

CENTRAL Chronicle

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PM offers underwater prayers in Dwarka



PM Modi during scuba diving off the Arabian Sea coast near Dwarka, Sunday.

Enjoys scuba diving off Arabian Sea

Devbhumi Dwarka, Feb 25 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday went scuba diving off the Panchkui beach coast here in Gujarat and performed prayers as he witnessed the ancient Dwarka city of Lord Krishna, which is submerged in the waters.

To pray there was a "very divine experience," he said.

Wearing a white diving helmet and ochre robes, Modi sat cross-legged on the sea bed, folded his hands in prayers while being helped by the Navy divers and waved peacock feathers before offering them to Lord Krishna.

"More than courage, it was faith," he said after coming out of the waters.

Scuba diving is conducted off the coast of Dwarka near Beyt Dwarka island,

Divine experience.....

To pray there was a "very divine experience," PM said. Wearing a white diving helmet and ochre robes, Modi sat cross-legged on the sea bed, folded his hands in prayers while being helped by the Navy divers and waved peacock feathers before offering them to Lord Krishna. "More than courage, it was faith," he said after coming out of the waters. "To pray in the city of Dwarka, which is immersed in the waters, was a very divine experience. I felt connected to an ancient era of spiritual grandeur and timeless devotion. May Bhagwan Shri Krishna bless us all," he said in the post on X.

where people can see the underwater remains of ancient Dwarka that have been excavated by archaeologists. Sharing his experience while addressing a gathering here later in the day, Modi said when he was touching the ancient city, the picture of India's grandeur of the 21st century flashed before his eyes, and he remained inside the waters for a long time.

"The vision of Dwarka in the sea has further strengthened my resolve of a developed India," he said. The

PM also shared his experience with some photographs on X.

"To pray in the city of Dwarka, which is immersed in the waters, was a very divine experience. I felt connected to an ancient era of spiritual grandeur and timeless devotion. May Bhagwan Shri Krishna bless us all," he said in the post on X.

Addressing the gathering here, Modi said he was overwhelmed with joy by the experience and fulfilment of his decades old dream of

touching the sacred city.

"I went deep into the sea and saw the ancient Dwarkaji. Archaeologists have written a lot about Dwarka which is immersed in the sea. A lot has been said about Dwarka in our scriptures also. It is said that Lord Vishwakarma himself had built the city of Dwarka," the PM said.

He said the ancient Dwarka city was a good example of planning and development of a great city, and when he was having his darshan in the sea, he experienced "the same ancient grandeur and divinity."

"I bowed to Lord Shri Krishna there. I also took peacock feathers with me which I offered to Lord Krishna," he said.

The prime minister said that for many years, he was very curious about going into the sea and touching whatever remains of the ancient city of Dwarka and paying his respects.



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Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI

Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)

- The Reserve Bank has mandated all its regulated entities (REs) to have a mechanism at their end to resolve the complaints received by them from their customers, which is considered as the Internal Grievance Redress Mechanism of REs.
- The Reserve Bank has also put in place an expeditious and cost-free Alternate Grievance Redress Mechanism for resolution of customer complaints relating to deficiencies in services rendered by its REs through the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IOS).
- Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Payment System Participants and Credit Information Companies are considered as REs under the Grievance Redress Mechanism.
- The RB-IOS adopts a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach for all complaints against any RE. It is therefore no longer necessary for a complainant to identify under which Ombudsman scheme/office, he/she should file a complaint with the Ombudsman.
- The complaints against REs not covered under the RB-IOS, 2021 are handled at Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) for resolution.
- The list of REs covered under the ambit of RBI-OS and CEPC can be accessed by visiting <https://cms.rbi.org.in>

What to do if you have a complaint?

Complainant must approach the concerned RE with the details of the grievance for redress.

When to approach the RBI Ombudsman?

You can approach the RBI Ombudsman, in case of:

- No reply is received **within 30 days - Anytime within one year and one month from the date of your complaint to RE.**
- Unsatisfactory Reply - Anytime **within one year of receipt of reply from the concerned RE.**

Note:

- The complaint should contain all requisite details / information as mentioned in the RB-IOS.
- The complaint should not have been dealt with / pending with any other forum (like Courts) or dealt earlier by the RBI Ombudsman.

How to lodge a complaint?

Complaint against the RE can be filed through any of the following modes:

- Online through the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal of RBI at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> → File a complaint
- Physical complaint (letter / post) in the form as specified in Annexure in the RB-IOS, 2021 to "Centralized Receipt and Processing Centre, 4th floor, Reserve bank of India Sector-17, Central Vista, Chandigarh – 160017"

How to know more about lodging a complaint with RBI?

- Any person can approach the Contact Centre of RBI for information / clarification on the grievance redress mechanism of RBI and to seek guidance in filing of a complaint / track the status of already lodged complaints.
- Contact Centre personnel are available on all working days from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm for Hindi and English and from 9:30 am to 5:15 pm in ten regional languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil).
- Toll free number (14448) is also available 24x7x365 through Interactive Voice Response System facility.

For more information

PLEASE VISIT: FAQs on RB- IOS, 2021 - https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_FAQs.aspx?fn=2745 Or CMS Portal - <https://cms.rbi.org.in/>

"Don't get cheated by E-mails/SMSs/Calls promising you money."

PM Modi inaugurates state's first Micro-biology Food Testing Lab



At city's Kalibadi area

Raipur, Feb 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the state's first Microbiology Food Testing Lab at city's Kalibadi through video-conferencing from Rajkot on Sunday evening. PM Modi has launched a new tradition of dedication and inauguration in different cities of the country in the field of health at the same time. Modi said that it is with the same momentum that the very commit-

ment of 'Viksit Bharat' can be achieved.

In the programme, Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal expressed gratitude towards PM Modi and said that the Chhattisgarh government is committed to fulfill all the promises made under 'Modi ki Guarantee'. We are committed to provide pure, quality safe and nutritious food to every citizen of the country, he said, adding that the very target of achieving better health would be possible through this 'Micro-biology food

testing lab' acting as safety cover.

In the programme, MLA Raipur (rural) Motilal Sahu, Addl. Chief Secy. Renu Pillai, Contoller Food & Drug Administration Deepak Soni, MD HNM Dr Jagdish Sonkar, Commissioner RMC Avinash Mishra, Dy. SEcy. GoI Pulkesh, FSSAI officer Sharad Rao and officers and employees in large number were present. It is notable that on Dec 2006, Food Testing Lab is being run at Naveen Bhavan in Kalibadi. In

this the PM Narendra Modi gave the gift of Micro-biology Food Testing Lab. This laboratory has been prepared with additional funding from Food Safety and Standard Authority, New Delhi with a financial assistance of Rs 4.33 cr.

This is the state's first ever Micro-biology Food Testing Lab.

The Food products and water is being polluted with dangerous micro-organisms and which leads to various health problems among the general public. The food related diseases like vomiting, diarrhoea, Typhoid, fever, skin related problems, Chicken Pox, Cholera and others are caused.

Earlier in the laboratory, there was testing of heavy metals, pesticides, vitamins, but no testing that of microbiological standards. Now with the modern machines and start of micro-biological food testing lab, the polluting elements of food products viz. bacteria, fungus, Yeast, Mold and others can also be tested.

WAITING FOR THEIR TURN



The dog owners were found waiting for their turn at the Dog Show organized here on Sunday.

Online application for ration card renewal till 15th March

Raipur, Feb 25: The work of renewal of all 77 lakh ration cards currently prevalent under the public distribution system in Chhattisgarh has been extended till March 15, 2024. Keeping in mind the convenience of the common citizen, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has given instructions to extend the date of ration card renewal so that all eligible beneficiaries can apply on priority. Accordingly Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department,

Dayal Das Baghel has given guidelines regarding extending the date for online renewal application till March 15, 2024.

Director of Food Department, Shri Jitendra Shukla has given guidelines in this regard to the collectors of all the districts. A new mobile app of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department has been prepared by the Food Department for ration card renewal, it can be downloaded by going to the Play Store.

Beneficiaries can download it from Food Department website <http://khadya.cg.nic.in/>.

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

EC directs States to implement transfer policy strictly

In both letter and spirit

Raipur, Feb 25: Taking serious note of the cases wherein officers are being transferred / posted in the adjacent districts within the same Parliamentary Constituency by the state government, the Commission has strengthened its existing transfer policy to ensure that officials are not able to disturb the level-playing fields in the elections.

So plugging the loopholes in the existing instructions, the Commission has directed that, except for the States / UTs that comprise up to two Parliamentary Constituencies, all State shall ensure that officers who are transferred out of the district are not posted within the same parliamentary constituency.

It has been reiterated that the transfer policy of the Commission must be adhered to in both letter and spirit and not just

being camouflaged to show compliance. This rule applies respectively to transfers and postings that have already been implemented in accordance with the Commission's prior instructions.

As per ECI policy, all the officers who were either posted in their home district or have completed three years at a place, have been directed to be transferred. This includes officers who are in any way connected to the election work either directly or in the supervisory capacity.

There has been a Zero Tolerance Policy of the Commission against disturbing the level playing field in the elections. It may be recalled that in the recently held sate assembly elections, the Commission ordered transfer of various officials even senior level police officials in the state(s), informs Joint Director (Media) Election Commission, New Delhi in a press release.

Over 500 SNM members enthusiastically participate in cleanliness drive

2nd phase of 'Project Amrit' SWACHH JAL SWACHH MANN by Sant Nirankari Mission

Raipur, Feb 25: The second phase of the SWACHH JAL SWACHH MANN, project under Project AMRIT was successfully accomplished on Sunday, February 25, 2024 from 08:00 am onwards, at Purenna Talab, Purenna, Ring Road No. 1, Raipur.

In this mega cleanliness drive, more than 500 members of Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) participated with full enthusiasm and energy. Six-truck garbage and waste were extracted from the pond by the volunteers and were disposed off with the help of Municipal Corporation Raipur.

Providing information, Gurubaksh Singh Kalra, Zonal incharge Sant Nirankari Mandal Raipur and durg, said that, Taking inspiration from the motto of 'SWACHH JAL



SWACHH MANN', this project implemented at more than 1500 places from 900 cities of 27 states and union territories across India.

The main objective of this campaign is to awaken the people about the measures to conserve water bodies so that a healthy future can be given to the coming generations.

Following the inspirational teachings of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission on the occasion of its cleanliness campaign in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, launched Project Amrit in the year 2023. The main objective of this project is to conserve water bod-

ies, clean them and encourage them through awareness campaigns among the local people. Under this project, the focus was on cleanliness of water bodies like beaches, rivers, lakes, ponds, wells, springs etc. in various places across India and those places were also cleaned. This project which runs for environmental protection, was praised and appreciated by every section of the society and this program was completely successful.

Sant Nirankari Mission is continuously playing its active role in social and welfare activities and is implementing schemes like tree plantation, blood donation camp, cleanliness campaign, Talasari Dam Project, Oneness One, awareness about environmental issues etc. Undoubtedly, such welfare schemes of Nirankari Mission are a praiseworthy and commendable step towards environmental protection and beautification of the earth, by following which the earth can be made more clean, pure and beautiful.

Provisional list of eligible beneficiaries of MVY released

Status of application in the online portal

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Beneficiaries of Mahtari Vandan Yojana (MVY) can now know about the status of their application and the action taken on it.

The state government has provided the facility for the beneficiaries to know the status of the application form on the online portal of Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

An official of the Women and Child Development Department said that with the help of the link beneficiaries can get in-

formation regarding the action taken on their application by entering their registered mobile number or Aadhaar number.

Under Mahtari Vandan Yojana, the final list of eligible beneficiaries has been released and it has been published at Anganwadi centers and Gram Panchayat level.

Emerging challenges and techniques in Neurosurgery discussed

'NSSICON-2024' inaugurated in AIIMS-R, Galaxy of Experts are Participating

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: To provide a comprehensive overview of state-of-the-art techniques coming up in the field of neurosurgery and to address emerging challenges, the 12th Annual Conference of the Neurological Surgeons Society of India, 'NSSICON-2024', was inaugurated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday. Experts from all over the world provided insightful lectures and trained new surgeons during the conference.

Eminent neurosurgeon Dr. Anil Nanda, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School, and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, America, explained 'Neurosurgery: Public Health, Publishing, and Philosophy' in detail. According to Dr. Nanda, 23,000 additional neurosurgeons will be needed

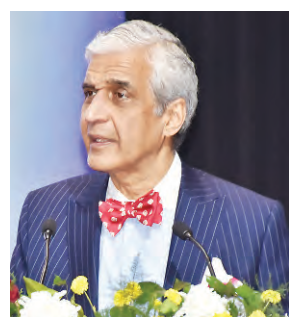


Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) felicitating an expert during conference.

to care for patients in Africa and South Asia in the coming years. Studies find that the gross domestic product losses from patients suffering from neurosurgical diseases will exceed \$4.4 trillion over the next 15 years. 'We need continuous training programs to teach new technological innovations to young surgeons to fill the gap, he said. Dr. Nanda is a world-renowned expert in skull-base surgery and complex vascular neurosurgical fields. Dr. Nanda managed around 16,000 surgeries and was awarded the best doctor in America from 1996 to 2018. Dr. Takeo Goto from Japan delivered a lecture

on 'Various Endoscopic Approaches to Skull Base Tumors' and Society President Dr. Altaf Umar Ramzan delivered a lecture on 'Anterior Skull Base Meningiomas: An Overview' through online mode.

Executive Director Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) said that super specialty neurosurgery has been developing at a very fast pace. New technology and approaches have been adopted in neurosurgery by prominent research centers. Therefore, such conferences will be a learning platform for neurosurgeons, as they can learn from the experience of experts participating in



Eminent Neurosurgeon Dr. Anil Nanda, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School & Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, America delivering lecture during 'NSSICON-2024'.

the conferences.

Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, organizing secretary, informed that major emerging fields of neurosurgery were covered in the workshop. According to Dr. Sharma, the Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, Raipur, is a specialized center, and all kinds of complex neuro and spine surgeries are being performed regularly. The department recently opened the facility for deep brain stimulation (Brain Pacemaker) sur-

gery.

A three-day conference witnessed a pre-conference workshop on various emerging fields in neurosurgery. The workshop included various surgeries, including Endoscopic Skull base, Endoscopic Spine, Craniovertebral Junction Microvascular Anastomosis, Deep Brain Stimulation, Neuromonitoring & Transcranial Doppler, Spinal Deformity and Endovascular Coiling. The workshop was attended by 125 participants from around the country.

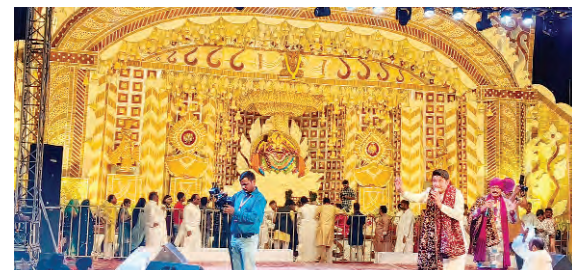
The conference is being jointly organized by the Department of Neurosurgery and the Chhattisgarh Association of Neuroscientists. Different sessions are presided over by Dr. Radhey Shyam Mittal, Dr. D.K. Purohit, Dr. A.K. Mahapatra, Dr. Rajkumar, Dr. Hossam Elnoamany, Dr. Ajay Nagraj, Dr. Sandeep Chatterjee, Dr. Roopesh Kumar, and Dr. Ramesh Teegla. Around 400 participants from different parts of the world are attending the conference.

Bhajans leave devotees of Khatu Shyam enthralled

More than 4000 devotees took part in prog, 'Ek Shaam Khatuwale ke naam'

Raipur, Feb 25: A wonderful programme of religious songs and bhajans for oblations to Shyamkhatu, who is the 'avatar' of Lord Shri Krishna, was held here on Sunday. In this late night religious musical programme, the audience were enthralled. In this programme, more than 4000 Shyam Bhakts (devotees) from Chhattigarh, Delhi, Mumbai, U P, Kolkata, Odisha and other places arrived. To make this programme vibrant, special decoration of 'Mandap' was done and colourful decoration of 'Baba ka Darbar' was also done and which remained centre of attraction for all the devotees. In this late night programme the 'bhakti' of Shyam Bhakts flowed continuously.

The religious songs and bhajans in the name of 'Ek Sham Khatuwale ke nam' was held at Amar Marriage Palace in Saddu and it was organised by 'Shyam ke



Ladle Group'. In this programme, thousands of devotees thronged the place from the country and abroad. Giving information about special decoration the organisational Mandal informed that all efforts were made to make it a grand programme for last three months. To install Khatu Shyam Baba, the Suresh Rajasthani group, prepared a beautiful stage with jute, bamboos, 'makke' slices and using their craftsmanship. In this the artists from Kolkata decorated Khatu Shyam Baba on the stage with colourful orchids, roses and thick garlands.

In the evening programme, the artists Sanju Sharma from Dhamal King performed Rajasthani Bhajans sung during Hohli. The Shyam Bajan singer

from Raipur Vinay Agrawal also sang many wonderful bhajans and made the devotees danced on their feet. Well-known Singer of Shyam Bhajans from Samstipur Bihar Reshma Sharma and Rajani Rajasthani from Jaipur also sangs variety of bhajans leaving the audience spell-bound. Ravi Berival, from Kolkata, Abhishek Madhav Sharma, Bhagwan Dixit, and other well-known Bajan singers from the country gave wonderful performances. The Pujari from Rajasthan's Seekar district and Shri Shyam Khatu Committee Trustee Manvendra Chouhan also took part and held the organisation of this programme by all the followers and disciples of Khatu Shyam as simply out of the world.



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Prosperous dairy sector

India largest producer of milk in the world, record increase of 58% in milk production in last 10 years; Welfare of 8 crore cattle-rearing families ensured

BRIEF

Monolith of Bhagwan Bahubali during the Mahamastakabhisheka celebrations, in Venur, Karnataka, Sunday.

