS candidates, often grappling with financial constraints, may find the burden of high application fees insurmountable, hindering their access to opportunities that reservation policies seek to provide.

Conversely, the substantially reduced

application fees for candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities appear incongruous with the underlying principle of reservation, which primarily addresses inadequate representation and not poverty-alleviation. The illogical connection between reduced fees and reservation status may inadvertently and unnecessarily benefit candidates from affluent backgrounds within the SC and ST categories, who already enjoy the benefits of reservations in both examinations and promotion, potentially excluding genuinely disadvantaged EWS individuals from the benefits they actually need. It is essential to reassess and reform the fee structure for government examinations, aligning it with the socio-economic realities of each category. The existing uniformity in application fees fails to recognise the nuanced financial disparities among different reservation categories.

The incongruity in the application fees for government examinations not only stems from a flawed policy design but also raises serious questions about the wisdom behind these decisions. It reflects a lack of foresight in recognising the evolving socio-economic dynamics within reserved categories. The failure to adapt policies in tandem with changing realities highlights a disconnect be-

tween the intended purpose of reservation and its implementation. One cannot overlook the possibility that the uniform application fees might be a consequence of political considerations, with an eye on appeasing certain vote banks comprising certain caste-based communities belonging to the reserved categories. Political expediency has, at times, overshadowed the need for a nuanced and rational approach to policy formulation. The fear of alienating specific communities may have led to a reluctance to address the inherent discrepancies in the current fee structure. As a result, the genuine needs of economically weaker sections might be overshadowed by political calculations, further perpetuating the cycle of inequality.

It is crucial to distinguish between affirmative action aimed at empowerment and policies that inadvertently hinder the very communities they seek to uplift. Striking a balance between political considerations and the genuine socio-economic needs of the marginalized is essential to ensure that policies align with their intended objectives and contribute to a more just and equitable society. It is time for policymakers to reassess their approach, guided by a commitment to social justice rather than short-term political gains. To address this issue, both Central and State governments should consider implementing a tiered fee structure that reflects the economic background of candidates. Higher application fees for those who can afford it, such as General category candidates, would contribute to a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities. Conversely, reducing fees for genuinely economically disadvantaged individuals within the SC, ST, and EWS categories would align with the true spirit of reservation policies.

The dichotomy between the purpose of reservation and the current fee structure is particularly pronounced when ex-

amining the evolving socio-economic status within reservation categories. Over time, some individuals from SC and ST backgrounds have risen above economic challenges, yet they continue to benefit from reduced fees. This unintended consequence perpetuates a cycle of inequality by diverting resources away from those who genuinely need them. An equitable fee structure would also require a thorough assessment of the financial background of applicants. Governments could implement a comprehensive system that takes into account income levels, family size, and other relevant factors to determine the appropriate application fees for each candidate. This targeted approach ensures that those who can afford higher fees contribute proportionally, while genuinely disadvantaged individuals receive the support they need. Moreover, the reevaluation of application fees should be accompanied by increased transparency and accessibility in the application process. Clear guidelines and support mechanisms should be established to assist EWS candidates in navigating the application process and securing the opportunities they rightfully deserve.

In conclusion, the disconnect between the application fees for government examinations and the intended purpose of reservation policies demands urgent attention. A recalibration of fees, tailored to the economic realities of each category, is imperative to ensure that reservation policies genuinely uplift the socio-economically disadvantaged. It is time for the Central and State governments to take a proactive stance, fostering a fair and inclusive environment for all aspiring candidates, regardless of their socio-economic background.

(Writer, poet and advocate, completed Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Faculty of Law, Banaras Hindu University (BHU).)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transparency Triumph

The Supreme Court's landmark decision invalidating the Electoral Bond scheme marks a triumph for democratic principles and transparency. Instituted in 2018, the scheme stood denounced as unconstitutional and contrary to democratic ethos, flouting the Right to Information Act. Its opacity concealed the origins of political funding, denying voters crucial insight. The Court echoed concerns previously voiced by the RBI, affirming the scheme's flaws. Transparent political financing is vital for equitable elections, ensuring informed voter choices. By dismantling the Electoral Bond scheme, the Supreme Court upholds the essence of democracy, affirming the electorate's right to transparency in political processes.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Democracy's Victory

The Supreme Court's awaited ruling on poll bonds heralds transparency. It addresses the opacity surrounding corporate donations to political entities, a crucial development. Mandating SBI to divulge bond recipients and the Election Commission to publicize details online marks a significant stride. This landmark decision is poised to fortify India's democratic structure and reshape its political landscape for the better.

MK Nair, Raipur

Bilateral Bonds

PM Modi's recent visit to the UAE underscores burgeoning ties between the nations, evident in economic and cultural links. His frequent visits highlight the significance of India's relations with Abu Dhabi. The 10 agreements signed in sectors like energy and infrastructure signify a deeper collaboration. Inaugurating the Swaminarayan Mandir mirrors growing interfaith harmony. With 3.5 million Indians, the UAE's cultural assimilation is evident. PM Modi's remark of feeling 'at home' resonates with the strengthened bond. This visit amplifies the trajectory of bilateral relations, promising greater cooperation and synergy in the future.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Economic Uplift

PM Modi's UAE visit bolsters ties, crucial for economic growth. Agreements in energy, infrastructure, and investments promise substantial boosts. Interlinking India's UPI with UAE's AANI and connecting domestic debit/credit cards augur well for seamless transactions. The inauguration of the Swaminarayan temple underscores interfaith harmony. This collaboration fosters mutual prosperity and strengthens diplomatic bonds between the two nations.

Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Legal Guarantee For MSP That Modi Government Is Unwilling To Grant

Dr. Gyan Pathak

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been distributing all sorts of "Modi's Guarantees", but perhaps without an iota of suspicion that farmers will come forward and demand "Legal Guarantees" for Minimum Support Price (MSP), and would not be satisfied with mere assurances, being committed to take their agitation to logical end. Two rounds of talks between the Centre and the farmers' representatives have already failed since launch of the Delhi Chalo agitation on February 12. Modi government does not want to give "legal guarantee" while farmers refused to settle for any less. Why are the farmers so adamant and taking Modi government's assurances with a pinch of salt? The answer is well known to all farmers because PM Modi have been in the habit of promising extravagantly, such as "doubling farmers' income by 2022", which proved to be a rhetorical trick played on our land tillers, about three years before the Lok Sabha Election 2019.

