





Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Modern farming, Prosperous farmers

3.5 fold increase in fertilizer subsidy in last 10 years; Increase from ₹ 71 thousand crore in 2014 to over ₹ 2.5 lakh crore now



Scan for more information





Narayana Health

जब सामना हो कैंसर से तो हम रखेंगे ख्याल
Take Care

विशेषज्ञ से नि:शुल्क परामर्श कराएँ

3800 308 0009

BIRANPUR COMMUNAL CLASH

Govt for CBI probe into murder of Bhuneshwar Sahu

Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after Ishwar Sahu raised the incident in the House through a calling attention motion.

Ishwar Sahu said his son was killed on April 8 last year and only 12 persons were arrested in the case even though the names of 36 individuals accused in the incident were then submitted to the authorities.

In his reply, Deputy CM Sharma briefly talked about the communal violence and said it was an amazing coincidence that Bhuneshwar's father had reached the House while fighting for justice for his son's murder.

So far, 12 accused have been arrested. A 13-member special investigation team (SIT) has been constituted and the probe into the matter is underway, he said, stressing that further action will be taken.

The deputy CM made the announcement about the probe by the Central



What MLA Ishwar Sahu said....

Ishwar Sahu said his son was killed on April 8 last year and only 12 persons were arrested in the case even though the names of 36 individuals accused in the incident were then submitted to the authorities. Ishwar Sahu then asked whether a CBI probe would be ordered into the incident.

Sharma, who also holds the Home portfolio, said the matter is being investigated by forming an SIT but "today I announce in the House that a CBI in-

vestigation will be conducted into the incident". Senior BJP MLA Ajay Chandrakar said two persons from a particular community were also found murdered (on April 11 last year) in the area.

Chandrakar asked whether the CBI probe will also cover this incident so that it can be ascertained whether the murder of the duo was in reaction to the earlier incident or if there was any conspiracy behind it.

Sharma said that 17 persons were arrested in connection with the murder of the two persons and the chargesheet has already been filed in the court. So the CBI probe will only cover the murder of Bhuneshwar Sahu, he said.

Bhuneshwar Sahu was killed in violence that erupted in Biranpur on April 8, 2023, after an altercation between school children from two communities.

Legal doyen Fali S Nariman passes away



New Delhi: Legal doyen and veteran advocate Fali S Nariman died here on Wednesday at the age of 95. He was suffering from multiple ailments, including cardiac issues. Born on January 10, 1929, Nariman was enrolled as an advocate at the Bombay High Court in November 1950 and was designated a senior advocate in 1961. Nariman was born in Rangoon (now Yangon) to a well-off business executive. The Nariman family fled to India in the face of the Japanese invasion in 1942 when Fali was 12.

A Golden Present. An Amrit Future.



BRIEF



India's Sini Shetty poses during the opening of the Miss World pageant, in New Delhi.

200 fall ill

Buldhana: In a case of suspected food poisoning, around 200 people fell ill after consuming 'prasad' during a religious program at Lonar in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, officials said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday night during the 'Harinam Saptah', a week-long religious event, at Somthana village in Lonar taluka, Buldhana district collector Kiran Patil told PTI.

Resign

Patna: JD(U) leader Maheshwar Hazari on Wednesday resigned from the post of deputy speaker of the Bihar assembly, the Vidhan Sabha secretariat said. According to a notification from the secretariat, Hazari's resignation came into effect from the forenoon of February 21. Hazari, a second-term MLA from the reserved Kalyanpur assembly constituency, had been holding the deputy speaker's post since March, 2021.

Suicide

Surat: Police investigating the suspected suicide of model Tania Singh will send a notice to cricketer Abhishek Sharma as the preliminary probe revealed the duo was friends and she had sent him a message on WhatsApp chat which was not responded to, a Surat police officer said on Wednesday.

Weather

High 33 Low 20

MARKET

NIFTY 22,055.05

SENSEX 72,623.09

BULLION

GOLD 62,178

SILVER 70,975

Raipur, Feb 21 (PTI):

The Chhattisgarh government will recommend a CBI probe into the murder of a 22-year-old man, Bhuneshwar Sahu, in communal violence in the state's Bemetara district last year, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma announced on Wednesday. During campaigning ahead of last year's Assembly elections, the BJP had extensively highlighted the youth's killing in Biranpur village. It also fielded Bhuneshwar's father Ishwar Sahu from the Saja constituency and rallied around him to ensure his victory.

The deputy CM made the announcement about the probe by the Central

'Vidhyasagar's emphasis on duties important for building Viksit Bharat'

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes on Wednesday to Jain seer Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar, who died earlier this week, and said his life was a spiritually-rich epoch graced with profound wisdom, boundless compassion and an "unwavering commitment to uplift humanity".

In an article penned as a tribute to the Jain seer, Modi said Sant Shriromani Acharya Shri 108 Vidhyasagar Ji Maharaj Ji attained 'samadhi' and left everyone saddened. The prime minister said he had the honour of receiving the seer's blessings on numerous occasions. "Thus, I feel a deep sense of loss, akin to losing a guiding light that has illuminated the path for countless souls, including myself. His warmth, affection and blessings were not just gestures of goodwill but profound transmissions of spiritual energy, empowering and inspiring all those fortunate enough to have come in contact with him," Modi said. "His life is a spiritually-rich epoch graced with profound wisdom, boundless compassion and an unwavering commitment to uplift humanity," he said. The prime minister especially urged the future generations to study extensively about Acharya Vidhyasagar Maharaj's commitment to nation building. "He would always urge people to rise above any partisan considerations and instead, focus on national interest. He was one of the strongest votaries of voting because he saw it as an expression of participation in democratic processes," he said.

SP, Cong announce tie-up in UP, MP

Cong gets 17 seats in UP

Lucknow, Feb 21 (PTI): INDIA bloc partners SP and Congress on Wednesday announced a tie-up for the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, with UP's main opposition party leaving 17 out of the 80 seats in the state for the ally. In Madhya Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party will contest on a single seat, Khajuraho, and support the Congress in the remaining constituencies in the state. Among the 17 seats on which the Congress will contest in UP included Raebareli and Amethi, once considered pocket boroughs of the party, and Varanasi which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency. The seat-sharing announcement was made at a joint press conference here by SP state chief



Naresh Uttam Patel, SP national general secretary Rajendra Chaudhary, Congress state president Ajay Rai and AICC in-charge of UP Avinash Pande. Pande said the Congress will contest on 17 seats, while on the rest of the 63 seats in the state, the SP and other alliance partners will contest. SP state president Patel said, "The Congress will contest on 17 seats in UP and on the rest of the 63 seats, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav will decide candidates." Apart from Raebareli, Amethi and Varanasi, the other seats on which the Congress will be contesting included Kanpur City, Fatehpur Sekri, Basgaon, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Maharajganj, Amroha, Jhansi, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Sitapur, Barabanki and Deoria, Patel said.

Farmer killed in Haryana police crackdown on farmers

Police drop tear gas shells

Chandigarh, Feb 21 (PTI): A 21-year-old farmer was killed and a few others injured following a clash between security personnel and protesting farmers at Khanauri on the Punjab-Haryana border.

Farmer leaders said this was the first death in clashes since the 'Delhi Chalo' march began on February 13.

The victim has been identified as Subhakaran Singh (21), a resident of Baloke village in Punjab's Bathinda district, farmer leader Baldev Singh Sirsa said.

Patiala-based Rajindra Hospital's medical superintendent H S Rekhi told reporters that three people, one of them dead, were brought to the hospital from the Khanauri border point. He (Singh) had an in-

Farmer killed in Haryana police crackdown on farmers



A tear gas explodes after being fired upon the protesting farmers during their 'Delhi Chalo' march, near the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu Border, in Patiala district, Wednesday.

jury to his head, Rekhi said and added that condition of the other two is stable. Farmers in Khanauri, one of the two protest sites on the Punjab-Haryana border, claimed that Haryana police personnel fired rubber bullets, besides tear gas shells to disperse protesters. Tear gas shells were fired to disperse farmers

NEET-UG NTA to conduct medical entrance in 14 foreign cities

On May 05

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI): Medical entrance exam NEET-UG will also be conducted at exam centres in 14 foreign cities on May 5, the National Testing Agency announced on Wednesday. The move comes after the National Testing Agency (NTA) received requests from aspirants as the information bulletin for the exam notified earlier this month had no mention of centres outside India for candidates to attempt the test. "It

has been decided that the exam will also be conducted in 14 foreign cities in 12 countries," said NTA Senior Director (Exams) Sadhna Parashar. The 14 foreign cities where the exam will be conducted are Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah (UAE); Kuwait city in Kuwait; Bangkok in Thailand; Colombo in Sri Lanka; Doha in Qatar; Kathmandu in Nepal; Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia; Lagos in Nigeria; Manama in Bahrain; Muscat in Oman; Riyadh in Saudi Arabia; and Singapore. The exam will be conducted at

554 centres across India. "Candidates who have already selected centres in India and paid the fee without the option for foreign centres but they want to appear for the exam at centres outside India will have the opportunity to correct their centre and country choice during the correction window, which will open after the registration window closes," Parashar said. NEET-UG is the qualifying entrance exam for admission to MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BSMS, BUMS, BHMS and BSc (H) Nursing courses.

ISRO's cryogenic engine gets human-rated



ISRO's CE20 cryogenic engine (right) during tests at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri.

For Gaganyaan missions

Bengaluru, Feb 21 (PTI): ISRO has accomplished a major milestone in the human rating of its CE20 cryogenic engine that powers the cryogenic stage of the human-rated LVM3 launch vehicle for Gaganyaan human spaceflight missions, with the completion of the final round of ground qualification tests. "ISRO's CE20 cryogenic engine is now human-rated for

Gaganyaan missions," the space agency said on X" on Wednesday. Rigorous testing demonstrates the engine's mettle, it said, adding the CE20 engine identified for the first uncrewed flight LVM3 G1 also went through acceptance tests. The February 13 final test was the seventh of a series of vacuum ignition tests carried out at the High Altitude Test Facility at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, to simulate flight conditions, it said.

from Punjab at Shambhu and Khanauri border points as they tried to move towards barricades stalling their protest march to Delhi. Thousands of farmers resumed their agitation two days after the fourth round of talks with the government over their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for

crops and farm debt waiver, failed. Since February 13, farmers are gathered at the border points along with their tractor-trolleys, mini-vans and pickup trucks.

Vinoba App to help improving education system

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: As per the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary, Vinoba App has been activated to bring innovation in education, to facilitate the work of teachers, to share educational works and new activities of teachers and to provide educational assistance to teachers.

The Collector said that through the Vinoba App, teachers will get assistance in academic management. This will further advance the education system of the district.

With the aim of saving time of school teachers and officials, an MoU has been signed between the district administration and Open Links



Foundation. Under this, a training program was organized regarding registration and use of Vinoba App. 42 trainees attended the training programme.

Large-scale improvements in learning outcomes can be achieved by simplifying teachers' work and saving their time. This program provides

a platform for teachers to share the best activities of their schools with each other. This program will help in honouring the teachers by appreciating

the good work done by them at the block and district level on a regular basis. This initiative will help the district administration in implementing flagship learning programs like Nipun Bharat, Navjatan and Utkrisht 10th and Utkrisht 12th.

On this occasion, District Education Officer, District Project Coordinator, Development Block Education Officer, Development Block Resource Coordinator, Cluster Center Head, Resource Person, Assistant Project Coordinator, Cluster Principal, Cluster Coordinator, Teachers and from Open Links Foundation Vinoba team - Vishwajeet and Hemant Sahu were present.

Excise Department seizes liquor smuggled from MP

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: On the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and under the guidance of Assistant Commissioner Excise Rajesh Jaiswal, the team of Excise Department took action against illegal sale of liquor in village Dhanora, under circle Bhilai 03, during morning patrolling on 21 February 2024.

Taking immediate action, they seized Madhya Pradesh made liquor (83 quarters of Goa Whiskey, 14.94 bulk liters) worth Rs 9130 from the possession of accused Santosh Giri, a resident of village Dhanora, Durg. A case has been registered against the accused



by Assistant District Excise Officer Dheeraj Kannaujiya under Section 34(2) of the Excise Act. Head Constable Fagu Ram

Tandon, Constable Dev Prasad Patel, Driver Durga Sahu and Durgesh played a vital role in arresting the bootlegger.

CM and Home Minister invited for Bhole Baba Ki Baraat

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: A grand marriage procession of Bhole Baba will be organised in Bhilai on March 8. Bol Bam Seva evam Kalyan Samiti is making elaborate preparations for this mega religious event. 31000 invitation cards will be distributed across the state. More than 5000 VIPs have been invited.

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai and Deputy CM and Home Minister Vijay Sharma will also attend this event. Both have given assurance to participate in the event. Bhole Baba Ki Baraat will take place in Bhilai on 8th March. The organisers are distributing invitations for this event.

On the other hand, on Sawan Somwar, a special Mahabhishek takes place in the Rajarajeshwari temple of Bhilai. CM Sai comes to attend the Mahabhishek with his family. Daya Singh said



to be mentioned here that CM Vishnu Deo Sai has attended this programme earlier also.

that preparations for the event are going on in full swing. The responsibility has been given to the committee office bearers.

Special attractions of this event include different tableaux from across the country; local artists will perform to promote Chhattisgarhi culture; famous singer Dilip

Shadangi with his team will conduct Sangeet Sandhya; famous folk singer Dukalu Yadav with his team will perform in the Baraat; special tableau of Bhole Baba; DJ and Dhumal, etc. Apart from the urban areas of Durg-Bhilai, people will also come from rural areas to attend this programme.

BMM students maintain dominance in university merit list

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: In the merit list released by Hemchand Yadav University, Durg for the session 2022-23, 34 students of Bhilai Mahila Mahavidyalaya (BMM) maintained the tradition of the college by securing excellent positions.

BSc Home Science, MSc Home Science (Textile and Clothing) and MSc Home Science (Human Development) students secured first position and received gold medals. The girl students are Darshika Praveen Bhutda 83.94%, Damini 84.64% and Nidhi Yadav got 81.60%.

Apart from this MSc Botany - Payal Sahu, MSc Microbiology - Roshni Chandravanshi, MSc Zoology - Deepika Sahu, MSc Physics - Trupti Sahu, MSc Computer Science - Srishti Rai, Navodita



Kannaujiya, Pooja, MSc Mathematics - Neha Soni, Sushma, BCA - Nazneen, BSc Computer Science - Megha Dewangan, BSc Mathematics - Renu Sahu have secured position in the merit list.

Similarly, besides the gold medal in MSc Home Science (Textile and Clothing), Shruti Seth

(2nd), Reena Sahu (3rd), Jigyasa Chandrakar (4th), Yamini (5th), Ms. Divya Chandrakar (sixth), Zeba Tabassum (7th), Ruqaiya Begum (eighth) and Payal Sahu (tenth) secured positions in merit list.

Apart from gold medal in MSc Home Science (Human Development), the college students

Suman Tiwari (2nd), Shweta (3rd), Preeti Ghritalhare (4th), Simran Anjal Singh (5th), Pratibha Suryavanshi (6th), Sofia Khan (7th), Payal Shah (8th), Chandrakala (9th), Shakuntala (10th) secured positions in merit list. The Management Trustee of the college, Vijay Gupta, Chairman of the Governing Body,

Arvind Jain and other members of the Trust along with the Principal Dr Sandhya Madanmohan and the professors have congratulated the girl students on this remarkable achievement and wish them continued achievements in the future.

Along with this, the results of all the postgraduate classes of the college have also been 100 percent. The entire college family is very excited with this achievement.

Selection trials for table tennis team on February 28

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: Bhilai Steel Plant's Department of Sports, Cultural & Civic Amenities (SC&CA) is organizing selection trials to select players (Male) for BSP's Table Tennis Team, to take part in the Steel Plants Sports Board (SPSB) Table Tennis Championship.

The SAIL- Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), is organizing the Inter-Steel Plant SPSB Table Tennis Championship, at Burnpur, West Bengal, from 14th to 16th March 2024. The selection trial will be organized at the Indoor Hall, Civic Centre,

Bhilai, on 28th February 2024, at 06.00 PM, to select BSP's regular employees and players, their wards, and other young players from Bhilai and nearby areas in male category, for BSP's Table Tennis Team.

Registration for the Selection trial may be made with the selectors for BSP's Table Tennis Team, KK Shukla (91091-69545), and Umesh Goswami (70008-74217), before 28th February 2024, at 06.00 PM, at the Indoor Hall, Civic Centre, Bhilai. Dennis Christy, Deputy Manager (SC&CA) will be in charge of the selection trial.

Rathore conducts surprise inspection at district hospital

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: Divisional Commissioner Satyanarayan Rathore conducted a surprise inspection of the district hospital on Wednesday. During the inspection, he took information about the services being provided in various OPDs and surgical wards of the hospital.

He oversaw the working system of Blood Bank, Hamar Lab, Operation Theatre and Radiology Department. The Divisional Commissioner gave instructions to make detailed proposals for starting the e-hospital scheme in various departments of the hospital.



He asked to make the lab sample collection and reporting area completely online. He gave instructions to appoint an operator and open a public canteen in the hospital premises so that the patients

and their families visiting the hospital premises can get necessary facilities.

This will also increase the income of the hospital. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr JP Meshram, Civil Surgeon

cum Chief Hospital Superintendent Dr Arun Kumar Sahu, Resident Medical Officer Dr Akhilesh Yadav and other medical officers and employees of the hospital were present.

Dr Nandini's paintings exhibition at Nehru Art Gallery

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: Public Relations Department of Bhilai Steel Plant, is organizing a three-day solo exhibition of paintings made by Dr Nandini Chandravanshi, at Nehru Art Gallery, Indira Place (Civic Centre), Bhilai, from 21st to 23rd February 2024.

