



Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Rajpath now becomes Kartavyapath, Mughal Garden becomes Amrit Udyan, new epaulettes of Indian Navy to be based on the naval ensign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Freedom from colonial mindset

Hamara sankalp Viksit Bharat

Scan for more information

BRIEF



Actor Aditi Rao Hydari poses for photos at an event, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

Major fire

Thane: A 42-year-old man was killed and four others, including two Fire Brigade personnel and a boy, were injured after a major fire broke out in a slum at Bhayandar in Thane district neighbouring Mumbai on Wednesday morning, destroying several huts and shops, officials said.

Bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday granted bail to former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi and her daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav in the Railways' land-for-job case. Misa Bharti, the eldest of RJD president Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi's children, is a Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar.

Suicide

New Delhi: A 39-year-old man, who had been diagnosed with cancer, allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train that was approaching a station on Delhi Metro's Yellow Line on Wednesday, according to officials.

Convicted

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday convicted AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal of abetting the suicide of a doctor in south Delhi in 2020, holding that the prosecution has established his guilt. Rajendra Singh, a 52-year-old doctor, had died by suicide in Durga Vihar on April 18, 2020.

Disqualified

Kolkata: Thirty-two candidates have so far been disqualified in the Class 12 Board examination in West Bengal for entering the exam centre with mobile phones in violation of rules, an official said on Wednesday. Four candidates were caught using mobile phones during exams on Wednesday and their candidature for the entire examination stand cancelled, President of West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education Chiranjib Bhattacharya said in a statement.

Weather
High 32 Low 19

MARKET
NIFTY 21,951.15
SENSEX 72,304.88

BULLION
GOLD 62,190
SILVER 68,830

Minister Vikramaditya Singh resigns

Speaker suspends 15 BJP MLAs

Shimla/New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI): The Congress on Wednesday scrambled to save its government in Himachal Pradesh, amid dramatic developments that included the resignation of high-profile minister Vikramaditya Singh and the suspension of 15 BJP MLAs by the Speaker.



MLA Vikramaditya Singh addresses a press conference, in Shimla, Wednesday.

The crisis was triggered by Tuesday's cross-voting by six Congress MLAs in the Rajya Sabha election for the lone seat from Himachal Pradesh. The suspended BJP MLAs, which included the leader of the opposition Jai Ram Thakur, stayed put in the House for a long time - in an apparent bid to stop the House from passing Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government's Budget through voice vote. The BJP wanted voting on the Budget, which they felt would reveal that the Congress has lost its ma-

majority in the state assembly. But in the afternoon, the crisis was staved off for now as the Finance Bill was passed by voice vote with no Bharatiya Janata Party member being present. Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania then adjourned the House sine die. Congress stalwart Abhishek Manu Singhvi was defeated by BJP's Harsh Mahajan Tuesday through a draw of lots, after the two candidates bagged 34 votes each. The result meant that the Congress which had stormed into power in the state just 14 months back,

'Will run govt for five years'

Amid a political crisis in Himachal Pradesh after the defeat of the Congress candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday asserted that they will run the government for five years. "Neither the high command has asked me nor anyone else for resignation and there is no such thing," Sukhu told PTI Videos while replying to a question. He said, "The kind of work done by the state BJP leaders.

'6 'rebel' Cong MLAs appear before Speaker'

The six Congress MLAs, who were issued show-cause notice for defying the whip for Rajya Sabha polls on Tuesday, appeared before the Speaker along with their lawyer and argued that they had not been provided all the relevant documents.

'Won't hesitate in taking tough decisions'

As the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh faces threat, the party on Wednesday said it was weighing all options and would not hesitate in taking "tough decisions" to ensure that the people's mandate given to it is respected. Six Congress MLAs voted in favour of the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, with sources claiming they are "disappointed" with the working style of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

State Assembly adjourned sine die

Raipur: The first budget session of the newly-elected Chhattisgarh assembly concluded on Wednesday, two days ahead of the schedule. After completing the listed business for the day, Speaker Raman Singh adjourned the House sine die. The monsoon session of the assembly is expected to commence from the last week of July, he added. The House on Tuesday passed the budget for the financial year 2024-25. During the session, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said the state government would recommend a CBI probe into the murder of Bhuneshwar Sahu in communal violence in Bemetara district last year. "Into a starred question by (BJP MLA) Dharamlal Kaushik, dated February 6, regarding the investigation of shops operated under the Public Distribution System, the state government has given consent to probe by a House committee," the speaker said.