One can hate the pliability of bureaucrats, but it is a truth. They generally don't have guts to say the truth to the political leaderships in general, and a leader like PM Narendra Modi in particular. That is why when PM Narendra Modi announced "doubling

of farmers' income", the entire bureaucracy forwarded logics that it could be done. The Government think tank NITI Aayog then started working on how it could be achieved. By the end of 2018 they came out with 14 volume of research work to suggest ways and means to double farmers' income. Thereafter, Lok Sabha elections 2019 were held and PM Modi won the second term. Nothing noteworthy was done to double farmers' income, and there was no end to their sufferings, on account of ever rising input costs, low MSP not sufficient to offset higher input costs, and a distorted agriculture market in which middlemen, corporate, businesses thrive at the cost of farmers. The distortion in the agricultural market has been the result of certain amendments in other legislations, which allowed legal hoarding of large quantities of yields by the corporate and big businesses, who artificially increase the cost of yields in the open market, while farmers get only a fraction of the market price. In absence of legal guarantee of MSP for their yields, farmers are usually compelled to sell their produce at much lower costs, sometimes even much less than the input costs.

Now, when the farmers are at war path, Centre has got published through an unknown official the reason as to why government can't afford to give

legal guarantee for MSP for all crops. Governments do such things and therefore it is not a surprise. Chief argument of the government official was that the cost of entire agricultural yield in the country is around Rs40 lakh crore. If there would be legal guarantee for MSP, the government would need around Rs 45 lakh crore for this scheme alone. It would adversely impact the other sectors of the economy and the development goals of the country. Such an argument has been forwarded on behalf of the government to create an environment in the country so that the Modi government could be saved from the responsibility of saving the farmers. One can ask simple questions, such as, why the corporate and businesses would be enriched further at the cost of farmers? Why such officials allow amendment in even the Essential Commodity Act to legally enable people to hold large quantities of agricultural yields to sell at higher prices while farmers are getting only a little for their produce?

It was ridiculous for the Modi government to have come out with three controversial farm laws in 2020 intending to bring Corporate to the farms, while ignoring the need to correct the distortion in the agricultural market and keep the rising input costs for the farm sector under check. It resulted in stiff opposition by farmers, who con-

tinued their sit-in protests over one year in 2020-21, leading to withdrawal of the controversial farm laws but not before death of about 750 farmers. Numerous cases were registered against them and no compensation were given to families of dead farmers despite government's written assurance. Farmers felt cheated and hence the agitation. As for the MSP is concerned the government sets MSP at 1.5 times the Cost of Production (CoP), where the Cop is A2+FL. A2 covers all paid-out costs directly incurred by the farmer in cash and kind on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, leased-in land, fuel, irrigation etc. FL includes an imputed value of unpaid family labour. Farmers are no happy with this.

MS Swaminathan Commission has given a different formula which Modi government doesn't want to accept, though hypocritically it has just given the agricultural sciences veteran who died last year, the Bharat Ratna. Swaminathan Commission has given C2+50 per cent formula. Farmers have been demanding to accept this formula since C2 included not only A2+FL but also the interest on the value of owned capital assets, rent paid for leased-in land, or the rental value of owned land. Swaminathan submitted his report in 2006 and suggested that the solution to the farm crisis was to

provide remunerative prices to the farmer.

Why should then Modi government refuse remunerative price to farmers? Especially, when it had boasted that earlier governments did not care for the farmers, and he would be doubling farmers income by 2022. Further, on July 12, 2022, Centre had notified about formation of a committee to "promote zero-budget-based farming" and one of the claimed intents was to bring transparency and efficiency in the allocation of MSP. However, no representative from Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) leading the 2020-21 agitation was included, say the agitating farmer leaders. They say therefore the claimed transparency was also a falsehood, because three SKM representatives were supposed to be included in the Committee. Centre said that SKM did not nominate representatives to the committee. It is in this backdrop of mistrust between the Modi government and agitating farmers under the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, a third round of talk is scheduled to take place soon. Let us hope that the Modi government takes care of the interest of the farmers, and does not insist on pushing corporate and business interests only, as it has been doing in the last 10 years with making false and unmet promises to farmers.

BRIEF

NFCSF

New Delhi: The newly elected board of directors of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF) on Friday met Cooperation Minister Amit Shah here in the national capital. The delegation was led by NFCSF's new president Harshvardhan Patil, the ministry said in a statement. During the meeting, the minister gave clear directions to the federal body to assume a leading role in India's sugar sector. Shah emphasised to aggressively proceed on installing multi-feed distillery to produce ethanol from maize and sugarcane. He also advised the federation to run the federation as a corporate body, the statement added.

Novartis AG

New Delhi: Drug major Novartis AG on Friday announced a strategic review of Novartis India Ltd, a public company listed on the BSE. The strategic review will include an assessment of the 70.68 per cent shareholding of Novartis AG in the company, the drug firm said in a statement. Novartis India Ltd is separate from Novartis Healthcare Pvt Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of Novartis group in India. Novartis Healthcare Pvt Ltd includes the Novartis Corporate Centre in Hyderabad, the commercial arm of Novartis in India, and R&D teams, which currently conduct clinical trials at more than 300 trial sites in the country.

EDRIO

Srinagar: EDRIO, the renowned fashion athleisure wear brand, is thrilled to announce the successful launch of its second retail store in the vibrant city of Srinagar. The store officially opened its doors on 17th February, welcoming customers to explore the latest collection of stylish and comfortable athleisure wear. The decision to expand into Srinagar was driven by the city's booming market potential and the increasing demand for high-quality athleisure wear in the region. With its picturesque landscapes and dynamic urban culture, Srinagar offers a unique setting for EDRIO to connect with customers who appreciate innovative designs and superior craftsmanship.

IBBI

New Delhi: Regulator IBBI has amended corporate insolvency resolution process norms, including making it compulsory to have separate accounts for each real estate project undergoing resolution and enabling the creditors' committee to constitute a monitoring panel to oversee implementation of the resolution plan. "With an aim to increase transparency and reduce disputes over valuation-related issues, the amendment provide for explaining the valuation methodology to the members of the CoC (Committee of Creditors) before the computation of estimates," as per the revised norms.

Union govt intends to take up coal, lignite gasification projects on high priority: Coal secretary

Hyderabad, Feb 17 (PTI):



Union Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena

Emphasising the importance of coal and lignite gasification projects in India's energy transition, Union Coal Secretary Amrit Lal Meena said the union government intends to take up these projects on very high priority.

Meena addressed an industry interaction meeting organised by the Ministry of Coal here, on ways to promote coal, and lignite gasification projects across the country.

The Centre has recently approved schemes for the promotion of coal and lignite gasification under which the private sector and public sector undertakings have been envisaged to take up new projects for setting up coal and lignite gasification projects, he told reporters.

In January, the government approved an outlay of Rs 8,500 crore as financial assistance for promoting coal, lignite gasifica-

tion projects.

He said the government expects the private sector to consider venturing into setting up of coal gasification projects.

"The Ministry will be coming out with a draft request for proposal (RFP) and share it with industry and, after seeking their views, come out with the final RFP," he said, adding that thereafter applications will be invited.

"We intend to take up these projects on very high priority," Meena said.

The coal secretary emphasised the importance of coal in India's energy security, and the efforts the government has made to bring in private players, which has led to an increase in domestic coal production, and a substantial decrease in coal imports, from 26 per cent in 2019 to 19 per cent (expected) this year, an official release said.