Shot dead

Chandigarh: Unidentified assailants shot dead the Indian National Lok Dal's Haryana unit president Nafe Singh Rathee in Jhajjar district on Sunday, according to a senior party leader. Rathee, a former MLA, was travelling in an SUV when the assailants, who were in a car, attacked him in Jhajjar's Bahadurgarh town.

Mishap

Kaushambi: At least seven people died and seven others were injured in an explosion at a firecracker factory in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district on Sunday, police said. The blast took place around 12 noon at Maheva village in the Kokhraj police station area and was heard several kilometres from the factory, they said.

Dance Academy

Seraikela: Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren announced that a Chhau dance academy will be set up in the state to promote the famous martial dance form. Chhau dance is a traditional and historic identity of Seraikela-Kharswan district, Soren said while inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of 220 development projects worth over Rs 334 crores in his home district here on Saturday.

Doc attacked

Nashik: A doctor was attacked over a monetary dispute in Nashik in Maharashtra and is admitted in a local hospital in a critical condition, a police official said on Sunday. Dr Kailas Rath (48), director of a hospital in Panchvati area here, was attacked on Friday night with a sickle, he said.

Rally

Ranchi: Members of the Kurmi community took out a rally here on Sunday to press for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and inclusion of Kurmali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Seized

Chennai: Law enforcement officials at the Chennai airport have recovered Rs 1.57 crore worth of foreign currencies from a passenger bound for Mumbai. Acting on specific inputs, a Central Industrial Security Force personnel intercepted the air passenger while he was undergoing a security check at the airport on Saturday.

Weather

High 29 Low 20

LIQUOR SCAM

ACB/EOW launch raids on premises of 13 people

Raipur, Feb 25:

The Chhattisgarh's Economic Wing/Anti Corruption Bureau on Sunday launched raids on the premises of 13 people, including two former IAS officers and some businessmen, in connection with alleged liquor scam unearthed during the previous Congress government in the state, officials said. The action also covered premises of a businessman in Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, they said. According to ACB/ EOW officials, 70 persons, including several leaders of the Congress, and companies have been named in the FIR registered by the state agency last month in the al-



leged liquor scam based on a complaint by Enforcement Directorate which has also been probing the case. The FIR was lodged under sections of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988/ Amended Act 2018 and Indian Penal Code, they said. After receiving search warrants from a special court in Raipur for conducting searches at the premises linked to these suspects, the ACB-EOW launched raids this morning, an official statement said. It also covered premises linked to businessman Rajendra Jaiswal of M/s Welcome Distilleries and

Officials raided...

The raids covered the premises of former Chief Secretary Vivek Dhand (retired IAS officer), former Secretary of Commerce and Industry department Anil Tuteja (retired IAS officer), then commissioner of excise department Niranjana Das, Excise Officer Ashok Kumar Singh, businessman Anwar Dhebar (brother of Congress leader and Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar), Arvind Singh and Siddharth Singhania in Raipur. The raids also covered premises of the special secretary of Excise department and Managing Director of Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited Arunpuri Tripathi (Indian Telecom Service officer) in Durg district, then assistant commissioner of excise department Korba Saurabh Bakshi in Korba district.

Bhupendra Pal Singh Bhatia of M/s Bhatia Wine Merchant in Bilaspur district and Naveen Kedia of M/s Chhattisgarh Distillery Limited in Kumhari area (Durg district), the release said. Besides, the raid was also launched at M/s Prism Hologram and Security Private Limited of Vidhu Gupta in Greater Noida

SC to hear plea over non-grant of permanent commission to women

In ICG

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI): The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea by an woman officer of the Indian Coast Guard seeking grant of permanent commission to eligible women short service commission officers of the force. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud is likely to hear the matter. The top court had earlier come down hard on the

Centre and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for denial of permanent commission to its women officers and said the maritime force must come up with a policy which treats women "fairly". The top court was hearing the plea filed by Indian Coast Guard officer Priyanka Tyagi. It had asked why the ICG was not granting them permanent commission when the Indian Navy was. The apex court had asked the Centre to come up with a gender-neutral policy on the issue.

Three Naxalites killed in encounter

With security personnel

Kanker, Feb 25:

Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Kanker district on Sunday morning, a senior police official said. The face-off took place around 8 am on a hill between Bhomra-Hurtarai villages under the Koyalibeda police station area, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela

CAF personnel killed in IED blast

Bijapur: A head constable of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) was on Sunday killed after a pressure improvised explosive device (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in the state's Bijapur district, police said. The incident occurred at around 3.30 pm near Bechupal Padampara village under Mirture Mirtur police station limits in the Naxal-hit district when a team of CAF was out on an area domination operation, an official said. The operation was launched from Bechupal police camp towards Kutulpara village, he said.

Uttar Pradesh, it said. The searches are underway, the release informed. The ED, in its complaint to the ACB/EOW, had claimed criminal acts were committed by certain senior officials in connivance with private and influential persons for causing loss to the state government and earn illegal profits for themselves in liquor trade.

PM inaugurates five AIIMS

Rajkot, Feb 25 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Rajkot in Gujarat and e-dedicated to the nation four more AIIMS at Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh). He inaugurated development projects worth Rs 48,000 at the function held here and asserted that his guarantee begins when hope from others fades. "For 50 years after Independence, there was only one AIIMS in the country, and that too in Delhi. In the seven decades since Independence, only seven AIIMS were approved but even these were never completed," he said.

MAJOR TRAGEDY AVERTED

Driverless goods train runs from J-K to Punjab

Chandigarh, Feb 25 (PTI):

A diesel locomotive-hauled freight train travelled more than 70 kilometres from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua to a village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district without its drivers on Sunday, officials said. No casualty or damage to property has been reported, they said and added that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident that took place between 7.25 am and 9 am. The 53-wagon train loaded with chip stones was on its way to Punjab from Jammu, the officials said. The train had stopped

at the Kathua railway station in Jammu for a driver change and it seems that it began to roll down a slope gradient track on the Jammu-Jalandhar section, a spokesperson of the Northern Railway said, citing preliminary information. Both drivers-loco pilot and assistant loco pilot were not on board the freight train, the officials said. The train gained speed along the way, finally coming to a stop on a steep gradient near Unchi Bassi railway station in Punjab, they said. Divisional Traffic Manager, Jammu, Prateek Srivastava told PTI that "an inquiry has been initi-

ated to know the exact cause of the incident. Prima facie, it seems that the train started rolling down the slope gradient towards Punjab without the driver and his assistant". He said the train came to a halt near Unchi Bassi due to steep gradient, after covering a distance of more than 70 km. The officials said that the train was successfully halted with the assistance of sandbags. Whether the train had been "secured" properly at Kathua on the down gradient is a matter of investigation, the spokesperson said and added that an in-depth probe is underway.

IAF plane airlifts liver from Pune

Saves veteran's life in Delhi

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

An IAF Dornier aircraft was deployed at "short notice" to airlift a team of doctors from an army hospital in Delhi to transport a liver from Pune to Delhi during the night on 23 Feb 24. The subsequent transplant surgery helped save the life of a #Veteran. #HarKaamDeshKeNaam #SavingLives," it posted on X.

few pictures of the aircraft and the team of doctors in a post on X. "An IAF Dornier aircraft was activated at short notice to airlift a team of doctors of Army Hospital (R&R), to retrieve a liver from Pune to Delhi during the night on 23 Feb 24. The subsequent transplant surgery helped save the life of a #Veteran. #HarKaamDeshKeNaam #SavingLives," it posted on X.

ABSUCCESS By Delhi Police

By Delhi Police

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

A 47-year-old member of Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) who also allegedly edited a magazine of the banned organisation besides indoctrinating many gullible youths has been arrested by the Delhi Police, officials said on Sunday. According to the police, Hanif Sheikh was declared a proclaimed offender in 2002 and has been abscond-

ing for the last 22 years. He was nabbed on February 22 from Bhusawal in Jalgaon district in Maharashtra where he was a teacher in an Urdu school under a different identity, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Alok Kumar claimed that Hanif was the most notorious and wanted SIMI terrorist who had played pivotal roles in various activities of the proscribed organisation across the country. Police said the SIMI magazine that Hanif Sheikh edited had his name

printed as Haneef Hudai. This was the only lead available with the police, making it difficult to trace him, they said. A case of sedition and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was registered against him in 2001 at New Friends Colony police station in the national capital. "A local court declared him proclaimed offender in 2002," Kumar said. "A team from the Special Cell was tasked with collecting data, information and other digital footprints

about the absconding SIMI cadre, sympathisers and sleeper cells across states. The team extensively visited and collected information from various parts of the country," he said. The information collected by the team helped the Delhi police's special cell to zero in on Hanif. Following this, a raiding party was formed which laid a trap, the officer said. "Around 2.50 pm on February 22, a person travelling from Mohmadin Nagar to Khadka Road was

identified as Hanif. As members of the team began to corner him, Hanif attempted to escape but was arrested after a scuffle," the DCP said. He said Hanif became highly radicalised after coming in contact with SIMI activists and after joining the organisation, he started attending its weekly programmes and radicalising youths. Hanif was later appointed as the editor of the Urdu edition of the SIMI's magazine in 2001, the police officer said.

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MANN KI BAAT

'India's 'nari shakti' touching new heights of progress in every field'



New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Days ahead of International Women's Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed 'nari shakti' and said it is touching new heights of progress in every field. In the 110th episode of his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi said International Women's Day on March 8 is an opportunity to salute the contribution of woman power to the country's developmental journey. "Great poet Bharatiya ji has said that the world will prosper only when women get equal opportunities. Today the 'nari shakti' (women power) of India is touching new heights of

PM hails Odisha couple's 'Goat Bank' initiative

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded a "Goat Bank" initiative of an Odisha couple which promotes goat rearing at the community level and helps the villagers move towards self-reliance in the field of animal husbandry. In his Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi said when people talk about animal husbandry, they often stop at cows and buffaloes only. But the goat is also an important animal, which is not discussed much, he said. He pointed out that many people in different areas of the country are associated with goat rearing. In Kalahandi, Odisha, goat rearing is becoming a major means of improving the livelihood of the village people as well as their standard of living, the prime minister said. "Behind this effort is a major decision of Jayanti Mahapatra ji and her husband Biren Sahu ji. Both of them were management professionals in Bengaluru. But they decided to take a break and come to Salebhata village of Kalahandi," he said.

progress in every field," the prime minister said.

PM inaugurates ESIC superspeciality hospital in Nehru Nagar



Bhilai, Feb 25:

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the newly constructed ESIC Superspeciality Hospital in Nehru Nagar. This hospital has been constructed with an investment of Rs 100 crore. This hospital will provide free treatment to about 50000 ESIC cardholder labourers and employees as well as about 1.50 crore family members. Hospital 1/c Dr MN Mansoor informed that initially the emergency, OPD and pharmacy will start operating in the hospital. Other services including the operation the-

atre will be operational soon. Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen, Dr MN Mansoor, Dr Richa Biswas, Laghu Udyog Bharti President Om Singhania, Corporator Mukesh Agrawal, BJP leader Brijesh Bichpuria and other dignitaries were present on the dais. Till now, the ESIC beneficiaries were dependent on an ESIC clinic located in Radhika Nagar. As the facilities were not sufficient, this clinic was working as a referral centre to refer the patients to private and government hospitals. Now the ESIC beneficiaries will get all the medical

treatment facilities at this new hospital. According to information, the process of recruiting 18 specialist doctors and 38 medical officers is underway. After recruitment of doctors, paramedical staff, nursing and non medico staff, the 100 bed hospital will start functioning. It needs to be mentioned here that the union government has given approval for ESIC hospital in the year 2016 and its construction was to be completed by 2019. Due to several reasons, the construction work was delayed and has been completed with a delay of about five years.

Blind murder mystery solved within eight hours

Bhilai, Feb 25:

With the arrest of a ruffian, police claimed to have solved the youth's blind murder mystery within eight hours. It was a pre-planned murder and the accused had taken precautions to avoid his arrest but the cops managed to nab him. It was a joint action of Anti-Crime and Cyber Unit Durg and Police Station Bhilai Nagar.

It needs to be mentioned here that on February 24 morning, police received information about an unidentified dead body lying in bushes on the side of Garage Road in front of 32 bungalows. Police reached the spot and launched investigation. Prima facie it appeared to be murder. Taking the matter into serious cognizance, SP Jitendra Shukla gave instructions to investigate and trace the accused. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha, Additional Superintendent of Police (Cyber) Anurag Jha, City Superintendent of Police (Bhilai Nagar) Vishwa Deepak Tripathi and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Mani Shankar Chandra constituted a joint team of police station



Bhilai Nagar and ACCU.

The team inspected the crime scene and on the basis of the cycle stand slip found in the pockets of the deceased, the body was identified as Sheikh Shahruckh (25) son of Sheikh Sameer, a resident of Diprapara, Durg. He worked at Indira Market Cycle Stand. When the team interrogated his friends, it was discovered that the deceased was last seen in front of Durg IDBI Bank Palsaipara on the evening of Feb 23. Police collected CCTV footage of nearby places and found the deceased sitting with an unknown person. The police team observed several CCTV footages to locate the unknown person. While examining the footage of Indira Market, police found that the unknown person had come on a Splendor motorcycle in search of Sheikh

Shahruckh. When he did not find Sheikh Shahruckh in Indira Market, he borrowed a mobile phone from some person in the market and spoke to Shahruckh. Despite having his own mobile phone, the accused borrowed a mobile to hide his presence and identity. He met Shahruckh near IDBI ATM in Palsaipara Durg and after having some conversation, they moved away on the bike. Three different teams of police were constituted to trace and arrest the unknown accused. The CCTV footage of the unknown accused was shown to the friends and family members of the deceased Sheikh Shahruckh after which the unknown person was identified as Akash Nandanwar (35) son of Anand Nandanwar, a resident of Jayanti Nagar Durg. The suspect

Akash Nandanwar was taken into custody from Jayanti Nagar Durg. Initially he expressed ignorance about the incident and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to killing Shahruckh. Akash Nandanwar admitted that he was acquainted with the deceased Sheikh Shahruckh for the last 10-15 years. Shahruckh often borrowed money from him. Earlier when Sheikh Shahruckh was arrested and detained in jail, he had taken a loan of Rs 1,50,000 from Akash for getting a bail and other legal works. As Shahruckh was not returning money, irked Akash decided to kill him. He chalked out a plan to kill Shahruckh and executed it on Feb 23. After his duty in Raipur Handloom Department, Akash switched off his mobile and came to Durg by train and reached Indira Market. When he did not find Shahruckh, he borrowed a mobile phone and contacted Shahruckh. Then he went to IDBI ATM in Palsaipara Durg from where as per the plan, he took Shahruckh with him to the liquor shop located in front of the battalion. They consumed liquor and spent about 02 hours

at the liquor shop. Between 10.30 and 11.30 pm, they moved towards the bushes to attend nature's call. At this lonely spot, the accused bludgeoned Shahruckh to death with a cement slab and stone. After committing the incident, the accused took the Samsung mobile of the deceased with himself and switched it off after removing the sim card. Bhilai Nagar Police Station has seized the clothes worn by the accused at the time of the incident, the mobile and SIM of the deceased and the motorcycle used in the incident. Inspector Rajkumar (SHO, Bhilai Nagar), ASI Purna Bahadur, Rajesh Pandey, Head Constable Prem Singh, Constable Anoop Sharma, Santosh Kumar, Panna Lal, Upendra Yadav, Shahbaz Khan, Jugnu Singh, Narendra Sahare, Anil Gupta, Shaikat Khan, Shiv Mishra, Israr Ahmed, Amit Verma, Khurshid Baksh Khurram, Head Constable Chandrashekhar Banjee, Constable Vikrant Yadu and Investigating Officer Sub Inspector Mannu Lal Yadav played a vital role in arresting the accused.

CA Rahul Batra becomes new chairman of Bhilai CA branch



Bhilai, Feb 25:

The swearing-in ceremony of the new executive of Bhilai CA branch took place on Sunday at CA Bhawan Civic Centre. CA Rahul Batra took oath as the new chairman of the branch. Along with him, CA Suraj Soni took oath as Vice President, CA Anshu Sinha as Secretary, CA Shivam Chaudhary as Treasurer, CA Payal Jain as CICASA Chairman and CA Pradeep Pal as executive member. During the program, outgoing Chairman CA Payal Jain handed over the charge to the new Chairman CA Rahul Batra. On this occasion,

the first president of Bhilai CA branch, JL Jain was mainly present. Along with the swearing-in ceremony, a seminar was organized by the branch regarding various provisions of Income Tax. Famous CA of Raipur RB Doshi was the main speaker. He gave information to the attendees about Section 43 (B) (H) of Income Tax which is about the provisions for payment to MSMEs. During this, CICASA Committee also took oath in which Soumitra Majumdar, Yash Chaudhary, Harman, Aditya Jain, Deeksha, Akanksha, Rishiraj, Deepak and Kshitij took oath of office.