PM lashes out at DMK over 'China flag' row in spaceport advt



Tirunelveli, Feb 28 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday strongly criticised the DMK in Tamil Nadu for being 'oblivious' to the nation's achievements in space sector, after a newspaper advertisement by a state minister belonging to the party over a spaceport kicked up a row over what the BJP claimed had a 'Chinese flag'. Modi alleged the DMK has disregarded India's success in space technology and demanded that the Dravidian party apologise for featuring China in its advertisement in a daily. The ruling DMK said BJP's accusation was only political in nature. Addressing a BJP rally here, PM Modi alleged the

DMK regime does not work but only took false credit and it affixed its 'stickers' on Central schemes. "Now they have crossed the limit. They have pasted the sticker of China to take credit for ISRO launchpad in Tamil Nadu. This is an insult to our space scientists, space sector, your tax money and you (the country)," he said. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a new launch complex of ISRO at Kulasekarapattinam near Thoothukudi, which is worth about Rs 986 crore and the facility is set to accommodate 24 launches per year. The new complex includes 35 facilities, and features mobile launch structure (MLS) with checkout computers marking a significant stride in enhancing space exploration capabilities.

SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARD

Ashok Saraf, Rajeev Verma, Bombay Jayashri to receive award



New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI): The Sangeet Natak Akademi on Wednesday announced the list of six Akademi Fellows and 92 artists, including actors Ashok Saraf, Rajeev Verma and singer Bombay Jayashri, who will receive the prestigious award for the years 2022 and 2023. The National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama elects eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows. The Fellows are folklorist and author Vinayak Khedekar, veena player R Visweswaran, Kathak dancer Sunayana Hazarilal, Kuchipudi dancing couple Raja and Radha

BJP leaders brainstorm over LS poll candidates

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday brainstormed over the party's probable candidates in many states for the Lok Sabha elections, a day before its Central Election Committee is expected to meet to finalise the names for the first list of party nominees. Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda held separate meetings with party leaders from several states, including Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand among others. Similar meetings with leaders from Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana have been held so far. The first list, party sources said, is expected to include the names of heavyweights like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah but may also include many seats which were not won by the BJP in the 2019 polls. The first list for the 2019 elections had also included Modi and Shah, who was then the party's national president and had made his Lok Sabha poll debut from Gandhinagar.

Woman Naxalite surrenders

Dantewada, Feb 28: A woman Naxalite carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh on her head surrendered before the police and security forces in Dantewada district on Wednesday, an official said. Gangi Muchaki (33) turned herself in citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said.

Narayana Health | MMI

जब सामना हो कैंसर से तो हम रखेंगे ख्याल Take Care

विशेषज्ञ से नि:शुल्क परामर्श करावाए

राजधानी अस्पताल, दिल्ली, अहमदाबाद, बंगलूर, कोयंबूर, मुंबई, पुणे, रायपुर, रावत अस्पताल, रायपुर, रावत अस्पताल, रावत अस्पताल, रावत अस्पताल

राजधानी अस्पताल, दिल्ली, अहमदाबाद, बंगलूर, कोयंबूर, मुंबई, पुणे, रायपुर, रावत अस्पताल, रावत अस्पताल, रावत अस्पताल, रावत अस्पताल

1800 309 10209

HIGHEST-EVER BUST Record 3,300 kg of drugs seized off Guj coast

5 foreigners nabbed



Indian Navy personnel show 3300Kgs contraband (3089kg Charas, 158kg Methamphetamine, 25kg Morphine) seized from a vessel in a joint operation with NCB.

Porbandar/New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI): Indian agencies Wednesday made their highest-ever drugs bust from the sea as they seized 3,300 kg narcotics, which sailed from an Iranian port, off the Gujarat coast and arrested five foreigners from a dhow. Home Minister Amit Shah called the joint operation by the Navy, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Gujarat

Police a "historic success" and a testament of his government's "unwavering commitment to making our nation drug-free". The unregistered fishing boat was intercepted on Tuesday morning at the Arabian Sea from point about 60 nautical miles from the Indian coast and along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

PATANJALI FOODS LTD.

Adopt Patanjali and save the Nation from economic & cultural loot

World's best Patanjali Chyawanprash and Honey. Patanjali Cow's Ghee as pure as Biloni Ghee.