Reiterating the government's support through initiatives such as making land more easily available, financing, and providing incentives to promote cleaner coal technologies and enhance energy security, he called on everyone present to invest in the technology towards a greener and cleaner future. Attended by industry experts, and stakeholders, the event showcased the government's commitment to fostering innovation and sustainability in the coal sector.

Through strategic ini-

tiatives and policy frameworks, the Ministry of Coal aims to catalyse investments and technological advancements in coal/gasification projects, aligning with India's vision for a cleaner and energy efficient future, it said.

The stakeholders submitted their views on the scheme, which was acknowledged. The Ministry of Coal will put RFP for the scheme in the public forum for stakeholders' comments/feedback shortly, it added.

The coal secretary requested all industry stakeholders to come forward and participate in the RFP process and share their valuable inputs, to make the process transparent and open.

Coal India Limited Chairman P M Prasad elaborated on CIL's proactive initiatives and endeavours in the realm of gasification, the release said.

Tech industry revenue to touch USD 254 bn this fiscal: Nasscom

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI):

The domestic technology industry's revenue is projected to grow 3.8 per cent to USD 254 billion this fiscal, industry body Nasscom said on Friday and highlighted the creation of 60,000 more jobs during this period.

The industry had clocked a revenue of USD 244.6 billion in the same period last year, according to Nasscom's annual strategic review report.

Excluding hardware, the revenue is expected to touch USD 199 billion, a growth of 3.3 per cent over FY23, as per the report.

Domestic revenue is estimated to log 5.9 per cent growth at USD 54.4 billion from USD 51.4 billion in FY23. The projected 3.8 per

cent growth is despite a 50 per cent slide in tech spending and 6 per cent decline in tech contracts in 2023 globally.

This means the industry has added USD 9.3 billion incremental revenue in the fiscal, Nasscom said.

"It was a growth year despite all headwinds, the surprise here was that while exports slowed down a bit, we definitely saw a significant increase in domestic market, including the business for tech services.

"I think it was the fastest growth we have seen in domestic market," Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh said at a virtual press briefing.

The growth in the domestic revenue was primarily driven by government

and enterprise spending.

She said some of the tailwinds that stood out last year for the industry include India continuing to be the preferred hub for GCC (Global Capability Centre) and this is getting even stronger.

"As we see companies, as we see the GCC scope of work moving... and work to more of R&D and more of innovation, this is where the India attraction goes up significantly, primarily driven by talent and political stability and ease of doing business," Ghosh added.

The Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) sector alone contributed 48 per cent to the total export revenue addition in FY24, Nasscom said.

Govt raises authorised capital of FCI from Rs 10,000 cr to Rs 21,000 cr

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

The government has increased the authorised capital of state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) from Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 21,000 crore to enhance the operational capabilities and fulfill its mandate effectively, the Food Ministry said on Saturday.

FCI is the central government's nodal agency that undertakes procurement of foodgrains at a minimum support price (MSP) to protect the interest of farmers. It also maintains strategic stocks and distributes the grains under different welfare schemes. "The increase in authorized capital is a significant step towards enhancing the operational capabilities of FCI in fulfilling its mandate effectively," the ministry said in a statement. FCI resorts to cash credit, short-term loan, ways and means etc. to match the gap in the fund requirement. The increase in the authorised capital will reduce the interest burden, decrease the economic cost

INDIA DESIGN (ID) 2024



An art installation during an exhibition at the India Design (ID) 2024 at NSIC Grounds, Okhla, in New Delhi, Saturday, Feb. 17.

Power Grid unfazed by proposed O&M norms changes by CERC

Kolkata, Feb 17 (PTI):

Power Grid Corporation (POWERGRID) expects "no impact" from proposed changes in Operation & Maintenance (O&M) charges norms by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), a top company official said.

The official said the company was in discussion with

the regulator.

Draft regulations suggest altering the prior 75:25 (substation vs transmission line) O&M cost distribution to 65:35 ratio, increasing transmission line charges while decreasing substation charges. Chairman and Managing Director Ravindra Kumar Tyagi claimed "net impact is almost zero," with overall

O&M charges maintained.

"They have added one more element, 'reactor'. Earlier, we were not incurring any O&M charges for reactors.

Now, reactor charges have been added per MVAR (Mega Volt-Ampere Reactive), similar to transformer charges per MVA capacity, such as Rs 20 lakh or so per MVA.

Bandhan Bank's total business grows by 17%

Mumbai, Jan 17:

Bandhan Bank announced its financial results for the third quarter of the financial year 2023-24. The bank's total business grew by 17%, to stand at Rs.2.33 lakh crore. The Bank's share of retail to total deposits now stands at 71%. The encouraging growth witnessed in the quarter has been driven by its expansion in distribution and the favourable operating environment. During the quarter, the Bank opened 26 branches across the country. The Bank now serves more than 3.26 crore customers through more than 6,250 banking outlets in India. The total number of employees working at Bandhan Bank is now more than 75,000.

During the third quarter of FY24, the Bank's deposit book grew by 15% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposit book now stands at

Rs.1.17 lakh crore while total advances are at Rs.1.16 lakh crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) ratio is a healthy 36.1% of the overall deposit book. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indicator of the stability of the Bank, is at 19.8%, much higher than the regulatory requirement.

Speaking on the results, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, MD & CEO, said, "The third quarter has always been a growth phase for the Bank over the years. In the beginning of the quarter, the Bank underwent a Core Banking System (CBS) migration. With the new system, we are confident of a further boost in the growth of business. The Bank is committed to serving all its customers through products and services suited to their needs. We will also continue to actively evaluate distribution expansion opportunities to reach out to a larger population across the nation."

ICICI launches retirement savings product

Mumbai, Jan 17:

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings, a tax efficient pension product that enables customers to make systematic contributions and build the desired retirement corpus to lead financially independent retired lives.

This unique product is also India's first product which offers customers safety of the capital invested, complimentary health check-ups and make partial withdrawals.

Customers can withdraw up to 25% of the contributions made after a period of three years enabling them to meet liquidity needs. Besides, the annual bonus, as and when declared, has the potential to further bolster the corpus and consequently the annuity.

ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings product empowers customers, upon maturity to withdraw up to 60% of the accumulated savings and receive guaranteed regular life-long pension from the balance

amount, enabling financial freedom during the golden years.

Amit Palta, Chief Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "Retirement planning has assumed great importance with the rapidly changing family structures in the country. ICICI Pru Gold Pension Savings, a tax efficient product has been designed to enable customers to make regular contributions to build the required retirement fund to be financially independent.