Shaildevi Mahavidyalaya celebrates annual function

Bhilai, Feb 25:

A colourful annual festival was recently organized at Shaildevi College, Anda, Durg. The chief guest in the program was Rajan Kumar Dubey, President, Shaildevi College. Dr KN Mishra, Principal, Shaildevi College; Dr Rajni Rai, Joint Director, Shaildevi College; Dr Rashmi Pandey, Vice Principal, Shaildevi College were present as special guests. The programme commenced with lighting lamps and Chhattisgarh Rajya Geet. Principal delivered the welcome speech. The cultural programmes witnessed diversity as songs of different states, solo dance, duet dance and group dance were presented by the students. Along with this, the students presented drama related to morality. While presenting the annual report, the Principal said that the players represented the college at the national and international level. Manjusha Sahu from BCA 2nd year participated in the national level table tennis in Guwahati; a student of BA first year participated in national level boxing in Punjab, Rupendra from BA second year won silver medal in athletics district level Bilaspur; Giridhar from DELED participated in swimming inter college level, Devika from BCA partici-



pated in sector level in racing, Janvi Chandrakar from BSC participated in Thai boxing national level in Madhya Pradesh and won a gold medal. The players who performed excellently in the session 2022-23 were Dileeshwari Ojha who received swimming gold medal, Chintapurni participated in football Inter College, Priyanka Nirmalkar in Chess East Zone Inter College, Bhavana in Chess East Zone Inter College and Harsh Rajput in Kho-Kho. She wished a bright future for all the students who brought glory to the college while representing East Inter College. The Chief Guest in his address said that the college is moving towards new heights through its small efforts. He asked the students that to become proficient in all fields, they should participate in other activities along with studies, which will bring maximum development. After the cultural program, certificates and awards were distributed in relation to the annual, educational, sports

and other activities of the college. In the results of the annual examination session 2022-23 in Faculty of Arts, Kamini Nishad got first prize, second - Lomesh Sahu, third - Parvati Yadav. In BCom: First - Shalini Pandey, second - Vinay Kumar; third - Thaleshwari. In MCom final year: first - Anumati, second - Meenakshi Sahu, third - Nisha. In BSc final year: Kundan Yadav got first position, second - Kiran Sahu, third - Priyanka Nirmalkar. Kundan Yadav got tenth position in the list of Hemchand Yadav University. In final year of faculty of Social Work: first - Geetanjali, second - Pooja Chandrakar, third - Rajarajeshwari. Geetanjali and Pooja Chandrakar got fifth and sixth position respectively in the merit list of Hemchand Yadav University. In Faculty of Yoga and Philosophy: first - Jyoti Dewangan, second - Tanu Chandrakar and third - Jai Shri Sonwani. In Computer Faculty DCA: first - Shreya Chandrakar, second

BMC conducts anti-encroachment drive at Sunday Market



Bhilai, Feb 25:

A joint team of Bhilai Municipal Corporation and Durg Police, on Sunday, conducted an anti encroachment drive in Supela Sunday Market and collected a fine of Rs 5000 from eight shopkeepers who had placed saleable goods on the roadsides. Traffic police confiscated the parked vehicles that obstructed the traffic movement. In order to ensure smooth traffic flow on the road connecting Supela Square to Gada Square, a campaign against the roadside vendors and traders was conducted on Sunday. The joint team had removed the encroachments of many shopkeepers last month. After receiving information that some shopkeepers have again encroached the roads, Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv directed Zone 1 Commissioner to take immediate action and properly organize the market. Zone

Commissioner Khirodra Bhoi and his team of officers and employees and the cops reached Supela Sunday market once again and conducted inspection from Ghadi Chowk to Gada Chowk. They took action against five traders for setting up fruit stalls on the road and three grocery shopkeepers who had spread goods outside their shops. They imposed a fine of Rs 5000 on each of them. The traffic police seized 10 motorcycles which were parked haphazardly on the road. The bikes were seized and confiscated. The BMC team moved across the entire market and confiscated tables, chairs, mannequins, boards etc which were placed outside the shops. Assistant Revenue Officer Dheeraj Sahu, Deputy Engineer Shweta Maheshwar, Sunil Nemade, Ward Incharge Yatram Chandrakar, Iman Singh Kannauje, Rajesh Gupta, Nandkumar Sinha, Omprakash Chandrakar and officers and personnel of Supela Police Station were present.

Be the Facilitator & Challenge your Team to find Solutions; Results will Follow

Former CGM Ajay Bedi shares his experiences & insights

Bhilai, Feb 25:

Ajay Bedi who retired from SAIL-BSP towards the end of 2022 as Chief General Manager of Merchant Mill & Wire Rod Mill Services shares his experiences and talks about challenges faced and how decisions and actions he took along with his team impacted the organisation. "I worked for a total of 37 years in BSP. I joined in 1985 and was posted at Blooming & Billet Mill where I spent 26 years. Thereafter, I worked for brief periods in Rail & Structural Mill and ED (Works) Sectt. This was followed by a longer stint in L&A and finally I retired as CGM (Merchant Mill & Wire Rod Mill) in Nov 2022."

Challenges & Their Solutions: The challenges in all the areas were unique in their own way! When I joined BBM in 1985, there was no shortage of manpower. We were 26 executives in Mechanical Maintenance in BBM in 1990 but when I left BBM in 2010, we were only 12 executives and production had improved dramatically. Moving to Non-Works area and working in L&A was a totally different ball game - the working and the challenges were completely different from Works area. Deployment of cars to Offices of HODs and visiting guests from the Casual Vehicle Contract was a nightmare! Taking care of guests at Bhilai Niwas and catering to their needs was no less challenging because there was no catering contract and the Reception and Housekeeping jobs were



being done by BSP employees. Some of these employees were Plant employees deployed to Bhilai Niwas on Medical unfit grounds. Some catering arrangements had been done with help of Base Kitchen but it was only a stop gap arrangement with lots of anguish to the visiting guests. Thereafter, we explored many possi-

bilities and floated expression of interest. Many vendors participated. We gathered different views and came to the conclusion that good vendors are not interested due to the sprawling 24 acre property at Bhilai Niwas. We then studied the models followed at other PSUs. We found that NTPC, NMDC etc had deployed Indian Coffee House to manage their guest houses. Two Committees were subsequently formed. One Lower Committee was formed to study the situation and give recommendations. A Higher Committee consisting of 3 EDs was formed to examine the recommendations of the Lower Committee and make the final recommendation. Both the committees recommended that M/s. ICWCS Ltd. (Indian Coffee House) be given all

three related jobs at Bhilai Niwas - Catering, Front Desk and Housekeeping on Single Tender basis. With management approval, the contract for day-to-day running of Bhilai Niwas was awarded to Indian Coffee House. Even today, I feel that there was no better solution and the outcome is that the visiting guests and local citizens are happy with the arrangement. One SAIL Chairman who visited Bhilai after introduction of Coffee House services commented during his visit that the stay and arrangements at Bhilai Niwas was his best experience at Bhilai! Similarly, we found that many progressive organisations were leasing vehicles instead of buying or contracting. We went for this model and I take the credit for introducing the lease culture at BSP. The

result is that all users are happy with the condition of vehicle which was not so with contract vehicles. **Merchant Mill Challenge During Covid Times:** During Covid, it was decided to stop Blooming & Billet Mill. This was a challenge to Merchant Mill because the input section of Billets from BBM was 95X95 mm and 100X100 mm depending on the profile. But the input section from SMS 3 was only as 105X105 mm. To overcome this challenge, the collective of Merchant Mill modified the reheating furnaces and with help of RTS, modified the passes for rolling. **Keep Moving If You Can** - I wish to say that people should be willing to move to other departments to have better experience. As is said "a roving

bee gathers more honey." **Some More Initiatives Taken** - As I mentioned earlier the collective of M/Mill took the initiative to adapt to rolling with SMS#3 billets without any external help of MECON/CET and modified their rolling regimes. Similarly, the collective of WRM went for rolling high carbon grades to capture new market when the rolling of rimming grades was stopped due to closure of BBM. **My Role** - I looked upon my role as 'only being a facilitator' where my team used to accept the challenges. **Key To Improve Performances** : The workforce has to be given challenging assignments and their morale has to be regularly gauged and boosted as necessary to achieve the targets. **Work Life Balance:**

The working in a steel plant is tough with long work hours, being available on call for 24 hours, taking reports in all three shifts and the need to be in touch always at the back of your mind, even on Sundays. It amazes me how other organizations manage with five day - weeks, with Tata Steel also implementing it. As for myself, I must say, I could strike a good enough work life balance. **Born In Bhilai, Staying On In Bhilai** : I was born in Bhilai. Many would perhaps not know that before JLN Hospital & RC, Sector 9 came into existence, the hospital facility was at 32 Bungalows. I studied in BSP's Sector 3 and Sector 5 primary schools and then in Sr Secondary School, Sector 10 schools. I purchased the house on lease in 2003 and where else would I go!

Celebrating Yugacharya Swami Pranavanand Maharaj's legacy

Special program marks 129th birth anniversary of renowned spiritual leader

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: In a grand celebration coinciding with Maghi Purnima, on February 24, the 129th birth anniversary of Yugacharya Shrimat Swami Pranavanand Ji Maharaj, the esteemed founder of Bharat Sevashram Sangh, was commemorated with fervour and reverence.

The serene premises of BSS Pranavanand Academy, nestled on V.I.P Road, witnessed a special program featuring the Shanti Mahayagya Havan, honoring the profound teachings and legacy of Shrimat Pranavanand Ji Maharaj.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of



Dr. Anil, the provincial coordinator of Chhattisgarh's environment protection activities,

as the chief guest. Notable speakers included School Secretary Shrimat Swami Shivrupanand Ji Maharaj,

along with Swami Sureshanand Ji Maharaj and Swami Pananand Ji Maharaj.

A diverse audience comprising of Dharendra Mishra, N.R. Naidu, Gurudev Tuteja, parents, monks, devotees, and members of the school community, gathered in large numbers to pay homage to the revered spiritual leader.

Adding melodious notes to the ambiance, the "Sunaharee Yaaden" team, led by Ranjit Bose, presented enchanting bhajans, filling the air with divine resonance.

The program culminated with the uplifting rituals of Maha Aarti, followed by the distribution of Bhogprasad and clothes, symbolizing the essence of generosity and communal harmony.

Mainpat Mahotsav 2024: CM felicitates cycle race winners

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai felicitated the winners of the cycle race competition on the occasion of Mainpat Mahotsav on Friday by giving them citation and cheque of prize money. A cycle race competition was organized by the district administration on Thursday on the occasion of Mainpat Mahotsav 2024.

In the men's category in the cycle race competition, Bilaspur resident Divyanshu Singh got first place, Raigarh resident Udit Narayan Pradhan got second place, Raigarh resident Atul Pradhan got third place.

In the women's category, Jashpur resident Elizabeth Beck got first position, Katghora resident Anusuiya got second position



Divyanshu got first position in men's category and Elizabeth in women's category.

and Manik prakashpur resident Priyanka Minj got third position.

On behalf of the district administration, Surguja, the winning female and male participants of the cycle race are given Rs 21,000 separately to the first place female and male

players, Rs 11,000 to the winner of 2nd position female and male players and Rs 5,100 to the third winner female and male players respectively.

Apart from this a separate cash prize of Rs. 1100 and a consolation prize was also given.

C4 appreciates Govt & Maoists' willingness for talks

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: The Concerned Citizen's Committee of Chhattisgarh (C4) has expressed profound gratitude towards both the Chhattisgarh government and the Communist Party of India (Maoist) for their willingness to engage in unconditional talks aimed at resolving the longstanding Naxal problem.

Amidst the backdrop of persistent violence plaguing Chhattisgarh, particularly affecting the tribal communities, this step towards dialogue is hailed as a commendable stride towards lasting peace in the region.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, there is an urgent call to foster an environment conducive to constructive dialogue between the Naxalites and the government.

One proposed measure is the release of innocent prisoners, a step that holds the potential to kickstart the peace process.

Furthermore, the Concerned Citizens Committee urges both parties to uphold a ceasefire for a minimum of three months, during which discussions on negotiation methods and detailed solutions can commence. It is

imperative that during this period, actions leading to loss of life are halted, and avenues for dialogue are explored.

The appeal extends to the Maoists as well, urging them to refrain from acts of violence and intimidation, ensuring unhindered access to essential public services for the welfare of the populace.

In a bid to address the longstanding grievances, both parties are urged to take gradual yet resolute steps towards reconciliation. This includes the dignified rehabilitation of affected families, a responsibility that the government

must shoulder with earnestness.

The plea for dialogue is underscored by the democratic protests staged by the Maoists, emphasizing the need for earnest engagement from the government's side. As the Home Minister expresses a desire to engage with the youth affiliated with the Maoist party, avenues for dialogue seem promising.

As a gesture towards peace, the government is implored to suspend the establishment of new police camps temporarily, fostering an atmosphere conducive to fruitful negotiations.

Hindi seminar organised by Punjab National Bank

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office Raipur under the chairmanship of V Srinivas Rao, Zonal Manager, Punjab National Bank, Zonal Office, Raipur and Manoj Kumar Rai, Divisional Head, Divisional Office Raipur City organised a Hindi seminar on February 23 under the auspices of Official Language Implementation Committee Bank.

Ajay Dwivedi, Chief Manager, Zonal Audit Office, Raipur and Dr. Mayura Srivastava, Chief Manager, Branch Office, Telibandha were present as key speakers in the seminar. The topic of the Hindi seminar was "Role



and contribution of Hindi and regional languages in the business development of banking/financial institutions".

Ajay Dwivedi said in his statement that to increase business in banking, we have to explain to the customer and the customer can be explained well only when we communicate in his regional language. He said that we will be able to connect with customers only if we explain banking

to them in their language.

On this occasion, Dr. Mayura Srivastava said that if we converse in Chhattisgarhi in Raipur city or explain anything to the customers in normal Hindi, only then our reach to the customers will increase. Circle Manager V Srinivas, while addressing all the official language officers participating in the Hindi seminar, said that the official language Hindi has great impor-

ance in expanding the banking business.

By communicating with a person in his own language, we can expand our business further. All the senior officers of Punjab National Bank Zonal Office and Divisional Office were present in the Hindi seminar. At the end of the seminar, a Hindi competition was also organized for the official language officers of all the banks.

CM Sai upholds the tradition of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'

CM's hospitality: meeting distant guests before heading to Telangana

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: The tradition of "Atithi Devo Bhava" was beautifully exemplified today as Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai warmly welcomed people from Duldula to his residence. Despite his busy schedule, the Chief Minister made time to meet them, showing his deep respect for their presence.

Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai had returned from his trip to Delhi early in the morning and had to leave for a trip to Telangana State after a brief rest of 40 minutes. Meanwhile, he was informed that some villagers from the Duldula area of Jashpur district were waiting to meet him outside the residence gate the Chief Minister knows that this



area is far from the capital, and everyone has to travel a long distance to reach here.

The Chief Minister must have felt the sentiment of "Atithi Devo Bhava" and he immediately invited everyone inside for a meeting. Despite his busy schedule, the Chief Minister's eagerness to meet his people made this occasion even more special.

All the villagers who came from Duldula in

Jashpur district wished the Chief Minister on his birthday and expressed their gratitude. Former Chairman of the Youth Commission, Shri Kamal Chandra Bhanjdeo, was also present in the meeting.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai thanked all the villagers who came to wish him on his birthday. He said, "When you all come, it feels like a family member has come. I'm always thankful for your endless love and support. Your

care gives me strength to stay committed to my duties. I'll keep working hard to make our state better." He promised to meet with the villagers again soon.

The villagers from Duldula shared their experiences, saying Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai has always been easy to talk to, friendly, and caring. They never felt shy speaking their minds in front of him.

Meeting him has never been a problem, and even

after becoming the Chief Minister, he greeted them warmly, asking about their well-being and promising to meet them soon. They explained how they eagerly waited at the entrance gate to meet him.

When they heard he was leaving as per his schedule, they worried they might miss the opportunity. But they were quickly told he wanted to see them. They were happy to meet him and appreciated his consistent warmth and kindness.

They mentioned they came to wish him on his birthday. Ganesh Mishra, Lakhan Ram, Shri Neelambar Ram, Jagadish Singh, Ranjit Singh, Devnarayan Singh, Pantu Ram, Prem Kumar Yadav, Bhagirathi Singh, Shiv Kumar Ram, and other villagers were also there at the event.

Valedictory session takes place successfully

- Of 3-day International Conference at SRU
- More than 100 delegates presented research papers through online and offline medium

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 25: Under the aegis of Inter-University Center for Yogic Sciences (IUC-YS) Bengaluru, the three-day international conference on "Yoga Venture: Embarking the journey of Body, Mind and Soul" organized by the Department of Yoga, Faculty of Arts. In this three-day conference more than 250 delegates were registered to join the conference in which more than 100 delegates were present their research papers. Souvenir also released that was based on the theme of the conference in which all research papers were included.

In the valedictory session of the conference the chief guest Prof.



Rajesh Singh, senior professor at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) U.P. and the guest of honor Prof. Bharat Kumar Tiwari from Yoga Department of RDVV Jabalpur (M.P) share their views in the conference in which both of them elaborate the importance of Yoga in the human life. By addressing the session, the Vice-chancellor of the SRU Prof. S.K Singh congratulate the awardees and gave the warm welcome of the guests of the session and said that the conference organized at international level for the students with an objective that the students involve their selves to enhance the great opportunities in their particular fields. The technical session of the international conference also ad-

dressd from U.S.A, Indonesia, South America. Total four technical sessions held including two offline sessions and two online sessions were scheduled in which delegates present their paper. The keynote speaker of the fourth technical session was Prof. Om Narayan Tiwari, Dean Faculty of Yoga (University of Patanjali, Haridwar) and the session was chaired by the Prof. Rajesh Singh. Best Paper Presentation and Best Manuscript Awards presented by the chief guest to total 16 delegates for their best presentation through offline and online mode based on their own sub titles. At the end, delegates of the conference also share their experiences of the three-day International Conference.

'Let's Collab Chhattisgarh' creators meet up program held

- ◆ Witnesses the enthusiasm of the content creator
- ◆ Creator Meet-Up was focused on good governance through social media

Ayyaz Fakirbhai Tamboli inaugurated the event.

More than 270 influential social media content creators participated in the event. The Public Relations Department honoured the outstanding content creators in various categories for their contributions.