Kachi Ghani pure Mustard Oil & range of healthy oils enriched with Vitamin A and D.

Adopt healthy Patanjali spices and protect your family from adulteration of spices.

Shop Online- www.patanjalijayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 | Email ID - feedback@patanjaliayurved.org | Website - www.patanjalijayurved.org

50657 workers getting work daily under MGNREGA

Man-day target achieved

Bhilai, Feb 28:

The basic concept of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is that every hand should get work and full price for the work. This concept seems to be being fulfilled in the district. Under MGNREGA, employment opportunities are being provided to 109514 registered families of the district to make the workers self-reliant. The target of providing employment of 35 lakh 48 thousand 633 man-days has been achieved in the financial year 2023-24. Employment of 36 lakh 50 thousand 605 man-days



was created in the district. MGNREGA scheme made full contribution in making rural families self-reliant. Under MGNREGA, Rs 12106.50 lakh has been sanctioned for a total of 3400 construction works in the year 2023-24 and 863 works have been sanctioned by District Panchayat Durg, 1313 works by District Panchayat Dhamdha, 1224 works by District

Panchayat Patan. As per the instructions of Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary, timely wage payment is being done by seeding the Aadhaar of the bank account. 50657 laborers are working every day in the district. All workers are being paid through the bank account. Wages to the tune of Rs 76 crore 62 lakh 73 thousand have been paid to the villagers. To maintain

transparency in MGNREGA, attendance of workers is recorded on the NMMS app.

Through the NMMS app, attendance details of workers and photographs of workers while working are uploaded in the morning and evening. Wages are paid only as per the records. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Ashwani Dewangan said that under MGNREGA, labourers who have worked for 100 days in Project Unnati are given training to become self-reliant, so that apart from labour work, they can become proficient in other employment oriented means. Under this, 235 workers were given training against the target of 217.

IG instructs speedy action against Mahadev Book accused

Bhilai, Feb 28:

On Wednesday, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg chaired a virtual meeting with Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla and Station House Officers. Cases against accused of online betting through Mahadev Book App were discussed.

In the meeting, the IGP directed to take prompt action against the accused of online betting, as per the government policies. He asked to ensure that the cases are investigated promptly and impartially and strict action is taken against the culprits.

He directed the Superintendent of Police, Durg to take strict action against online betting and other illegal activities. He



also sought information regarding the arrest of accused in online betting cases and the status of their release on bail. He also took information regarding the properties of the accused and directed to seize the properties which are made by the income of online betting. He further

gave instructions to issue Red Corner Notice in respect of fugitive criminals living in other countries.

Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla, Additional Superintendent of Police Padmashree Tanwar, Deputy Superintendent of Police Panikaram Kujur,

Deputy Superintendent of Police Shilpa Sahu, City Superintendent of Police (Chhawani) Ashish Banchor and officers of Durg Range Police urged all the citizens to remain alert and cooperate actively against any online betting or criminal activities.

Uday Mahavidyalaya celebrates National Science Day



Bhilai, Feb 28:

National Science Day was celebrated on Wednesday at Uday Mahavidyalaya, Jamul. National Science Day is celebrated in honour of the "Raman Effect" discovered by the great Indian scientist Dr CV Raman, a Nobel Prize winner. The students were given the theme "Science for a Sustainable

Future" on the occasion of National Science Day. The students delivered speeches, made posters and gave power point presentations on this theme. A quiz competition was also organised. Human life has become easier due to many inventions of science. Principal of the college, Dr Alipa Sahu, explained the positive and negative aspects of

science and inspired people to be aware of the environment conservation. The program was conducted by Ranjana Tripathi. Assistant Professor Kalavati Rao, Dr Prabha Sahu, Neelam Chauhan, Anjana Rajbir Singh, Purnima Sahu, Kalpana Gupta, Reshmi Bano, Anita Sahu, Satnam Singh and students were present.

BSP wins Greentech Award for 'Innovative Waste Management Technology'

Bhilai, Feb 28:

SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has been adjudged Winner for outstanding achievements in "Innovative Waste Management Technology" Category of "Greentech PCWR Awards 2024." The Greentech Foundation has congratulated Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant on Bhilai Steel Plant winning the award.