Samsung launches Galaxy XCover7

Gurugram, Feb 17:

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today launched its first ever enterprise focused smartphone - Galaxy XCover7, a powerful device which is rugged, and offers exceptional usability. Galaxy XCover7, engineered to survive extreme conditions aims to ease the lives of professionals, providing faster connectivity, seamless continuity, and minimizing risk of interruptions caused by external factors, allowing them to work faster and smarter. The Galaxy XCover7 will deliver enhanced

mobility with 5G connectivity, upgraded mobile processor performance and increased memory. Additionally, the Galaxy XCover7 comes with a new powerful rear camera optimised for single and multiple barcode/QR code scanning and expanded display size and resolution, providing users the ability to work in a variety of settings. The easy POGO charging pin for convenient recharging in any setting, and increased touch sensitivity to support usage even with the gloves on makes Galaxy XCover7 a reliable and convenience-oriented product.

CGCL announces stock split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai, Feb 17: Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches.

The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Rs. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up.

MATRIMONIAL

अग्रवाल

वर चाहिये

अग्रवाल वर चाहिए-30 कन्याएं सी.ए., 40-डॉक्टर, 50-ईंजीनियर, 150-ग्रेजुएशन, 100-सर्विस क्लास, 10-मेट्रिक, 5-माहेरवरी, 10-जैन, 5-खंडेलवाल, 100-तलाकशुदा-विडोह, नि: शुल्क साधारण परिवार कन्याएं हेतु मारवाड़ी वर-वधु फोटो बायोडाटा सहित संपर्क करें- मितल मैरिज ब्यूरो अरिहंत काम्लेक्स, रेलवे स्टेशन के पास, रायपुर. व्हाट्सएप-9302454825. (253559)

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए-विधवा हो या तलाक शुदा उम्र का कोई बंधन नहीं. धर्म का कोई बंधन नहीं संपर्क करें-मो.-8847722850.

वधु चाहिए-वर कहर, 37, 5'11", खुद का व्यवसाय (होलसेल सन्नी विक्रेता), खुद का घर हेतु सुयोग्य साधारण कन्या चाहिए. संपर्क- मो.-8208939915. (मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा)

सिंधी

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- 35 वर्षीय युवा व्यवसायी, तलाकशुदा (2 वर्ष का बेटा) हेतु वधु चाहिए. जाति बंधन नहीं. संपर्क करें- मो.-9131790345, 9301760183. (मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा) (253643)

मैरिज ब्यूरो

मैरिज ब्यूरो-विवाह गारन्टी, न्यूनतम फीस विवाह एक महीने में, घर बैठे रिश्ते, विधवा, विधुर, तलाकशुदा, अविवाहित, समस्त जाति, उम्र बंधन नहीं, शीघ्र रजिस्ट्रेशन कराएँ, विवरण, फोटो व्हाट्सएप करें- 9403124401.

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सावधान 'पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर/ वधु के स्तर, आयु, आय, संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किए गए दावों और वर्णनों के लिए यह समाचारपत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.'

Commuters grapple with persistent traffic woes on NH

● Government inaction continues to plague residents

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 17: Despite years of appeals and mounting frustration from residents, the chronic traffic congestion plaguing National Highway 130 C in Rajim shows no signs of abating. The lack of a bypass road continues to exacerbate the situation, leaving commuters stranded in gridlock on a daily basis.

The ever-growing population and influx of vehicles have overwhelmed the existing road infrastructure, creating a nightmare for those navigating the city's thoroughfares. Despite numerous pleas to local authori-

ties, promises of a bypass road have yet to materialize, leaving residents to contend with worsening traffic conditions.

Thursday's incident on the Gariaband route served as a stark reminder of the city's transportation struggles, as a stranded truck caused a major traffic jam, disrupting travel along the vital corridor connecting Raipur to Gariaband, Devbhog, and Orissa. With the upcoming Kumbh Mela expected to draw a surge in tourists, concerns over traffic management have reached a fever pitch.

Over the last five years, discussions about the construction of the bypass road have been ongoing, yet no concrete action has been



taken by either politicians or the concerned government departments. Consequently, the absence of adequate infrastructure has led to a rise in daily accidents on National Highway 130 C, exacerbated by the constant flow of sand hiwa vehicles.

Since the formation of Chhattisgarh state, Rajim has dominated the seat. Despite its significance, successive administrations have failed to prioritize Rajim's growth and progress.

In the Ajit Jogi government, after the formation of the state, Rajim's assembly

gained the post of important cabinet minister, overseeing crucial departments like Panchayat and Rural Development. However, despite these political appointments, the city has not witnessed the development it deserves, leaving residents disheartened.

The lack of infrastructure development, including the absence of a much-needed bypass road, further exacerbates the city's woes. As a result, residents are left to grapple with daily challenges, such as blocked roads hindering essential services like medical emergencies. The collective frustration among residents underscores the urgent need for government intervention to address Rajim's longstanding development deficiencies.

Aastha special train ready to serve devotees' spiritual journey

● Train will leave from Bilaspur for Ayodhya Dham today 3pm

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Feb 17: Fervent devotees are gearing up for an enriching pilgrimage journey as the Aastha Special Train sets forth on its sacred voyage from Bilaspur to Ayodhya.

Scheduled for departure on February 18th, this special train, meticulously arranged for the convenience of pilgrims seeking the divine blessings of Ramlalla in Ayodhya, promises a journey filled with spiritual solace and commu-

nal harmony.

In this train, 1241 visitors will board from Bilaspur station and 103 from Pendra Road station. In a gesture of extraordinary care and concern, railway authorities have made special provisions for the safety and comfort of travellers.

Notably, devotees reserved for this pilgrimage train are urged to carry their Aadhar cards as a mandatory requirement for ticket issuance. This measure ensures a streamlined boarding process and enhances security protocols for all passengers.

The pilgrimage journey marks a significant

endeavour in fostering unity and spiritual devotion among devotees. With meticulous arrangements in place and a spirit of shared reverence, the Aastha Special Train is poised to facilitate a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for all pilgrims embarking on this sacred voyage.

Devotees reserved for travelling in this train are requested to bring their Aadhar card. Under special arrangement, on February 18, train number 12855, Bilaspur-Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari Intercity Express will leave from platform No. 05 at 3pm.

Saint Samagam Magh Mela ushers in joyous start with Gulal Utsav

Thousands of devotees gather for spiritual revelry at Kabir Dharam Nagar

Central Chronicle News

Simga, Feb 17: The revered grounds of Kabir Dharma Nagar Damakheda came alive with spiritual fervour as the renowned Saint Samagam Magh Mela commenced with a vibrant Gulal Utsav on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami. Echoing with the soulful chants of "Saheb Bandagi Saheb," thousands of Kabir devotees immersed themselves in the divine atmosphere of devotion and celebration.

Leading the ceremonial proceedings, Navodit Vanshacharya Panth Shri Udit Muni Nam Saheb and Guru Gosai Dr. Bhanu Pratap Nam Saheb graced the Gulal Utsav with their presence, offering prayers at the Samadhi temple. Amidst a sea of devotees, the revered saints blessed



the gathering, marking the beginning of the much-anticipated Magh Mela.