Addressing the program, Public Relations Officer Shri Mayank Srivastava stated, "The objective of this meet-up is to build a bridge, especially among creative individuals.

We have organised the creator meet-up because you people also have ideas and solutions. You also understand how to connect with people in areas



where the government typically struggles to reach, as well as how

swiftly we can reach them. In the meet-up, the

importance of social media in establishing good governance, the

expectations of the youth from the new government, and opinions on the promotion of state government schemes through social media were discussed. In the program, IAS Dr. Ayyaz Fakirbhai Tamboli discussed the role of social media.

Awareness is Prevention

In the program, IPS Smt. Ankita Sharma shared that everyone should be cautious against fake websites and profiles. She urged people not to panic if faced with fraud, blackmail, or any other issue and to contact the police immediately. She advised victims of fraud to promptly report their problems to the toll-free number op-

erated by the Indian government.

She advised people to keep mobile phones and apps locked to prevent theft of personal information, images, or data. IPS Shri Santosh Singh and ASP Shri Pitambar Patel also spoke at the event.

A panel discussion was held during the program, attended primarily by Adarsh Mishra, Heen Sheikh, Kriti Sharma, Minendra Chandrakar, and Ravindra Singh. Content creators honoured in various categories for the Creator of the Year award

Abhinav Bhoomkar was honoured with the Fashion & Lifestyle category. Vedanshi Neetish Banjari as the

Recipe Curator (Food Blogger), Bhoj Raj as a Food Blogger, Manas Patnaik for Education, Rahul Devangan for Tourism, Geetesh Deshmukh for Infotainment, Pramod Sahu for Art & DIYs, Ravi Sahu for Culture, Pushkar Sahu, Tushar Solanki as the Rising Music Star, Sushri Renuka Singh as Emerging Story Tellers, Himanshu Yadav as Solo Influencer (Male), Sushri Kajal Srivastava as Solo Influencer (Female), Amlesh Nagesh for Entertainment, and Sushri Aru Sahu for Entertainment (Music), all recognized with the Creator of the Year award.

Administration's indifference seen in PM's live program in Arjuni

More than half the chairs remained empty

Arjuni, Feb 25:

The village of Arjuni in Dongargaon district bore witness to a momentous occasion on Saturday, February 24th, as part of the Viksit Bharat, Viksit Chhattisgarh initiative. Prime Minister Narendra Modi graced the virtual inauguration program, marking the commencement of a solar plant from Dongargaon to Dongargarh. Amidst the enthusiasm and hope of progress, the program also featured a public dialogue, wherein the Prime Minister outlined his commitment to elevate the status of every Indian globally.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi underscored various government schemes aimed at enhancing the lives of citizens, including initiatives pertaining to housing, ration distribution, healthcare, sanitation, and



women empowerment. Particularly highlighting the Mahtari Vandan Yojana in Chhattisgarh, he extended his congratulations to the women beneficiaries.

Prior to the Prime Minister's address, MP Santosh Pandey shared his insights, emphasizing the significance of the newly inaugurated solar park, which stands as a testament to progress and pride for Rajnandgaon. He further elaborated on forthcoming developments, including the introduction of Amrit stations and the Hyderabad Expressway, which are poised to transform the region.

Due to the administration's lack of initiative, this significant program was not adequately publicized, and information was not effectively disseminated by the BJP leaders, resulting in limited awareness among the general public about the government's ambitious initiative. Despite directives for Panchayats to mobilize attendees, a substantial portion of chairs remained vacant until noon. Consequently, the CEO, along with other officers including the SDM and Tehsildar, had to exert considerable effort to engage common citizens and fill half of the seats in the program.

Former CM Baghel's pamphlets distributed in PM's program

Amidst the bustling dialogue and inauguration program in Arjuni village of Dongargaon district, various departments set up stalls to disseminate information to attendees. Notably, the Chhattisgarh State Renewable Energy Agency actively engaged the public by distributing pamphlets and booklets detailing government schemes. However, some media personnel raised concerns upon noticing the inclusion of former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's photo in these materials. Prompted by their complaint, Collector Sanjay Agarwal intervened, halting the distribution of the pamphlets. Despite the oversight, the incident underscores the need for vigilance in such events, where department officials and public representatives were present but failed to notice the discrepancy.

District level program of Viksit Bharat, Viksit Chhattisgarh organized

MLA Deepesh Sahu attended as the chief guest

Bemetara, Feb 25:

In a significant stride towards progress, a district-level program of Viksit Bharat, Viksit Chhattisgarh was organized today, marked by the presence of MLA Deepesh Sahu as the chief guest. The event, held at the agricultural produce market, witnessed the virtual inauguration and foundation laying ceremony of ten projects worth a staggering Rs. 34,427 crore by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demonstrating a commitment to bolstering infrastructure and fostering development in the region.

Among the notable projects initiated was the construction of the Bilaspur-Uslapur flyover spanning 10.5 km, a venture aimed at enhancing connectivity and easing transportation woes, with an investment of Rs. 303 crore. This event, held under the aus-



pices of Viksit Bharat Viksit Chhattisgarh, showcased the government's dedication to advancing economic growth across all six assembly constituencies of the district.

Addressing the gathering remotely, Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated a vision of a developed Chhattisgarh, emphasizing the importance of empowering marginalized sections such as the poor, farmers, youth, and women. He underscored the significance of modern infrastructure in realizing this vision and announced the inauguration and foundation laying of projects totaling Rs. 35 thousand crore, spanning

various sectors including coal, solar energy, and connectivity. These endeavors are poised to catalyze economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and bolster educational and healthcare facilities, thereby fostering inclusive development.

Chief Minister Vishnu Ddo Sai, addressing the program from Raipur, echoed the Prime Minister's sentiments, reaffirming the government's unwavering commitment to the state's progress and prosperity.

MLA Deepesh Sahu, in his address, hailed the transformative impact of the Modi government's initiatives over the past

decade, emphasizing the strides made in areas such as cleanliness, financial inclusion, and women's empowerment. He highlighted the tangible benefits accrued by citizens through flagship schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Ujjwala Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat, underscoring the government's proactive efforts in improving livelihoods and enhancing living standards.

Moreover, MLA Deepesh Sahu personally honored beneficiaries of various government schemes, symbolizing the administration's dedication to inclusive development and welfare.

Farmers and Rice Millers rejoice as govt slashes mandi fees

Farmer Welfare Fee eliminated, bringing relief to agricultural sector

Kurud, Feb 25:

In a move that has sparked jubilation among farmers and rice millers across Chhattisgarh, the state government has announced a significant reduction in mandi fees, dropping it back to two percent. The decision, made through a private resolution passed in the Chhattisgarh Assembly, also marks the abolition of the Farmer Welfare Fee previously imposed by the government, reinstating smiles on the faces of those in the agricultural sector.

The resolution, spearheaded by MLA Ajay Chandrakar and supported



by extensive deliberation in the Assembly, has garnered widespread acclaim. Praising Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam, and MLA Ajay Chandrakar for their foresight and dedication, stakeholders including rice millers, farmers, grain traders, and merchants have expressed gratitude for the government's proactive steps towards easing financial burdens.

The decision to revert the agricultural produce market fee to two percent while eliminating the Farmer

Welfare Fund fee has been met with resounding approval from rice millers statewide. Hitendra Kela, President of the Kurud Rice Mill Association, lauded the government's action, highlighting the dire circumstances faced by the rice mill industry in recent years and urging continued support for its revitalization.

Echoing Kela's sentiments, young rice miller Manish Agarwal emphasized the long-standing nature of the demand and commended the government's responsiveness to the plight of farmers and millers. He expressed appreciation for MLA Ajay Chandrakar's advocacy in the Assembly, which culminated in the passing of the resolution, effectively easing financial strains on the agricultural community.

'Nyota Bhojan' program launched for Govt school students



Kharora, Feb 25:

In a commendable move aimed at promoting nutritional well-being among students, the School Education Department of the Chhattisgarh Government has initiated the 'Nyota Bhojan' program. Under the directive issued on February 22, all students of the government Primary School and Upper Primary School in Budera were beneficiaries of this initiative.

The program was inaugurated with enthusiasm, with Deputy Sarpanch of the village, Yogesh Kumar

Sahu, leading the way by serving sweets to the eager students. The entire school staff graced the occasion with their presence, underscoring the collective commitment to the welfare of the students.

Mahendra Kumar Sahu, the in-charge Principal, extended heartfelt appreciation to Deputy Sarpanch Yogesh Kumar Sahu for his support. Looking ahead, Monday through Friday, five esteemed individuals from the village will distribute Kheer, Puri, sweets, fruits, and seed sprouts to the students of the school.

CTA submits memorandum to Chief Minister

Raigarh, Feb 25:

In a proactive step towards enhancing the educational landscape of Chhattisgarh, the District delegation of the Chhattisgarh Teachers Association in Raigarh, led by prominent figures including Sapna Dubey, State Joint Secretary, Binesh Bhagat, State Organization Joint Secretary, Netram Sahu, District President, and Nohar Singh Sidar, District Secretary, alongside Babulal Sahu, District Organization Minister, presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister via Collector Raigarh.

The memorandum, representing the collective voice of educators across the state, underscores a series of crucial demands aimed at fostering teacher welfare and improving ed-



ucational standards. Chief among these demands is the call for recalculating the service tenure of LB cadre teachers from their initial appointment date, ensuring equitable access to upgraded pay scales or time-scale pay scales for non-promoted teachers, and implementing time-bound promotions for key administrative positions such as Principal, Lecturer, Head Reader, and Teacher.

Furthermore, the association advocates for facilitating compassionate appointments by relaxing the exist-

ing 10% restriction, maintaining the deduction amount of the Chhattisgarh General Provident Fund (CG GFP), providing annual account slips for transparency, and extending honorariums to kindergarten teachers and physical education instructors. Additionally, the memorandum highlights the necessity of incorporating physical education as a subject and permitting examinations for higher qualifications, thereby empowering educators to continually enhance their expertise.

Lecture on sexual harassment of women at workplace Prevention Prohibition Act 2013



In BCS Government Post Graduate College

Dhamtari, Feb 25:

Under the direction of Dr. Sridevi Choubey, Principal of BCS Government Post Graduate College and Head of Department of Law Durgesh Prasad, Dr. Sapna Tamrakar, Pankaj Jain, Komal Prasad Yadav, Premnath Bharti, Gayatri Lahare, Sarla Vidvedi, Rajesh Chaurasia and Seema

Sahu a lecture series was conducted. Under the guidance, on the tenth day of the Value Added Course, the resource person of the first session, Dr. Bhupendra Karwande, discussed about the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace, Prevention and Redressal Act 2013, the Constitution of India 1950, the Indian Penal Code 1860, history of the law against sexual harassment at the workplace.

Collector inspects incomplete PM Awas Yojna residences

Korba, Feb 25:

District Collector Ajit Vasant here inspected the incomplete Prime Minister's residences in village Hunkara and Salora under development block Katghora. He discussed with the beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojna beneficiaries and asked for the early completion of the under construction house. While giving instructions regarding tap water and toilets in the PM's residence, the Collector also asked to pay attention to the quality during the construction of the house. The Collector also inspected the Community Health Center Katghora, and wards including OPD, labor room. The Collector also discussed regarding



the commercial complex under construction under Jeevandeep Committee. While inspecting the Nutrition Rehabilitation Center operated in the

Katghora Community Health Center premises, the Collector gave instructions to increase the low number of children. District Panchayat CEO

Sambit Mishra, District Panchayat Katghora CEO Yashpal Singh, BMO Rudra Pratap Singh Kanwar etc. were present during the inspection.

Invitation lunch organized under 'Pradhan Shakti Nirman Yojana'

Anwari, Feb 25:

Under the Pradhan Shakti Nirman Yojana, Sarpanch Puneshwar Sahu and his members started the invitation food cum lunch program by providing a packet of biscuit and banana to each child as supplementary nutritional food under the invitation food program in Government Secondary School, Anwari. Under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana, children are to be given nutritional supplements in every government school, which will help in developing a sense of belonging among the community and will be provided under PM Nutrition, asthis will help in increasing the complementary value of the nutritious food served and help in developing mutual coordination between the school and the local com-



munity. Sarpanch Puneshwar Ram Sahu, Dilip Chandel Panch, Gaidlal Patela President School Development Committee, Bhekhu Ram Gramin, Bhuvan Prasad Joshi Principal, Dilip Kumar Kurre Teacher, Laxmikant Sahu Teacher, Saurabh Patel Teacher and all the students were present in this program.

Truck overturns at Pandaripani turn

No fatalities reported

Jagdulpur, Feb 25:

A truck carrying wood overturned at the notorious Pandaripani turn on National Highway 63, under the jurisdiction of Parpa police station, around 1 am on Friday night. Despite the area's infamous reputation for serious accidents, the truck driver miraculously emerged unharmed, with only the helper sustaining a minor hand injury, currently receiving treatment at the medical college.

According to the driver's account, the incident occurred as he was en route to Keshalur. A malfunction in the iron ring securing the wood caused the truck to veer out of control, leading to its overturning at



the treacherous turn. The Pandaripani turn has long been associated with numerous tragic accidents over the years, earning itself a grim reputation. In recent incidents, a car carrying local youths collided with a tree, resulting in three fatalities and one injury. Additionally, a motorcyclist lost control at the same bend, tragically succumbing to the fall. Furthermore, a speeding vehicle collided with a doctor couple riding

a scooter, causing injuries. During a society rally, a pickup overturned, leaving over two dozen individuals injured. Another reckless truck driver overturned his vehicle, striking a motorcyclist in the process, resulting in a fatal outcome. Authorities are urged to take further measures to enhance safety at the Pandaripani turn to prevent future accidents and ensure the well-being of commuters.

4 Naxalites arrested with election boycott pamphlets in Bijapur

Another 2 naxalites arrested with iron spike and Naxal material in Dantewada

Jagdulpur, Feb 25:

In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing campaign against Naxalism, law enforcement authorities have apprehended individuals involved in subversive activities in Bijapur and Dantewada districts.

In Bijapur, as part of the concerted efforts to curb Naxal influence, a joint operation conducted by security forces led to the arrest of four Naxalites in the vicinity of Pondavaya hill water point. The arrested individuals, identified as



Mudami, Faguram Gutta Udde, all residents of Kutru police station in

Pondavaya, were found in possession of election boycott pamphlets, leaflets, firecrackers, and batteries. According to police sources, the apprehended Naxalites were actively involved in tasks such as collecting levies for Naxal groups, organizing village meetings, and procuring supplies for them. Legal action has been initiated against them under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act 2005, with the suspects presented before the Bijapur court for judicial proceedings.

Meanwhile, in Dantewada district, intelligence gathered by informants and the CRPF 231st Corps led to the arrest of two Naxalites in the Medpal forest area near

Medpal Chowk village. The arrested individuals, identified as militia members Madvi Joga and Madvi Hadma, were apprehended by Aranpur police station personnel. Upon their arrest, law enforcement authorities recovered iron spikes, Naxalite literature, banners, posters, and pamphlets from their possession. Both suspects have been charged under relevant sections of the law and remanded into judicial custody following legal procedures. The successful operation underscores the collaborative efforts between the Aranpur police station and the CRPF 231st Corps Intelligence Branch in combating Naxal activities in the region.

'Entire strength of the Cong used to take one family forward'

Devhumi Dwarka, Feb 25 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the opposition Congress, saying its entire strength was used to ensure the progress of just one family.

All kinds of scams used to take place under the Congress regime, Modi said, adding that his government stopped all those things in the last 10 years.

The Congress lacked the will and intention to provide amenities to people, he said. The PM was speaking after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for various projects in Dwarka, including India's longest cable-stayed bridge between Okha and Beyt Dwarka here in Gujarat.



PM Modi speaks during foundation stone laying and dedication to the nation various projects, in Dwarka, Gujarat, Sunday.

long time did not have the will power, intention and dedication to provide amenities to the common people," Modi said. "The entire strength of the Congress has been used to take one family forward. If everything was to be done only for one family then how would one remember to build the coun-

try? Its (Congress) entire energy was focused on how to run the government for five years and how to hide scams," Modi said. The Congress could make India's economy only the 11th largest because the party did not have the capacity to fulfil big dreams of the people of a vast nation, Modi said. His government's commitment to put an end to all scams has resulted in the country's progress and the creation of grand infrastructure like the longest cable-stayed bridge connecting Beyt Okha and mainland Okha, the PM pointed out.

"Sudarshan Setu" boasts of a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides.

MP Ritesh Pandey quits party, joins BJP



Lok Sabha MP from Ambedkar Nagar Ritesh Pandey being greeted by UP CM Brajesh Pathak as he joins the BJP, in New Delhi, Sunday.

Lucknow/New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Ahead of the upcoming general elections, BSP Lok Sabha MP from Ambedkar Nagar Ritesh Pandey on Sunday resigned from the party's primary membership and joined the BJP in New Delhi. In his resignation letter addressed to BSP president Mayawati, Pandey said he has come to

the conclusion that the party does not need his service as neither has he been called for meetings for a long time nor has the party leadership spoken to him.

He shared his resignation letter on X.

"For a long time, neither am I being called to attend party meetings nor has the party leadership spoken to me. I made numerous efforts to get in touch with and meet you (Mayawati) and the top leadership of the party but it did not yield any result," Pandey said in his letter. "During this time, I continuously met workers and supporters of other parties in my area and was also involved in various works going on in the constituency. Hence, I have come to the conclusion that the party does not need my service and presence," he said.

TMC announces Brigade rally in Kolkata

On March 10

Kolkata, Feb 25 (PTI):

In the wake of mounting attacks from the BJP and other opposition parties on the Sandeshkhali issue, West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Sunday announced a mega rally at the iconic Brigade Parade Ground here on March 10 to protest al-

leged discrimination by the central government against the state's social welfare projects.