Greentech Foundation, New Delhi has further informed that the award for Winner of "Innovative Waste Management Technology" Category would be handed over to Bhilai Steel Plant at an award ceremony to be held at Guwahati (Assam) on April 19, 2024. It is worth mentioning that Bhilai Steel Plant has in recent past taken several measures in the area of waste management. Some among these include converting BOF slag to Paver blocks for which SAIL Green Tiles Plant (SGTP) was inaugurated inside the

Plant in June'23. SGTP was set up under the leadership of Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c Iron and guidance of Anjani Kumar, ED (Works). Paver blocks produced at the SGTP are being extensively used both inside the Plant as well as in township areas.

Another significant measure is the PCB waste disposal facility. Set up by SAIL-Bhilai, the facility was operationalised in Oct 23 and more than 40 tonnes of toxic waste oil from old transformers has been disposed in environment-friendly manner.

Bhilai Steel plant has also successfully conducted trial runs for the use of LD-slag as runner material in Blast Furnace runners as a replacement of river sand. Yet another measure taken in the area of waste management is successful trial runs for the co-processing of plastic granules manufactured from segregated plastics from Municipal solid waste in Coke Ovens.

BTTTA distributes helmets for safety of riders

Bhilai, Feb 28:

On Wednesday, under the joint aegis of Bhilai Truck Trailer Transporters Association (BTTTA) and Durg District Traffic Police, a free helmet distribution programme was organized in Transport Nagar Shri Beera Singh Chowk of Bhilai for the purpose of bringing awareness about traffic rules and traffic safety. Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Jha, Traffic DSP Satish Thakur and Traffic Inspector PD Chandra were present. Public awareness was created by the members and office bearers of the association by distributing helmets to the people. They were urged to follow traffic rules to prevent road accidents.



BTTTA patrons Prabhunath Mishra, Sudhir Singh, Mahendra Singh Pappi, President - Inderjit Singh Chhotu, Executive President Anil Chaudhary, General Secretary - Malkit Singh Lallu, Treasurer - Joga Rao, Secretary - Dilip Khatwani, Sudhir Singh Thakur, Sunil Chaudhary,

Nirmal Singh, Pankaj Singh, Baljinder Singh Billa, Amit Singh, Som Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Moni Singh, Wajid Ansari, Sunil Yadav, Manoj Agrawal, Pintu Randhawa, Sukhwant Singh, Raman, Rajdeep and all the office bearers and members were present.

Four convicts get life imprisonment for youth's murder

Bhilai, Feb 28:

Additional Sessions Court in Durg awarded life imprisonment to four youth after finding them guilty of murder. The fifth accused was acquitted. Additional Sessions Judge Shailesh Kumar Tiwari convicted Shivam Pal alias Bittu (18) son of Mohar Pal Singh a resident of Ram Nagar Kumhari; Rajat Soni (20) son of Kamlesh Soni a resident of Ramnagar Bhilai; Yuvraj Sahu alias Golu (19) son of Lokeshwar Sahu a resident of Ramnagar Bhilai; and Rahul Sahu (19) son of Laxman Sahu a resident of Ramnagar Kumhari on Wednesday. The fifth accused Yugal Nirmalkar (18) of Ramnagar Bhilai was

found not guilty and acquitted. Other minor accused are being tried in the Juvenile Court.

Additional Public Prosecutor Arshad Khan informed that a youth Praveen Kumar Yadav (21) of Deobaloda Charoda was beaten and stabbed to death at Anand Petrol Pump in Kumhari on January 02, 2023. Praveen and his three friends had gone to Dashmesh Dhaba in Kumhari for dinner. While returning home, they stopped at Anand Petrol Pump to get their scooter refuelled. Meanwhile, some ruffians reached there on three bikes and entered into an altercation with Praveen Kumar Yadav and his friends. The altercation grew violent and Praveen was beaten and

stabbed by the youth of another group. Praveen was rushed to a nearby hospital and thereafter shifted to Medical College Hospital in Raipur where he succumbed to his injuries.

Kumhari Police lodged a case and investigations were launched. Police examined the CCTV footages of the petrol pump and other places and later arrested the accused. After trial, the accused Shivam Pal alias Bittu, Rajat Soni, Yuvraj Sahu alias Golu and Rahul Sahu were found guilty under section 302, 34 of IPC and awarded life imprisonment as well as Rs 1000 fine. In case of non-payment of fine, they will serve an additional six months imprisonment.