The Magh Mela holds a special significance for followers of the Kabir Panth, attracting devotees from across India and beyond to seek the blessings and spiritual guidance of Shri Huzoor Prakashmuni Naam Saheb, Navodit Vanshacharya Udit Muni Naam Saheb, and Guru



Gosai Dr. Bhanupratap Naam Saheb.

Preparations for the Saint Samagam fair are underway with a massive pandal erected to accommodate the influx of devotees. The festive spirit is palpable, with elaborate welcome gates adorning the pathways, welcoming visitors to the sacred grounds.

As Kabir Dharam Nagar

Damakheda adorns itself in resplendent hues, the air is filled with anticipation and reverence. Among the gathered throngs are esteemed personalities including organization president Prakash Patel, Gyanidas Chhagan Verma, Pancham Sahu, and Mahant Padam Das, who join in the collective celebration of faith and devotion.

Surguja police crack down on coal theft

● 20 suspects apprehended

Central Chronicle News

Surguja, February 17: In a decisive move to address complaints of coal theft from the Amera Coal Mine, Surguja Police sprang into action, responding promptly to reports of unauthorized entry and theft of resources.

The management of the Amera Coal Mine had lodged a formal complaint with the authorities, expressing concerns over the suspicious activities of numerous villagers unlawfully entering the mine premises and engaging in criminal activities.

Responding to the grave allegations, Surguja Police initiated a targeted operation in the early hours of the morning, from 3:00 AM to 6:00 AM, deploying a formidable team of 200 personnel led by the Additional Superinten-



dent of Police. This dedicated task force comprised 2 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 2 Sub Inspectors, 4 Assistant Sub Inspectors, and constables, all equipped to address the issue effectively.

During the operation, the police team apprehended a total of 20 individuals from the mine site on suspicion of involvement in criminal activities related to coal theft. The suspects were promptly brought to the police sta-

tion for further interrogation and legal proceedings. Following thorough questioning and explanations, preventive measures were taken under section 151 of the Indian Penal Code to ensure public safety and prevent potential criminal acts.

The case has been presented before the Honorable Executive Magistrate, with bound over proceedings initiated against the accused individuals involved in the il-

licit activities. Surguja Police emphasized their commitment to maintaining law and order and reiterated their appeal to villagers residing near the Amera mine to refrain from unauthorized entry into the premises.

Strict enforcement actions will be taken against any violations, as Surguja Police remain vigilant in safeguarding the interests of the community and preserving the integrity of mining operations.

Collector directs CMO to speed up revenue collection of municipality

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 17: In a move to enhance urban development and streamline revenue collection processes, Collector Chandrakant Verma chaired a review meeting with Chief Municipality and Nagar Panchayat officers. The meeting served as a platform to assess the progress of ongoing construction projects and the effective implementation of government initiatives within the urban landscape.

A key focus of the discussion was the acceleration of revenue collection efforts, particularly pertaining to property taxes, shop rents, and water taxes. Collector Verma underscored the importance of identifying and addressing significant defaulters within the civic area, stressing the issuance of notices to prompt compliance. Furthermore, discussions



centered on the implementation of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, aimed at providing support to eligible women. Collector Verma emphasized the need to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the full benefits of the scheme, both through offline and online application channels. Addressing infrastructure concerns, Collector Verma urged expedited completion of pending construction projects and the prompt initiation of approved works. Special attention was also

directed towards maintaining cleanliness standards across the city, emphasizing the integral role of sanitation in urban development. Present at the meeting were Municipality CMO Pramod Shukla, Nagar Panchayat Chhuikhadan CMO Kamal Narayana Janghel, Nagar Panchayat Gandai CMO Girish Kumar Sahu, and other key stakeholders, reflecting a collaborative effort towards advancing Khairagarh's urban landscape and ensuring efficient governance.

Mass marriage ceremony held in Simga

A joyous union of 45 couples under 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana'

Central Chronicle News

Simga, February 17: A grand mass marriage program was organized at the Cultural Building in Simga Nagar, Development Block Simga, under the esteemed "Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana." The event witnessed the union of 45 couples hailing from various parts of Chhattisgarh state, marking a significant milestone in their lives.

Amidst the festivities, the program showcased inclusivity as a disabled couple participated in the ceremony alongside an inter-caste marriage, symbolizing the rich diversity and cultural tapestry of India.

Commencing with the registration of couples and the distribution of essential

make-up materials, the event unfolded with utmost joy and enthusiasm. Prioritizing the well-being of the bride and groom, a sumptuous feast was arranged, followed by a vibrant procession of the 45 grooms.

Accompanied by lively music from a DJ system, the atmosphere resonated with jubilation as guests and participants danced in celebration. Under the guidance of pandits, the marriage rituals, including the sacred havan and pheras, were solemnized for all 45 Hindu couples, signifying their commitment and bond.

The Women and Child Development Department extended their support by distributing checks



amounting to Rs 21,000, along with gift items and certificates, to each couple. Additionally, families showered blessings and goodwill upon the newlyweds by presenting sarees, envelopes, and other symbolic gifts, known as 'Tikavan.'

Notably, the mass marriage program, organized under the "Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana," now

provides assistance amounting to Rs 50,000 per couple. Thus, ensuring that each couple received gift material worth Rs 21,000, a check of Rs 21,000, and the remaining amount for event expenses or transportation.

Shrestha Shambharkar, Project Officer of Simga, highlighted that eligible newly married women would also benefit from the

recently initiated "Mukhyamantri Mahtari Vandan Yojana," with registrations facilitated on-site through application forms.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests including District Panchayat member Renuka Abhinav Yadu, KK Devangan, Ramesh Ghritalhare, Tiwari, Sunil Maheshwari, Abhinav Yadu, journalists, and other public representatives.

The successful execution of the event was attributed to the collective efforts of the Women and Child Development Department, supervisors, Anganwadi workers, family members of the couples, and other dedicated individuals, fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

Successful conclusion of 34th National Traffic Road Safety Month in Surajpur

Commitment to Road Safety reinforced by district officials and law enforcement

Central Chronicle News

Surajpur, Feb 17: The culmination of the 34th National Traffic Road Safety Month was marked by a vibrant ceremony held at the Auditorium Building, where individuals dedicated to promoting road safety were honoured for their contributions.

Led by Collector Rohit Vyas, Senior Superintendent of Police M.R. Ahire, DFO Pankaj Kamal, BJP District President Babul Agarwal, and CHMO Dr. R.S. Singh, the event celebrated the month-long campaign aimed at raising awareness about traffic rules and ensuring safer roads across the country.



spread awareness through pamphlets and loudspeakers, urging citizens to adhere to traffic regulations and prioritize safety. In a commendable display of commitment, drivers who adhered to traffic rules and wore helmets were recognized with floral tributes, while an eye-testing camp

was set up to prioritize driver wellness.