The rally is scheduled to be addressed by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, party sources said.

Announcing it on X, Abhishek Banerjee said the rally titled 'Jana Garjan Sabha' (roar of the masses) will also take

a vow to throw out the "outside tormentors" from Bengal, a veiled reference to the BJP and its national leaders who have been visiting the state on various issues. The decision to stage the mega rally comes amid ongoing protests in Sandeshkhali by rural women alleging atrocities by local TMC leaders affiliated with absconding party strongman Sheikh Shahjahan.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED logo and address information.

NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Under Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Table with columns: Sl. No., Loan No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the all that Apartment/Family unit bearing No. 205-A, in Second Floor of Marigold Block-A admeasuring 1125 Sq. ft. in the building known as Avanti Garden, Dal Dal Seoni Village, Mowla Road, Raipur, Chattisgarh situated at P.No.109, Khasra No.562/4-5, 563/2, 564/2, 565/1-3, 567/1-2, 6-8-9, 569/1-2 & Khasra No.570 of Rakba No. 73125 Sq.Ft. Ward No.26, Khushabou Thakrey Ward, Tehsil & Dist- Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Bounded:- East- Open Space, West- Main Passage, North- Open Space, South- Flat No. 206/A.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Loan No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the All that apartment/family unit (PEARL) bearing no. 304 in Third Floor admeasuring BUILTUP AREA 845.25 sq. ft. i.e. 78.55 Sq. Meter, Balcony projection utility area 343.05 Sq. Ft. Total Area 1188.30 Sq. Ft. common area stair, lift & Lobby 96.70 Sq. Ft. in the building known as "GREEN-MEADOWS" Avani Vihar, Raipur (C.G.). The saleable Flat is constructed on R.C.C. Foundation, R.C.C. Coloum & R.C.C. slab & Dana Tiles with Marble. An undivided proportionate share in all that piece of land comprised in Khasra No. 498/20, 497/17, 498/1 and 498/23 of village Dal Dal Seoni covered by "GREEN MEADOWS" in Khasra Bhau Thakre Ward 26, P.No. 109, Raipur, Chattisgarh. Bounded:- East - Common Area/Lift/Flat No. 301 Pearl, West - Open Area/Road/Garden, North - Open Area/Road, South - Flat No. 303 Pearl.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Loan No., Name of Borrower(s), Amount as per Demand Notice, Reserve Price, Earnest Money, Type of possession.

Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being land along with house built thereon, Kh. No.174/13, Area 0.115 Hect., Situated at Tatibandh, Raipur, P.C.No.103, RIC Raipur-1, Tahsil & District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

At the Auction, the public generally is invited to submit their bid(s) personally. The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower (s) are hereby given last chance to pay the total dues with further interest within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the Immovable Property will be sold as per schedule. The E auction will be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, with interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the Authorised Officer or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid before the date of the auction. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the Immovable Property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and to the following further conditions:

Note:- The E-auction of the properties will take place through portal http://bankauctions.in/ on 27-03-2024 between 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with limited extension of 10 minutes each.

Terms and Condition: 1. The particulars specified in the Schedule herein below have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount bid, or as to the bidder, the Immovable Property shall at once again be put up to auction subject to the discretion of the Authorised Officer. 2. The Immovable Property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price. 3. Bid Increment Amount will be: Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). 4. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be accompanied by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft favoring the "TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD." Payable at Branch address. The Demand Drafts will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after auction. For payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS/IMPS, kindly contact Authorised Officer. 5. The highest bidder shall be declared as successful bidder provided always that he/she is legally qualified to bid and provided further that the bid amount is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so. 6. For reasons recorded, it shall be in the discretion of the Authorised Officer to adjourn/discontinue the sale. 7. Inspection of the Immovable Property can be done on 19-03-2024 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM, with prior appointment. 8. The person declared as a successful bidder shall, immediately after such declaration, deposit twenty-five per cent of the amount of purchase money/bid which would include EMD amount to the Authorised Officer within 24hrs and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. 9. In case the initial deposit is made as above, the balance amount of the purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Authorised Officer on or before the 15th day from the date of confirmation of the sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day is a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day. 10. In the event of default of any payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be put to fresh auction/Sale by private treaty. The deposit including EMD shall stand forfeited by TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD and the defaulting purchaser shall lose all claims to the property. 11. Details of any encumbrances, known to the TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD, to which the property is liable: as per table above. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities arrears of property tax, electricity etc. 12. For any other details or for procedure online training on e-auction the prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider, M/s. 4Closure, Block No.605 A, 6th Floor, Maltrivanam Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad 500038 through its coordinators Mr Arjit Kumar Das, 8142000725, 8142000666, 8142000662 Email - arjit@bankauctions.in and Email : info@bankauctions.in or Manish Bansal, Email id Manish.Bansal@tatacapital.com Authorised Officer Mobile No 8588983696. Please send your query on WhatsApp Number 9999078669. 13. TDS of 1% will be applicable and payable by the highest bidder over the highest declared bid amount. The payment needs to be deposited by highest bidder in the PAN of the owner/borrower(s) and the copy of the challan shall be submitted to our company. 14. Please refer to the below link published in secured creditor's website http://suri.li/gqxtr for the above details. 15. Kindly also visit the link: https://www.tatacapital.com/property-disposal.html

Please Note:- TCHFL has not engaged any broker/agent apart from the mentioned auctioning partner for sale/auction of this property. Interested parties should only contact the undersigned or the Authorised officer for all queries and enquiry in this matter. Place : Raipur Date : 26-02-2024

SHAH TO BJP WORKERS 'Resolve to give Modi govt third term with more than 400 LS seats'

Khajuraho (MP), Feb 25 (PTI):

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asked BJP workers to resolve to give the Narendra Modi government a third term at the Centre with more than 400 seats, asserting that the upcoming Lok Sabha polls were about making India a superpower and the world's third-largest economy.

Addressing about 23,000 booth-level workers of the party at Khajuraho, the Union minister also claimed "the Congress means corruption and corruption means Congress".

Opposition INDIA bloc partners Samajwadi Party and Congress have announced a tie-up for the Lok Sabha polls in MP, with the Akhilesh Yadav-led outfit set to contest in Khajuraho, bordering Uttar Pradesh, and support the grand old party in the remaining 28 constituencies in the state.

Shah said the Congress during its 10-year tenure (between 2004 and 2014) had indulged in scams worth Rs 12 lakh crore. "Resolve to form the Modi-led government at Centre again by winning more than 400 seats. The upcoming Lok Sabha polls are for making Bharat a superpower and the world's third largest economy under Modi's leadership," he told his party workers.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had won from Khajuraho with a margin of about 4.90 lakh votes.

The Modi government has completed ten years, but the opposition leaders can't level allegations of a single penny on him, Shah said.

Hailing the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya under the Modi government, Shah said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi used to take swipes at him by saying the saffron party claims it will build the temple but will not give people the date of construction.

"The temple has been built under the Modi government. The BJP fulfils every commitment made to the public," asserted Shah, considered his party's key strategist.

The top BJP leader said the Congress dragged its feet for years over the Ayodhya temple, but Modi fulfilled the desire of crores of Lord Ram's devotees by performing the bhumi puja of the shrine and then leading its consecration ceremony.

He said that Congress and its allies have always insulted and abused Sanatana Dharma.

Congress and its allies tried to coin the term "bhagwa terrorism" and they always humiliated Bharatiya culture, he said.

SBI State Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable properties) [See rule 8 (1)]

Bank of Baroda क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय दुर्ग: प्रथम तल, जोनल मार्केट, सेक्टर-10, भिलाई, (छत्तीसगढ़) पिन: 490006, ई-मेल: fi.durg@bankofbaroda.com

मोहला मानपुर अंबागढ़ चौकी में वित्तीय साक्षरता परामर्शदाता की नियुक्ति अनुबंध के आधार

Two Cong MLAs, 2 NPP legislators join BJP

Itanagar, Feb 25 (PTI):

In a boost to the ruling BJP in Arunachal Pradesh ahead of polls, two Congress MLAs and as many legislators from the National People's Party (NPP) joined the ruling BJP on Sunday.

The Congress and NPP now have two MLAs each in the 60-member assembly. Senior Congress MLA and former union minister Pasigat West seat) and Wanglin Lowangdong (Borduria-Bogapani constituency) joined the saffron party during a function at its headquarters here.

NPP's Mutchu Mithi (Roing seat) and Gokar Basar (Basar constituency) also became a part of the BJP at the event, which was attended by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

With Sunday's development, the BJP now has 53 MLAs in the House, while three independent MLAs extend outside support to the government.

The Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls will be simultaneously held in the northeastern state later this year.

Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil) Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.



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War in Ukraine

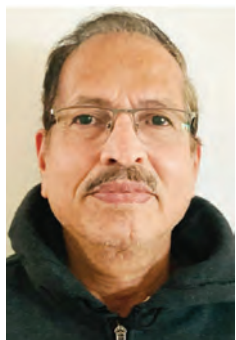
India's Diplomatic Acumen

As the conflict between Russia and Ukraine persists, with the recent fall of Avdiivka signaling potentially intensified hostilities, the world watches with bated breath. President Vladimir Putin's geopolitical maneuvers, bolstered by the demise of Alexei Navalny and Russia's economic resilience, indicate a formidable stance. However, the West's unwavering support for Ukraine suggests a prolonged confrontation. Amid these tensions, calls for India to mediate have gained traction. India's stance on the conflict has been principled and pragmatic. While recognizing the gravity of the situation, India has refrained from aligning with either side, advocating for dialogue and diplomacy over military escalation. Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's affirmation of India's willingness to mediate underscores its commitment to peace. However, India maintains that any mediation efforts must be initiated by the concerned parties. Contrary to Western perceptions of India's neutrality as mere fence-sitting, New Delhi has pursued an actively neutral position. Balancing its strategic interests in areas such as oil, defense, and fertilizers, India has deftly navigated the conflict. Its successful mediation regarding the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant crisis exemplifies its diplomatic prowess. Moreover, India's insistence on containing the conflict within the European theater reflects its strategic concerns regarding regional stability and its broader geopolitical agenda, particularly in relation to China. India's approach to the Ukraine crisis is not merely about securing its own interests but also about promoting a peaceful resolution that addresses the concerns of all stakeholders. By advocating for dialogue and diplomacy, India underscores the importance of finding a sustainable solution that safeguards Ukrainian sovereignty, addresses Russian interests, and assuages European apprehensions. Furthermore, India's diplomatic overtures in the Ukraine crisis are intertwined with its broader foreign policy objectives. Maintaining stability in the European theater is crucial to preventing the spillover of conflicts into regions of strategic importance to India, such as the Indian Ocean. Additionally, India's Act East policy, aimed at deepening engagement with Southeast Asia and countering Chinese influence, necessitates a stable geopolitical environment in Europe. In essence, India's approach to the Ukraine conflict exemplifies its diplomatic acumen and commitment to global peace and stability. By advocating for dialogue, refraining from taking sides, and actively engaging in mediation efforts, India plays a constructive role in resolving one of the most pressing geopolitical crises of our time. As the conflict enters its third year, India's diplomatic leadership offers hope for a peaceful resolution that prioritizes dialogue over violence and reconciliation over confrontation.

The Dawn of 3D Bioprinting

In Healthcare Revolution

Dr Krishna Kumar Vepakomma



In the face of a severe organ shortage crisis, 3D bioprinting stands out as a revolutionary solution. The surging transplant waiting lists starkly depict the challenges faced by patients longing for an improved quality of life. Highlighted by the World Health Organization (WHO), the global demand for organ transplants far outpaces the legally available supply, giving rise to an illicit organ trade. This covert network involves brokers, donors, recipients, and medical professionals, driven by financial incentives and posing ethical and practical challenges outside conventional transplantation channels. At the forefront of regenerative medicine, bioprinting, an innovative additive manufacturing technique, takes center stage. This process, reminiscent of 3D printing, involves layer-by-layer extrusion of living cell-based filaments, aiming to recreate natural body structures, from living tissue and bone to blood vessels. The ultimate ambition? The bioprinting of entire organs. Recent advancements in 3D printing, bio-ink formulations, and tissue engineering offer a glimmer of hope for the organ transplant crisis. Biotech researchers tirelessly work towards legal and safe bio-printing technologies, addressing organ compatibility and minimizing the need for immunosuppressive drugs in traditional transplantation. The spotlight intensifies as leaders in regenerative medicine embark on lab-based research, pushing the boundaries of 3D bioprinting for drug trials and treatments. In 2021, Stanford University's milestone in 3D-printing human corneas opens the door to potential replacements for those battling corneal blindness. Building on this success, 2022 witnesses a pivotal moment in San Antonio, where surgeons successfully implant a 3D-bioprinted ear, grown from the patient's cells. Leading in biotechnology, the 3D bioprinting market transforms healthcare, addressing organ shortages, providing personalized medical solutions, and instilling hope for life-changing treatments. Future advancements will see bioprinting revolutionize healthcare by directly creating transplantable organs, reducing reliance on donations, and advancing disease understanding while minimizing the need for animal testing.

(Writer is Professor & Principal (Rtd) and newspaper columnist.)

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 editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

RAMNAMI RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT



Members of the Ramnami religious movement arrive at the Sangam during the Magh Mela festival, in Prayagraj, Sunday, Feb. 25.

Preserving Democratic Principles: Karnataka's Temple Tax Debate



YASH PAL RALHAN



In the intricate tapestry of Indian democracy, Karnataka emerges as a pivotal battleground where the very essence of democratic values is under scrutiny. At the epicenter of this deliberation lies the contentious issue of temple taxation—an issue that has ignited fervent debate, sparking questions about the intersection of religion, politics, and governance. The recent proposal by the Congress government to impose taxes on affluent Hindu temples has stirred a hornet's nest of controversy, with critics alleging discrimination and the encroachment upon religious freedoms. The proposal, aimed at diverting a portion of temple revenue into a common pool for social welfare purposes, has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties, particularly the BJP and JDS. These parties argue that the taxation of Hindu institutions while exempting other religious establishments is inherently biased and undermines the secular ethos of the nation. The debate surrounding temple taxation is not merely about fiscal policy; it strikes at the very core of India's commitment to pluralism and religious tolerance. For many

Hindus, temples represent not just places of worship, but also symbols of cultural identity and heritage. Any attempt to levy taxes on these sacred institutions is viewed as an assault on their way of life and an infringement upon their constitutional rights. Moreover, the proposed temple tax has raised concerns about the separation of religion and state—a principle enshrined in the Indian Constitution. By involving the government in the financial affairs of religious institutions, there is a risk of blurring the lines between secular governance and religious authority. Such encroachment could set a dangerous precedent and erode the foundational principles of democracy. Furthermore, the resemblance of the proposed tax to historical forms of religious discrimination, such as the jizya tax imposed on non-Muslims during medieval times, has further inflamed tensions and raised concerns about the government's intentions. While proponents of the tax argue for its necessity in promoting social welfare and addressing economic disparities, opponents fear that it will only serve to exacerbate communal ten-

sions and deepen religious divides. The government's role in administering the common pool of funds, administered by the Raja Dharmika Parishat, has also raised concerns about transparency and accountability. As Karnataka prepares for parliamentary elections, the temple tax debate has taken on added significance, with political parties using it as a rallying point to mobilize their respective bases. However, it is imperative that policymakers rise above partisan interests and prioritize the broader principles of democratic governance and social cohesion. In navigating this complex terrain, policymakers must tread carefully, taking into account the diverse perspectives and sensitivities of all stakeholders. Upholding the principles of fairness, equality, and religious freedom is paramount to ensuring that Karnataka—and indeed, India as a whole—remains true to its democratic ideals. Ultimately, the temple tax debate is not just about revenue generation or social welfare; it is about the soul of Indian democracy. It is about reaffirming our commitment to pluralism, tolerance, and inclusivity. By engaging in constructive dialogue and seeking solutions that uphold these values, Karnataka can set an example for the rest of the nation and reaffirm its status as a bastion of democracy in an increasingly uncertain world. However, beyond the immediate political ramifications, the temple tax debate raises deeper questions about the role of the state in religious affairs and the balance between secular governance and religious autonomy. As Karnataka

grappling with these complex issues, it is essential for policymakers to demonstrate prudence, sensitivity, and a commitment to upholding the core principles of democracy. Furthermore, the proposed temple tax has sparked broader discussions about the relationship between religion and politics in India. The convergence of religious sentiments with electoral politics has become increasingly pronounced, with parties across the political spectrum vying for the support of religious communities. While religion has always played a significant role in Indian politics, the instrumentalization of religious identity for electoral gains raises concerns about the erosion of secular values and the politicization of religious institutions. As Karnataka navigates these turbulent waters, it is essential for all stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue and seek solutions that uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and religious freedom. The preservation of democratic values requires a concerted effort from all quarters of society, ensuring that Karnataka remains a beacon of democracy and pluralism in an increasingly polarized world. Ultimately, the temple tax debate in Karnataka serves as a microcosm of larger debates about the nature of democracy, the role of religion in public life, and the delicate balance between majority rule and minority rights. By addressing these issues with wisdom, compassion, and a commitment to inclusive governance, Karnataka can chart a path forward that upholds the principles of democracy and ensures the protection of fundamental rights for all its citizens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Striving for Balance

The death of farmer Shubhakaran Singh highlights the tragedy amidst clashes between security forces and protesting farmers. The hundreds toll of lives lost during the 2020-21 farmers' agitation is significant. Without resolution, the standoff risks further casualties. Four rounds of talks have failed to soften positions, emphasizing the urgency for dialogue. The farmers' demand for legal assurance of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce deserves attention. Finding common ground is essential to prevent escalation and honor the concerns of both parties. Let us pursue avenues of compromise and understanding to avert further unrest and loss of life.