Dr. Nandini Chandravanshi, (MBBS, MD), the Director of City Hospital, Janjgir, Chhattisgarh, is a pediatrician. Dr Chandravanshi is a self-motivated artist, who started pursuing this art as a stress-management activity, which now has become a routine of her life.

She believes that her approach to expressing emo-

tions and spreading happiness helped her greatly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each brushstroke on the vibrant canvas tells a story, says Dr Nandini Chandravanshi. Working in acrylic form on canvas, Dr Nandini is an expressive artist covering a wide range of depictions of nature, expressionistic, religious, modern art, folk art, and portraiture.

Formerly, Dr Nandini has presented her solo exhibition at Lokayat Art Gallery, Delhi, and Nehru Center Art Gallery, Worli, Mumbai. This three-day painting exhibition will be open to the public from 21st to 23rd February 2024 during 5.30 PM to 8.30 PM.

Free Health Camp held at Piparchhedi

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: 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 Village Piparchhedi on 21st February 2024.

A total of 54 villagers, from Piparchhedi, availed free health services at the day-long Health Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camps at village Piparchhedi.

The Medical Team from CSR department, including Dr Saif Ali, Pharmacist Khilawan Kumbhkar, Nurse Rekha



Dev, for Blood-Sugar and BP examination and Shambhu Dayal for registration, volunteered their services for the Medical Camp at Village Piparchhedi. Sita Sinha from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

It is noteworthy that conducting Health Camps is one of the prime initiatives, through which

BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health and 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.

Safety Awareness Week concludes at CO&CCD

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 21: The valedictory ceremony of Departmental Safety Awareness Week was organized at Bhilai Steel Plant's Coke Oven and Coal Chemical Department (CO & CCD) on Wednesday. PK Sarkar CGM I/c (Services) was the chief guest on this occasion. Tarun Kanrar, CGM (CO&CCD), and Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, GM (SED) were also present on this occasion, along with other senior officials, personnel, and contractual workers in large numbers.

Chief Guest PK Sarkar congratulated female artists for their excellent stage performance and young executives for beautifully designed safety games and other educational competitions. Congratulating the



CO&CCD collective for organizing the various activities under the Safety Awareness Week initiative, Tarun Kanrar, CGM (CO&CCD), said that all sections of the shop have performed as a team. We have proved that we can raise our efficiency levels to meet targets of "zero

harm" despite several challenges. I am confident that team CO&CCD will continue to excel in the days and months to come, Kanrar said. Sanjay Kumar Agrawal, in his address, motivated the employees to upkeep adequate housekeeping standards and showcase their

creativity and innovation in preventing harmful hazards at their workplace. BC Mandal & PM Rajendra Kumar, GM & DSOs (CO&CCD) presented reports of various activities conducted during the Departmental Safety Awareness Week. BSP's employees, contractual

workers and their family members in large numbers took part in the week-long programme. Participants displayed their creativity through drawings, paintings, models, slogans, poems, songs, and essays. To motivate the employees and contractual workers safety skits, speeches, and lectures were organized.

On this concluding day, a safety skit was staged in front of the dignitaries by contractual female employees of the department, followed by prize distribution. The valedictory ceremony was compered and coordinated by Tanveer Ahmed, SS Meshram, S Nandi, Pradeep Kumar, Dushyant Dau, Anurag Kishore, A Dewangan, Lokesh Kushwaha, P Sharma, Dr Chandra and other departmental staff.

RMC plans to run Metro Light train, 3 mini-stadium

Provision made for shelter home for stray dogs, and develop 'World Skill Centre'

Mayor presents RMC's budget for 2024-25

Raipur, Feb 21: The Mayor Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) Aijaz Dhebar presented the RMC's budget for 2024-25 and made lots of small and big promises for the denizens of Raipur city. Mayor in his budget speech made declaration to launch Metro Light Train in capital city and make 'World Skill Centre', shelter home for stray dogs and establish Arts & Culture Centre to provide platform to artists, community buildings in PM Aawas Yojana premises and construction of three mini-stadiums and multi-play beneath the Expressway and plans to run 100 electric buses and to develop Indira's Smriti Udyan as city's picnic point.

Presenting his municipal budget for 2024-25, Mayor Aijaz Dhebar said that RMC is known not only for speedily develop-

ing basic amenities and using novel methods for the same among other Municipal corporations in the state. To ensure that the poorest of the poor gets benefitted from Centre's and state-sponsored schemes and bring necessary changes in the lives of the poorest of the poor and bring smile on their faces is the first target of RMC. The schemes in the budget for 2024-25 have been included keeping in mind the point that the youth can carve a better future putting in full energy and women can give participation in socio-economic development with due respect and honour. To give momentum to city's transportation, arrangements for Metro Light train will be made, he added.

Main points of the budget:

- World Skill Centre will be prepared in capital city at the cost of Rs 10.15 cr and under this the youths will be provided training to hone their skills and they will be linked with the employment oriented programmes. To ensure that the youth get employment as per their natural talent and that they get due honour



with the skills learned that all efforts will be made.

- Work plan has been prepared for development of city's religious place with ancient significance i.e Mahadev Ghat and under this the place will be developed as a good place for recreation keeping in mind the basic amenities for general public and its beautification as per religious importance and for this a provision of Rs 5 cr has been made.
- Shelter House will be constructed for stray dogs with a provision of Rs 50 lakh. It is as per the Acts and rules of the

central and state government and as per clauses there will be arrangements to keep ailing dogs and treatment of injured under guidance of veterinary doctors.

- To provide platform to budding artists for arts & culture with RMC limits, a provision of Rs 5 cr has been made to establish Arts & Culture Centre in city and under this under leadership of trained artists of arts & culture variety of activities related to traditional arts and modern means of communication including recording, script writing, pro-

duction and proper place will be provided for work.

- Need for community buildings in PM Aawas premises is being felt for long and to meet up the expectation of PMAY residents, plan has been prepared for community building and in this greenery will be promoted apart from taking care of maintenance.
- RMC to develop Skill Centre cum Yoga Centre at the cost of Rs 5 cr in this training will be imparted for training in Yoga and it will have gym, garden and sports arena and through creative activities many new



talent will come forward.

- Three Mini-stadiums will be constructed at the cost of Rs 6 cr and in this sufficient space will be there for all small and big organizations.
- Attractive Welcome Gates will be constructed in 7 places at the cost of Rs 4 cr.
- RMC to develop 10 vending zones in order to provide facilities to small traders and vendors and to make streamline the traffic system.
- Mini-Time Squares will be developed at city's Telibandha/ NIT/ City Kotwali to Jaistambh Chowk at the cost of Rs 8 cr.

High-Street

- Development by the side of the ponds at the cost of Rs 10 cr.
- Employees to be appointed for safety and security of garden in the city.
- To make city mosquito-free, a provision of Rs 3 cr has been made in the budget.
- To make Raipur capital city neat & clean, a proposal for appointment of 50 & above sanitary workers in each ward will be sent to the state government and on sanction, necessary action will be taken.
- City Forest to be devel-

oped by the side of Sarona Trenching ground so that air pollution near it can be controlled.

- To speed-up public transport in city more organized, a proposal has been prepared to complete this project on PPP mode at the cost of Rs 500 cr.
- Arrangements for two mobile toilets will be made in order to stop the procedure of people going for toilet out in the open.
- All efforts are being made to increase revenue in all 10 zones of RMC and a decision was taken to re-invest 25% of the Zone's revenue in the development of the same zone.
- Sports Academy will be developed in city and in this sports players will be provided training and it would provide proper opportunity for Indoor Weightlifting sports and others.
- Buffer Clean Corridor to be developed in city's welcome doors at the cost of Rs 7 cr.
- GE Road which is city's lifeline will be made more attractive at the cost of Rs 15 cr.

Your blessings are my source of strength: CM Cabinet ministers, public reps, officials greet CM on his B'day



Inspiring me to fulfill PM Modi's guarantee with more determination and dedication

CM took his mother's blessings on his birthday, his wife wished him by performing 'aarti'

Raipur, Feb 21: On the occasion of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's birthday,

an 'Ashirwad Samaroh' was organized in his native village Bagiya. Sai, addressing his well-wishers, said that words fall short to express the overwhelming gratitude he feels for the blessings, love and affection he has received on his birthday. Shri Sai said

that the trust, support and cooperation of people is his biggest strength and the source of motivation for fulfilling PM Modi's guarantee in the state. Chief Minister especially thanked President of India Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep



Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their kind wishes and greetings.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that he has a birthday tradition of performing rituals and spending time with his family and friends at his ancestral home, which he follows to the today. Sai expressed gratitude to the people who came from different parts of the state to wish him happy birthday. Shri Sai took blessings from his mother Jasmani Sai at her residence in village Bagiya. His wife,

Kaushalya Devi Sai, welcomed him with 'aarti', fed him sweets and wished him a long and healthy life. On this occasion, Chief Minister Shri Sai also expressed reverence to his Guru Shri Dhanpati Panda with his family at his residence.

People of Bagiya village were overjoyed to have their beloved leader amongst them. A large number of people, including women and children, who came from nearby villages, took turns to wish the Chief Minister on his birthday.

Raipur: Large number of people have gathered at the State Guest House Pahuna since morning on the occasion of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai's birthday. His cabinet ministers, public representatives, best friends, officials and a large number of common people reached Pahuna to extend birthday greetings and hearty wishes to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. They wished Sai a healthy, long and happy life.

PM Modi extends birthday to CM



Raipur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to the microblogging site X to extend warm birthday wishes to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.

In his post, he wrote, "Birthday wishes to the dynamic Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai Ji. He is doing outstanding work in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Chhattisgarh. His concern for the poor and marginalized communities is also remarkable. I pray for his long and healthy life."

Chief Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for his warm birthday wishes.



UP CM Yogi Adityanath also extend wishes to CM

Raipur: Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath has wished Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on his birthday on social media platform 'X'. Yogi Adityanath wrote that he prays that Shri Ram grant Sai a good health and a long life. "May you remain continuously dedicated to the service of Chhattisgarh Mahatari", he stated. CM Sai has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Adityanath for the greeting message on his birthday.

Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region distributes awards



Raipur, Feb 21: Bank of Baroda, with the aim of popularizing and propagating the contact language and official language Hindi among the people of the country, especially the young generation, has introduced "Baroda Meritorious Vidyarthi Samman" in 71 universities of the country since 2006 under which it felicitates meritorious students of MA Hindi. In this series, on March 21st, 2023, under of Bank of Baroda 'Baroda

Meritorious Student Award', M.A. Hindi students in the academic year 2022-23 (final year) of the University were felicitated at Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. Ms. Nagina, a student who scored top marks in MA Hindi was felicitated by Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Mishra, Chief Manager, Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region and officials of the bank were present.

Maghav Kaushik, litterateur and President, National Sahitya Academy, New Delhi. The function was organized under the proper guidance from Deputy General Manager, Network Chhattisgarh, Bhopal Zone, Mr. Bharkumar Chavda, Regional Head Mr. Amit Banerjee and Deputy Regional Head Mr. Deepak Mishra.

During the program, the winners of the Bob Speech Competition organized by Bank of Baroda, Raipur Regional Office for the students of Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur on the occasion of International Mother Language Day were also awarded.

On this occasion, Prof. Sachchidanand Shukla, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Shail Sharma, Head of the Department of Literary Studies, Dr. Girjashankar Gautam, Assistant Professor (Hindi), Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Mishra, Chief Manager, Bank of Baroda, Raipur Region and students, teachers and officials of the bank were present.

Rajim Kumbh Bill passed with majority vote



Govt gets support from 43 MLAs against 30 opposition votes

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Wednesday gave approval to the amendment bill on Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and now the Religious convention would be named as Rajim Kumbh Kalp.

Minister for Culture Brijmohan Agrawal presented the above amendment bill in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly. Supporting the movement of the Treasury bench, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Ajay Chandrakar ques-

tioned the changes brought by the erstwhile Congress government. His comment sparked uproar with both the ruling BJP as well as principal opposition Congress members targeting each other.

In his reply, the Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that the status of Kumbh to Rajim convention is essential to promote the rich culture of Chhattisgarh and added that Punni Mela is a frequent event organized across Chhattisgarh whereas Rajim Kumbh has its own rich culture.

Amendment bill was passed with majority decision with 43 MLAs in support of the Bill whereas 30 MLAs from opposition voting against the Bill.

Govt to lay emphasis on agricultural products, forest produce

Raipur, Feb 21: Demands for grants worth Rs 773 crore 28 lakh 42 thousand related to the departments of Commerce and Industry and Labor Minister Lakhman Lal Dewangan were passed on Wednesday after discussion in the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly. It includes an amount of Rs 530 crore 29 lakh 69 thousand for expenditure related to Commerce and Industry Department and an amount of Rs 242 crore 98 lakh 73 thousand for Labor Department.

Commerce and Industry Minister Lakhman Lal Dewangan, while replying to the discussion on grant demands, said that the current industrial policy of the state is in operation till October 31, 2024. A new Industrial Policy 2024-2029 will be issued after reviewing it as per the requirement of the state. In the new policy, new industries will be encouraged keeping in view the agricultural products, forest produce, mineral resources and establishment of employment-oriented industries available in the state.

Dewangan told in the House that Rs 60 crore will



be provided for setting up new industrial areas, Rs 50 crore for setting up separate industrial parks to encourage agriculture and food processing industries, Rs 200 crore for cost capital grant and A provision of Rs 50 crore has been made in the new budget for interest subsidy. He informed that Chhattisgarh Udyam Kranti Yojana will be started to provide self-employment to the youth. Besides, industrial areas will be developed on government land in the areas near the National Highway for the Korba-Bilaspur Industrial Corridor equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure. For this, a provision of Rs 5 crore has been made to prepare the initial action plan. While replying to the discussion on demands for

grants in the House, he said that an initial provision of Rs 5 crore has been made in the upcoming budget to meet the much-awaited demand of Aluminum Park in Korba district. An amount of Rs 13 crore has been provisioned for the establishment of small forest produce based processing industries in Bastar and Surguja divisions, which are rich in forest resources, and for food processing assistance grant under the Chhattisgarh Food Processing Mission Scheme. He informed that to promote start-up, innovation and research among the youth, the Central Instrumentation Facility will be upgraded at Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University, Raipur. A provision of Rs 2 crore has been made for this.

He said in the House that for the development of industrial infrastructure in the state, along with maintenance and new projects of roads, water, electricity etc., IT based "plug and play" model will be developed in Nava Raipur. For this, Rs 35 crore has been provisioned under infrastructure development upgradation work.

CM Sai offers prayers to Lord Jagannath's Chariot wheel

Auspicious Chariot arrival at Pahuna adds to Chief Minister's birthday festivities

Raipur, Feb 21:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai offered prayers to the chariot wheel of Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra Ji at the State Guest House Pahuna this morning. He wished for the happiness and prosperity of the people of state. The chariot wheel of Lord Jagannath and Balabhadra Ji is being



carried in Nandighosh Rath, traversing different wards of Raipur city.

It is worth mentioning that the renowned Jagannath Puri temple is situated in Odisha, where the annual Rath Yatra begins on the second day of Shukla Paksha in the month of Ashadha (June-July) and lasts for nine days. For the past 12 days, the chariot wheel has been touring various wards of Raipur City, providing an opportunity for the common people to have its Darshan.

This morning, coinciding with the birthday of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, the auspicious arrival of the chariot, accompanied by musical instruments, occurred at the State Guest House Pahuna. This created an atmosphere of religious fervour and enthusiasm throughout the Pahuna premises. Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap, Former Minister and MLA Amar Agrawal, and MLA Purandar Mishra were among the many devotees present on this occasion.

RMC drive to ensure smooth traffic on roads

Raipur, Feb 21:

In an effort to ensure smooth traffic on the roads, the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) is continuously running a drive to remove the condemned vehicles kept on the side of the main roads by coordinating with the Traffic Department.

To this end a drive was conducted in all the zone areas in which mainly action was taken to remove the condemned vehicles kept on the side of the service road of Ring Road near Lakhe Nagar

Check Electricity Office. An announcement was made for the information of the general public by the Municipal Corporation's Town Planning Department of the concerned zone regarding the removal of vehicles kept outside the white line in the main roads of the city. The Central Team of the Town Planning Department Headquarters and Zone No. 04 warned the shopkeepers doing business by disrupting the traffic by placing goods outside the shops around

Malviya Road and Ever Green Check.

Instructions were given by the Commissioner to run a continuous drive against the building materials kept on the roads in front of the buildings under construction in all areas of the city. In compliance with the above instructions, all the zones have taken similar action of confiscation and fine in 13 cases of building materials kept in the road in front of buildings under construction in different wards of the city.

Dinesh Mishra appointed Match Observer by BCCI

For 4th test match between India Vs England at Ranchi

Raipur, Feb 21:

Dinesh Mishra from Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh, has been appointed as Match Observer by BCCI for 4th test match between India and England in ongoing test series.

Match will be held from 23 Feb. 2024 to 27 Feb. 2024 at Jharkhand State Cricket Association International Stadium Complex, Ranchi.

According to the information received, Dinesh Mishra will look forward for ground related works, ground equipment's, security for team and match officials, players dressing room, umpires and referee dressing room, food



arrangements for match, media and print media arrangements, television arrangements, arrangements for radio coverage, prize distribution ceremony arrangements and practice arrangements for teams etc. Jubin Shah, President CSCS, Mukul Tiwari, Secretary, CSCS, Prabtej Singh Bhatia, WPL Committee Member & Former President of CSCS and all CSCS management has convey their wishes to Dinesh Mishra on his appointment as match observer.