Lecture Series conducted at Kala Mandir

Bhilai, Feb 28:

A lecture series was organised at Kalamandir, Civic Centre under the joint auspices of BSP Officers Association and Vivekananda Manav Prakarsh Sansthan Raipur on February 27, 2024. Swami Atmasradhanand Ji, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Kanpur and Swami Sarvotmanand Ji, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Education and Research Institute, Belur Math were invited as speakers and the program. Swami Sarvlokianand Ji, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi presided over the function. The invited speakers



gave very logical and sublime addresses on "Spiritual Life and Swami Vivekananda" and "Yoga in the Perspective of Swami Vivekananda". Swami Sarvotmanand Ji said in his address that commitment to high values along with physical purity is very important for success. Swami Atmasradhanand ji emphasized on doing Yoga with both body and mind instead of doing it only as

a physical activity, which will result in the society getting people with healthy body and strong character, which will lead to the welfare of the society and the nation.

In his presidential address Swami Sarvlokianand ji said that the society needs such citizens whose body is healthy and mind is pure. Those who cannot be affected by the greed of materialism and can lead the society in

the right direction by establishing high values of life. He called upon everyone to do good deeds by recognizing the divinity within them. Individuals and organizations will have to follow the highest standards of transparency, accountability and credibility in every work so that the success achieved will be long lasting.

The program was conducted by OA zonal representative Jitendra Manikpuri. The welcome address was given by OA President Narendra Kumar Banchor and the vote of thanks was proposed by OA Vice President Tushar Singh.

Denizens in large number registered their presence in this program. On behalf of Bhilai manage-

ment, Pawan Kumar, ED (P & A) and Soumya Tokdar CGM were present. Secretary of Vivekananda Manav Prakash Sansthan, Dr Omprakash Verma; President of Ramakrishna Seva Mandal, Pawan Kumar Sharma; Speaker of Risali Municipal Corporation, Keshav Banchor; General Secretary of Officers Association, Parvinder Singh; Treasurer, Ankur Mishra; Vice President, Akhilesh Mishra; Secretary, Sanjay Tiwari; Jyoti Prakash Sharma and zonal representatives Remy Thomas, MAR Sharif, Nimesh Gupta, DPS Brar, Pradeep Menon, GS Kumar, Rakesh Singh Thakur, Abhishek Kochhar, Baljit Singh Mann, Shailesh Malviya etc were present.

Auto driver and accomplice arrested for wire theft

Two arrested for purchasing stolen items

Bhilai, Feb 28:

Police arrested an auto driver and his accomplice on charges of stealing electric wires, meters and other fittings from agricultural farms. They were carrying out incidents of theft for the last 2-3 years. Two others were nabbed for purchasing the stolen items.

Police had received complaints regarding theft of electric wires installed for irrigation in the fields of village Jheet, Jamgaon (M) under Police Station Amleshwar and village Roohi, village Badhena, village Arsanara, village Amapendri, village Santara, village Phunda, village Pandar, village Gujra and village Chicha

under Police Station Patan. Cases were lodged at Amleshwar Police Station and Patan Police Station.

Taking a serious note over the frequent incidents of thefts, Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Ram Gopal Garg and Superintendent of Police (Durg) Jitendra Shukla directed their subordinates to locate the accused and recover the stolen items. Under the guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime/Rural) Dr Anurag Jha and Deputy Superintendent of Police (Crime) Mani Shankar Chandra and under the leadership of Police Sub-Divisional Officer (Patan) Devansh Rathore, a joint team of ACCU, Patan and Amleshwar Police Stations was formed. The joint team main-



tained vigil on the suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers was also activated. Patrolling was intensified in the prone areas. In this sequel, a patrolling team spotted two suspects

moving in an auto rickshaw on the intervening night of Feb 27-28 in village Santra Khar area. The suspects were identified as Ishwari Manikpuri of Azad Chowk Kumhari and Kamlesh Sinha of

Mathpuren Raipur. They were carrying electrical wires and a blade in a sack. When questioned, they were unable to give a satisfactory reply. During sustained interrogation, Ishwari Manikpuri con-

fessed to committing thefts in the last two years at Village Ruhi, Village Badhena, Village Arsanara, Village Amapendri, Village Santra, Village Phunda, Village Pandar, Village