MK Nair, raipur

Leaders' Responsibility

Amid escalating tensions, the Haryana Police's forceful actions worsen the farmer protest. Negotiation remains the sole path to resolution between the government and growers. Security forces must exercise restraint, fostering uneasy calm on Punjab and Haryana borders. Responsible conduct is vital for farmer leaders to prevent further casualties. While demands may be met, the loss of lives like Shubhakaran's remains irreversible.

Shiv Kumar Mishra, Raipur

Building Alliances

Amid global political shifts, India prioritizes national interests, maintaining a delicate balance. Economic and military strides signal promising growth. Collaboration with the USA offers a chance to influence Pakistan away from China. India aims to demonstrate responsible conduct, offering cooperation and support in anti-terrorism efforts. This strategic diplomacy aligns with broader objectives of fostering friendly relations and regional stability.

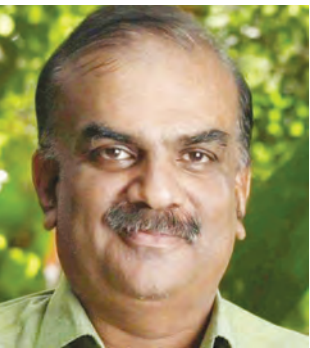
Rakesh Gupta, Korba

Equality Triumph

The Supreme Court rightfully condemns terminating women's employment due to marriage as blatant gender discrimination. For years, women across sectors suffered exclusion based on marital status, impeding their professional advancement. Such bias perpetuates inequality. The apex court's decision to compensate a former military nurse, unjustly removed due to marriage, is commendable.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Decoding the Pre-Poll Pulse: Navigating the Electoral Maze



Dr. Vasishth M.C.

Elections in India are akin to the ebb and flow of a pulsating Twenty-20 cricket match or the gripping drama of a One Day International. They embody the essence of unpredictability, where closely contested battles unfold alongside one-sided victories. Political parties, much like cricket teams, vie for supremacy in the electoral arena, navigating through the complex terrain of public sentiment and political dynamics. In this analogy, the electorate assumes the role of the third umpire, holding the fate of politicians and political parties in its hands. Just as cricket

enthusiasts anticipate match outcomes, political analysts and pundits delve into the realm of pre-poll surveys to predict electoral results and infuse an element of excitement into the democratic process. **Historical Context and Evolution** The roots of pre-poll surveys in India can be traced back to the 1960s when the Indian Institute of Public Opinion (IIPO) conducted some of the earliest opinion polls in the country. However, these early endeavors were characterized by methodological limitations and lacked widespread influence, failing to capture the intricacies of the electoral landscape. The landscape of pre-poll surveys underwent a transformation in the 1980s with the pioneering work of psephologists Prannoy Roy and David Butler. Their seminal book, "The Compendium of Indian Elections," marked a watershed moment in the field, introducing scientific sampling techniques and statistical rigor. Their accurate predictions in the 1989 Lok Sabha elections propelled pre-poll surveys to the forefront of Indian media and politics, laying the foundation for their widespread adoption and utilization.

Methodologies and Techniques Pre-poll surveys employ a diverse range of methodologies to gauge public opinion and predict electoral outcomes. These methods include face-to-face interviews, telephone surveys, online polls, and exit polls, each offering unique insights into voter preferences and behavior. Face-to-face interviews involve surveyors interacting directly with respondents to gather data on their voting intentions and opinions. Telephone surveys utilize telecommunication networks to conduct interviews remotely, allowing for a broader reach and faster data collection. Online polls leverage digital platforms to engage with a diverse demographic of voters, offering convenience and anonymity to respondents. Exit polls, conducted outside polling stations, capture voter sentiment immediately after casting their ballots, providing real-time insights into electoral trends. **Prominent Agencies and Organizations** Since the 1980s, pre-poll surveys have become an integral component of India's electoral landscape, with numerous agencies and organizations conducting their own polls and

projections. Some of the prominent entities in this space include: The Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), which conducts the National Election Studies (NES) series, the largest and longest-running academic survey of Indian elections. The India Today Group, which collaborates with agencies such as CVoter, Axis My India, and Karvy Insights to conduct pre-poll surveys and projections. The Times Now Group, which partners with organizations like Matrize, VMR, and Jan Ki Baat to conduct comprehensive pre-poll surveys and analysis. The ABP News Network, which works with polling agencies such as CVoter, Nielsen, and Cicero to provide insights into electoral dynamics. **Challenges and Controversies** Despite their widespread use, pre-poll surveys in India have faced criticism and controversy over the years. Allegations of bias, manipulation, and inaccuracy have cast doubts on the credibility of these surveys, with instances of polls failing to accurately predict electoral outcomes. The 2004 general election, marked by the unexpected victory of the Congress-led UPA

alliance, and the 2019 general election, marred by allegations of corporate influence and the Election Commission's ban on exit polls, underscore the complexities and challenges inherent in electoral forecasting. **Future Prospects** Despite these challenges, pre-poll surveys remain a vital tool in understanding and interpreting the dynamics of Indian democracy. As India continues on its democratic journey, it is imperative to uphold the integrity, credibility, and ethical conduct of these surveys, ensuring they serve as reliable indicators of public sentiment and electoral trends. In conclusion, pre-poll surveys offer invaluable insights into the multifaceted tapestry of Indian elections, enriching the democratic discourse and empowering citizens with informed decision-making capabilities. By embracing methodological rigor, ethical standards, and technological innovation, pre-poll surveys can continue to fulfill their role as guardians of democratic accountability and transparency, ensuring the vibrancy and vitality of Indian democracy for generations to come.

BRIEF

Mahindra Holidays

New Delhi: Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd (MHRIL) plans to invest up to Rs 4,500 crore in the next three to four years to double its room capacity to 10,000, according to company Managing Director and CEO, Kavinder Singh. The company is actively pursuing partnerships with state governments besides setting up new resorts, brownfield expansion and acquisitions to achieve the target to increase room count from 5,000 to 10,000 by FY30.

DLF

New Delhi: Realty major DLF plans to launch properties worth nearly Rs 80,000 crore over the next 3-4 years to tap rising demand for housing and commercial projects. DLF, the country's largest real estate firm in terms of market cap, sold properties worth Rs 15,000 crore during 2022-23 and is set to surpass this number in the current fiscal going by sale bookings clocked in the first three quarters. According to an investors presentation, DLF is aiming to launch 10 million square feet of area in the next financial year having revenue potential of Rs 32,000 crore.

LIC Housing Finance

New Delhi: LIC Housing Finance, the mortgage arm of insurance behemoth LIC, is expecting a net profit of Rs 5,000 crore in the current financial year on the back of robust loan demand and expansion in non-core business. The non-core business includes Loan Against Property (LAP) and affordable housing finance, LIC Housing Finance managing director and CEO Tribhuvan Adhikari told PTI in an interaction. During 2022-23, the biggest housing finance company earned a net profit of Rs 2,891 crore.

NITI Aayog VC meets Uber CEO

New Delhi: NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery on Saturday met Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi and discussed issues related to sustainable mobility and economic empowerment. "NITI Aayog VC @suman_bery held a productive meeting with Mr. Dara Khosrowshahi @dkhos, @Uber CEO today," the Aayog said in a tweet. The discussion centred around Uber's contributions to India's economic growth through livelihood generation for drivers and riders, while promoting clean and affordable transportation solutions, it added.

ICAI

Kolkata: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Saturday said it will open the Kolkata chapter of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) by December 2024. This will mark the third such centre of excellence after Hyderabad and Jaipur. "The CoE in Kolkata will be established in Rajarhat by December this year.

Paytm issue may be reviewed, scrutiny on Byju's progressing well: ICAI

Kolkata, Feb 25 (PTI):

Amid the unfolding Paytm Payments Bank Ltd crisis, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal on Sunday said its financial reporting review board (FRRB) may deliberate on issues of the fintech firm in the near future.

The FRRB of the statutory body is currently conducting a review of the accounts of tech-based education unicorn Byju's over alleged governance concerns, and the exercise is progressing well, the ICAI president said.

"So far, we have not considered it (Paytm issue), but the board meeting of the FRRB will take place in the near future and it will consider appropriate action if required. So far, we have not decided any-

thing as far as this matter is concerned," ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal told PTI in an interview. Newly elected committees, including FRRB, of the ICAI are expected to hold meetings from March onwards, he said. Notably, the banking sector regulator Reserve Bank of India has already imposed restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd due to alleged regulatory concerns.

The FRRB may determine whether any scrutiny of the books is necessary over allegations of regulatory lapses and their impact on the payment bank's accounting, he said.

"It is the discretion of the board whom to review and when to do so. It has a robust system," the newly elected ICAI chief said.

Asked whether ICAI

was waiting for a complaint regarding Paytm, Agarwal said, "The institute can take cognizance both suo motu and through complaints. In Byju's case, it was suo motu."

Speaking on Byju's, he said that the progress on the board's scrutiny is "going well and the report is expected by the end of this year".

While explaining the FRRB structure, the ICAI chief said, "The board has a three-tier structure—technical, group, and then finally the board review."

According to him, the FRRB is empowered to review the financial statements of listed companies.

"In cases of gross negligence, we proceed with further investigation. If there are minor issues, we provide advisory guidance," Agarwal said.

Thinkink Picturez Ltd to consider bonus issue

Mumbai, Feb 25:

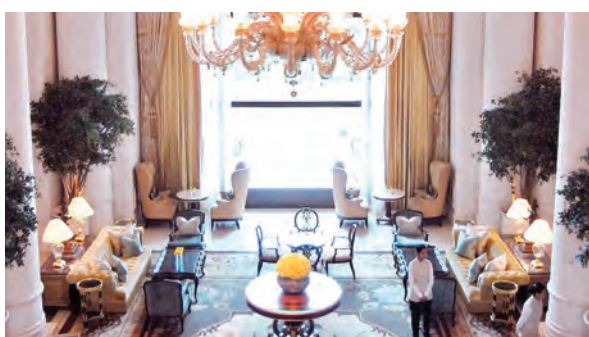
Mumbai based Thinkink Picturez Limited, a leading player in the global entertainment industry is considering bonus issue and stock split. Meeting of the board of directors is scheduled to be held on Friday, 1 March 2024 to consider and approve for bonus shares and stock split subject to regulatory approvals and shareholders' approval.

In addition to rewarding the existing shareholders, the bonus and stock split will enhance liquidity in the company. Reflecting the company's strong financial performance and commitment to returning value to shareholders, company will also consider declaring a dividend of

up to Rs. 3 per share in the board meeting on 1 March. The Board will also consider the ratio of bonus issue to existing shareholders of the company along with sub-division of company's equity shares of Rs. 5 face value in the meeting on March 1, 2024 subject to approvals from relevant regulatory approvals.

Vimal Kumar Lahoti, Jt. Managing Director of Thinkink Picturez Limited, said, "Company stands on the cusp of a remarkable transformation in the entertainment industry. We feel proud to inform all our stakeholders that the company is progressing well on its long-term growth roadmap and reporting excellent operational and financial performance."

Eco Hotels eyes 2000 rooms by March 2025



New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Eco Hotels and Resorts is targeting more than 2,000 hotel rooms under its operations by March 2025.

Earlier this month, the company inked an initial pact with Vitizen Hotels Ltd (VHL) to acquire a 100 per cent stake of VITS in the VHL.

With this acquisition, Eco Hotels and Resorts will operate 20 hotels with

around 1,200 rooms. At present, Eco Hotels and Resorts does not have any hotel rooms under its operations.

Speaking with PTI, Vinod K Tripathi, Executive Chairman of Eco Hotels and Resorts said, "This breakthrough moment marked by the signing of this momentous MOU and its reflection on our team's dedication to reach ambitious goals through clever decision-making."

Speaking about the partnership, Dheeraj Sehgal, Chief Distribution Officer, Institutional, Bajaj Allianz Life, stated, "The collaboration between Bajaj Allianz Life, Satin Creditcare, proficiently supported by Coverfox, is dedicated to providing financial security and enabling customers to pursue their goals with complete ease.

Maharashtra to roll out policy for boosting defence manufacturing: Fadnavis

Pune, Feb 25 (PTI):

A new aerospace and defence policy will be formulated to provide a boost to defence manufacturing in Maharashtra, deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday.

Speaking at the inauguration of 'MSME Defence Expo', a three-day event organized at Moshi in Pimpri Chinchwad near here, he said Pune has developed an ecosystem conducive for defence manufacturing in recent years.

"Maharashtra is leading the country in defence manufacturing. We host the Air Force Maintenance Command, Army Southern Command, the Indian

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin with officials of Vinfast India Manufacturing during the ground-breaking ceremony of the company's plant, in Thoothukudi, Sunday, Feb. 25.

Galaxy Fit3 helps users to work out smarter

Gurugram, Feb 25:

Samsung, announced the launch of Galaxy Fit3, its newest fitness tracker that democratizes Samsung's advanced health-monitoring technology, inspiring everyone to feel their best and adopt a healthier lifestyle. The Galaxy Fit3 is Samsung's latest wearable device and boasts an aluminum body with a wider display, allowing users to keep track of their health and wellness data — from daily workouts to peaceful sleep — straight from their wrists, around the clock.

"In this new era of wellness, users desire a more comprehensive understanding of their health and Samsung has committed to providing users with advanced health monitoring tools to help them

along their wellness journey," said Aditya Babbar, Senior Director, MX Business, Samsung India. "As our newest fitness tracker, the Galaxy Fit3 underscores our commitment to providing accessible resources that encourage everyday wellness and inspire everyone to work on their best self." The Galaxy Fit3 is designed with an aluminum body and a 1.6-inch display, 45% wider than the previous model, making it easier for users to check detailed insights at a glance. Galaxy Fit3 is also lightweight and sleek with a comfortable fit, making it ideal for everyday use around the clock. Users can incorporate the Galaxy Fit3 into their lifestyles with ease thanks to its long battery life that can last up to 13 days.

real prowess", he said, adding that earlier India was dependent on other countries for defence equipment.

"Today, countries like US, Russia, France and Germany are powerful because their defence manufacturing is their real strength. Aiming for India to possess similar strength, Modi ji initiated the 'Made in India' campaign, stating that countries exporting weapons to India must manufacture the products in India," Fadnavis said.

PM Modi also insisted on technology transfers alongside manufacturing, he said.

Today, we are becoming self-reliant in the defence sector," Fadnavis added.

Skoda Auto India launches Slavia Style Edition

Mumbai, Feb 26: In what is its first product action after achieving one lakh sales in two years, Skoda Auto India has introduced the Slavia Style Edition of its best-selling, five-star safe, crash-tested sedan. Speaking on the product, Petr Janeba, Brand Director, Skoda Auto India, said: "The Slavia Style Edition is yet another instance of us listening to our discerning customers and offering an extremely exclusive, yet high value product for our customers. It comes in very limited numbers, for a very focussed set of our customers, but will be accessible across our 200-plus sales touchpoints across India." The Style Edition is slotted above the top-of-the-line Style variant of the Slavia. It comes standard with features like a Dual Dash Camera. It hosts an 'Edition' badge on the blacked-out B-pillars, black mirror covers and a Black Roof Foil.

J&K to emerge as North India's power hub: Jitendra Singh

Jammu, Feb 25 (PTI):

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir is all set to emerge as north India's major "power hub" after the completion of ongoing power projects with a total capacity of 6,000 MW. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office visited the 120-MW Seva-II hydropower project located on Himachal-J&K border near Bani in Kathua district, a part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

Reviewing the status of hydropower projects with NHPC, Director (Finance) R P Goyal and other officials, the minister said at least seven major Hydro power projects have come



in the region in a short span ever since Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister in 2014.

Talking about the ongoing power projects in Kishtwar, he said the largest capacity project is Pakal Dul with a capacity of 1,000 MW which is expected to be completed by 2025 at an estimated cost of over Rs 8,000 crore.

Another major project is

Kiru Hydroelectric project with a capacity of 624 MW. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 4,285.59 crore and the timeline is also 2025, he said.

The Minister said 850 MW Rattle project has been revived as a joint venture between the centre and Union Territory of J&K. In addition, the existing Dulhasti power station has an installed capacity of 390 MW, while Dulhasti II Hydroelectric project will have a capacity of 260 MW.

He said these projects shall not only augment the power supply position thereby making up for the shortage of power supply in J&K, but the huge investment being made for the construction of these projects is also a boost for the local people.

Bajaj Allianz Life and Satin Creditcare collaborate to boost life insurance accessibility

■ In rural areas

Gurgaon, Feb 26:

Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, and Satin Creditcare Network Limited, a leading Non-Banking Finance Corporation - Micro Finance Institution, announced their strategic partnership today with Coverfox, an insurance broker playing a pivotal role in enabling this partnership. The agreement was signed in Gurgaon, committing to work together to improve financial inclusion in rural India.

Through this strategic partnership, customers of Satin Creditcare can now secure their loans with

Bajaj Allianz Life's tailored insurance plans across its 1,386 branches in the country. It will provide customers with peace of mind and their family's financial security in case of any unfortunate incident. It will leverage Coverfox's tech infrastructure for ease and convenience of insurance buying, selling and servicing, digitally.

Speaking about the partnership, Dheeraj Sehgal, Chief Distribution Officer, Institutional, Bajaj Allianz Life, stated, "The collaboration between Bajaj Allianz Life, Satin Creditcare, proficiently supported by Coverfox, is dedicated to providing financial security and enabling customers to pursue their goals with complete ease.

India's steel exports at 18-month high in January



New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

India's monthly steel exports hit a 18-month high to 1.1 million tonne in January 2024 on increased demand from the European Union and supportive global prices, SteelMint said. Besides, competitive domestic

prices of steel contributed to rise in export, the research firm said in its latest report.

The outbound shipment of steel in January 2023 was 0.67 million tonne, as per SteelMint data.