Vice Chancellor of CSVTU Bhilai participated in India-Nepal Education Summit

Event held in Kathmandu, Nepal

Raipur, Feb 21:

India Nepal Education Summit was organised in Nepal's capital Kathmandu from February 15 to 17 in which Vice Chancellor of CSVTU Bhilai, Prof. MK. Verma participated. The event was organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)-Northern Region, which aimed to bring together Vice Chancellors and leaders from over 150 international universities. The objective of this conference was to provide a platform to understand the impact of globalization on higher education institutions, promote international collaboration and exchange



of ideas and build networking and partnerships and share best practices. The summit also promoted inter-cultural cooperation between academic communities from different regions, especially in the South Asian region.

During the summit, the Vice Chancellors discussed effective strategies for internationalization of

higher education including student mobility, joint research and curriculum development. The summit included three technical sessions including 'International Collaboration and Partnerships: Building Bridges to Higher Education', 'Global Higher Education Policy and Regulations'

Harmonization of Standards' and 'Student Mobility and Diversity: Enhancing International Experience'. The summit emphasized internationalization of higher education, student mobility, joint research and curriculum development through collaboration with national and international universities.

Annual sports competition held at Shri Gujarati School

Junior students outshine seniors

Raipur, Feb 21:

Under the auspices of the annual sports competition at Shri Gujarati Higher Secondary School in Devendra Nagar, Raipur (CG), students from middle school (6th to 8th grade), high school (9th and 10th grade), and higher secondary sections showcased their athletic prowess. Various team games including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and relay races, as well as

individual sports such as chair race, rope jumping, and slow cycling, were organized through the guidance of various supervising teachers.

Moreover, individual sports like chair race, rope jumping, and slow cycling were also organized, where students enthusiastically participated with full vigor. In most of the games, junior students exhibited remarkable performance, giving their seniors a tough competition, informs Principal Anis Memon.



New Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas in tribal dominated areas of state

Union Education Secretary met Education Minister Brijmohan Agarwal

Raipur, Feb 21:

Education Secretary, Government of India, Sanjay Kumar and Additional Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of India, Bipin Kumar paid a courtesy call on Education Minister, Brijmohan Agarwal in Raipur. On this occasion, Brijmohan Agarwal discussed various topics related to education in Chhattisgarh.

During the meeting, Education Minister Agarwal demanded opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in Chhattisgarh and said that about 32 percent of the population in Chhattisgarh is tribal.



About 50 percent of the state's land area is forest. In such a situation, there is a need to pay special attention to the education sector. For which there is a need to improve education facilities in tribal areas like Ambikapur, Surguja, Jashpur, Bastar, Narayanpur, Dantewada etc. He said that the area of Bastar is larger than the state of Kerala and due to Maoist terrorism, children here cannot go to school far away. In such a situation, the action plan to provide bicycles to girls of all classes up to class 9 was also dis-

cussed. Explaining the need for smart classes and ICT through internet in schools, he also instructed to create digital learning and digital library there and for this, it was asked to provide necessary support for fiber or satellite internet connectivity.

Education Minister Agarwal sought cooperation from the Center to provide mid-day meal as well as nutritious morning breakfast to the children in schools in Chhattisgarh. He demanded to increase the amount received from the Center in various schemes.

He assured that if the Central Government increases the amount then the State Government will release the amount on time. Along with this, he demanded from the Center to increase the funds sanctioned for school uniform. The amount given now is as per the rate fixed in the year 2011. He said that about 10,000 school buildings in the state have become dilapidated and their renovation and reconstruction is essential. For this, additional allocation of funds was demanded from the Centre.

Agarwal directed the state officials to prepare an action plan in collaboration with the Center to improve the overall and Vidya Samiksha Center in Chhattisgarh. He also discussed about giving free books to children up to 12th class in Chhattisgarh and said that in the next 5 years, smart class rooms will be constructed in 25 thousand schools, for this, cooperation will be given from the state government, central government and private companies under CSR head.

On this occasion, Education Secretary Mr. Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, MD Samagra Shiksha Mr. Sanjeev Jha, Joint Secretary Education Mrs. Fariya Alam Siddiqui, Director Public Instruction Mrs. Divya Mishra, Managing Director Text Book Corporation Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, Director SCERT Mr. Rajendra Katara were also present.

Yoga philosophy is very relevant for Viksit Bharat: Dr Singh

Khairagarh, Feb 21:

Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh, witnessed an enlightening lecture on the 'Relevance of Yoga Darshan' under the Viksit Bharat Abhiyan. Dr. Bhagwant Singh, a distinguished retired professor, shed light on the relevance of Yoga in India's developmental trajectory towards 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'.

The event, graced by esteemed members of the university family including Prof. Dr. Naman Dutt and Prof. Dr. Rajan Yadav, was a resounding success. Dr. Ajay Pandey, the program coordinator and yoga instructor, expressed his gratitude towards Vice Chancellor Padmashree Dr. Mamta (Mokshada) Chandrakar and Registrar



Prof. Dr. Neeta Gaharwar for their invaluable guidance.

Dr. Bhagwant Singh emphasized the multifaceted benefits of yoga, stating its pivotal role not only in physical and mental well-being but also in fostering economic prosperity. He underscored the relevance of Yoga in the journey towards a Viksit Bharat.

A highlight of the event was the impressive showcase by the university's

Yoga Center students, who presented intricate models and a captivating yoga-based dance performance. The talents of Mukta Mehar, Rashi Choudhary, Harsh Agarwal, and others received widespread acclaim.

Led by Dr. Ajay Pandey, in-charge of the Yoga Centre, the program left a lasting impression, further cementing the significance of Yoga in India's pursuit of progress.

Water conservation and cleanliness campaign conducted in Parsada

By Government BEd College

Raipur, Feb 21:

Government BEd College in Shankar Nagar, Raipur, spearheaded a one-day community participation program aimed at instilling social responsibility among future educators. Led by Principal Pushpa Kispotta, the initiative witnessed the active involvement of 150 first-year B.Ed student teachers, who pledged to serve society selflessly.

Under the guidance of Dr. D.K. Bodle, in-charge of B.Ed, and with the coordination of Janpahal-Community Participation Program, the event focused on vital issues such as education, health, cleanliness, and hygiene. Academic members and student teachers engaged with the villagers of Parsada, Abhanpur district, conducting surveys to understand their



needs and challenges. A vibrant cultural program, inaugurated by village Sarpanch Purnima Sahu, highlighted social issues, environmental conservation, and animal welfare. The program featured engaging performances including street plays and circus acts, captivating the attention of the villagers.

A highlight of the event was a water conservation campaign led by B.Ed student teacher Hemdhar Sahu, who rallied the community to pledge for cleanliness and actively participate in conserving water resources. A torch rally further symbolized the community's commit-

ment to cleanliness and drug eradication.

Manjusha Tiwari, an academic member, emphasized the program's goal of bridging the gap between education and rural life, fostering a sense of empathy and social responsibility among student teachers. Notable contributions from student teachers like Neeraj Kumar Baghel, Ghanshyam Patel, and Parvati Dhruv showcased their dedication to community service. In the end, under the leadership of Sarpanch Purnima Sahu, a resolution was taken to eradicate drug addiction by taking out a "Mashal Rally".

Officers should work in better coordination for successful elections : CEO Kangale

Experts share information related to election process in the training of returning officers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 21: Success of the election depends on the coordination ability of the returning officers, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mrs. Reena Baba Saheb Kangale said. Teams work at different levels to complete the election work and better coordination between these teams is the basis of success, she said while addressing the training program of returning officers for Lok Sabha General Election-2024.

Additional Chief Electoral Officer Nilesh Kumar Mahadev



Kshirsagar and Joint Chief Electoral Officer PS Dhruv along with Returning Officers and Deputy District Election Officers of all 11 Lok Sabha constituencies attended the training today.

Training was given regarding the responsibilities of AROs and their role during elections today on the second day of the five-day certifica-

tion program for Assistant Returning Officers at Chhattisgarh Administration Academy, Nimora.

Trainers presented their views and shared their experiences on all the important points like model code of conduct, eligibility and disqualification of candidates, nomination process, scrutiny of nomination papers, crimi-

nal record information, postal ballot, expenditure monitoring, paid news, media complaints, media monitoring committee.

As per the instructions of the Election Commission of India, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) today gave information

about the increasing use of information technology in the election process and various applications used during elections in the certification program of Assistant Returning Officers. Trainee officers were told about how mobile applications are making the election work easier and more transparent.

CM Sai hosts 'Nyota Bhoj' for Bagiya school children

Shares meal with them while sitting on the ground, offers sweets from his plate

Promises the students to visit them again

Jashpur, Feb 21:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hosted a 'Nyota Bhoj' for the children of Balak Ashram Shala in Bagiya, on his birthday today. He sat on the ground and shared a meal with them. While interacting warmly with the children, he also shared sweets from his plate with Anuj and Sumit, encouraging them to study diligently. The children were thrilled to



have CM Sai join them and expressed their desire for his future visits, saying,

'CM Sir, do come to meet us again. Smiling at their innocence, Chief Minister

Sai assured them, 'Bagiya is my home, so I will definitely visit you all again.'

India's fourth science city to be built in Raipur

Will be able to see the planets and stars closely and will also experience zero gravity

Before this, science cities have been built on this model in Kolkata, Guwahati and Dehradun

Raipur, Feb 21:

The country's sixth science city will be constructed in Chhattisgarh at a cost of Rs 232 crore. Search for 35 acres of land has been started for its construction in Raipur. The Center will provide 60 percent funds and the State will provide 40 percent funds for the construction of the Science City. The state gov-

ernment has also made a provision of Rs 34.90 crore in the budget.

Departmental sources informed that its tender process will start after the Lok Sabha elections. In the department, brainstorming is going on regarding the construction of Municipal Corporation, Amazing Park near the ongoing Science Center in Nava Raipur or Saddu. The Science City to be built in Raipur will be the fourth in the country, which will be developed by the Centre. Before this, science cities have been built on this model in Kolkata, Guwahati, Dehradun.

Apart from this, the state government has constructed science cities in Ahmedabad and Kapurthala of Punjab in

PPP model. It is notable that in the year 2003, two years after the formation of the first BJP government, the proposal for Science City had come from the Centre. At that time 40 acres of land was identified in Saddu. Later, due to budget constraints between the Centre and the State, the Science City was shelved. After this the state government developed a science center on this land. Presently 20 acres of land is in the possession of Science City. Government departments have opened their establishments in 10 acres. 10 acres have gone into development work.

It has been proposed to install a new technology telescope in the Science City to observe astronomical events. In this will be

able to see the planets, moon and stars closely. A hall will also be developed in which people will be able to feel the zero gravity of the Moon. Dynamotion Hall will also be built on the lines of Kolkata, where people will understand the principle of gravity. Earth exploration hall will also be built. A 3-D and an open theater will also be constructed here.

Science City will prove to be a boon for children. They will not run away from Science subject, they will come closer. The path to development opens only through Science. Science is more a matter of understanding than memorizing. Its construction will start soon. - Vijay Sharma, Minister, Science and Technology

Upset wife tries to commit suicide by consuming poison

As his husband fails to get salary for two months and did not sent it home

Jagdajpur, Feb 21:

The wife of Ghasiram Yadav, a security guard working as a security guard in SIS in Devki Vihar, district headquarters Dharampura, tried to commit suicide by consuming poison. The woman has been admitted to Mecos for treatment. Security guard Ghasiram told that the upset wife

consumed poison due to not getting salary for the last two months.

Security guard Ghasiram Yadav told that he is working in SIS Security and Intelligent Service All India Limited in Devki Vihar, Dharampura. Ghasiram told that he was living and working in Jagdajpur, while his wife Milko Yadav of 35 years, lives in village Golabekur of Keralapur in Sukma district with her four children, father and brother. Ghasiram told that on



Monday afternoon his wife called and asked the

reason for not sending money for two months.

Due to non-payment of money and no response from the company regarding salary, people started facing difficulties in purchasing household items as well as daily useful items. Apart from this, the situation at home deteriorated due to children not being able to meet their school expenses.

Angered by not sending the money, the wife consumed poison and informed her husband over the phone. Out of fear, the husband informed his father Samrath and brother

Roshan over phone. The family members reached home and took the woman to Sukma District Hospital for treatment and where in view of her poor condition she was referred to MACOS and she is undergoing treatment. Ghasiram told that many people are working in the company, but due to not getting the money on time, they left the job. The security guard says that the requests of the poor is not reaching the company, due to which they are facing these problems.

Chhattisgarh women SHG celebrate CM's birthday

By presenting him a unique gift

Raipur, Feb 21:

Amidst the abundance of birthday wishes for the state's beloved Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, members of women's self-help groups in Chhattisgarh celebrated his special day in their unique way.

Attending the Saras Mela held at the Science College grounds in Raipur on the eve of his birthday, Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai received warm greetings from the women of the self-help group. They extended wishes for his health and happiness, presenting him with a special gift - a plate adorned with laddoos made of millets, creatively



shaped into the number 60.

As Chief Minister Sai celebrates his sixtieth birthday, the women handcrafted this symbolic gesture to mark the occasion. Expressing his gratitude, Chief Minister stated "Members of women self-help groups in Chhattisgarh are crafting a new narrative of economic self-reliance and, in the coming times, they will make a significant contribution to realizing the concept of a developed India and a developed Chhattisgarh."

Bird survey in Kanger Valley National Park from Feb 25

Raipur, Feb 21:

A survey of birds will be conducted in the Kanger Valley National Park in Chhattisgarh from February 25 to 27, after a similar exercise last year revealed the park is a key hub of birds, an official said on Tuesday.

More than 70 experts from 10 states will be involved in the three-day comprehensive and scientific bird survey to be carried out in the national park, located around 300 km from state capital Raipur in Bastar district, the park's director, Dhammsih Ganvir said.



the state bird of Chhattisgarh, is now sighted in more than 15 villages adjacent to the national park, he said.

The pristine Kanger valley forest, flanked by hills

and covered with sal trees, is also famous for the Tirathgarh waterfall and Kutumsar limestone caves.

Spread over 200 square kilometers, the park is fa-

mous for its natural beauty, biodiversity and caves, and also houses birds that are found in the Western Ghats and the eastern Himalayas of India, Ganvir told PTL.

The national park's diverse flora and fauna also maintains a comfortable and harmonious environment for their existence, he said.

Last year, a similar survey was conducted in which 201 bird species were identified, including the hill mynah, black-hooded oriole, racket-tailed drongo, jungle fowl, woodpecker, etc, he said.

"It has become clear

from last year's study that the national park is a key hub for birds and emerging as a hotspot for bird lovers in the country," Ganvir said.

The latest survey will help in the identification of more bird species in the park and ascertaining their habits and population, thereby helping in their conservation and adding new dimensions to bird-watching under ecotourism, he said.

More than 70 bird experts, researchers and volunteers from West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and

Rajasthan, apart from Chhattisgarh, will be involved in the exercise, being held in collaboration with the Bird Count India and the Wildlife of Chhattisgarh (a private organisation), the official said.

The Mynah Mitra Scheme is being run in the park wherein local youth and village members are actively participating in the conservation of birds. In addition, members of the eco development committee (of the forest department) are also providing support, thereby improving natural conservation with community co-operation, he said.

Congress protests against freezing of bank accounts



Jagdajpur, Feb 21:

On Tuesday, on the call of Chhattisgarh State Congress Committee, City Congress President Sushil Maurya, Mayor Safira Sahu, Chairman Kavita Sahu, former MLA Rekhchandra Jain, MLA candidate Jatim Jaiswal, District Vice President Zeeshan Qureshi, State General Secretary Yashvardhan Rao, senior Congressman Ram Shankar Rao, Hanuman under the leadership of Dwivedi, Shankar Thakur, Satpal Sharma, Johan Suta, officials and workers reached in front of the Income Tax office in large numbers and staged protest against the freezing of bank accounts of All India National

Congress leaders. They raised slogans against the Modi government at the Centre.

During this, Angad Prasad, Nirmal Jain, Block President Rajesh Chaudhary, Sahdev Nag, Kailash Nag, Councilors Bahram Yadav, Rajesh Rai, Lata Nishad, B Lalita Rao, Shweta Baghel, Komal Sena, Kamlesh Pathak, Surya Pani, Aabash Mahanty, Mahila Congress, President Sarla Tiwari, Shahnaz Begum, Papiya Gain, S Neela, Mahi Srivastava, Mahendra Mahapa, Amarnath Singh, Surendra Jha, Ravishank Tiwari, Ghanshyam Tiwari, Zahid Hussain, Javed Khan, Aseem Suta and other Congress workers were present.

Headmistress committed suicide hanging herself

Jagdajpur, Feb 21:

Principal Kanti Nagesh, a resident of Bedaguda of Tokapal under Parpa police station area of the district, committed suicide by hanging herself in the room of her house on Tuesday morning. The police have not recovered any suicide note of any kind.

According to the information received, this Tuesday morning Kanti left her room and went to the bathroom. After that she went back to the room. When she did not come out till eight o'clock, her mother Butki Nagesh went into the room and saw her daughter hanging from the noose. Parpa police reached the spot and after conducting



Panchama, the body was sent to Mecos for post-mortem. Jitu Thakur, the family member of the deceased principal, said that Kanti Nagesh, aged 37, who was posted as the principal of Burungpal School, lived with her parents and a younger brother. He told that for the past several years, he used to have regular disputes with his relatives living near his house over some issue or the other. Due to this, he has accused of committing suicide due to distress.

NAME CHANGE

It is informed to the general public that I, ROMA JAIN W/o. DINESH KUMAR JAIN, R/o. H. No- 639 WARD No- 14 MAHATMA GANDHI WARD, ARJUNDA, Distt- BALOD, (C.G.) Pin- 491225, have changed my old name SHRADDDHA JAIN W/o. DINESH KUMAR JAIN so in future I should be recognized by my new name that is ROMA JAIN in all Government and other documents.