Addressing the audience, Collector Rohit Vyas shared insights from the team's visit to Black Spot, highlighting the need for protective measures to enhance road safety. Reflecting on recent tragic incidents attributed to hel-

met negligence, he earnestly appealed to all citizens to prioritize adherence to traffic regulations for their personal safety.

With heartfelt empathy, Collector Vyas underscored the profound impact of accidents on families, emphasizing the imperative of caution on the



roads. Taking personal accountability, he disclosed his directive to district administration officials to ensure strict compliance with seat belt regulations for drivers, underscoring the collective commitment to fostering a culture of safety within the community.

Senior Superintendent of Police Surajpur M.R. Ahire provided a comprehensive overview of the 4-E education of traffic rules during the closing ceremony. He emphasized the importance of disseminating information about traffic regulations, enforcement, emergency services, and engineering to prevent

road accidents. Highlighting the shift from celebrating road safety for a week to a month, he underscored the critical need to address the alarming rate of road accidents.

Ahire stressed the importance of continuous education on traffic rules in schools, colleges, and

other public spaces to instill a culture of safety. Encouraging bystanders to assist injured individuals in road accidents, he assured that no one would face repercussions for providing aid, emphasizing the collective responsibility in reducing accidents.

Following Ahire's remarks, DFO Pankaj Kamal reiterated the profound impact of road accidents on families. Stressing the importance of adhering to traffic rules for personal safety, he urged citizens to spread awareness about traffic regulations within their communities. Kamal emphasized the ripple effect of road accidents, underscoring the need for vigilance and adherence to traffic rules to ensure the safety of all road users.

Yashasvi rocks England with ton as India in cruise control

Rajkot, Feb 17 (PTI): Yashasvi Jaiswal's dream season just got better as he singlehandedly seized the initiative from England with a sizzling century, putting India in complete control at the end of third day's play in the third Test.

Jaiswal's (104 retired hurt off 133 balls) second ton of the series was beautifully complemented by Shubman Gill (65 batting, 120 balls), who curbed his natural aggression as India ended the day at 196 for 2 in 51 available overs.

The left-handed opener, who will be torch-bearer of Indian batting for the next decade, scored his third Test hundred in only seventh Test appearance before the blazing blade was brought to a halt by back spasms that forced him to



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates after scoring as century.

retire.

The Jaiswal-Gill pair added 155 runs in quick time with the former giving the English team a test of its own medicine with nine fours and five sixes, the best being the imperious pull off Jimmy Anderson.

The overall lead swelled to 322 by stumps, after Indian bowlers made a splendid comeback, getting last five England wickets for only 29 runs with visitors being bowled out for 319.

Mohammed Siraj (4/84 in 21.1 overs) was brilliant with his yorkers to tail-enders while Kuldeep Yadav (2/77 in 18 overs) compensated brilliantly for Ravichandran Ashwin's unfortunate withdrawal with two quick wickets in the morning session.

However it was Joe

Root's indiscreet reverse ramp off Jasprit Bumrah which Jaiswal pounced with less than a second's reaction time that turned the tables.

"That shot was not on and it became a turning point," Siraj said at post-match press conference.

Rohit Sharma's captaincy was spot-on and the manner in which he tweaked Jasprit Bumrah's field position at long-on to get Ben Stokes dismissed off Ravindra Jadeja (2/51) spoke volumes about his acumen.

On Sunday, India would be looking to take a lead of at least 425 if not 450 and have at least 125 overs to bowl out England. With no Ashwin available, India would need a cushion of more overs on a deck that is still good for batting.

Root's shot selection surprises Siraj

Rajkot, Feb 17 (PTI): Pacer Mohammed Siraj is surprised that a well-set Joe Root preferred to play a reverse ramp shot off Jasprit Bumrah and ended up losing his wicket to hand India advantage in the third Test here Saturday.

Root was batting at 18, having spent almost an hour at the crease. Trying to improvise, Root attempted a reverse ramp over the slip only to find Yashasvi Jaiswal at second slip.

His partnership with centurion Ben Duckett (153) was steady but after his dismissal England could not add even 100 runs to the total. The visitors conceded a huge 126-run lead.

"Ben Duckett's partnership was growing with Root, if he had played a little more, then it would have been difficult for us.



But suddenly he played that shot which didn't look (like one) to be played," Siraj said during media interaction after the day's play.

"But it turned out good for us and after that (Ben) Foakes and Ben Stokes had a good partnership, and then Stokes played a shot (which got him out) and we got into the game from there," he added.

Siraj praised young India opener Jaiswal for his rapid 104-run knock.

"The way he is batting, his confidence is very high. He is not looking behind and is totally focussed on what lies ahead and he is carrying on with that confidence. The message from the team is that he should continue the way he has been doing.

"We only think of taking the game as forward as possible so that we (bowlers) should also recover because we are bowling long spells and fielding. The more we are able to recover the fresher we will be for the second innings," Siraj said.

Jyothi Yarraji rewrites own NR to win 60m hurdles gold

Asian Indoor Athletics Championships

Tehran, Feb 17 (PTI): Rising Indian sprinter Jyothi Yarraji marginally bettered her own national record by clocking 8.12s in the women's 60m hurdles to win gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships, here Saturday.

The 2022 Asian Games silver medallist in the 100m hurdles had the previous best timing of 8:13s at the same event last year which had earned her a runner-up finish.

The 24-year-old athlete topped her heat with a timing of 8:22s and in the final she did better to finish ahead of Japan's Asuka



Tereda (8.21s).

Lui Lai Yiu of Hong Kong (8:26s) took the third place on the podium.

Jyothi is the reigning Asian Outdoor champion in the 100m hurdles, hav-

ing won the title in Bangkok last year.

She had returned with a silver in the 100m hurdles from Hangzhou Asian Games after initially being disqualified.

Indian women enter maiden final after beating Japan 3-2

Badminton Asia Team C'ships

Shah Alam (Malaysia), Feb 17 (PTI): India kept alive hopes of winning a first-ever gold in Badminton Asia Team Championships after the women shuttlers progressed to their maiden final with a 3-2 win over two-time former champions Japan in a thrilling semifinal here on Saturday.

The world No. 23 pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, world No. 53 Ashmita Chaliha and 17-year-old Anmol Kharb registered stunning wins in the first doubles and second and deciding singles to take India through to the summit clash. India will face Thailand in the final on Sunday.

India had won two bronze medals in men's



team event in the 2016 and 2020 editions.

Though Japan were without their world No. 4 Akane Yamaguchi, the world No. 7 pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota and world No. 8 combination of Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara, they were still a formidable side, making it tough for India.

Returning from a long injury layoff, Sindhu had enjoyed wins against China's Han Yue and Hong Kong's Lo Sin Yan Happy but she couldn't produce her best against the left-handed Aya Ohori, going down 13-21, 20-22 in the first singles to peg India back.