On reasons behind the surge in exports,

SteelMint said, "good restocking demand from the European Union (EU) contributed 67 per cent of the 1.11 MT (export) in January. It was highest in last 18 months."

While the price of hot rolled coil (HRC) in India's trade segment was at Rs 54,300/a tonne, the global rate was USD 710 per tonne (about Rs 58,000).

This factor also contributed to the demand for Indian steel in the global markets.

Overall, Indian steel exports may remain largely range-bound or fall slightly in the near term because of the "global trade lull induced by the Chinese lunar holidays and Tet festival in Vietnam," SteelMint said.

Impact of Rs 2,000 notes withdrawal: Currency-in-circulation growth dips to 3.7% in Feb

Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTI):

The growth in currency in circulation decelerated to 3.7 per cent for the week ended February 9 from 8.2 per cent a year ago, reflecting the impact of the decision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to withdraw Rs 2,000 banknotes.

Currency-in-circulation (CiC) refers to notes and coins in circulation, while currency with the public comprises notes and coins in circulation minus cash with banks.

According to the RBI, commercial banks have reported double-digit growth in deposits in January, which too can be attributed to withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes.

The growth of Reserve Money (RM), as per the RBI data, decelerated to 5.8



per cent as on February 9, 2024 from 11.2 per cent a year ago (8.8 per cent adjusted for the first-round impact of change in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)).

Components of RM include CiC, banks' deposits in RBI and other deposits with the central bank.

The growth in CiC, the largest component of RM, decelerated to 3.7 per cent from 8.2 per cent a year ago, reflecting the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes, according to the RBI.

Ganga Aarti marks beginning of Rajim Kumbh Kalp

- Attraction, warmth of Ayodhya Dhaam' also visible.
- Sants-Sadhus from all over country takes part in Kumbh Kalp



Rajim, Feb 25: The Rajim Kumbh Kalp-2024 started with performing of 'Ganga Aarti' at the confluence of three rivers of Mahanadi, Pairi, and Sondhur in Rajim here on Saturday. In the sacred city of Rajim, the attraction and warmth of Rajim Kumbh Kalp was very much visible. This time the Rajim Kumbh Kalp is being celebrated as 'Ramotsav'.

On this occasion Minister for Tourism and Culture Brijmohan Agrawal, Minister Ramvichar NNetam, Tankram Verma, former Minister and MLA Ajay Chandrakar, MLA Rohit Yadav were specially present.

Speakign on the occasion Minister for Culture and Religious Endowment Brijmohan Agrawal said that in Rajim Kumbh Kalp

the 'sant', 'mahatma' delivers discourse and showers blessings on the devotees and I welcome all of them.

He also expressed gratitude towards Sadhavi Pragma Bharti behind saving of the rivers and water in the country. He said that like the confluence of three rivers in Rajim, the city also is confluence of three districts.

Chhattisgarh is the birth place of 'Mata Kaushalya' and the 'Van Gaman' path of Lord Shri Ram and it should be known to entire country and world that the Rajim

Kalp Kumbh is organised because of the same.

He said that 'Maghi Punni Mela' has been the history of thousands of years of our country, but to make the history rich and live is our responsibility. Therefore it is as per suggestions from 'Sants' and 'Mahatmas' that the word 'Kalp' was added and now Rajim Kumbh Kalp is being organised.

Agarwal further said that for the next 15 days, variety of programmes will be organised including 'Sant-Samagam' and others and it will conclude

on occasion of Mahashivratri.

He said that with such organisation the respect of the states builds up and it also infuses patriotism, because if the country is there, then 'dharm' also exist and vice-versa. Without 'dharm', neither the country is not there and vice-versa. To save this country, we have to make the country more prosperous and religious, he added.

The Agriculture Minister Ram Vichar Netam said that it is an honour today that Rajim

said that it was with tiring efforts of country strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi that the consecration of Lord Shri Ram in Ayodhya succeeded. Chandrakar said that the earlier government construct Ram Van Gaman path without consulting the senior citizens and intellect in the state.

Our government will not allow the faith and confidence of people to break-down. In this programme, LS MP Chunnilal Sahu, MLA Rohit Sahu also addressed the gathering. On this occasion well-known Bhajan and singer Anuradha Paudwal presented soulful programme of 'Bhajans' and through dance-drama 'Geetak Darshan' it left the audience spellbound.

In this programme, MLA Indra Kumar Sahu, Secretary Culture and Tourism Ambalga P., divisional commissioner Sanjay Alang, MD Tourism Corporation Jitendra Shukla, Director Culture Vivek Acharya and other devotees were present.

Brijmohan Agrawal performs 'Maha-arti' near Mahanadi



Rajim: On occasion of Rajim Kumbh Kalp, the Minister for Religious Trust and Endowments and Tourism Brijmohan Agrawal performed prayers to Lord Shri Rajim Lochan and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of all in the state. On this occasion Minister for SC, ST, OBC Welfare Ramvichar Netam, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Tankram Verma, LS MP Mahasamund Chunnilal Sahu, MLA Kurud Ajay Chandrakar, MLA Rajim Rohit Sahu, MLA Abhanpur Indra Kumar Sahu and other public reps were present. The guests performed 'Maha-arti' reaching the banks of the river. It is notable here that in this year's Rajim Kumbh Kalp, 'Sadhavi Pragma Bharti' from Jabalpur performed 'Maha-arti' along with 11 Pandits reciting 'mantras'. In the prayers, apart from 'Shiv Stotra', 'Maha-arti' in group was also performed. On this occasion the devotees resonated the entire area with 'Jai-Jai Shri Ram' after the prayers. At the river venue, the idol 'Mata Kaushalya' established temporarily was also prayed. On this occasion Tourism Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that Rajim Kumbh Kalp is being organised on sacred land of Rajim and added that after Rajim Kumbh Kalp, here the local Pandits will perform prayers to Mahanadi on daily basis and which is very much necessary for saving and conservation of rivers.

IGNTU hosts Gandhi Fellowship Orientation program

Central Chronicle News

Amarkantak, Feb 25: The Department of Social Work (DSW) at IGNTU hosted the second Gandhi Fellowship Orientation program on campus, aiming to cultivate young leaders capable of bringing social change.

The fellowship also creates employment opportunities for youth. This initiation is the part of industry academia collaboration, previous year's program fetched a great success out of which eleven students of IGNTU selected.

The program was led by Dr. Krishnamani Bhagabati along with Dr. Ramesh B, the logistics taken care by Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Jharia, Assistant Professor of the Department. Dr. Bhagabati, Assistant Professor of DSW, welcomed the participants, and Prof. Soubhagya Ranjan Padhi, Head, Department of Social Work, apprised the significance of the event and appreciated the department's



efforts in organizing such transformative programs. During the event, Dr. Ramesh B provided an overview of the department's activities, highlighting notable achievements such as student placements in prestigious institutions

as well as students pursuing PhDs at renowned institutions. Prof. H.S Sharma, Professor of Social Work, extended his wishes and commended the efforts of the department.

Further, the session was taken over by Ms. Pragma,

the resource person from Piramal Foundation shared the vision, mission, and recruitment process of the Foundation's initiative, drawing from her own fellowship experience to inspire and guide participants.

She also addressed participant queries regarding the application process, ensuring clarity and understanding. Prof. Ranju Hasini Sahoo, Dean of Social Sciences, commended the Department's commitment to student welfare-oriented programs, acknowledging the impact of such initiatives on both students and the surrounding tribal community.

Prof. Prakash Mani Tripathi, the Vice Chancellor of IGNTU, appreciated the department's community extension programs, which aimed at the welfare of the students and surrounding tribal communities. Various students from different departments participated in this event.

In this program about 100 students enrolled on others applications are about to submit. The selection process will be in three phases and the selected candidates will join the fellowship by July 2024.

Police conduct surprise inspections to enhance safety



- In liquor shops and banks

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Feb 25: In a bid to address concerns regarding public safety and security, the Dongargaon police undertook surprise inspections on February 24th, targeting liquor shops and banks across the city.

Led by Police Station In-Charge Upendra Shah, the inspections aimed to curb incidents of altercations and enhance security meas-

ures in vulnerable areas. Notably, banks were scrutinized closely in response to a rise in theft incidents. During the inspections, bank employees and officers were reminded of the importance of maintaining vigilant security protocols. Directives included ensuring continuous CCTV surveillance, denying entry to individuals with obscured faces, and promptly reporting any suspicious activity to the authorities. Simultaneously, the government-run liquor shop in Dongargaon was also sub-

ject to scrutiny. Officials emphasized the enforcement of regulations, such as limiting liquor sales to a maximum of six quarters per person and maintaining functional CCTV systems with backup. Furthermore, salespersons were instructed to exercise caution by refusing service to individuals displaying repetitive purchasing patterns. Additionally, strict measures were advised to prevent unauthorized access, including keeping the shop doors closed to deter potential criminal activities.

SMJS spreads joy with healthy treats for children

Central Chronicle News

Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Feb 25: In a display of community spirit, the members of Samarth Mahila Jagriti Samiti Pendra have brought smiles to the faces of children by giving Nyota Bhojan in primary school Talab Para Pendra. Led by the initiative of dedicated volunteers including Lakshmi Agarwal, Meena Sharma, Rekha Rajput, and many others, the organization distributed bananas, oranges, and biscuits to the eager youngsters.

The event, which aimed to promote health and well-being among the young students, saw the participation of several enthusiastic members of the community. Satyabhama Goyal, Shilpa Jain, Gulab Dwivedi, and others joined hands to ensure that every child



received a nutritious treat. The initiative not only provided wholesome snacks but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and care within the community. With individuals like Binu Jain, Shivani Jalan, Rupa Poddar, and others lending their support, the event became a symbol of unity and compassion.

Service to poor and deprived makes life successful and pleasant: Ajay

Modi virtually inaugurates development projects in Kurud

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Feb 25: Kurud assembly constituency in Chhattisgarh witnessed a flurry of activity as Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several development projects. The event, part of the Viksit Bharat, Viksit Chhattisgarh, Sankalp Yatra initiative, aimed at promoting inclusive growth and welfare in the region.

Under the watchful eye of MLA Ajay Chandrakar, along with senior BJP leaders and distinguished guests, the event unfolded with great enthusiasm. The old agricultural produce



market complex buzzed with activity as LED lights illuminated the venue for the Prime Minister's address. Attendees were treated to an array of departmental stalls showcasing various public welfare schemes.

MLA Ajay Chandrakar played a pivotal role in the proceedings, engaging with artisans, beneficiaries, and



government officials alike. From admiring the handicrafts of potter women to receiving a turban from the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society, Chandrakar's active involvement underscored the significance of grassroots empowerment.

During his address, Chandrakar highlighted the transformative impact



of government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in uplifting the marginalized sections of society.

He said service to the poor and the deprived makes life successful and pleasant. He emphasized the importance of genuine service to the underprivi-



leged, condemning past instances of corruption and politicization of poverty alleviation efforts.

The event concluded on a high note with the felicitation of various beneficiary groups, including artisans, masons, tailors, and fishermen, whose lives have been positively impacted by government initiatives. Their testimonials served as a tes-



tament to the success of these schemes in bringing about tangible change at the grassroots level.

In attendance were numerous BJP leaders, government officials, and employees from various departments, reflecting the collective commitment towards achieving the goal of inclusive development and service to the people.

District authorities crack down on illegal mining

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Feb 25: In a move to curb the rampant issue of illegal mining plaguing the Dhamdha area, the local administration, led by the Tehsildar SDM, has intensified efforts to combat unlawful transportation of Muram Sand and Gitti Stone. Recent reports highlight a significant crackdown, with the seizure of three JCBs and five Haiwas by the Dhamdha police station, marking a decisive step towards upholding the law.

Despite persistent concerns raised by local newspapers regarding the unchecked proliferation of illegal mining activities, the District Administration's vigilance remains unwavering. Each



seized vehicle has been promptly handed over to the police station, underscoring a commitment to swift and decisive action. Notably, all seized vehicles have been meticulously documented and referred to the District Administration. Additional Collector for further proceedings. However, while the administra-



tion's efforts are commendable, there are lingering challenges. The absence of on-site inspections and subsequent recovery actions by the mining department has allowed illicit mining operations to persist, resulting in substantial revenue losses for the government. This negligence has not only eroded public trust but



also elicited frustration among rural communities, notably in villages like Dharampura.

In Dharampura, a constituent village of Gram Panchayat Barhapur, the detrimental effects of illegal mining are palpable. Years of unlawful stone extraction have not only disrupted the local environment but also hindered



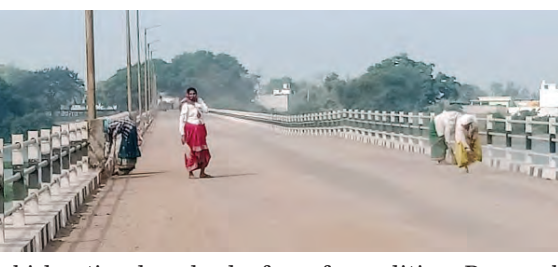
the implementation of vital employment guarantee initiatives. In response, aggrieved residents have petitioned the Durg Collector for urgent intervention, demanding the resumption of mining site assessments, revenue recovery procedures, and the reinstatement of employment guarantee programs.

Bridge cleanup takes place on Kumbh mela day

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 25: As the Kumbh Mela in Rajim gain momentum, a crucial aspect of ensuring safety and convenience for visitors came to the forefront on February 24 as workers diligently cleared the Chaube Bandha bridge.

Traditionally, the bridge undergoes cleaning and painting ahead of the Kumbh Mela. But this time the administration forgot about cleaning the bridge. Oversight led to the accumulation of sand on both sides, creating inconvenience and hazards for commuters. The movement of



vehicles stirred up clouds of dust, posing risks to pedestrians and motorists alike. On the Kumbh Mela day, February 24, a team of seven to eight laborers took it upon themselves to rectify the oversight. Armed with brooms and determination, they tackled the accumulated sand, swiftly clearing the bridge and restoring it to a

safe condition. Passers-by expressed their gratitude towards the laborers for their timely intervention, highlighting the importance of proactive measures in ensuring public safety. Many noted that such cleaning efforts should have been undertaken by the government administration prior to the commencement of the fair.

Jurel, Ashwin, Kuldeep put India on course

Australia sweep T20 series against NZ



Australia players pose as they celebrate winning the series 3-0 against Kiwis.

Auckland, Feb 25 (AP):

which seemed a relatively charitable target.

Australia beat New Zealand by 27 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis system in the heavily rain-affected third T20 international Sunday to complete a 3-0 sweep the series and to harden its favoritism for the World Cup later this year.

But New Zealand botched the run chase for the second time in three days at Eden Park, unable to conquer Australia's world class attack.

Under the revised rules for the 10-over innings, Australia was allowed five bowlers who could bowl two overs each with a three-over power play.

The young left-armer Spencer Johnson took 1-10 from his two overs, showing why he made 1.4 million in the IPL auction earlier this year. Nathan Ellis conceded only 11 from his two overs, Mitchell Starc only 15 and Adam Zampa took 1-20.

Ellis bowled four dot balls to New Zealand's biggest hitter, Glenn

Philips, in the fifth over and at the midpoint of its innings New Zealand was 51-2, needing 75 from the last 30 balls.

Australia's bowlers continued to bowl a tight line and length to frustrate the Black Caps batters and after Ellis bowled the ninth over for the cost of only 8 runs, New Zealand needed 43 off the last over to win.

The honor, or duty, of bowling the last over went to Matt Short who already had contributed for Australia, making 27 off 11 balls, batting at No. 3.

The first ball of the over went for six but the next three balls were singles, the fifth ball went for two and the last ball for a boundary as New Zealand fell hopelessly short.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner won the toss in his 100th T20 international and sent Australia in, mindful the rain might dictate terms later in the match. It did.

Australia's was interrupted three times by rain breaks and finally terminated after 10.4 overs when it was 118-4. New Zealand was set 126 to win in 10 overs under the Duckworth-Lewis system,

Paolini defeats Kalinskaya in comeback victory for Dubai title

Dubai, Feb 25 (AP):

Jasmine Paolini earned her biggest title by defeating Anna Kalinskaya 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in the Dubai Championships final. Paolini fought back from a break down in the second and third sets en route to the second WTA singles title of her nine-year tour-level career.

The 26th-ranked Paolini and 40th-ranked Kalinskaya defied a field that started with 16 of the top 20 women, including the top four.

Paolini won her first title in Slovenia in 2021 and lost three finals since then. She lost to Kalinskaya a month ago in the Australian Open fourth round. Saturday's victory assured the Italian of a top 15 debut when the rankings are updated on Monday.

"It's so special. I'm really happy and really surprised," an emotional, smiling Paolini said on court. "I'm just happy that I believed I could win every



match. I remember my first match this week. It was second set, I'd lost the first and was a break down, yet now I'm here winning the title. It's unbelievable."



India's Ravichandran Ashwin with teammates celebrates the wicket of James Anderson.

cleaned up Crawley with a gem of a delivery that skidded through, unsettling the middle-stump.

Crawley was looking in an ominous mood and tore into the Indian attack against the run of play to stretch their overall lead past 150 as Rohit persisted with Ashwin and Jadeja in the second session.

But Kuldeep breathed fire into the attack as he got drift and was at his deceptive best.

Having survived through an umpire's call, England skipper Ben Stokes was castled by Kuldeep with the ball staying low.

Bairstow looked in firm control in his 42-ball 30 (3x4) but fell in the first ball after tea when Jadeja exploited the cracks on the pitch to turn it away and the batter drove it straight to short cover.

Kuldeep then dismissed Tom Hartley and Ollie Robinson in four balls, before Ashwin raced to his fifth wicket as stumper Dhruv Jurel took a brilliant reflex catch to oust James Anderson.