ROMA JAIN
R/o. H. No- 639 WARD No- 14 MAHATMA GANDHI WARD, ARJUNDA, Distt- BALOD, (C.G.) Pin- 491225

Subhro Chakravorty, Advocate
For Ashwini Singh & Associates,
12, Nagar Nigam Parisar,
Supela, Bhalai, Durg (C.G.)

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my dear Shri Dinesh (Laxya Sita Late Shyam Sunder Laxya, Poo Laxya Shyam, Kailash Nagar, Kusad, Bhalai, Tehsil & Distt. Durg (C.G.) has purchased a piece and parcel of land bearing khata no. 155003, Plot No. 35, area 0.02 Hectare situated at Kurut, Prayadashani Parisar (Ward No. 14), P.H. No. 14, R.N.M. Durg-1 Tehsil & Distt. Durg (C.G.) from Shri Shantilal Jain S/o Shri Mahilal Jain, vide registered sale deed dated 17.07.2007. The said Shri Shantilal Jain S/o Shri Mahilal Jain had acquired the said property from Prayadashani Gih Nirmal Sahilal Sanat Mayadi, through President - T.R. Shashi Kumar S/o T.S. Raman vide registered sale deed dated 12.12.1988. The said sale deed executed between Shri Shantilal Jain S/o Shri Mahilal Jain AND Prayadashani Gih Nirmal Sahilal Sanat Mayadi, through President - T.R. Shashi Kumar S/o T.S. Raman dated 12.12.1988 were in the custody of my client and the same has been lost / misplaced by my client. A police report has been lodged against the lost registered deed on dated 20.02.2024. If the said lost registered deed dated 12.12.1988 bearing Book No. A-1, Vol. No. 7575, Sl. No. 7555 at pages 80 to 82 is found by anybody, it is requested that the said deeds be handed over to my staff in my office. Any person having any right, title or interest or any claim, demand or objection of any nature whatsoever against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof is hereby requested to notify the same in writing to the undersigned with supporting documentary evidence within 07 days from the date hereof, failing which no such claims, demands, objections etc. shall be entertained thereafter and the said property shall be considered as free from all encumbrances.

Subhro Chakravorty, Advocate
For Ashwini Singh & Associates,
12, Nagar Nigam Parisar,
Supela, Bhalai, Durg (C.G.)

बी.एस.पी. वर्क्स कॉन्ट्रैक्टर्स एंड लेबर
वेलफेयर सोसाइटी, भिलाई
निविदा सूचना

बी.एस.पी. वर्क्स के कार्यरत सभी ठेका श्रमिकों के लिए एम्प्लॉयमेंट इन्सुरेंस के लिए सभी पंजीकृत बीमा कंपनियों से सोल ब्रद लिमिटेड में बीमा आवेदन किया जा रहा है। आर. सभी पंजीकृत बीमा कंपनियों से आर. है। निम्नानुसार अपनी कोपी कावा करें:

क्रमांक	विवरण	कोपी (RSP, Bhalai)	कोपी (RSP, Bhalai)
1.	जोखरीट सूचीत सभी करों के साथ प्रति बीमाकर्ता को प्रेषित किया जा। (अर्बटी और अर्बटी में)	-	-

अंतिम तिथि: 24.02.2024, 02:30 PM तक
स्थान: बी.एस.पी. वर्क्स कॉन्ट्रैक्टर्स एंड लेबर वेलफेयर सोसाइटी ऑफिस, जॉई. आर. (बी.एस.पी. वर्क्स), विनायक, बी.एस.पी., भिलाई
दिनांक: बी.एस.पी., भिलाई
विड सूचने तिथि: 24.02.2024, 02:30 PM
नोट: विड निष्का शिथि एवं समय पर उपस्थित प्रतिस्पर्धी और कर्मचारी के समय खोली जायेगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी, विड अपेक्षा और किसी भी प्रश्न के लिए सवाक के लिए ई-मेल करें: bca.society23@gmail.com
संपर्क करें: 9425242575, 7770819000 (10.00AM - 06.00 PM)
संवाचित टॉपीक: विनायक (Mobile: +91-9962220414)

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
Government of India, Ministry of Finance
Department of Finance Services, (Banking Division)
797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 (M.P.)
Case No: RC 104/2016 in O.A. No. 122/2015
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
VS
M/S VEEJAY MARKETING
E-Auction No. 36/2024

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website: <https://www.bankauctions.com> for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,90,72,499.00 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Nine only) payable by you/ him in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. No. 122/2015 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 12.00% p.a. with simple interest from 06-04-2015 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction: 05-04-2024 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours
SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

(1) **Commercial Shop No. 6, Block No. A-3, situated at Vijay Complex, G.E. Road, Near Power House Chowk, Ward No.22, Tehsil- Bhalai, District- Durg(C.G.) Area admeasuring 484.20 sq.ft.; Property in the name of Smt. Krishan Bai W/o Shri Babulal Pal.**

(2) **Commercial Shop No. 7, Block No. A-3, situated at Vijay Complex, G.E. Road, Near Power House Chowk, Ward No.22, Tehsil- Bhalai, District- Durg(C.G.) Area admeasuring 484.20 sq.ft.; Property in the name of Smt. Krishan Bai W/o Shri Babulal Pal.**

Upset Price: For Prop. No.1 Rs. 35,00,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh only); For Prop. No.2 Rs. 35,00,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh 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.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-430202/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalash Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@icindia.com or E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com 2. Intending bidders are advised to go through website: <https://www.bankauctions.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 their self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for it. 4. 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price For Prop. No.1 Rs.3,50,000.00 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand only); For Prop. No.2 Rs. 3,50,000.00 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty 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:SBIN007208) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. 5. Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 03.04.2024 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 will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be For Prop. No.1 Rs. 50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Thousand only); For Prop. No.2 Rs. 50,000.00 (Rupees Fifty 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 postage 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 is 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 to 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 18-03-2024 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 Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 875092480 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.bankauctions.com>; Helpline No. 0124-430202/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalash Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@icindia.com or E-mail ID: support@bankauctions.com. 17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Shri Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Chief Manager, Mobile No. 875092480. 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
Date: 13/02/2024
(Vaatsalya Kumar)
Recovery Officer

Failed no-confidence motion in Municipality sparks BJP's internal turmoil

Residents express anger towards BJP, fear impact on future elections

Dallirajghara, Feb 21:

The failure of a no-confidence motion against Shibu Nair, the incumbent Chairman of the Municipal Council Dallirajghara, has ignited internal discord within the local BJP ranks, raising concerns about the party's future prospects in upcoming elections.

BJP Mandal President Rakesh Divedi and Municipal Corporation



Vice President Santosh Dewangan spearheaded the motion, demonstrating a significant departure

from the party's state-level directives. Their impulsive decision, which saw only 11 corporators back-

ing the motion, ultimately led to its downfall.

The no-confidence motion, initiated barely two and a half months after the formation of the BJP government in Chhattisgarh, faced severe setbacks. Out of the total 27 ward councilors, BJP managed to secure only 11 votes, with Congress matching the tally. Councilors of ward No. 23 and 8 could not cast their vote due to being out of station. Three votes were invalidated due to absenteeism, leaving BJP in a precarious position.

Notably, BJP's defeat in this motion mirrors a pre-

vious instance of internal strife during the Municipality President election in January 2020, underscoring a persistent lack of unity within the party's local factions.

Residents of Dallirajghara have expressed dismay over BJP's hastiness and internal discord, speculating that the party's failure could reverberate in future elections, including the looming Lok Sabha polls. The episode has fueled discontent among constituents, casting doubts on BJP's ability to regain control of the municipality in future endeavors.

BSP facilitates transportation for Board exam students

To Daundi exam center Relief for Nirmala and DAV School students

Dallirajghara, Feb 21:

Amidst concerns over the distant exam center for board exams, students of Nirmala and DAV schools in Dallirajghara found respite as the Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) management stepped in to arrange transportation to the examination venue in Eklavya Vidyalaya, Daundi.

The initiative, prompted by widespread discontent among students and their families, gained momentum after it was prominently featured in a leading city newspaper, in collaboration with the Bharatiya



Mazdoor Sangh. This association, linked to the Mine Labor Union Bhilai, drew attention to the inconvenience faced by students due to the distant exam center.

Responding to the plea, the Executive Director (ED) of Bhilai Steel Plant orchestrated a commendable effort, dispatching a bus from Raipur Bus

Service bearing registration number CG 07 E 6500. This bus was designated to transport students to and from the examination center, alleviating concerns and bringing joy to the school community.

However, in a move to ensure accountability and streamline the process, BSP management mandated the completion of a NOC form by all students, to be facilitated through their respective schools, before availing the bus service.

Gratitude poured in from students, families, and the labor union towards the BSP management for their timely intervention, underscoring the significance of community support in times of need.

Supplementary food distributed under Nyota Bhojan



Anwari, Feb 21:

With the aim of providing supplementary food to the school children in the district, the government is providing supplementary food in every school of the district, under which an invitational meal program (Nyota Bhojan) was organized in the primary and secondary schools of Gram Panchayat Supela, under which the school children were given supplementary

food. On this occasion Gram Panchayat Supela Secretary Sheku Ram Sahu, Employment Assistant Ashwani Sahu, Villagers Dayalu Ram Sahu, Ramnarayan Sahu, Teacher B.R. Sinha, Narsingh Sahu, Tikam Chand Sahu, Hriday Ram Sinha, Anil Kumar Dewangan, teacher Mrs. Triveni Sahu, Shimpi Sahu and Anganwadi workers Saraswati Sen, Vrinda Bagh and midday meal cooks were present.

RLC hosts productive parent-teacher conference

Rajim, Feb 21:

The Department of Sociology at Government Rajiv Lochan College, Rajim, successfully organized a parent-teacher conference on February 19, directed by College Principal Professor M.L. Verma and Department Chairman Dr. Rajesh Kumar Baghel. Parents of students actively participated in this event, engaging in discussions regarding their children's academic progress and challenges.

During the conference, parents had the opportunity to address concerns related to their children's studies, while the department offered valuable insights and solutions to ad-



dress these issues. The constructive dialogue left parents feeling satisfied with the proposed resolutions.

Emphasizing the importance of mutual cooperation for student development, the department encouraged parents to actively engage in their chil-

dren's educational journey. Following the discussions, parents were given a tour of the college facilities.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed faculty members including College Professors Akash Bagmare, Bhanupratap Nayak, Dr.

Grishma Singh Topchand Banjare, as well as Suman Chandrakar and Suman Sahu. The substantial turnout of both students and parents underscored the significance of fostering a strong partnership between educators and families in supporting student success.

Villagers take pledge to build Shri Ram temple

In their village

Rajim, Feb 21:

Shri Ram devotees who returned from village Balrampur Bidora to Ayodhya after visiting Shri Ramlala, were given a grand welcome by the villagers of the region and the devotees who went to Ayodhya told that Ayodhyadham is very beautiful and grand and the temple management has made very beautiful arrangements for food, accommodation and easy darshan for all the visitors. Also all the devotees who returned after having darshan from Ayodhya have pledged to build a temple of Lord Shri Ram Lala in their village too. The main ones who reached Ayodhya



Dham were Tukaram Sahu, Neeresh Sahu village head, Lekhrum Sahu, Jageshwar Sahu, Dinaram Sahu, Devcharan Sahu and many others. District Sahu Sangh's State Vice President Bhuneshwar Sahu, Mannu Lal Sahu, Lakhman Lal Sahu, Kamal Bharti, Manoj Yadu, Bhukhanlal Sahu, Pramod Sharma, Madnyadu, Deepak Sahu, Chain Singh Dhruv, Ramesh, assured of full help for the construction of Ram temple.

Story of Ram provides all good fortune: Saint Ramjyanidas



Dongargaon, Feb 21:

Thousands of devotees are coming every day to enjoy the various religious events and Ramkatha happening at Darri Ashram on Shrivath bank and this program will continue till 24th February. During the Shri Ram Katha, Ramjyanidas told from the stage in the program that the one who is happy in every skin is Ram, the body dies, yet the one who never dies is the soul is Ram. He told that happiness and sorrow, childhood, youth and old age come and go but the soul who knows all these and never changes is Ram and he is not far away, not rare, not beyond, not alien, he is sitting in everyone's soul.

just accept him as yours. Saint Shri told that success in life comes only by surrendering to religion and satsang and doing good deeds and the story of Ram bestows all good wishes. He filled the Shrivak Shrivikas with devotion with the story of Ram's exile and Kevat incident, while the puja is being performed in the Katha Manch with the chanting of mantras by Pandit Priyanshu Gautam and Pandit Monu Dwivedi, the Katha Manch is enthralled the audience with the musical bhajan presentations by the students of Khairagarh Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Durgesh Vaishnav, Shubham Vaishnav, Shubham Hota, etc.

Municipal Council meeting not held since six months

Baikunthpur, Feb 21:

Municipal Council Leader of Opposition Annapurna Prabhakar Singh has written a letter to the Chief Municipal Officer drawing attention to holding a council meeting. As per rules, under Rule 8 of Section 51 of the Municipal Act, at least one meeting should be held every 60 days or a total of 6 meetings in a calendar year, but here these rules have been ignored, she said. There is a clear order in the Municipal Act of the state government that the meeting of the municipal body should be held once in every two months, the meeting of Baikunthpur Municipal Council has not been held for almost six months, whereas there is a rule to call a special conference of the council every two months and due to lack of meetings, many develop-



ment works in the city are not getting approval she further alleged. In this regard, Leader of Opposition Annapurna Prabhakar Singh said that it is the responsibility of the Chief Municipal Officer to call the meeting and the CMO should call the meeting of the council, the public problems and development works of the city will be discussed. She also said that councilors and employees have not received their honorarium for many months as there are many works which are possible only after getting approval in the council meeting.

Annual festival organized with farewell ceremony

Khairagarh, Feb 21:

Annual festival was organized here along with farewell ceremony in higher secondary school of village Deori situated in Vananchal. District Panchayat Chairman and District BJP President Ghamman Sahu were the chief guests of the program and it was presided over by District Education Officer Fattaram Kosaria and special guests District BJP Minister and social worker Gyandas Banjare, former Mandal President and social worker Dr. Bishesar Sahu, Sarpanch Kejram Sahu, Deputy Sarpanch Manik Tandon, Manoj Gendre and Chandra Bahadur Verma. On this occasion, Chief Guest Ghamman Sahu said that in the annual festival, students get a platform to hone their art where children showcase their talent annually. Presiding District



Education Officer Kosaria praised Deori School and said that the teachers and students here deserve congratulations and due to their positive actions, an inspiring environment has been created in the nearby schools, which is the responsibility of all of us to maintain. On this occasion, school students including Harlal Kelkar, Devcharan Verma Pradhan Pathak Middle School, Pramila Rani, Krishna Kumar Kothle, Santosh Kuwar, Kushalchand Bhandekar Principal Lakshana, Ruchi Chandel, Bharti, Neni Madhav Vaishnav and a large number of villagers were present.

Kendriya Vidyalaya building inaugurated

Kurud, Feb 21:

Kendriya Vidyalaya building was inaugurated here in the region and on the occasion of the inauguration of the newly constructed building; Mahasamund MP Chunnilal Sahu and senior Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar addressed the gathering and explained the thinking towards education and the importance of education. Mahasamund Lok Sabha MP Chunnilal Sahu, while explaining the importance of education, said that only education can bring light in life and the presence of such educational institutions in Kurud will realize the concept of a good future here. Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar, on the occasion of inauguration of the newly constructed building of this Kendriya Vidyalaya, said that this is just a glimpse of the first year, the full picture is yet to come, which is possible if there is PM Modi and it will continue for 5 years with the BJP government returned again in the state of Chhattisgarh. Focusing



on education, Chandrakar said that education is the only thing which will change the society, change the lifestyle of the people and establish India as a developed nation. The program took place in the hospitality of Mahasamund Lok Sabha MP Chunnilal Sahu, Kurud MLA Ajay Chandrakar, Collector Namrata Gandhi, former Nagar Panchayat Kurud President Jyoti Chandrakar, and Principal Gloria Minz. The children of Kendriya Vidyalaya mesmerized the people by presenting a captivating cultural program of Kathak dance through songs and music. On this occasion, Bhanu Chandrakar, Malak Ram Sahu, Bhupendra Chandrakar, Chhatrapal Bais, Krishnakant Sahu, Moolchand Sinha, Sachin Mahawar, Shyam Bajpayee, Mohendra Chandrakar, including school children and parents were present.

Education department lagging behind by five years

Pandaripani, Feb 21:

The education department and education status of the region is in a very poor condition. In the middle school of Baiga dominated village Pandaripani of the block which has been running with the help of one teacher for the last five years in since October 2019, is one such example. While more than 64 children are enrolled here, but not a single teacher has been sent to the said school considering it vacant. The government though spends crores of budget in the name of Baiga tribals, but by not sending teachers to Vananchal, it is depriving them of good education. A fortnight ago, promotion was given on Hindi subject, in which also no vacant post was shown in Pandaripani and earlier, even on promotion of English and other subjects, teachers were not



sent here. Due to no vacant post being shown in any subject, in this regard contact was made in the Divisional Office Durg, where it was told that information has been sent from the District Education Officer's Office that two teachers are working in Pandaripani and 21 are registered, due to which teachers have not been sent to the said school.