Treesa and Gayatri, playing the first doubles,

dished out a superlative performance to outwit world No. 6 Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida 21-17, 16-21, 22-20 in a 73-minute contest as India drew level at 1-1.

Up against former world champion Nozomi Okuhara, who is currently ranked 20, the left-handed Ashmita produced an aggressive game, using her overhead cross drops and jump smashes to good use, to record a shocking 21-17, 21-14 win to hand India a 2-1 lead.

With Tanisha Crasto suffering a niggle, Sindhu then paired up with Ashwini Ponnappa but they couldn't get across the world No. 11 pair of Rena Miyaura and Ayako Sakuramoto, losing 14-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes.

With the five-match rubber evenly poised at 2-2, Anmol was handed the responsibility of taming

world No. 29 Natsuki Nidaira, and the Indian once again lived up to the expectation, claiming a 21-14, 21-18 win in 52 minutes.

"Our girls are doing magic, they were excellent today," former India coach Vimal Kumar, who is with the Indian team in Malaysia, told PTI.

"I will give a lot of credit to Gayatri and Treesa and also Ashmita for pulling out of the matches. It was an outstanding performance from Ashmita, she outclassed Okuhara, she raised her game to another level.

"Young girl Anmol also showed that we can depend on her going forward. When you do well in team championships, it shows they can handle pressure and I am really impressed with her. This is special moment for Indian badminton."

Manu Bhaker wins bronze in 10m air pistol event in Grenada World Cup



New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): Ace Indian shooter Manu Bhaker on Friday bagged a bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event in the ISSF World Cup 10m in Grenada, Spain.

Bhaker shot a total of 215.1 to finish third in the women's 10m air pistol final. Bres Klaudia (236.2) of Poland and Ibarra Miranda Andrea Victoria (236.2) of Mexico won the

gold and silver respectively. Another Indian Rhythm Sangwan finished last in the eight-woman final.

A 34-member Indian contingent is taking part in the World Cup which is having junior and senior 10m air gun competitions only. The senior competitions began on Friday.

India has so far won 4 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze in the competition.

Anmol is brave and intelligent : Gopichand

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI): Anmol Kharab is a fearless and intelligent player and her emergence is refreshing for Indian badminton, gushed chief National coach Pullela Gopichand after the teenager's impressive show at the Asia Team Championships.

The 17-year-old from Faridabad humbled world number 29 Natsuki Nidaira in the deciding fifth match against Japan, a win that carried India into first-ever final in the prestigious tournament.

Anmol, who won the senior national champion in December 2023, had also notched up a thrilling three-game win over China's Wu Luo Yu on Wednesday in their group match.

This is her first major



international assignment.

"I think the result of the two matches is a testimony that she can beat top players. To take the pressure on and show that kind of nerve, it is very refreshing. She is fearless. The kind of strokes that she plays, it all come naturally to her," Gopichand told PTI.

"She is reading the game well, you can see her intelligence. She played

beautifully. Of course, opponents will read her game in time and that's where she needs to rework on her mistakes but she has been phenomenal.

"She fought really well and she is naturally brave and intelligent."

Indian women team had a phenomenal run this week, defeating China, Hong Kong and Japan to enter their first-ever final

and Gopichand was also gung ho about the performance in the Continental championship.

"To beat China and Japan, I don't think many teams can say that, so really happy. There is great energy in the dug out and it showed literally during the match.

"Before this tie, if you would have told me that (Nozomi) Okuhara would be beaten and we will make a comeback after Sindhu's loss, I would have said little chance but it has been a great run so far.

"The match against China was a fantastic win. The morale was high in general. Good to see Gayatri (Gopichand) and Treesa (Jolly) pulling out the match and the way Anmol played it was amazing. Ashmita's was also a fantastic win."

Mumbai thrash Assam by innings and 80 runs to warm up for quarter-finals

Mumbai, Feb 17 (PTI): All-rounder Shardul Thakur's match haul of 10 wickets was complemented by Shivam Dube's counter-attacking century as Mumbai finished their group B Ranji Trophy league engagements with a resounding innings and 80 run win against Assam inside two days.

The 41-times champions Mumbai have been at their ruthless best this season, capping five wins, four of them with bonus points to top the Group B standings with massive 37 points. They had already qualified before the last match and the final game was more of a warm-up before the semi-finals.

Thakur claimed 8-1-31-4 to add to his 6/21 in the first innings as Assam were folded for 108 in 33 overs with Mumbai wrap-



Shardul Thakur of Mumbai celebrates dismissing an Assam batsman in the Ranji Trophy match, in Mumbai, Saturday, Feb. 17.

ping the issue inside two days. Mumbai encountered a solitary loss — against

Uttar Pradesh — from seven matches this season, while against Chhattisgarh they bagged

Andhra eyeing QF despite Kerala fightback

At Vizianagaram, visitors Kerala put up a strong fightback to post 258/3 in reply to Andhra's 272 allout. But despite being in the backfoot, Andhra are set to finish second to join Mumbai in the last-eight. Skipper Sachin Baby was unbeaten on 87, in company of Akshay Chandran (57) at stumps on day two. Earlier opener Rohan Kunnummal scored 61, while Krishna Prasad got out for 43.

three points with a first innings lead.

Mumbai's nearest rival Andhra have 25 points with their last league round fixture against Kerala in progress.

Dube, who had completed his second century in four innings on day one, ended his innings for 121 off 140 balls that included 11 fours and five sixes.

Dube now has two fifties and two centuries in six innings since his return to his state side from national duty.

Shams Mulani also chipped in with a quick-fire 47-ball 31 that took Mumbai's first innings to 272, giving them a 188-run first innings lead.

Assam in their second essay were rocked early by new ball bowler Mohit Avasthi (2/10) who removed both their openers on single digit scores.

Tushar Deshpande (2/37) and Tanush Kotian (1/5) then kept chipping away wickets before Thakur wrapped the tail in his four-wicket burst.

Abhimanyu slams double ton

India A regular Abhimanyu Easwaran struck 200 not out to put Bengal's in driver's seat in their match against Bihar at Eden Gardens. Easwaran hit 23 boundaries in his unbeaten knock of 200 (291 balls) as Bengal declared on 411/5 with a big first innings lead of 316. Bihar were 32/1, trailing Bengal by 284 at close on day two.

But this performance is little too late for Bengal who are already out of the quarters reckoning having endured two losses. For Easwaran, who has been found wanting in big matches, this was his third first-class double hundred, first since his career-best 233 for India A against Sri Lanka A in May 2019. Easwaran also got two re-



Bengal batter Abhimanyu Easwaran celebrates his double century during Ranji Trophy match against Bihar.

prievies en route to his double century, first he was dropped on 152 and then survived a catch off a no ball on 185. Bengal skipper Manoj Tiwary scored 30 in what was seemed to be his final innings of his two-decade long career. The veteran of

147 first-class and 169 List A matches was trapped lbw by Bihar spinner Ashutosh Aman. The 38-year-old, who is also a junior minister of sports in Bengal cabinet, had announced earlier that he would call it quits after this match.