In the process, Ashwin also became the highest wicket-taker at home for India. He now has 354 wickets from 59 Tests at home, overtaking Anil Kumble's tally of 350 from 63 matches.

NZ to send security delegation to Pakistan

Karachi, Feb 25 (PTI):

New Zealand Cricket will send a security delegation to Pakistan ahead of their five-match T20I series in April this year.

A reliable source close to the Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed that the delegation would include private security expert Reg Dickson and a senior official of the NZ players association Heath Mills. Dickson has been the regular security consultant for the ICC and other cricket boards when top tier teams have visited Pakistan in recent years. In the 2022-23 season, Pakistan hosted England and New Zealand twice along with Australia (once). "The delegation is due in early March to visit Lahore and Rawalpindi where the matches will probably be held," the source said. The Kiwi team's visit is not part of the ICC FTP and is a return visit for the five T20Is that Pakistan played in New Zealand in January this year.

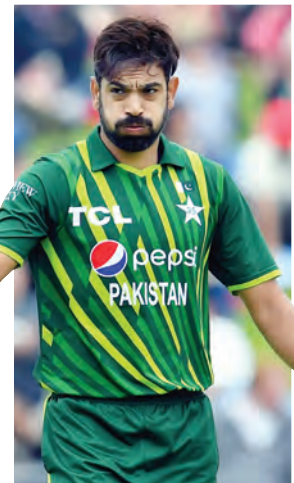
"I think we played well overall. Australia are a good team and we gave our best right till the end. Compared to the last match, we were much better in defence," India captain Harmanpreet Singh after the match.

Haris Rauf ruled out of PSL due to shoulder injury

Kings on Friday night and went off the field.

He will need four to six weeks to regain fitness. "MRI scans and other tests have shown he has a disclosed shoulder which will take time to heal so he is out of the PSL," the Lahore Qalandars spokesperson said. It is a big blow to the Lahore side which despite being defending champions have now lost all four of their games. They lost to Karachi Kings in the final over by two wickets on Saturday. Haris, who recently had his central contract terminated by the Pakistan Cricket Board on disciplinary grounds, is expected to take time to recover from his shoulder injury.

The 30-year-old, who plays for Lahore Qalandars in PSL, had hurt his shoulder while fielding against Karachi



Lahore, Feb 25 (PTI):

Pakistan fast bowler, Haris Rauf has been ruled out for the remainder of the Pakistan Super League with a disclosed shoulder.

The 30-year-old, who plays for Lahore Qalandars in PSL, had hurt his shoulder while fielding against Karachi

Yathiraj, Pramod, Krishna win gold at Para Badminton World Championships



Pattaya (Thailand), Feb 25 (PTI):

India's Suhlas Yathiraj, Pramod Bhagat and Krishna Nagar capped their impressive run by securing gold medals in men's singles SL4, SL3 and SH6 class respectively at the Para Badminton World Championship here on Sunday.

The world No 3 Yathiraj, a Paralympic silver medalist, outwitted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-18 21-18 in SL4 final (standing/lower limb impairment/minor) for her maiden world title.

"Gold it is, happy and proud to be world champi-

ICC suspends Hasaranga for two matches

London, Feb 25 (PTI):

Left-arm spinner Jack Leach is set to undergo a knee surgery on Tuesday after being ruled out of the England's ongoing five-Test tour of India.

Leach, who came into the India series as England's most experienced spinner, took part in only the opening Test at Hyderabad which his side won by 28 runs.

The 32-year-old spinner suffered an injury on the field which caused severe swelling, forcing him to leave the tour after missing the second

Australia prevail over India in shootout

Rourkela, Feb 25 (PTI):

The Indian men's team suffered a heartbreaking 0-3 defeat in the shootout to nemesis Australia after holding its mighty opponents to a 2-2 draw in the regulation time of the FIH Pro League match here on Saturday.

Australia also earned a bonus point for the win.

In their fourth shootout of the season, India failed to score a goal while Australia struck all three as Johan Durst enjoyed a memorable night at the Birs Munda International Hockey Stadium.

India were on their way to humble the mighty Australian team and end their unbeaten run in the Odisha leg until Craig Tom scored in the fourth and final quarter to take the match into the shootout.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (20th minute) and

Amit Rohidas (29th minute) scored for the home team, while Govers Blake and Tom (53rd minute) found the target for the visiting Australian side in regulation time.

In the shootout, Tim Brand, Ogilvie and Tom Wickham scored for Australia, but Akashdeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh and Lalit Kumar Upadhyay missed their attempts for India.

This was India's second shootout defeat in a draw even though they added a point to their tally for holding their opponents to a 2-2 draw in regulation time.

"I think we played well overall. Australia are a good team and we gave our best right till the end. Compared to the last match, we were much better in defence," India captain Harmanpreet Singh after the match.

Ranchi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Dhruv Jurel's defensive chef-d'oeuvre found a perfect match in the destructive symphony of spin by fifer-man Ravichandran Ashwin and Kuldeep Yadav as India seized decisive control of the fourth Test against England at the end of a dramatic third day here on Sunday.

India walked off at the stumps, having chiselled off 40 runs from the 192-run target without losing a wicket.

Rohit Sharma (24 batting) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (16 batting) would be confident of the team mustering the remaining 152 runs without much theatre.

However, it was Jurel who started India's resistive movement with a defiant 90 that came in 149 balls and 211 minutes. It carried the hosts to 307 in their first innings from the overnight 219 for seven.

In their second essay, England just did not have any answers to the questions posed by Ashwin (5/51), his 35th five-wicket haul in Tests, and Kuldeep Yadav (4/22), getting bowled out for a meagre 145. Opener Zak Crawley (60) was the lone post of fight.

It would have been worse for England without that Crawley fifty before his innings was halted by



London, Feb 25 (PTI):

Left-arm spinner Jack Leach is set to undergo a knee surgery on Tuesday after being ruled out of the England's ongoing five-Test tour of India.

Leach, who came into the India series as England's most experienced spinner, took part in only the opening Test at Hyderabad which his side won by 28 runs.

The 32-year-old spinner suffered an injury on the field which caused severe swelling, forcing him to leave the tour after missing the second

ICC suspends Hasaranga for two matches

Gurbaz fined 15 per cent of match fees

Dubai, Feb 25 (PTI):

The ICC has suspended Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga for two matches and docked a fine of 15 per cent on the match fee of Afghanistan wicket keeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz for breaching its Code of Conduct during the third T20I in Dambulla.

The global governing body said in a release that Hasaranga has been banned after the spin bowling all-rounder accumulated a total of five demerit points within a 24-month period, which includes his latest breach of the ICC Code of Conduct.

"Sri Lanka's T20I skipper and second-ranked T20I bowler on the ICC Men's Player Rankings, Wanindu Hasaranga, has been presented with a

Kuldeep. Ravindra Jadeja bagged a solitary wicket but it was the key wicket of Jonny Bairstow.

In fact, Crawley was the

only English batter to go past 30 as they lost their last seven wickets for just 35 runs with Ashwin and Jadeja weaving their

magic. Introduced late, the left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep struck in his third over when he

Test and subsequently returning home.

"I'm going to have an operation to get the rest of the swelling out because it's not budging," Leach was quoted as saying by the BBC.

The report added that the knee injury trouble is the latest for Leach who suffers from Crohn's disease, having also missed last year's Ashes in England due to a stress fracture in his back. On the tour of New Zealand five years ago in 2019, Leach had also contracted sepsis.

"It was quite an unfortunate one. It was the second ball of the first innings in the field so that whole game I was playing with this knee problem. I obviously knocked it a few times throughout that game and it has just created a long period of recovery," he said..

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PM to lay stone of 553 Amrit Bharat rail stations

Inaugurate Gomti Nagar station

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Monday lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 553 railway stations under the Amrit Bharat scheme which includes improving facilities by developing rooftop plazas and city centres at stations. The prime minister will also lay the foundation stone of nearly 1,500 road overbridges and underbridges across different states during a function that will be conducted virtually at more than 2,000 railway stations and function sites, officials

said. The prime minister will join the function via videoconferencing.

Modi will also inaugurate the Gomti Nagar station in Uttar Pradesh which has been redeveloped at a cost of around Rs 385 crores, they said.

"To cater to the increased future passenger footfall, this station has segregated arrival and departure facilities. It integrates both sides of the city. This centrally air-conditioned station has modern passenger amenities like air concourse, congestion-free circulation, food courts and ample parking space in upper and lower

basement," a statement from the prime minister's office said.

The Amrit Bharat stations, spread across 27 states and Union Territories, will be redeveloped at a cost of over Rs 19,000 crores.

These stations will act as 'city centres' integrating both sides of a city and will boast of modern passenger amenities such as roof plazas, beautiful landscaping, inter-modal connectivity, a modern facade, kids' play area, kiosks and food courts, it said.

The stations will be redeveloped as environment and Divyang-friendly and

the design of these buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture, it said.

The prime minister will also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation 1,500 overbridges and underpasses. These will be spread across 24 states and Union Territories, the statement said, adding that the total cost of these projects is around Rs 21,520 crores.

These projects will reduce congestion, enhance safety and connectivity, and improve the capacity and efficiency of rail travel, it said.

FLOWER EXHIBITION



People visit a flower exhibition behind the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday.

Will protest outside residence of Fadnavis: Jarange

Fadnavis trying to kill me

Mumbai, Feb 25 (PTI): Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Sunday said he would march to Mumbai and protest outside the residence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis who he accused of trying to kill him.

The announcement, made at the end of a speech of more than one hour in Antarwali Sarati in Jalna in which Jarange made several allegations against Fadnavis, took his supporters by surprise.

Asked about Jarange's statements later, Fadnavis just said "I did not hear what he spoke". "Some people are being misled and pressured to make false allegations

against me. Fadnavis is behind these conspiracies. He wants to kill me. I am ready to march to Sagar bungalow (Fadnavis' official residence in Mumbai's Malabar Hill) right away," Jarange said.

The announcement led to chaos at the site, where the activist's supporters had gathered in large numbers.

Even as some of them tried to take away his microphone, Jarange said he would march to Mumbai alone and all he needed was a stick for support.

He said allegations against him were levelled once the Maratha quota bill was passed in the Maharashtra legislature on February 20.

"How come these people realised my so-called mistakes now and began speaking about them," Jarange asked.



He also spoke about the "Brahminical tricks" of Fadnavis even while asserting that his allegations were not against "all Brahmins".

"Fadnavis does not like anyone to be more popular than him. It is because of Fadnavis that police complaints were filed against Maratha activists despite their peaceful protests.

The court has allowed us to protest peacefully. Then why were police complaints filed," he told a regional news channel.

"I am not backing down from my demand to include Marathas in the OBC segment and issuing of Kunbi certificates. There was a plan to finish me by poisoning me through saline. This government is trying to demean major communities through politic tricks," he alleged.

Hitting back, BJP MLA Nitesh Rane warned Jarange that he would have to cross a "huge wall of party workers" to reach Fadnavis, adding that the quota activist was "now reading from a script".

"He should enter politics but he should not stoop low to make such allegations against Fadnavis," Rane said.

Mumbai BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said Jarange's "true face" was now in the open for all to see.

"The Maharashtra government has given 10 per cent reservation to the Maratha community (through a bill passed in the Legislature on February 20). Why is he continuing to protest? Fadnavis was CM for five years and everyone knows him. His image is not going to be affected by Jarange's allegations," Bhatkalkar said.

Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar said anyone speaking in this condemnable manner against Fadnavis must be careful.

He said the Eknath Shinde government had given 10 per cent quota to the Maratha community and the BJP was always supportive of the move.

'BJP to win big but there is no Modi magic'

Patna, Feb 25 (PTI):



Subramanian Swamy

Senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Sunday claimed "a surge in Hindu pride" was likely to boost the party's prospects in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, but discounted the role of "Modi magic". The maverick leader, who was here to take part in a 'law conclave', asserted that in the BJP, and its ideological parent RSS, greater value was attached to 'sangathan' (organisation) and 'sidhant' (principles) than to individuals.

"I too believe that the BJP will surpass its previous electoral performance because, for the first time, Hindus are feeling proud of their identity. They no longer feel the dif-

ference that was thrust upon them during Nehru's time," Swamy told reporters, responding to queries about PM Modi's claim of the party winning more than 370 seats and the NDA crossing the 400-mark.

The former Union minister, however, added, "Some people may think that this change has taken

place because of them. We need not attach importance to such things... I do not think there is anything like Modi magic. Individuals are not put on a pedestal in BJP-RSS. That has been Congress culture." Swamy also welcomed the return to the NDA of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and said it would be in the JD(U) president's own interests to refrain from more flip-flops.

"He was always ours. I still do not understand why he had left us. He is intelligent and learned and should understand that he cannot afford to go against Hindu sentiments. He should, therefore, take the pledge that he will never part ways with the BJP again," said Swamy.

PM MEETS DWARKA SHANKARACHARYA



PM Modi with Dwarka Shankaracharya Swami Sadanand Saraswati ji Maharaj at Shankaracharya Math Shardapeeth, in Dwarka, Gujarat, Sunday.

IIT-Madras researchers patent use of Indian spices to treat cancer

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI): Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, have patented the use of Indian spices to treat cancer and the medicines are likely to be available in the market by 2023, according to officials.

The Indian spice-derived nanomedicines have shown anti-cancer activity against lung, breast, colon, cervical, oral and thyroid cell lines but were safe in normal cells, they said.

The nanomedicines were also found to be safe in normal cells. The researchers are currently working on addressing the safety and cost issues which are major challenges in the existing cancer medicines.

Animal studies have been successfully concluded recently and clinical trials are being planned with a target of making the medicines available in the market by 2027-28.

"While the medical benefits of Indian spice oils

have been known through the ages, their bioavailability has limited their application and use. Formulation as a nano-emulsion effectively overcomes this limitation. Stability of the nano-emulsion was a key consideration and it was optimised in our laboratory," R Nagarajan, a professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering in IIT-Madras, told PTI.

"While mechanistic studies to identify the active ingredients and their modes of interaction with cancer cells are important and will continue in our labs, parallelly, we will attempt to translate the positive results in our animal studies to clinical trials in an expedited manner. We are looking at a two to three-year window for bringing the formulations to market," he added.

Animal studies have been carried out on the patented anti-cancer nano-formulations. Animal vali-

Clinical trials to begin soon

dation to adjust the dosage (GLP phase) and efficacy studies (non-GLP phase) have been carried out through funding support from IIT Madras Distinguished Alumnus Awardee and Infosys Co-Founder Gopalakrishnan through Pratiksha Trust. Nagarajan said there are several advantages of nano-oncology over conventional cancer treatment therapy. "The benefits include no toxic side-effects, reduced cost of treatment, abundance of Indian spice oils and leveraging of nano-scale for optimising effectiveness and bio-availability," he said.

M Joyce Nirmala, Chief Scientific Officer (Cancer Nanomedicine and Drug Design Laboratory), IIT Madras, said the patented Indian spice-based nano-formulations have proven effective in many common

types of cancers through in-vitro studies. "The drug dosage adjustment and efficacy are now under investigation through animal models. This will be followed by clinical trials. This cancer nanomedicine is being developed to reduce the cost and pain of cancer treatment and also to overcome the toxic side effects seen in the existing cancer treatments."

India is the world's largest spice producer. Hence, large-scale production could be achieved at a low cost with our Indian spice-based cancer nanomedicine. "Moreover, the formulations are developed for an oral route of administration to ease the treatment process. The spices chosen are edible, hence, biocompatibility is good, reducing toxic side effects.

"Also, plant and spice oils, in general, could influence multiple oncogenic signalling pathways, which have an

added advantage in improving the quality of life of cancer patients," Nirmala said.

India to add 18 more N-power reactors with total capacity of 13,800 MWe

New Delhi, Feb 25 (PTI):

By 2032

India will add 18 more nuclear power reactors with a cumulative capacity to generate 13,800 MWe of electricity, taking the total share of atomic power in the energy mix to 22,480 MWe by 2031-32.

This was announced by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) after Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two home-built 700 MW nuclear power reactors at Kakrapar in Gujarat last week. Presently, the NPCIL operates 24 reactors with a total capacity of 8,180 MWe. The prime minister dedicated units 3

& 4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS 3 & 4) to the nation on February 22.

KAPS-4 was connected to the western power grid on February 20, two days ahead of PM Modi's visit to Kakrapar.

KAPS 3 & 4 (2 X 700 MW) are the largest indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) with advanced safety features comparable to the best in the world, the NPCIL said.

"These reactors have been designed, constructed, commissioned, and operated by NPCIL, with the supply of equipment and

execution of contracts by Indian industries/ companies, reflecting the true spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat," the NPCIL said.

The prime minister said the role of nuclear power in electricity generation is going to increase in the 21st century and it was a matter of pride that India is Atmanirbhar in this advanced technology.

Modi also visited the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station and took a tour of the Control Room on the occasion.

Four nuclear power plants of 1,000 MWe each are being built at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance.

Efforts on to change constitution: Kharge

Warns about dictatorship



Bengaluru, Feb 25 (PTI):

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday claimed that efforts are underway to change the Constitution, and warned people that there would "certainly be a dictatorship" in India if they don't stand strong and united in the upcoming

Lok Sabha elections.

He was speaking at the valedictory of the 'Constitution and National Unity Convention -2024' here. "Many people are trying to erase or change the Constitution. If you don't stand strong and united in the upcoming election and if the Constitution is affected, it is certain that there will be a dictatorship in this country in the days to come. Whether you want dictatorship or want to lead a life with justice, (deciding that) is important," Kharge said.

"If the Constitution survives, the unity of this country will survive. If democracy survives, every one can live with prosperi-

ty. But today there is no government at the Centre that either protects the Constitution or functions keeping the Constitution in mind," he added.

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