Neglect of forest area

In village Sirmadbari of Maidan, where the registered number of students is 30, three teachers were already working here, and

in Middle School Rautapara, where registered number is 33 of the students, three teachers were already working, and one more teacher was posted. In Middle School Laduwa, 4 teachers were posted for 51 students and in Koyalari Kala; four teachers were posted for 41 students and many more such examples. Thus in the schools of plain areas, the enrollment and subjects have not been given due attention, whereas in Vananchal, despite the enrollment being more, teachers have not been sent, explicating neglect of Forest areas.

Mahila Gaurav Samman to MLA Verma

Khairagarh, Feb 21:

Mahila Gaurav Samman was given to MLA Yashoda Verma, after the MLA gave a voluntary donation of Rs 2 lakh each to the Khairagarh Advocates and Chhuikhadan Advocates Association. For this, meaningful efforts were made by the president of the association, Suresh Bhatt and in the said programme; the AC was inaugurated by pressing a button in the newly equipped advocate room in the Behavior Court. During this, the Advocates Association honored MLA Yashoda Nilambar Verma with Mahila Gaurav Samman and while addressing the program, MLA Mrs. Verma said that I myself am from a family of advocates and my husband is a member of the Advocates Association and regarding receiving the Women's Award, she said that in the coming times, she will provide every possible help to the Advocates



Association. The Advocates Association has given full support and blessings to me in reaching this position, for which the MLA expressed her gratitude to the advocates.

Gods reside where women are respected: Judge Kashyap Justice Chandrakumar

Kashyap (ADJ) while reciting a Sanskrit verse said that according to Vedic culture, women have always been respected and it is written in the scriptures that where women are respected, the gods reside there. Behavioral Judge Judicial Magistrate Guru Prasad

Dewangan said that since India is a male-dominated country, women empowerment is extremely necessary here and women empowerment is currently possible only with the cooperation of men. Like a father should give good education to his daughter. A husband should fully sup-

port his wife in moving forward and a married woman should be fully supported by her in-laws, in-laws and husband in moving forward. The program was also addressed by senior advocates Kamalakant Pandey, Motilal Janghel, Tirath Chandel, Suresh Thakur, Nilambar Verma. The program was conducted by senior advocate Pt. Mihir Jha and president of Abhaar Sangh, Suresh Bhatt. On this occasion, Sunilkant Pandey, Manrakhan Dewangan, Chandshekhar Yadav, Ramkumar Jangde, Deepesh Thakur, Bhuneshwar Verma, Neeraj Jha, Shankar Yadav, Vikram Yadu, Rajesh Janghel, Roshan Verma, Vishal Verma, Mahesh Sahu, were present as respected advocates of the Advocates Association. Advocates including Sabra Bano, Satyakala Verma, Sandeep Das, Vaishnav, Shakti Singh were present.

PPP, PML-N strike power-sharing deal in Pakistan

● Shehbaz to be PM, Zardari President

Islamabad, Feb 21 (PTI):

In a breakthrough that could end the political uncertainty in Pakistan, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party have agreed on a power-sharing deal to form a new coalition government after intense negotiations following a fractured poll verdict.

In a joint news conference late Tuesday night at Zardari House here, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif, 72, will assume the role of the prime minister once again.

Similarly, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, 68, will be the joint candidate for the president's office.

"The PPP and PML-N have achieved the re-



Asif Ali Zardari

quired number, and (now) we are in a position to form the government," Bilawal told reporters without revealing the number of lawmakers they have in the National Assembly after the February 8 elections.

To form a government, a party must win 133 out of 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly or the lower

house of Parliament.

He said former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party-backed independent candidates and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) failed to achieve a simple majority in Parliament to form a government in the Centre.

Bilawal hoped that the news of the political alliance with the PML-N to form a coalition government would lead to a positive market response as the cash-strapped country faced a hung Parliament after the elections.

Last week, the PML-N in a surprise move announced that the party supremo and three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif nominated his younger brother Shehbaz as a candidate for the slot of prime minister. Nawaz, 74, was earlier confident to secure a record fourth term. However, his party failed to win enough seats to form a government on its own.

TORN UP STREET



A motorcyclist rides on a street torn up in an Israeli military operation in the West Bank city of Jenin, Wednesday, Feb. 21. The Israeli army said three people were killed in an Israeli military operation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank city.

Chicago Magazine ranks Raja Krishnamoorthi in top 50 most powerful Chicagoans

Washington, Feb 21 (PTI):

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has figured in the list of 50 most powerful Chicagoans in the windy city's influential Chicago magazine.

Ranked at 24th, Krishnamoorthi is the highest-ranked individual of South Asian descent. The list is topped by Illinois Governor J B Pritzker followed by Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson.

Placing him at 24th rank, Chicago Magazine describes him as the "most powerful" South Asian in the Greater Chicago Area. The magazine also says that he is planning to run for the US Senate in 2026.

Krishnamoorthi, 50, who represents the northwest suburbs and used his for-

mer perch as chairman of a House Oversight subcommittee to investigate everything from the Washington Commanders to the baby formula shortage, has USD 14.4 million in his campaign coffers "more than three times as much as any other congressional representative from Illinois, and the third-highest total in the entire Congress," it said.

"Raja is a huge player across the country," says a political consultant.

In 2022, Krishnamoorthi donated USD 460,000 to Democratic candidates and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, but he is said to be stockpiling his campaign cash to run for the Senate in 2026 if Dick Durbin retires," the magazine reported.

UK minister to discuss progress of 'ambitious' trade deal in India

London, Feb 21 (PTI):

Britain's minister for South Asia in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Lord Tariq Ahmad, arrived in India on Wednesday to participate in the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi and also discuss the progress made in the ongoing negotiations for an India-UK free trade agreement (FTA).

Ahmad, FCDO Minister of State for the Middle East, South Asia, UN and the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, leads the British delegation to the flagship foreign policy conference to reaffirm the

UK's commitment to upholding a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region.

His visit to India comes as Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal leads a team from India to London to carry forward the fourteenth round of talks with UK officials this week.

"The UK and India continue to work towards an ambitious trade deal. While we do not comment on the details of live negotiations, we continue to actively engage with India and are clear that we will only sign a deal that is fair, balanced and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the economy," said a spokesperson for the UK's

Department for Business and Trade as an update on the negotiations.

According to official figures, the bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23 from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-22. India and the UK launched the talks for an FTA in January 2022 and both sides are keen to clinch a deal before general elections scheduled in both countries this year.

There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which include goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT

and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty. On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as Scotch whisky, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items.

"Against a backdrop of rising conflict and instability, the UK's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific is enduring. The UK-India relationship is at the heart of that commitment, which is not just about rhetoric or slogans; it is happening now and is set to improve lives across the UK and the region for years to come," said Lord Ahmad.

UN World Food Programme suspends aid amid chaos in northern Gaza

Jerusalem, Feb 21 (AP):

The United Nations' World Food Programme announced a pause in food and aid deliveries to northern Gaza on Tuesday after its drivers faced gunfire and violence from desperate residents swarming the trucks.

The convoys "faced complete chaos and violence due to the collapse of civil order," according to a statement from the WFP. WFP had attempted to resume aid deliveries in northern Gaza after a three-week pause following a strike on an aid convoy from the Israeli military. The WFP said 1 in 6

children under age 2 are acutely malnourished and people are dying of hunger-related cases, and the situation is even more dire in northern Gaza. "In these past two days our teams witnessed unprecedented levels of desperation," the WFP said.

Hamas's government media office described the WFP decision as a "death sentence" for hundreds of thousands of people who are in the northern half of Gaza. The office called for the WFP to withdraw its decisions and for all UN agencies to return and avert "catastrophic consequences of the famine" there.

Russia has no intention of putting nuclear weapons in space: Putin

Moscow, Feb 21 (AP):

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared on Tuesday that Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space, claiming that the country has only developed space capabilities similar to those of the US.

Putin's statement follows the White House confirmation last week that Russia has obtained a "troubling" anti-satellite weapon capability, although such a weapon is not operational yet. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said it would violate the international Outer



Russian President Vladimir Putin, third right, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, second right, and Head of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov, right, walk past a Tu-160M strategic bomber as they visit the Kazan Aviation Factory named after Sergei Gorbunov, a branch of the Tupolev military industry company, in Kazan the capital of Republic of Tatarstan, Russia, Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Space Treaty, but declined to comment on whether the weapon is nuclear-capable.

The treaty signed by more than 130 countries,

including Russia, prohibits the deployment of "nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction" in orbit or the stationing of "weapons in outer space in any other manner." The White House said it would look to engage the Russians directly on the concerns.

"Our position is quite clear and transparent: we have always been and remain categorically opposed to the deployment of nuclear weapons in space," Putin said. "Just the opposite, we are urging everyone to adhere to all the agreements that exist in this sphere."

India-US looking into exciting joint science & technology projects to further expand ties

Washington, Feb 21 (PTI):

India and the US are looking into exciting joint science and technology projects to further expand their relationship under the guidance of the top leadership of the two countries, according to a top American scientist.

Describing the US-India Partnership as a very important one for the Biden-Harris administration and also in Congress,

Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director

of the National Science Foundation said there's total bipartisan support for a strong partnership between two great democracies, the US and India.

Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off his visit to Washington DC, for the historic State Visit, with a trip to the National Science Foundation headquarters in Alexandria wherein he interacted with the scientific community and the young scientist minds.

"Now, in terms of the

National Science Foundation (NSF), we have started to work with India in the science and technology front with threads of partnerships, as I call them," Panchanathan told PTI Videos in an interview.

NSF started first with the Department of Science and Technology. Working together, they have already had two rounds of funding.

"We had started with 35 projects that we funded with the six digital technology hubs. This was in 2022," he said.

They are now looking into various exciting joint proposals between US and Indian researchers, many of whom are going to be funded.

"The Ministry of Information Technology met with us. They signed an implementation agreement last summer, and we already have put out a call for proposals. We are in the final stages of deciding on the specific projects that will be funded," he said, describing it as the second thread.

FARMERS' PROTEST



People look at a farmers' protest in Madrid, Spain, Wednesday, Jan. 21. Hundreds of farmers drove their tractors into central Madrid on Wednesday as part of ongoing protests against European Union and local farming policies and to demand measures to alleviate production cost hikes.

Determined to stay in presidential race after S Carolina primary: Nikki Haley

Washington, Feb 21 (PTI):

Indian American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has refused to quit and vowed to stay in the party's race to the White House even after the South Carolina primary, where her rival former president Donald Trump is leading far ahead of her.

"I'm not afraid to say the hard truths out loud. I feel no need to kiss the ring. And I have no fear of Trump's retribution. I'm not looking for anything from him. My own political future is of zero concern. So, I hear what the political class says. But I hear from the American people too," Haley said in a major political speech in South



Carolina, where the Republican primary is scheduled for February 24. Haley, 52, also contended that many of the same Republican politicians "who now publicly embrace Trump privately dread him" and were "too afraid" to speak up, despite knowing he had been "a

disaster" for the party. She argued that Americans deserved a choice and not a "Soviet-style election," which she described as only one candidate drawing 99 per cent of the vote. "I refuse to quit. South Carolina will vote on Saturday. But on Sunday, I'll still be running for pres-

ident. I'm not going anywhere. I'm campaigning every day, until the last person votes, because I believe in a better America and a brighter future for our kids.

Nothing good in life comes easy. I'm willing to take the cuts, the bruises, and the name-calling. Because the only way you get to the blessing is by going through the pain," she said.

"Dropping out would be the easy route. I've never taken the easy route. I've been the underdog in every race I've ever run. I've always been David taking on Goliath. And like David, I'm not just fighting someone bigger than me. I'm fighting for something bigger than myself," she said.



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 142

A New Dawn

Pakistan's Collective Leadership

Pakistan's political theater, where uncertainty loomed large post-elections, a ray of hope emerges with the historic agreement between the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). This groundbreaking power-sharing deal signifies a pivotal moment, promising stability and progress for the nation. At the heart of this alliance lies the collective will to navigate through the complexities of governance and deliver on the aspirations of the Pakistani people. Under the leadership of seasoned politicians Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari, the country is poised to witness a new era of cooperation and synergy. The announcement, made amid a backdrop of intense negotiations, underscores the commitment of both parties to prioritize national interests above all else. With Shehbaz Sharif set to assume the mantle of Prime Minister once again and Asif Ali Zardari as the joint candidate for the President's Office, the stage is set for a collaborative journey towards progress and prosperity. The significance of this coalition extends beyond mere political arithmetic; it symbolizes a renewed sense of unity and purpose. As Shehbaz Sharif aptly stated, the alliance is not just about numbers but about a shared vision for a better Pakistan. It reflects a consensus-driven approach where dialogue triumphs over discord and consensus prevails over confrontation. Indeed, the challenges ahead are manifold, from reviving a sluggish economy to combating the scourge of terrorism. However, with unity at its core, the coalition government stands ready to confront these challenges head-on. By harnessing the collective strengths of both parties, it seeks to usher in an era of sustainable development and inclusive growth. Central to this vision is a commitment to prioritize the needs of the people, especially the marginalized and underprivileged. Through targeted initiatives in sectors such as agriculture, industry, and social welfare, the government aims to uplift communities and foster a more equitable society. Moreover, the spirit of inclusivity extends to other political stakeholders, with the coalition government welcoming the participation of diverse voices in the governance process. By forging partnerships with regional parties and fostering dialogue across party lines, it seeks to build consensus on key policy issues and ensure that no voice goes unheard. However, amidst the optimism surrounding this historic agreement, it is imperative to acknowledge the road ahead will not be without its challenges. The journey towards progress is often fraught with obstacles, and the coalition must remain steadfast in its commitment to overcoming them. Furthermore, concerns regarding the legitimacy of the recent elections loom large, with allegations of rigging casting a shadow over the democratic process. It is incumbent upon the government to address these concerns transparently and uphold the principles of democracy and accountability. In the words of Asif Ali Zardari, this struggle is not just for the present but for the future generations of Pakistan. Let us seize this moment of unity to chart a course towards a brighter tomorrow, where the promise of democracy is fulfilled, and the aspirations of the Pakistani people are realized.

Climate Crisis

Understanding the Threat of Flash Droughts

Rina Roy karmakar

Flash droughts are emerging as a pressing concern among environmentalists, signaling a dire need for proactive measures to mitigate their impact. These rapid-onset droughts, exacerbated by soaring temperatures, intensified winds, excessive radiation, and dwindling precipitation, pose significant challenges to ecosystems worldwide. As climate change accelerates, the frequency and severity of flash droughts are on the rise, heralding potential environmental upheaval. According to leading climatologist Xing Yuan, the scope of these intermittent drought events extends across continents, with Europe emerging as a prominent hotspot for their accelerated onset. Unlike traditional droughts, which typically manifest over weeks or months, flash droughts unfold rapidly in response to extreme heat and arid conditions. The accelerated evaporation of soil moisture in warmer climates catalyzes their swift emergence, leaving ecosystems vulnerable to sudden and prolonged dry spells. Yuan's research, conducted in collaboration with Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology in China, projects a significant uptick in the frequency of flash droughts between 2050 and 2100. Depending on the rate of temperature escalation, the proportion of dry spells meeting the criteria for flash droughts could surge by 15%-20% compared to the latter half of the 20th century. This alarming trend underscores the urgent need for robust adaptation strategies to safeguard against the adverse impacts of flash droughts. Moreover, Yuan highlights the inadequacies of current drought monitoring systems in effectively identifying and responding to flash droughts. The inherent limitations of these systems exacerbate the challenges posed by rapid-onset drought events, hindering timely intervention efforts. Consequently, ecosystems face heightened risks of devastation, with flora and fauna struggling to withstand the unanticipated rigors of prolonged dry spells. In light of these findings, it is imperative for stakeholders to prioritize comprehensive measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of flash droughts. Enhanced monitoring and early warning systems, coupled with adaptive land management practices, are pivotal in building resilience against the adverse effects of rapid-onset drought events. Additionally, concerted efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change are indispensable in addressing the underlying drivers of flash droughts. As the specter of flash droughts looms large on the horizon, proactive intervention and collaborative action are essential to safeguarding the integrity of ecosystems and securing a sustainable future for generations to come. By prioritizing resilience-building initiatives and adopting a holistic approach to climate adaptation, humanity can confront the challenges posed by flash droughts and pave the way for a more resilient and environmentally sustainable world.

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.

PM MODI WITH GREEK PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his wife Mareva Grabowski-Mitsotaki during the latter's ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Ups & downs of Power Politics in Bihar - III

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



In the Bihar Assembly general election held in February 2005, no party got a clear majority in Bihar Assembly. Ram Vilas Paswan's Party, LJP was in position of king maker, but he takes "Na Lenge, Na Denge" policy on the question to support any of the two alliances. Rabri Devi had to resign and President's Rule was imposed on 7th March 2005. At last, Ram Vilas's Party broke up and a large chunk of its legislatures joined Nitish's Party JD(U). In the November 2005 election, JD(U)-BJP alliance got an absolute majority and Nitish Kumar (24.11.2005 to 22.05.2014 and 22.02.2015 uptill now) was elected leader of the alliance and sworn in as the CM. In the November 2010 election, JDU-BJP alliance again got landslide majority winning 203 of the total 243 seats and Nitish Kumar continued.

In 2013, during the Goa session of the BJP working committee meeting, the then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi was made the chairman of the Party Campaign committee, with an indication that he would lead the Party (and also NDA!) after the Lok Sabha election. This angered Nitish Kumar and he broke his ties with the BJP and all the ally ministers were dropped. Nitish continue as CM with 118 JDU and 4 independent MLAs; but in the 2014 Lok Sabha general election, his Party lost badly and got just two seats.

Taking moral responsibility, he resigned on 17th May 2014 and his surprising choice Jitan Ram Manjhi, a Mushar, was elected as the leader. Manjhi was sworn in as CM on 22nd May 2014. Manjhi had no control over the administration; progress works, initiated by Nitish, slowed down and image of the Party began to deteriorate.