Gujra, Village Chicha and Village Jheet. He used to come from Raipur on bike and identify the targets. Later, he used to commit thefts with his brother-in-law Kamlesh Sinha. Manikpuri used his own auto rickshaw number CG 04 TA 1525 for committing the thefts. They used to sell the stolen items in Raipur to Rakesh Daga with the help of Deepak Parpani. Daga purchased the stolen wires at the rate of Rs 120 per kg and stored them in his warehouse near Budha Talab Raipur. Police arrested the accused Ishwari Manikpuri (480 son of Ramdas Manikpuri, a resident of Azad Chowk, Kumhari Durg; Kamlesh Sinha (40) son of Ajit Sinha, a resident of Bajrang Chowk Mathpuren Raipur; Deepak Parpani (61) son of Amritlal Parpani a resi-

dent of Amaseoni Jalaram Apartment Raipur; and Rakesh Daga (54) son of S Daga, a resident of Budhpara Raipur. Police seized auto rickshaw, motor cycle, electric wire, blade, cash of Rs 5000, total worth Rs 5.50 lakh from them.

ASI Chandrashekhar Soni, Head Constable R u m o n S o n w a n i, Chandrashekhar Banjeer Constable Pankaj Chaturvedi, Rajkumar Chandra, Ashwani Yadu, Meghraj Chelak, Ajay Dhimar from ACCU, Inspector Rajendra Yadav, Constable Dushyant Bharti, Constable Rajeshwari Mastawar from Patan Police Station and Puneet Ram Suryavanshi, Constable Lakshmi Verma from Amleshwar Police Station played a vital role in arresting the accused.

LAST RESPECTS



Well-wishers and family members offered floral tributes and condolences before final journey of Pista Devi Agrawal from the residence of Minister for School Education and Tourism Brijmohan Agrawal here on Tuesday. The body was consigned to flames at Marwari crematorium with all rituals.

'Govt to recommend NIA probe into murder of cow shelter worker'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Feb 28: The state government will recommend a National Investigation Agency probe into the murder of a cow shelter worker in Kabirdham district, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on Wednesday.

"Sadhram Yadav was brutally murdered by slitting his throat (last month). There was no enmity (between him and the accused), yet he was killed. It seems it was not the murder of a person but a murder of an ideology which requires a micro investigation," Sai told reporters this evening.

He said family members of Yadav met him in Raipur and demanded a high-level investigation

and stern action against the accused.

"Considering their demand, the government has decided to recommend the case to the NIA for probe," the chief minister added.

Yadav (48) was killed allegedly by six men from a minority community on the outskirts of Kawardha city, the headquarters of Kabirdham district, on January 20.

All the six accused were arrested by the police and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was invoked.

Authorities had demolished a shop and other "illegal" encroachment in the front portion of the house of the main accused, officials had said.

Breach in CM's security, 8 police personnel suspended

A pistol licensee entered CM's campus office with pistol in his possession

Raipur, Feb 28: A person with a pistol in his possession was nabbed just five steps before the CM's temporary camp office at Pahuna here on Sunday. Taking the same as serious security breach in CM's security, eight police employees have been suspended on finding them guilty prima-facie. The incident is that of Feb 25 night at around 9:30.

There is complete silence in the Police department over this serious security breach of CM

Vishnu Deo Sai and nobody is ready to give any information related to it. As per information in this regard from sources, the person with pistol was not a contractor, but a person having association with the BJP's organization and was pistol licensee holder. This person reached Pahuna sitting in the vehicle of private staff of CM Sai and entered inside from the main door and since he was with the staff, they did not cross-checked him. It was when this person associated with the BJP's organization reached CM's office and in the presence of CM that the officers in CM's security identified him and nabbed him.

Eight police personnel suspended

In this first-ever case of security breach of VVIP, right police personnel found guilty prima-facie, have been suspended. These policemen were deployed in the first and second circle of CM's security.

In this case of breach in CM's security, the officers completely silent as to what step has been taken against the private staff in CM's office, along with whom this person entered CM's campus office. There is also news that the person nabbed is not from the organization, but a contractor and on this also the officials are not commenting.

State govt issues order to cancel all works sanctioned which could not start

From 2019-2023 related to infrastructure and state sponsored schemes

Raipur, Feb 28: The state government has issued an order that all the works for infrastructure and state sponsored schemes which have not been started till date and were sanctioned between 2019-2023, stands cancelled. The above order has been issued to all the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and CMOs of Nagar Palika Parishads and Nagar Panchayats as well.