Azad not to contest LS polls

● Will campaign for DPAP leaders

Jammu, Feb 17 (PTI):

Senior political leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday indicated that he would not be contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as he would be campaigning for the candidates of his newly formed Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) candidates.

Azad, who has refrained from contesting Lok Sabha elections after his defeat in 2014 Lok Sabha polls, asked his party men to gear up as 2024 would be the election year for Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters on



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad during a public rally at Nagrota, in Jammu district, Saturday.

the sidelines of a function in Nagrota, Azad, who resigned from Congress after decades of association, also appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve the issues of agitating farmers "once for all" as the

protest is neither good for the government nor the farmers.

"Parliament election is 100 percent taking place on its time and I can only guess about the assembly polls (in J&K) as I have no contact with the Election Commission or government. But it (assembly elections) has to take place as the Supreme Court has set a deadline of September.

Asked whether he would be contesting himself in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Azad said "I have to campaign for my party (candidates) and if I contest, I will be held up at one place."

After breaking away from the Congress in August 2022, Azad formed his own party in the

Jammu region. Political analysts claim that Azad, who has a vote bank in the south of Pir Panjal areas like Doda, Kishtwar, Baderwah and Poonch, will be able to divide the votes of opposition party candidates.

Azad termed the National Conference as an opportunistic party, which can align with anyone provided they come to power.

On the ongoing farmers' agitation, he said this is for the second time that the protests are happening at a grand scale.

"I appeal to the prime minister to resolve their issues once for all. It is not good for the government and the farmers as well as the people who will face trouble moving around," he said. Earlier, addressing the

rally in Nagrota, Azad appealed to the people of Kashmir, including pandits, not to sell their land in the valley.

"The situation is improving and we should not be panicked by occasional incidents (of terror attacks). Such attacks should not happen but this is a reality that shootings are taking place everywhere, including the most secure places like the USA. But nobody flees their homes out of fear," he said, requesting people to live together and prepare for the coming elections.

He said no assembly election has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir for the past 10 years which saw many "good and bad" things.

'Bookchor' stealing attention at World Book Fair

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

For some it is JRR Tolkien's fantasy classic 'The Lord of the Rings' while for others it is holy scripture 'Bhagavad Gita' a wall of quirky notes bearing titles of a range of books is grabbing eyeballs and the occasional chuckle at the ongoing book fair here.

On a temporary wall of its stall at the 52nd New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), a proprietor has put up a question for visitors 'Which book has changed your life?'

The handwritten answers, posted on bright yellow post-it notes included both fiction and

autobiographies of important personalities as well as some amusing responses.

Some said their '10th NCERT Maths' school textbook had the maximum impact on their lives, while some just wrote 'Jai Shri Ram' on the wall of notes. A woman chose the spot to make a self-motivating note to herself and wrote: "I am not giving up."

The idea of the wall was conceived by a Bengaluru-based bookseller, 'Bookchor'.

Just outside its stall at Hall No. 1 at the revamped Pragati Maidan complex, curious visitors gathered near the wall to get a

dekkho of the responses to the question 'Which book has changed your life?'

The yellow grid created by dozens of post-it notes put up since the opening of the fair on February 10, draws in visitors as soon as they enter through the hall gate nearest to the stall.

The responses included fantasy classics such as the 'Harry Potter' series by J K Rowling and JRR Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings', Vikram Seth's magnum opus 'A Suitable Boy', Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'Matilda' and popular erotic romance novel 'Fifty Shades of Grey'.

Honourary D.Litt conferred on Prasannasagarjee Maharaj

Ahmedabad, Feb 17:

The Swarnim Startup and Innovation University in Gandhinagar, recently conferred honorary degree of Doctorate in Literature among His Holiness Antarmana Acharyashree Prasannasagarjee Maharaj, the revered saint of the Digambar Jain clan. His Holiness Antarmana Acharyashree Prasannasagarjee Maharaj has successfully maintained the barriers of physical and moral restraint and self-discipline in order to advance on the path to liberation and is a revered spiritual leader.

Dr. Ragin Shah, Provost, Swarnim Startup and Innovation University represented the proposal of



honourary Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) on behalf of the academic council of the university and its board of management before the university's chancellor.

Speaking on the occasion Rishabh Jain, President of the University said, "India is a spiritual country which guides the progress of our

nation. We at our University firmly believe in the path of innovation through values. Conferring the doctorate on His Holiness Antarmana Acharyashree Prasannasagarjee Maharaj is our way of recognizing his contribution to society and this will also excite our students to learn from his life of ex-

treme discipline & focus, which are the main requirements for any ground breaking innovation".

His Holiness Antarmana Acharyashree Prasannasagarjee Maharaj said, "Getting a degree is not a big deal but letting it overpower your brain is a big deal. Position, money and glory are obtained through virtue. So I haven't received this degree, it is my good deeds that have been conferred upon with this honour. If we use the wealth of virtue in luxury, it will end just then. The fruit of virtue is not a degree, the fruit of virtue is the fruit of the protector. The way Swarnim University has coordinated this event is commendable."

Food festival celebrates Amritsari cuisine

New Delhi, Feb 17 (PTI):

From the famous 'Patty Kulcha' at Gali No 6 to the lip-smacking 'Nutri Kulcha' at DAV College, an ongoing food festival here offers food enthusiasts a scrumptious treat of street food delicacies from foodies' paradise Amritsar.

The festival, currently underway at Pirates of Grill, Vasant Kunj, promises to spice up visitors' palate with a range of offerings such as the melt-in-mouth 'Sardar Ji's Makhan Marke Roasted Chicken', juicy 'Lahori Tawa Mutton Seekh' and the crispy 'Paneer Pakoda Patalwa'.

"If you are a true foodie at heart, then do not miss out on this festival where

we are celebrating the rich and diverse culinary landscape of Amritsar. Each dish that we have prepared holds the essence and love of Amritsar.

"From the aromas to the spices and recipes, they are all coming from the old lanes of the Golden city to tantalize your taste buds here in Delhi," Inderjeet Banga, owner of the restaurant, said in a statement.

The culinary tour to food capital Amritsar also features a live grill bar serving a host of succulent kebabs that can be enjoyed with a bowl of the famous 'Chicken soup Ranjit Nagar Da'.

The main course, an eclectic mix of choicest vegetarian and non-vege-

tarian dishes, boasts of 'Dhaba Style Kadhai Paneer', 'Maa Di Dal', 'Punjabi Tari Murgh' and 'Hall Gate Mutton Gheewala', accompanied by piping hot 'Amritsari Wadiyan Pulao' and 'Kukkad Pulao'.

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