There was a strong demand from the aggrieved legislatures for Nitish to lead the government. Seeing himself in the mid-stream Manjhi revolted; but with no support in the party, he had to resign on 20 February 2015. On 22 February 2015, Nitish Kumar was sworn in as CM. He had to seek the support of Laloo's Party RJD, having 22 MLAs, as a dozen MLAs of his party stood behind Manjhi. In the November 2015 general election, faced with the four parties NDA, Nitish Kumar joined hands with his close friend-turned-arch rival Laloo Prasad and the Congress to form Maha-Gathbandhan (MG). In the midst of a tight battle between Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar, the Maha-Gathbandhan secured 178 seats, while the NDA was shrunked at just 58 seats. As leader of MG, Nitish was sworn in as CM, which was his 5th term in the office.

In 2017, when name of the Deputy CM Tejaswi Yadav, son of Laloo Prasad, figured in corruption case, Nitish advised him to come out of the government

until he got a clean cheat; but Tejaswi did not do so and Laloo Prasad started criticizing the CM. To save the image of the government, Nitish Kumar and his Party came out from MG on 26 July 2017. High voltage drama was witnessed throughout the night and BJP supported Nitish, who was sworn in as CM for the 6th time on 27th July 2017 along with BJP and LJP. In the Ministry, Pashupati Kumar Paras, younger brother of Ram Vilas Paswan, was also inducted.

In the 2020 Vidhan Sabha election, there was a close fight between the two alliances NDA (JDU-BJP-HAM-VIP) and MG (RJD-Congress-Communist groups), in which national parties BJP & Congress has grabbed more seats in comparison to the previous elections. In reality, the fight was not "NDA vs MG", but was "Nitish vs All". Nitish Kumar was the solo target of not only opposition and Liquor Mafia, but BJP's core voters and TRP thirsty electronic media channels. The LJP parted ways with the NDA with a solo motto of "Finish Nitish" and fought on seats of JDU only with BJP background candidates. In JDU's constituencies the BJP's upper caste voters aggressively rallied behind the LJP and on some seats MG too to weaken Nitish. Although NDA crossed majority marks of 122, with the BJP securing 74 as against earlier 59 seats; but the JDU was reduced from 71 to only 43 seats due to betrayal of its own ally's core voters. As per the pre-poll strategy, Nitish Kumar, being the leader of the NDA became the 34th CM of Bihar; whose 7th times oath for the highest post is a record in Bihar.

Due to deceit in the election, day to day criticism by BJP leaders and a conspiracy to break up JDU on the tune of Maharashtra, Nitish came out of the NDA and formed Mahagathbandhan government on 10th August, 2022 with the

support of Laloo Prasad-led RJD & UPA and took oath as CM for the 8th time. Nitish Kumar established his organizational skill at the national level by forming INDIA block of 28 national and regional parties to fight BJP. Opposition parties have a golden opportunity to fight under his non-controversial image and leadership. But the INDIA block failed in timely seat sharing and strategy formulation for the Lok Sabha election, which irked Nitish.

In Bihar, even though Nitish Kumar has announced publicly to contest the next Vidhan Sabha election under the leadership of Tejaswi Yadav, but Laloo was in hurry to crown Tejaswi as CM by breaking some MLAs of Nitish Party. Such a conspiracy, forced Nitish to reconsider his alliance with Laloo Prasad and ultimately he stepped down from the post of Chief Minister on 28th January 2024 and again formed the NDA government in Bihar on the same day. Nitish Kumar took oath as CM for the record 9th times. He also holds the record of serving as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the longest period of over 17 successful years.

There have been numerous ups and downs in the history of power politics in Bihar since independence. But resultant change was the downfall of national parties dominated by upper castes and the upsurge of regional parties dominated by backward classes. People experimented various Parties, alliances, personalities in the laboratory of election for want of overhauling of the rusty system. Rise and fall of numerous stalwarts and political heavyweights took place. But, time and again, the dream of the People has been shattered, and journey of the democracy is still going on.

(Author is a technocrat & academician.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indo US relation on a roll

Bilateral ties between Washington and New Delhi are on an upswing notwithstanding minor distractions like the case of an Indian "agent" accused of hatching a conspiracy to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the US. That said, 31 MQ-9B predator drones are proposed to be supplied to New Delhi by Washington, a step ahead in the Indo-US ties. Maritime cooperation between Washington and New Delhi is on a roll. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent meeting with his US counterpart, Secretary of State, Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the Munich security conference was aimed at reassuring India's commitment to all areas of bilateral concern and mutual benefit. In Munich, Blinken described the bilateral relation as amongst the most consequential of any relations in the world for the US, and this should greatly reassure New Delhi.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Modi Aims High

Prime Minister Modi's fiery call for 370 Lok Sabha seats, mirroring the abrogated Article 370, sets the stage for a BJP campaign steeped in Hindutva. Welfare schemes, organizational muscle, and new alliances fuel their engine, while Mr. Modi himself remains the central symbol, eclipsing individual candidates. The Opposition faces an onslaught on corruption and dynasty, countered by the BJP's own opportunistic alliances, all wrapped in a narrative of "Ram Rajya" and national progress. Can the BJP pull off this tightrope walk, balancing communal identity with broader development goals? Only time will tell, but the battle lines are drawn for a high-stakes election.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

Empowering Choice in Cricket Careers

The BCCI's proposed mandatory Ranji Trophy participation for contracted players raises concerns. While prioritizing red-ball cricket is crucial, forcing players against their will risks resentment and sub-par performances. Specialisation, as seen in Will Smeed's career path, can be a valuable strategy in today's packed cricket calendar. Instead of threats, open communication and respecting player consent should be the guiding principles. Granting players the freedom to choose their formats, like the recent leave granted to Kohli and Ashwin, would foster a more collaborative and player-centric environment for Indian cricket's future.

Ibne Farooq, Mumbai

Tongues of all mothers deserves equal respect

Kajal Chatterjee

According to the 1961 census, India was hosting 1100 living languages at that time. However, a 2017 study carried out by the Bhasha Research and Publication Centre in Vadodara, under the title "People's Linguistic Survey of India", arrived at the conclusion that India has seen the death of 250 languages in the last 56 years. Also the study has foreseen the death of another 400 languages in the next 50 years. So India would be then left with merely 450 languages within its geographical boundary. Going at this rate, it means that in just over a century, Mother India is set to witness the unfortunate loss of 650 languages from her lap with each year killing an average of 6.5 tongues.

Extinction of hundreds of languages indicates the disappearance of diversity from the

face of the earth. With the loss of languages, we lose entire societies, their culture and a storehouse of indigenous wisdom. The concerned authorities should rise to the occasion to rescue dying languages and cultures to keep heterogeneity and the spirit of "equality of all languages" alive, else it will not reflect the Indian democracy in a glorifying light.

Mother tongue remains the most basic identity of an individual or a community. If it does not get its due place under the sun, then the community which speaks it is bound to meet its doom. This is primarily the reason behind UNESCO's decision of designating 21st day of February (a red-letter day of Bengalis fighting against Urdu imperialists in erstwhile East Pakistan) as International Mother Language Day, thereby stressing the importance of mother tongue in one's life.

Just as a child cannot be de-

tached from his/her mother, similarly it would be nothing but a crime if any community gets robbed of its mother tongue just because it does not enjoy any political-economic-numerical-muscular advantage, strength, clout and influence.

In 2010, the last speaker of Aka-Bo language passed away in Great Andaman along with the tradition and culture associated with the language. She was named Boa Sr and this speaker of one of the world's oldest languages met her end on Republic Day (26th January) which is certainly not a very good advertisement of the Indian Republic -- constitutionally based on the noble concept of democracy i.e. equality of all.

However there lies no utility in crying over spilled milk. But if we try to regard ourselves as civilized, then we should definitely ensure that such scandalous history of literally fatal indifference to marginalized

language and its speakers does not get repeated in future. Protection and promotion of each and every language of India should be the urgent need of the hour.

So the Union Government of this multilingual democratic country must learn to appreciate the linguistic right of all citizens as no language (be it scheduled or non-scheduled) in India is inferior or superior to each other. Thus if an equitable distribution of Central resources is ensured, it would benefit the cause of all languages and dialects (specially the endangered ones) of the country to a great extent.

And as far as linguistic policy in Indian education system are concerned, all students should definitely be taught their respective mother tongues in schools so as to make them aware of their roots, literature and cultural legacy. And the importance of

English also cannot be discounted a bit. Since India is a multi-lingual democratic country, only a neutral language like English can link all Indians and bind all regions of the country together. Moreover English is not only the language of higher education, it also remains the window to reach out to the world.

Also studying of the official language of the respective states should be made mandatory in all schools irrespective of its affiliation to State or Central boards including the Kendriya Vidyalayas. When a child will remain thoroughly acquainted with his/her mother tongue, indigenous/official language of the state concerned and English; the child will not only grow up to be a confident personality, he/she will also acquire a national as well as international mindset, that too without getting detached from his/her roots.

BRIEF

Waterways projects



New Delhi: Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday launched projects worth Rs 308 crore for the development of waterways in Northeast India. According to an official statement, the minister also laid the foundation stones for the construction of Custom Immigration Office in Dhubri, with an investment of Rs 7.5 crore, and the construction of the compound wall for the IWAI Joghghopa terminal. The statement said two electric catamarans at Guwahati will be deployed by August 2024.

Capex target

New Delhi: The government of Wednesday said the state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) is likely to exceed its capex target of Rs 16,500 crore for the current financial year. Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output. "As we navigate through the current fiscal year of 2023-24, both CIL and NLCIL are on track to exceed their capex targets yet again... both CIL and NLCIL will exceed their annual capex targets, further bolstering India's economic growth trajectory," the coal ministry said in a statement. The capex target of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) for the ongoing financial year is Rs 2,880 crore.

Economic growth



New Delhi: India must focus on exports to achieve 10 per cent economic growth, Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, has said. Panagariya also said that the temptation of import-substituting industrial policy is not unique to India. "I have looked at successful countries such as...Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, China, and India - these are the...high-growth examples."

Health cover

Mumbai: HDFC Life launched a new cashless health policy for desi students pursuing education overseas, the premium for which will have to be paid in US dollars. The global student health-care plan is designed for students in the 12-40 age bracket presently pursuing higher education abroad or aspire to pursue higher international education, the company said in a statement. The offer is being made from its Gift City IFSC unit - HDFC Life International, which is the first overseas branch of HDFC International Life and Re, a life and health reinsurer based in DIFC, Dubai.

Regulators need not be too conservative: Uday Kotak

New Delhi, Feb 21:



Veteran banker Uday Kotak on Wednesday said regulators should not be too conservative and cautious but should respond fast to "accidents" in the financial sector. "Zero accident policy is also dangerous. If you are wanting to grow fast, there will be need for good regulations. We may have some accidents but it is also how fast we respond and correct the accident," the Founder Director of Kotak Mahindra Bank said at an event organised by AIMA (All India Management Association) in the national capital. He said the scars of the past should not make regulators too conservative or cautious but there should be a better regulatory environment. On the Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) matter,

Kotak said he would not like to comment on individual company but said "RBI knows more than You and I." Paytm Payments Bank Ltd, an entity promoted by One97 Communications Ltd, faced regulatory actions by RBI for failure to comply with host of regulatory norms, including Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines. Last week, RBI advised customers as well as merchants of PPBL to shift their accounts to

other banks by March 15, giving 15 more days to the beleaguered entity to close most of its operations, including deposit and credit transactions.

Kotak said RBI has done a phenomenal job as a regulator in the last few years, and ensured financial stability along with good macro economic management despite the coronavirus pandemic. In a bid to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, Kotak said the growth rate should be 7.5-8 per cent. About the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), he said it is a good law but the resolution takes too long. "How do you have an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code which takes years for resolution? So, very good concept, good law but devil is in the details and devil is in the execution."

Need research work on ways to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, says Gadkari



New Delhi, Feb 21: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said research work needs to be done on ways to cut down the dependence on fossil fuels as that will also help in reducing ecological and environmental issues. Research works also have a huge potential to make sustainable life for socially, economically and educationally backward classes, the Minister for Road, Transport and

Highways said. "The research we need is going to (be to) reduce our import (of fuels), research which is going to help people socially, economically and educationally backward, and the research where we can use waste to reduce problems of ecology and environment," Gadkari said while addressing the 14th Edition of Aegis Graham Bell Awards. By using different technologies, one day India will be in a strong position, he said and added that a day will come in 5 years when the country will be an exporter of bio-aviation fuel.

Using bio-mass from bamboo wheat straw and rice straw, ethanol can be made and from ethanol, bio-aviation fuel can be made, the minister said.

AI to save more time for chartered accountants: ICAI Prez

New Delhi, Feb 21:



Artificial intelligence will provide a helping hand and free up a lot of time for chartered accountants to focus on analytical work, ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal said on Wednesday and highlighted that there is a huge demand for chartered accountants. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) expects there will be a need for around 30 lakh chartered accountants in the next 20 to 25 years and last year, around 22,000 students cleared the chartered accountants examination. At a briefing in the national capital, Agarwal, who took charge as the president on February 12, said a com-

mittee will be coming out with a roadmap in the next two months on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

He emphasised that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a tool and is saving a lot of time. "This will give you (chartered accountants) more time for application of mind, analytics. I

MISS WORLD EVENT



Participants during the opening ceremony of Miss World event, in New Delhi.

GDP growth to moderate to 6 pc in Q3 FY2024: ICRA

New Delhi, Feb 21: Rating agency ICRA on Wednesday projected GDP growth to moderate sequentially to 6 per cent in the third quarter of FY24 from 7.6 per cent in the preceding three months mainly due to subdued performance of agriculture and industrial sectors. Further, it said the GVA (Gross Value Added) growth is estimated to ease to 6 per cent in the October-December quarter FY24 from 7.4 per cent in the second quarter of the last fiscal. The anticipated deterioration in the industrial sector growth in the third quarter is partly attributable to an adverse base effect and a deceleration in volume expansion, even as the continued deflation in com-

modity prices kept the profitability of some sectors favourable. Additionally, a mild 0.2 per cent contraction in the total spending of the government of India and the 25 state governments (all states except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and Manipur) in the October-December period is expected to have dulled the GVA growth in the quarter. "Lower volume growth for the industrial sector, flagging momentum in certain indicators of investment activity, a slowdown in government expenditure, and an uneven monsoon are expected to dampen the GDP growth to 6 per cent in Q3 FY24 from 7.6 per cent in Q2 FY24," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

FM asks financial sector regulators to take more steps to curb unauthorised lending apps

New Delhi, Feb 21: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked financial sector regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to take further measures to check spread of unauthorised lending through online apps. Addressing the 28th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) here, Sitharaman also asked regulators to maintain constant vigil and be proactive towards detecting emerging financial stability risks, given the domestic and global macro-financial situation. The FSDC deliberated on issues related to macro financial stability and India's preparedness to deal with them, an official



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das (L) at the Financial Stability and Development Council Meeting, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 21.

statement said after the meeting. The ongoing inter-regulatory issues were also discussed to support GIFT IFSC in its strategic role to become one of the world's premier

international financial centres and perform its envisioned role of facilitating foreign capital and financial services for the domestic economy, it said. The FSDC discussed

various issues related to the formulation of strategy to implement the FSDC decisions and the Union Budget announcements. These included prescribing uniform KYC norms, inter-usability of KYC records across the financial sector; and simplification and digitalisation of the KYC process; kick-starting fund-raising by social enterprises through social stock exchanges and to arrest the harmful effects of unauthorised lending through online apps and measures to curb their further spread. The government in December informed Parliament that Google has suspended or removed over 2,500 fraudulent loan apps from its Play Store between April 2021 and July 2022.

India negotiates trade, investment agreements with fairness, open mind: Goyal

New Delhi, Feb 21:



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said India negotiates trade and investment agreements with fairness and open mind and takes care of the interest of people. He also said countries that are negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and investment pacts with India should keep in mind that New Delhi offers a huge market to them in terms of demand and business opportunities. "I can assure you that India negotiates with fairness, with an open mind... India also takes care of its wider and larger interest in the long run," he said at the CII India-Europe conclave. FTAs or Bilateral

Investment Treaties (BITs), or agreements on geographical indications, will have to stand the test of fair, equitable, and balanced agreements as the level of economic development varies, he said. "We will have to respect the very different opportunities that are offered by India vis-a-vis the offer on the table from other countries," he said, adding that

India is one of the fastest growing economies of the world. The young population, demand for goods and services, opens up huge opportunities for businesses across the globe, the minister added. The remarks assume significance as India is negotiating such agreements with countries such as the UK, Oman, and the European Union. Speaking at the conclave, the UK's minister Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon said that British businesses are major investors in India and bilateral trade is growing between the two countries. He also said the two nations are working on an ambitious free trade agreement and bilateral investment treaty.

Motorola disrupts entry level smartphone market with moto g04

Mumbai, Feb 21:



Motorola, India's best 5G smartphone brand launched its latest entry level smartphone today, the moto g04. It comes with a premium design with acrylic glass finish (PMMA) and will be available in 4 attractive colours. It also features a 16.66 cm (6.6") IPS LCD punch-hole display with 90 Hz refresh rate. The moto g04 is also India's most affordable smartphone with the latest Android 14. Furthermore, the moto g04 delivers powerful performance with its built-in 4GB or 8GB RAM which can be extended up to 16GB with RAM boost feature and 64GB or 128GB UFS 2.2 storage with UNISOC T606 chipset, and

a massive 5000mAh battery. Additionally, it features IP52 water-repellent design, a rarity in this price range, and a 16MP AI camera system for superb pictures, whether in daylight or low light. The moto g04 boasts an exceptional design, beautifully crafted from premi-

um materials. Its streamlined camera housing feels great in hand and the device is extremely thin just 7.99mm and lightweight just 178g making it one of the lightest and slimmest smartphones in the segment.