In the order issued by the Urban Administration and Development Department of the state government, it has

been mentioned that the state government has asked to avoid extra expenditure in the government's works. So in view of financial discipline instructions were issued that all the sanctioned works of infrastructure and state-sponsored schemes from 2019-2023 which have not been started, stands cancelled. In the order issued on Feb 27, it is also mentioned that right from the date of issuing of this circular, all such works which are carried out with state's finances and which have not been started, can be started only after taking required permission from the Finance Department.

If necessary then this sys-

tem will be there: In the circular it is also mentioned that if the not required/ non-sanctioned works which are under priority of the Urban or rural body for FY 2023-24, then a fresh proposal for it should be sent.

MLAs have lodged complaint in VS

In the Vidhan Sabha, the MLAs of Opposition were regularly complaining that many works are being cancelled and it was denied by the state government.

The government in the House has said that no work has been rejected. But it was on the last day of the Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday, that this order has been issued.

Foreign origin cigars, cigarettes, rolling papers worth Rs 3.89 cr destroyed

By Customs & Central Excise Indore, Bhopal (Zone), in a huge burner in Raipur



Raipur, Feb 28: The Customs and Central Excise, Indore (Bhopal Zone) destroyed foreign origin Cigars worth Rs 3.89 cr and foreign origin based smuggled rolling papers worth Rs 40.86 lakh cigarettes here in Raipur on Tuesday. Going against the illegal import of the cigarettes and other banned items of foreign origin, the Customs and Central Excise, Indore, (Bhopal Zone) destroyed the foreign origin, destroyed the cig-

arettes worth Rs 40.86 lakh in a huge burner in outskirts of city. Along with these cigarettes, 2000 pieces of illegally brought to India and 557 rolling papers of foreign origin packed in Rolling Paper boxes were also destroyed. The cost of the destroyed cigarettes and other banned items is around Rs 3.89 cr and they were smuggled to India violating the provision under the Indian Customs Act 1962. The seized cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco

products were not as per the provisions/ rules fixed under (packaging & Labelling) Act 2008 (Amendment). The seized cigarettes, cigars and rolling papers were also not as per the packaged items Rule 2011. The cigarettes, cigars of foreign origin in the name of Paris, Gudang, Garam, Dunhill and others were under violation of Rolling Paper Customs Act 1962 and were smuggled taking support of the same in India. It was also under violation of the Packaged Items Act 2009 and COTPA (Violation of Advt. & Trade & Commerce, Production, Supply & distribution Statute) Act 2003, (COTPA-2003).

No best sports player declared or given govt job: Tankram

During last five years of Congress rule in the state

Raipur, Feb 28: In reply to a question related to Sports Ministry, the departmental minister Tankram Verma made a major revelation. On Minister's reply, the Speaker Dr Raman Singh

himself expressed surprise. Actually in absence of MLA Lata Usendi, the BJP MLA Sushant Shukla asked the question related to Sports & Youth Welfare department. During the question-hour session, Sushant Shukla raised a question on selection of best sports player and appointment in the government service.



The Sports & Youth Welfare Minister Tankram Verma informed

the House that after the Bhupesh Baghel government came to power, neither any list of the best sports players has been issued, nor any 'alankaran' samaroh has been held. Not only this, the Minister also replied that no player has been government service during Congress rule. On the Minister's reply, the Speaker himself expressed

surprise as to why no step was taken by the erstwhile Congress government in last five years and on which the Minister said that it is very much surprising. Minister Tankram Verma said that the Vishnu Deo Sai government is taking many steps for betterment of the sports players and soon an 'Alankaran Samaroh' will

also be organized and declaration of Alankaran and best sports player will also be made. On this occasion MLA Dharamjeet Singh said that during term of the earlier government, the actual sports player does not used to get employment and raised doubts as to from where they used to bring such persons!

Successful launch of LOTS with Automobile Dealers in Raipur

Marks a major step forward in legal aid on the road

Raipur, Feb 28: The collaboration between Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), Raipur Automobile Dealers Association (RADA), and Lawyered, a leading legal-tech platform, witnessed a successful launch event in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on February 28. The program took a significant step forward in reshaping roadside legal assistance for vehicle owners across India by offering LOTS (Lawyer On-The-Spot), roadside legal assistance service for com-



mercial vehicles ranging from right up to private cars, designed for every traveller, to ensure seamless travel without any legal hassles. It is available 24/7 across India, LOTS provides immediate on-call solutions with a vast network of over 70 thousand lawyers. It stands out by offering seamless ways to handle e-challans and in its efforts to keep commercial vehicles safe from legal issues, making every journey worry-free.