Moreover, the side-mounted fingerprint reader ensures an easy and fast unlock along with high-quality matte finish on the back of the phone making it look as good as it feels. Available in four vibrant colours, namely Concord Black, Sea Green, Satin Blue, and Sunrise Orange, the moto g04 compliments every style.

The IP52 water-repellent design also ensures the device stays protected even with light spills and splashes.

Retail inflation for farm, rural workers eases marginally in January

New Delhi, Feb 21:



Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased marginally to 7.52 per cent and 7.37 per cent in January as compared to the previous month, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items. In December 2023, Consumer Price Index - Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Consumer Price Index - Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) was 7.71 per cent and 7.46 per cent, respectively.

Food inflation stood at 9.67 per cent and 9.43 per cent last month as compared to 9.95 per cent and 9.80 per cent in December 2023 and 6.61 per cent and 6.47 per cent in the year-ago period, a labour ministry statement said. In

January 2023, CPI-AL was 6.85 per cent and CPI-RL was 6.88 per cent. The All-India CPI number for AL and RL for January 2024 increased by 1 point each to 1,258 and 1,268 points, respectively.

The CPI-AL and CPI-RL were 1,257 and 1,267 points, respectively in December 2023. The major contribution towards rise in the general

index of AL and RL came from miscellaneous groups to the extent of 1.57 and 1.55 points and fuel and light group to the extent of 1.16 and 1.10 points, respectively mainly due to increase in prices of medicines, doctors' fees, barber charges, washing soap, cinema tickets, firewood, etc.

There had been a mixed trend in the indices of

constituent states. For both CPI-AL and CPI-RL, ten states experienced a decrease in index while one state saw no change in index. In the case of AL, it recorded an increase of 1 to 10 points in 9 states, a decrease of 1 to 5 points in 10 states and remained same for 1 state.

Tamil Nadu with 1,470 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 970 points stood at the bottom. In the case of RL, it recorded an increase of 1 to 10 points in 9 states, a decrease of 1 to 5 points in 10 states and remained same in 1 state. Andhra Pradesh with 1,454 points topped the index table whereas Himachal Pradesh with 1,020 points stood at the bottom.

Police bust rice mill theft ring

Eight suspects apprehended

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Feb 21: The police have arrested eight individuals suspected of involvement in a series of thefts plaguing the Bhakhara police station area, particularly targeting a rice mill warehouse.

The theft, which involved the pilfering of iron goods from the Nahar Paddy Industries Rice Mill's adjacent godown, led to the loss of items valued at approximately Rs 5 lakh. Acting swiftly, law enforcement officials pursued leads from CCTV footage and previous criminal activities in the region.

Following thorough investigations and interrogations, the suspects, identified as Sonu Sonkar, Soman Dewangan, Shikhar Kumar



Jangde, Laxman Banjare alias Gappu, Sonu Yadav, Arvin Kumar Nishad, and Lekhray Sahu, confessed to their involvement in the crime. They had meticulously planned their actions, exploiting the unlocked shutter of the godown to execute multiple thefts over consecutive days.

The stolen goods, includ-

ing iron centering base-plates, iron plates, and iron angles, were traced to Mohammad Nishar's scrap shop at Canal Naka. Additionally, three vehicles utilized in the commission of the crime, namely a pickup truck, a Tata Ace, and a Suzuki Access Scooty, were seized by authorities.

The collaborative efforts of law enforcement person-

nel, led by Inspector Lekhrum Thakur and supported by the cyber cell team, ensured the successful apprehension and subsequent presentation of the accused before the court. Their diligence and dedication reflect the commitment of the Bhakhara police station in maintaining law and order in the community.

Annual festival celebrated in Govt Girls School

Central Chronicle News

Pithora, Feb 21: The Government Girls Primary and Middle School witnessed a vibrant celebration as it hosted its annual festival and prize distribution ceremony. The event, graced by esteemed guests including BJYM State Working Committee member Swapnil Tiwari, radiated an atmosphere of accomplishment and encouragement.

The ceremony, inaugurated by Swapnil Tiwari, emphasized the importance of holistic education and parental support in shaping the future of the students. Tiwari, in his address, highlighted the significance of practical and moral education instilled



by the school, urging parents to be pillars of strength for their children, especially during challenging times such as exam periods.

Presiding over the event, Manohar Sahu, President of the Working Journalists Association, Pithora, inspired the stu-

dents by emphasizing their pivotal role in the nation's future. With words of encouragement, Sahu motivated the students to excel in their studies and make their families and teachers proud.

Principal Naresh Nayak welcomed the attendees, setting the tone for a day

filled with recognition and celebration of academic achievements. The program, skillfully conducted by Manmit Kaur Khanuja, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of parents and students alike, reflecting the community's commitment to educational excellence.

Former soldier Priyesh Kumar dies in road accident

Sainik Welfare office extends support to bereaved family

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Feb 21: The Sainik Welfare Office of Korea paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Priyesh Kumar, a retired signalman and esteemed member of the community, who sadly passed away in a road accident at Bhandi turn near Jamgahna.

Priyesh Kumar, a cherished resident of Domanhill, Chirmiri, and a dedicated soldier, received a respectful final farewell following his untimely demise on February 18 at Medical College, Ambikapur.

Commander Ranjit Bisht of the District Sainik Welfare Office, along with welfare coordinators and military personnel from



the ex-servicemen organization, visited Priyesh Kumar's grieving family to express condolences. They assured the family of all possible assistance from both Central and State Governments during this

challenging time. Having retired in 2022, Priyesh Kumar leaves behind a legacy of service and dedication. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him, including his loving son.

Marutolakala village celebrates annual festival

With Ramcharit Manas

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Feb 21: The village of Marutolakala came alive with vibrant festivities as the community united to celebrate its annual festival, marked by a captivating Ramcharit Manas Sammelan.

Under the auspices of the youth organization Shakti and with the wholehearted participation of villagers, the festivities commenced on February 17th with a special ceremony honoring Lord Ramchandra's oil painting, led by esteemed senior citizens of the village.

The event, attended by students from various neighboring schools including Government



Primary School Marutolakala, Khajri, Kanchari, Tekapar Kala, Pipariya, Muhadbari, and Golaria, showcased a kaleidoscope of cultural performances. Students dazzled the audience with vibrant tableaux featuring traditional

Chhattisgarhi folk songs, dance, Sua,

Karma, Nacha-Gammat, Panthi, Phaag song, patriotic songs, and theatrical presentations, evoking the rich heritage of the region.

The highlight of the celebration was the Ramcharit Manas Sammelan, which commenced on the evening of February 17th. Renowned

groups such as Rajeev Lochan Manas Parivar Parteva Rajim, Hariom Manas Parivar Godri Rajnandgaon, Shri Harshdeep Manas Parivar Kotra Chhuikhadan, and Shivshakti Manas Parivar Manhar Bundeli regaled the audience with soul-stirring renditions of

the timeless epic of Ramayana.

The two-day extravaganza, meticulously organized by teacher Mahdeep Janghel and supported by the dedicated organizing committee members, including Sanat Sahu, Rupendra Das Manikpuri, Devvrat Verma, and Madan Gadhewal, left an indelible mark on all who attended.

The success of the event was made possible by the unwavering support and cooperation of the entire village community, including local leaders, Panchayat members, and enthusiastic youth volunteers. Their collective efforts ensured that the festival was a resounding success, fostering a sense of unity, cultural pride, and devotion among all participants.

SP conducts inspection of General Parade

In Jagdalpur

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 21: Bastar District Superintendent of Police, Shalabh Kumar Siha, undertook a thorough inspection of the General Parade at the Rakshit Kendra in Jagdalpur on Tuesday, demonstrating his commitment to ensuring the efficiency and readiness of the police force.

During the inspection, Superintendent Siha meticulously examined the uniforms and equipment of police officers and personnel, ensuring they met the required standards. Additionally, he took the opportunity to address any concerns raised



by the officers and provided directives to address them promptly.

The parade served as a platform for open dialogue, allowing officers to voice their challenges and receive guidance on re-

solving them effectively. Following this interactive session, Superintendent Siha proceeded to inspect the entire branch of the protected center, ensuring adherence to protocol and operational readiness.

Accompanying Superintendent Siha during the inspection were Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag, Reserve Inspector Madhusudan Nag, and other dedicated officers and personnel.

Police crackdown on illegal gambling

Apprehend suspects in Kondagaon

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Feb 21: In a decisive move to curb illegal gambling and related activities, Superintendent of Police Y Akshay Kumar directed a targeted crackdown in the Kondagaon area, resulting in the arrest of several individuals involved in unlawful gambling practices.

Acting on intelligence received on February 19, a joint team comprising officers from the cyber cell and Dhanora police station swiftly responded to reports of illegal gambling taking place in the forests of village Uparbedi. Upon cordoning off the area and



conducting a raid, seven individuals were apprehended at the scene while some managed to evade capture.

The arrested individuals, identified as Mohammad Iqbal of Keshkal, Manilal Nag (29),

Chandraprakash Dehari (25), Dileshwar Pradhan (29), Devram Naik (46), Vikash Rajput (30), and Devkumar Pradhan (35), were found in possession of 11 motorcycles and Rs. 90,000 in cash, along with gambling paraphernalia.

The suspects have been charged under the Gambling (Extortion) Act at Thana Dhanora, signaling the authorities' unwavering commitment to combating illegal activities and upholding law and order in the region.

Pulse Polio campaign from March 3

Collector Kunal Dudawat leads effort to immunize 0-5 year olds against polio

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Feb 21: In a concerted effort to shield children aged 0 to 5 from the threat of polio, a Pulse Polio campaign is scheduled to commence on March 3 under the guidance of Collector Kunal Dudawat. Dr. Rudra Kashyap, the district's nodal officer, revealed that the campaign aims to administer pulse polio drops to all children within the specified age group across the entire district.

The initiative involves administering drops at designated booths on



March 3, followed by home visits on March 4 and 5. With a target of reaching 74,110 children for pulse polio vaccination, extensive publicity efforts are underway by the health department to raise awareness about the campaign.

Collector Dudawat has issued directives to all departments to ensure seamless coordination for the successful execution of the program, emphasizing the importance of achieving 100% coverage. Various stakeholders, in-

cluding local public representatives, sarpanches, ward panchs, voluntary organizations, and municipal body representatives, have been engaged through meetings organized at primary health centers and sub-health centers. Their cooperation is pivotal in ensuring the campaign's success. The health department urges citizens to bring all children between the ages of 0 to 5 to the Pulse Polio booths on March 3 to receive the vital polio dose.

CEO verifies welfare schemes

Through rigorous checking process

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Feb 21: Under the diligent guidance of District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, a comprehensive review meeting was convened to ensure the efficient implementation of various welfare schemes, including the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Collector Vijay Dayaram K, alongside CEO Sarve, oversaw the verification status of online entries for the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, emphasizing the importance of meticulous scrutiny. CEO Sarve underscored the necessity of verifying bank account and Aadhaar link details during the appli-



cation process, enhancing transparency and accountability in beneficiary selection.

The deadline-oriented meeting also witnessed a thorough examination of progress under schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana at the rural block level. Additionally, discussions were held regarding the acceleration of Aadhaar

seeding under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana and the formulation of Kisan Credit Cards with a renewed focus.

Sarve urged Tehsildars and SDMs to expedite account verification processes and encouraged the enhancement of targets in BC Sakhi initiatives. Addressing public grievances raised through platforms like Jan Chaulpal and PG portal, he directed concerned of-

ficers to resolve them promptly, ensuring efficient governance and citizen satisfaction.

Furthermore, the meeting encompassed a comprehensive review of departmental activities, including the progress of incomplete projects under the Bastar Region Tribal Development Authority and the status of health initiatives such as Sickle Cell and Cataract treatment. Attention was also drawn to issues concerning ra-

tion card renewal, Paddy lifting, and training programs at the Livelihood College.

In a bid to uphold civic responsibilities, Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi emphasized the timely payment of water taxes for government buildings and residences, warning of potential disconnection of tap connections for delinquent payments.

The meeting concluded with discussions on upcoming initiatives such as Child Protection Month and the Pulse Polio Campaign, underscoring the commitment of all district-level officers, including Divisional Forest Officer Uttam Gupta and Additional Collector CP Baghel, to the holistic development and welfare of the region.

Australia snatches last-ball win over New Zealand

Leads 3-match T20 series 1-0

Wellington, Feb 21 (AP):

Tim David hit a four from the last ball of the match to give Australia a six-wicket win over New Zealand on Wednesday in the first Twenty20 international.

New Zealand made 215 for three batting first in an innings which included 13 sixes and 10 fours. Captain Mitch Marsh piloted Australia's innings with an unbeaten 72 from 44 balls and was man of the match for his role in Australia's third-highest successful run chase.

But, David took over at the end, hitting two sixes and a four from the last three balls of the 19th over to leave Australia needing 16 runs from the last six balls.

Veteran seamer Tim Southee was given the responsibility of bowling the last over for New Zealand as the highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket. His first two balls were wides, then there was a leg bye and Australia needed 12 from three balls. David came close to set-



Australia's captain Mitchell Marsh (R) celebrates his team's win in the first Twenty20 international cricket match between New Zealand and Australia at Sky Stadium in Wellington on February 21.

ting the issue when he just caught up with a ball from Southee heading down the leg and hit a re-

markable six behind square.

That left Australia needing six from two balls.

Marsh and David ran two from the penultimate ball of the innings, leaving Australia needing a four to win with David on strike.

Southee bowled full and David clubbed the ball through the mid-wicket and just wide of Glenn Phillips' despairing dive to the boundary. David finished 31 not out from only 10 balls.

Earlier, Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra put on 113 from 66 balls for the third wicket to lift New Zealand to 215 for three as it batted first.

Conway broke a form slump with an innings of 63 from 46 balls. It was Conway's first half-century in 23 innings across all formats.

Ravindra came into the New Zealand team as a placeholder for Kane Williamson who is absent awaiting the birth of his third child. He staked a strong claim for a place in New Zealand's squad for the Twenty20 World Cup later this year, hitting six sixes in an innings of 68 from 35 balls.

Pak team fitness was the lowest priority for Babar, coach Arthur: Hafeez

Karachi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Former Pakistan cricket director Muhammad Hafeez has claimed that ex-captain, Babar Azam and foreign coaches Mickey Arthur and Grant Bradburn had given team fitness lowest priority in the lead-up to the ODI World Cup in India. Pakistan, under then-skipper Babar, had failed to make it to the semifinal knockout round, losing five of the nine league games and finishing fifth.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) recently did not renew Hafeez's contract following disastrous tours of Australia and New Zealand. Hafeez was made team director in late 2023 after Pakistan's abysmal show in the World Cup.

Soon after he took charge, Pakistan were whitewashed in the three-Test series down under, while they lost the five-match T20I series against the Kiwis 4-1.

"When I took over as director (in 2023) and we reached Australia, I told the team trainer to give me a report on the players' fitness standards and prepare a new fitness regimen," said Hafeez.

In-form Jaiswal breaks into top-20 of ICC Test Rankings

Dubai, Feb 21 (PTI):

Young India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal on Wednesday broke into the top-20 of the ICC Test Rankings, rising 14 spots to 15th in the batting charts after scoring back-to-back double centuries in the ongoing series against England.

The 22-year-old left-hander joined a select band of seven cricketers to score double centuries in two consecutive Tests including two Indians - Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli.

Jaiswal scored 209 in India's first innings in the second Test at Visakhapatnam and then hit unbeaten 214 runs in the second essay at Rajkot to contribute in the home team's massive 434-run victory over England that took them 2-1 up in the series.

Ravindra Jadeja, who was the player-of-the-match in Rajkot, also climbed up in the batting rankings from 41st to 34th position after his knock of 112 in the first innings, the ICC said in a statement.

He also returned with a



seven-wicket match haul

that lifted him three places to sixth in the bowling rankings. Veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who entered the elite 500 Test wicket club at Rajkot, climbed a rung to the second position behind pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

Jadeja and Ashwin continued to hold on to the first two spots in the Test all-rounders rankings. Jadeja consolidated his position among the all-rounders, going from 416 to a career-best 469 rating points.

India captain Rohit Sharma moved up one spot to 12th in the batting list after scoring 131 in the first innings at Rajkot, while Shubman Gill (91) progressed three places to 35th after coming close to a century in the second innings.

Debutants Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruv Jurel also entered the rankings in 75th and 100th positions, respectively.

Star batter Virat Kohli, who is not playing in the series due to personal reasons, remains the only Indian in top-10 batters' chart at the seventh spot.

Nagal drops out of top-100



New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal dropped out of top-100 after losing 16 points from his kitty, resulting in him sliding three spots to 101 in the latest ATP rankings.

Last year in the same week, Nagal had earned 41 ranking points by reaching the semifinals of the Chennai Challenger as a qualifier. He was defending those points and could earn only 25 in Bengaluru last week.

Nagal had become one of the few Indian tennis players to crack the top-100 following his tremendous show in Chennai where he won his fifth Challenger level title.

India's next best singles player, Ramkumar Ramanathan, gained 42 points to get to 420 and was followed by Sasikumar Mukund (457, -20), S D Prajwal Dev (595) and Digvijay Pratap Singh (623, -11).

Nagal is competing in the Pune Challenger this week. He is scheduled to take on Niki Poonacha in the second round on Thursday.

In the doubles, Rohan Bopanna continued to be world number one player and was followed by Yuki Bhambri (60, +1), N Sriram Balaji (80, -1), Vijay Sundar Prashanth (81, +1), Saketh Myneni (89, +16) and Anirudh Chandrasekar (94, -4).

Expectations that I kept on myself made me disappointed: Gill

Ranchi, Feb 21 (PTI):

Shubman Gill had twin challenges to tame when he entered the Test series against England - a barren run that gripped him for nine innings, which was made grimmer when he dropped down to bat at a rather new No. 3 slot at this level.

Three Tests into the ongoing five-match rubber, Gill has managed to find some answers scoring 252 runs at 42 with a match-winning 104 at Visakhapatnam and a classy 91 at Rajkot.

For Gill, it was all about coping with the expectations he had placed on himself, rather than making any sweeping technical changes to his batting.

"It is a bit tough (living up to his own expectations). When people from outside talk about all those things, it did not make much difference to me. But the expectations that I kept on myself made me a bit disappointed," Gill said in a press



conference here on Wednesday. However, Gill said he has still placed the

same level of expectations on him but has learned to adjust to them. "You will

definitely have some expectations on you as to how you want to play for the team, the country. But I don't think that has changed my mindset. I still have the same set of expectations for myself.

"It is all about how you are able to forget them and move on quickly and be ready for the next challenge. That is the difference between a big player and an average player," he added. The 24-year-old could not score a fifty in 11 continuous innings, including the Hyderabad Test against England last month, once he started batting at No. 3, deviating from his preferred opening position.

The rut set in during India's tour to the West Indies mid-last year till he broke it against England at Visakhapatnam.

Gill said batting at No.3 presented him with a different task even though he had batted in that slot in domestic matches earlier.

Spin-friendly wicket will make it even playing field in Ranchi: Pope

Ranchi, Feb 21 (PTI):

England would not mind a rank turner in the fourth Test because assistance to spinners from the world go will make it a level-playing field, vice captain Ollie Pope said on Wednesday.

The Tests in Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Rajkot all had sporting pitches, which were not predominantly spin-friendly and had something for everyone.

"If it does spin from ball one, it takes the toss out of the equation, then it's an even playing field," Pope told reporters here.

"A lot of the time the wicket starts out flat and then deteriorates. We won the first game batting first, India the last two batting first. It doesn't define the result if you bat first on slightly flatter wicket but it does give you an advantage," he added. Pope, one of the heroes for England in Hyderabad, feels that a wicket offering good



turn will provide them with wicket-taking options. "If it does do a fare bit like we expect it to then it gets us into the game. We have got some young spinners, they have bowled well in some pretty good surfaces. It definitely gives us wicket taking opportunities. They have done a good job on flat wickets as well."

Pope had used the sweep shot to blunt the effectiveness of Indian spinners to score a majestic 196 and fashion England's victory in the series-opener.

WTT Team C'ships: Indian men, women paddlers move to pre-quarterfinals



Busan, Feb 21 (PTI):

Harmeet Desai won the decisive fifth rubber to steer Indian men's team to pre-quarterfinals while the women's team strolled into the last-16 stage of the World Table Tennis Team Championships with an easy 3-0 victory, here Wednesday.

The men's team had to toil hard to edge Kazakhstan 3-2 but the women's team had an easy day out as it blanked Italy 3-0 to move to the next round. The men's team will now compete against the powerful South

Koreans while the women will take on Chinese-Taipei, later on Wednesday.

Harmeet lost the opening match 2-3 to Kirill Gerassimenko (9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8) before senior teammate and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sharath Kamal brought India on level terms with a comeback behind 3-2 victory over Alan Kurmangaliyev.

The age-defying 41-year-old Sharath Kamal dug deep into his reserves after being two games down to turn the tide against his Kazakh oppo-

nent. Sharath Kamal finally won 6-11, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11, 11-9.

G. Sathiyam then gave India a 2-1 lead after a minor lapse of concentration in the second game, finally notching up an easy 3-1 victory.

The two-time CWG gold medalist in team event, Sathiyam won the opening game 11-6 but lost the next game tamerly 5-11. He recovered from the lapse to win the last two game 11-2, 11-7, giving his opponent absolutely no chance, as his top spin earned him the maximum points.

Sharath Kamal though lost his second singles match 1-3 to Kirill Gerassimenko (4-11, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11) as Kazakhstan levelled the scores.

Harmeet did not show any signs of nerves in the decider and won 3-1 (11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7).

In the women's section, Sreeja Akula defeated Niokeleta Stefanova 12-10, 11-6, 11-8, while Manika Batra crushed Georgia Piccolin 12-10, 11-6, 11-5.

Ayhika Mukherjee sealed the tie with a 15-13, 11-9, 13-15, 11-8 win over Gaia Monfardini.

Bumrah released from Indian Test squad



Rajkot, Feb 21 (PTI):

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was released from the Indian Test squad while senior batter KL Rahul was ruled out of the fourth match beginning in Ranchi on Friday. Bumrah has been released as part of his workload management. He is the leading wicket-taker in the Test series with 17 scalps from three

matches. He singlehandedly bowled India to victory in the second Test in Visakhapatnam.

■ Rahul ruled out of Ranchi match

Rahul had also missed the second and third Test after complaining of pain in his right quadriceps.

"Jasprit Bumrah has been released from the squad for the 4th IDFC First Bank Test against England in Ranchi. The decision was taken keeping in mind the duration of the series and amount of cricket he has played in recent times," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Meanwhile, KL Rahul is ruled out of the 4th Test. His participation in the final Test match in Dharamsala is subject to fitness," it added. Pacer Mukesh Kumar, who was released from the squad for the third Test in Rajkot, has joined the team in Ranchi. The decision to rest Bumrah was expected, considering he bowled 80.5 overs in the first three Tests.

Take Bairstow out of firing line: Cook



London, Feb 21 (PTI): Former captain Alastair Cook has urged England to drop wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow from the Ranchi Test against India, to "protect the player" who is having an abysmal series.

Bairstow, who is playing as a specialist batter, has endured a woeful run in the ongoing five-match series. He is averaging 17.00 having registered scores of 0, 4, 25, 26, 37 and 10 in six innings.

"I'm taking him out of the firing line to protect the player, as I think he's had a tough tour so far and India is a tough place to keep going on the treadmill," Cook told 'TNT Sport'.

"I'm not saying he'll never play Test cricket again, but it's good to have someone who's fresh of all the debris of this series so far," he added. Cook backed Dan Lawrence to replace Bairstow as the all-rounder will step up out in Ranchi without any baggage.

Manisha's brace seals India's win against Estonia



Alanya (Turkey), Feb 21 (PTI):

The Indian football team withstood a late charge by Estonia to pick up a hard-fought 4-3 win in the Turkish Women's Cup on Wednesday, the side's first victory against an European nation.

Striker Manisha Kalyan scored a brace and the Chaoba Devi-coached side created a piece of history as the Indian senior women's team had never before triumphed over a team from the UEFA confederation in an official outing.

The teams were locked 1-1 at half time.

Manisha struck in the 17th and 81st minutes while Indumathi Kathiresan (62'), and Pyari Xaxa (79') scored the other goals for India.

Lisette Tammik (32'), Vlada Kubassova (88') and Mari Liis Lillemae (90') found the target for Estonia.

Played at the picturesque Gold City Sports Complex, the Blue Tigresses made a perfect start when they shot into the lead through a Manisha goal.

After Estonia drew level off a strike by Lisette Tammik, a rampaging India struck thrice through Indumathi, Xaxa and Manisha to take a commanding 4-1 lead. Just as it appeared that the Indian women were on their way to a resounding victory, Estonia made a last-ditch effort to equalise, scoring twice through Vlada Kubassova (88') and Mari Liis Lillemae (90').

Month after Ram Lalla's consecration, all roads still lead to Ayodhya

Ayodhya (UP), Feb 21 (PTI):

Twelve kilometres from Ayodhya's Ram temple, sleeper buses that have ferried people from far-off places are lined up along the road to enter the huge parking lots. A month after the consecration at the new temple, the enthusiasm for a 'darshan' remains unabated.

In their unique traditional outfits, devotees from all parts of the country gather at holding areas from where they move towards the temple either in electric buses or e-rickshaws.

These devotees along with those coming from nearby places confluence on Ram Path that leads towards the grand temple. Barred from any traffic, one can only see devotees walking towards the temple on the left side of the

road and those returning on the other side.

Festivities in Ayodhya are taking place with full vigour a month after the mega consecration ceremony, with lakhs of devotees reaching the holy city to have darshan of Lord Ram's idol in the newly constructed temple.

One gets a sense of bustle of faith at Ram temple, the heart of Ayodhya, from more than 10 km away where buses ferrying devotees from far off places line up along the roads. According to the officials of Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, more than 25 lakh devotees visited the temple in the first 10 days after the consecration ceremony.

"We receive anywhere between one to two lakh devotees every day in February. Going by the

estimated number of devotees who have visited the temple till date is around 50-60 lakh," said Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of the temple trust.

On the way towards the temple, some devotees hail "Jai Sri Ram" while others chant couplets from the Ramayan as they walk towards the temple. Most walk bare feet with their group. Along the road are small shops selling sweets and other items to be offered inside the temple.

Locals, especially teenagers, stand along the road carrying small tumblers filled with colour. On getting a nod from the devotees they dip three fingers in a yellow coloured liquid before applying it on the foreheads of the pilgrims. They then dip an

inch-long stencil with 'Ram' written in Hindi in a red coloured liquid before placing the stencil in the middle of the marking made by the fingers before charging for it.

With the name of Lord Ram marked on their forehead, devotees continue the walk towards the temple. On looking from above, the rampart appears to be a confluence of India with people in different traditional clothes that give away the state or region they belong to.

On Tuesday, a group from Maharashtra, with women in sarees tied in unique Nauvaree style walking with men donning a white shirt over a white lungi paired with a white Gandhi cap, walked behind a group from Rajasthan. The large bright coloured turbans

donned by the men and the bright coloured sarees of the women from the desert state contrasted with a group from Uttarakhand in which the men wore a pahadi topi and women walked in their long skirts.

Apart from local politicians from across party lines, Bollywood stars have also reached the temple for darshan.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal accompanied with his counterpart in Punjab Bhagwat Mann visited the temple with their families.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with the members of UP Vidhan Sabha visited the temple on February 11. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also visited the temple with his cabinet on Tuesday.

FRESH SNOWFALL



Icicles hang from a hotel roof at Gulmarg Ski Resort after fresh snowfall, in Baramulla district, Wednesday.

Ameen Sayani: The man who romanced the radio, took it to dizzying heights

Mumbai, Feb 21 (PTI):

His was the voice that ruled the airwaves for decades and will forever echo through the winding roads of nostalgia. Ameen Sayani, who invited millions each week to tune into Binaca Geetmala, was India's radio man for the ages - and will continue to be.

Sayani, who died in Mumbai at the 91 following a heart attack on Tuesday, was not a singer or an orator. He was but the presenter of a programme on Hindi film songs but one so compelling and so hugely popular that no history of Indian radio can ever be written without his contribution.

That voice, the deep timbre radiating cheer and warmth, has fallen silent but the refrain of that unforgettable "Namaste behno aur bhaiyo, main apka dost Ameen Sayani bol raha hoon" will long ring loud and clear. Intertwined with childhood and teen memories and a rewind to a quieter, simpler era when the radio was all.



Sayani's inimitable greeting reached countless homes as Hindi film song aficionados tuned in week after week to Binaca Geetmala on Radio Ceylon from 1952 to 1988.

The programme moved to All India Radio's Vividh Bharti in 1989 but its popularity did not wane thanks to the connect that Sayani had established with his listeners. There were several name changes as the toothpaste manufacturer went from Binaca to Cibaca and the show was also rechristened to Colgate Cibaca Geetmala. The listeners though kept listening in right till 1994 when it ended.

Sayani's association was not just limited to this widely popular programme.

During his long association with radio, Sayani compered and presented over 50,000 programmes and was associated with over 19,000 jingles and ads. Besides interviewing legends such as Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi, he hosted the Bournvita Quiz Contest for eight years, filling in after the death of his brother Hamid Sayani.

Sayani was born in Mumbai in a multilingual family on December 21, 1932. He was educated in Mumbai's New Era school and Gwalior's Scindia School and completed his college from St Xavier's in Mumbai.

His family was closely involved in India's independence movement. His mother Kulsum Sayani was a Gandhian who ran a fortnightly journal 'Rahber' and Sayani started assisting his mother from 1945 and continued till 1960. Sayani was interested in radio right from his childhood, appearing on children's programmes on All India Radio, Bombay.

IIT-Madras granted record number of patents in 2023

• Doubles previous year's tally

New Delhi, Feb 21 (PTI):

The number of patents granted to the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras doubled in 2023 from the previous year, reaching a record high of 300, officials said on Wednesday.

In addition, the number of international patents filed, including those granted under the

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), also recorded a significant increase, rising to 105 during 2023 from 58 in 2022, they said.

Additionally, 226 patents have already been filed during the current fiscal (as of December), including 163 Indian patents and 63 international patents applications (including PCT).

Since the inception of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras, a total of about 2,550 in-

tellectual property (IP), including patent, applications have been filed, both in India (1,800) and abroad (750) so far, of which about 1,100 are registered IPs or granted patents (about 900 Indian and 200 international).

"It is a matter of pride for IIT-Madras that it had started filing patent applications as early as January 1975 (granted in May 1977). The total number of IP applications filed crossed 1,000 in 2016, 2,000 in 2022 and 2,500 in

2023. As we march towards our 100th year of Independence, for Bharat to become a superpower it is very important to protect our ideas," said IIT-Madras Director V Kamakoti.

He explained that researchers at IIT-Madras are proactively generating IP in domains such as wireless networks, advanced materials, robotics, additive manufacturing technology, engine advancements, assistive devices, advanced sensor

applications, clean energy, aerospace applications, polymer material and thin films, catalysts, and biomedical applications, among many other emerging technologies.

The Office of Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (ICSR) at IIT-Madras coordinates the different aspects related to IP and technology transfer. The centre collaborates with faculty, researchers and students and also has a dedicated legal cell.

Students receive training for placement in health sectors

New Delhi, Jan 21: Demonstrating a commendable commitment to bolstering the community by offering skill building programs for the vulnerable demographics with the aim of equipping them for their livelihoods, Honda India Foundation (HIF), completed a training under its flagship program Project Pragati (One Step towards Growth) in Raipur.

In India, the role of General Duty Assistants holds significant importance across healthcare sector. However, the country is currently facing a shortfall of GDAs which poses challenges to the effective functioning of this sector and hampers the overall development of the society.

NTPC soars in ESG Score, climbs by two levels in CDP Water Security Rating

New Delhi, Feb 21:

NTPC's ESG Score has ascended by two levels, transitioning from a 'D' rating in 2022 to a commendable 'C' rating in 2023, in the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Water Security Rating.

This achievement serves as a testament to NTPC's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, with a specific emphasis on water management.

Efforts to enhance water reuse and recycling have yielded positive outcomes, reflected in a significant decrease in specific water consumption in recent

years. Despite the challenges posed by renewable energy integration and the implementation of wet flue gas desulfurization systems, NTPC is actively reducing water consumption through innovative measures and efficient practices.

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is one of the prominent ESG rating agencies across globe assessing companies on their environmental performance particularly related to areas of climate change, water security, and deforestation.

To bolster its commitment, NTPC also became a signatory of the CEO Water Mandate in year

2021, underscoring its dedication to responsible water management and participation in a global initiative aimed at addressing water sustainability challenges.

NTPC's key initiatives towards water conservation include Optimization of water consumption through advanced technologies and process reengineering, Implementation of robust "Water Policy" and "Rainwater Harvesting Policy", and Maintaining "Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)" status across all the stations.

Further, the company has deployed Air-Cooled Condensers, potentially

saving 75% of water besides having Community investments in freshwater availability and capacity building and Increasing Cycles of Concentration (CoC) at all stations to reduce freshwater intake.

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated power utility having 74 GW installed capacity that contributes 25% of total electricity produced in India. By 2032, NTPC is looking to expand its non-fossil based capacity to 45-50% of the company's portfolio that will include 60 GW RE capacity with a total portfolio of 130 GW. NTPC has partnered with Niti Aayog to strengthen India's Net Zero efforts.

State awards to Arunachal body promoting mountaineering, destitute shelter home, others

Itanagar, Feb 21 (PTI):

A body promoting mountaineering and a destitute shelter home were among several organisations of Arunachal Pradesh, that were conferred State Awards on Wednesday.

The Health and Family Welfare Department was also awarded for supply-

ing medicines via drones in inaccessible areas of the hilly northeastern state at a function held at Raj Bhavan. Oju Welfare Association chairperson Ratan Anya also received the award for her philanthropic services to orphans and destitute people in the state through her organisation. Governor Lt Gen

(Retd) K T Parneik conferred State Awards and Chief Minister's Award for excellence in public administration to individuals, organisations and government departments. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Assembly Speaker Pasang Dorjee Sona and other dignitaries attended the event.

कालड़ा बन एवं
व्यक्तिगत कार्बोनिड सप्लायर
कानों की रिशेपिंग

जन्मजात, दुर्घटना या अन्य कारणों से कटे या टेढ़े-मेढ़े कानों की रिशेपिंग

अपकी कान, सुनने की शक्ति, कानों की रक्षा, स्वास्थ्य
कॉल: 9827143060/8971003060
Ajay Advt.

BLUE LINES
PIPES & TUBES
समसे ज्वादा नर्ससा

श्री विष्णु देव साय जी
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन
को जन्मदिन की
हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं

आप कदैव क्वक्थ बहें
यही कामना है।

NIROS ISPAT PVT. LTD.
A Quality Product By
14-A, Heavy Industrial Area, Hathkhaj, Bilhail
Call: 9109981001, 9109981021, Toll Free: 1800123660033