The launch was graced by the presence of dignitaries including the Chief Guest S. Prakash (IAS), Secretary, Department of Transport and Transport Commissioner, and the Guest of Honor D. Ravi Shankar (IPS), Additional Transport Commissioner, who was the driving force behind the initiative.

This collaboration began with a proactive move by automobile dealers who first approached FADA after seeing their

customers facing legal problems on the road. Realizing the need for a solution, FADA signed an MoU with Lawyered in September last year and pledged to solve the problem.

Speaking on the occasion, Manish Raj Singhania, President of FADA, emphasized the transformative potential of LOTS, comparing it with the evolution of roadside assistance in the automobile industry.

Himanshu Gupta, Founder and CEO of Lawyered, reiterated the mission to empower everyone legally, adding that the launch in Raipur is just a beginning. He expressed

his eagerness to expand this innovative solution to other states in India, making roadside assistance an essential part of vehicle ownership across the country. Gautam Saraf, Managing Partner/Chief Development Officer, Lawyered, described the launch of LOTS in Raipur as significant in making legal aid accessible across the country. Other key team members of Lawyered who attended the launch event included Asif Syed, Sameek Chaudhary, Mahendra Singh and Amit Katyal. On the occasion Vivek Garg - President RADA and other office bearers were present.

Encroachment in community building to be probed: Sao

By former Minister and his wife; Leader of Oppn in VS strongly objects

Raipur, Feb 28: On the 17th day of the Vidhan Sabha's budget session, the issue of encroachment on a community building by the Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia and his wife Shakun Daharia in Shatabdi Nagar was raised through call attention motion. It was amidst heated exchanges and debates between the ruling and Opposition MLAs, the Minister for Urban

Development dept and Dy. CM Arun Sao made a declaration for conduct high-level inquiry into the same.

On raising the issue of wife of former Minister related to encroachment in a community building in Vidhan Sabha through call attention notice was objected by the Leader of Opposition in VS Dr Charandas Mahant. He said that this case is subjudged and it cannot be brought for discussions in the House. It was amidst the objections by the Leader of Opposition in VS that the MLA Rajesh Munat read the call attention notice.

The Minister for Urban Development deptt Arun Sao said that a petition has been filed in the High Court related to the case and informed that the House that Rajshri Samiti has encroached upon the Community Building and it has been freed. It was including the white-wash and other works, a total expenditure of Rs 84.89 lakh was made. Terming the security of government's property as responsibility of the state government, he made a declaration to get the same investigated within 3 months.

National conference by ICAR-NIBSM inaugurated

Theme is "Novel Strategies for Mitigating Biotic and Abiotic Stresses for Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability"

Raipur, Feb 28: The national conference by ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (ICAR-NIBSM), Raipur was inaugurated here on Tuesday and the main theme is "Novel Strategies for Mitigating Biotic and Abiotic Stresses for Agricultural and Environmental Sustainability." Approximately 250 distinguished scientists, industry partners, and students are expected to attend the conference. Dr. S Ayyappan

expressed appreciation for the efforts of previous and current directors in the development of the institute, which was established in 2012. Highlighting that NIBSM stands as the sole ICAR institute in Chhattisgarh state, he underscored the institute's significant role in advancing One Health, food security with a focus on plant health. Dr. Ayyappan emphasized the importance of addressing biotic, abiotic, and social stresses through collaborative, secondary and climate-smart agriculture. He stressed the interconnectedness between biotic and abiotic stresses, noting that addressing one can influence the other. Advanced technologies such as AI and machine learning are essential in tackling these challenges effectively. Dr. Ayyappan called for the development of varieties and

breeds with co-tolerance to both types of stressors, prioritizing environmental sustainability and employment generation. Urging immediate action to address pressing issues, he emphasized the importance of learning from sister institutions and other science departments like DRDO. He proposed the Baronda declaration, advocating for a seamless transition from science to fields through enhanced research and implementation efforts.

Dr. K. Sammi Reddy, the director of ICAR-NIASM, shared that their institute has developed an abiotic stress information system and facilitated NIASM-KVK interaction, showcasing technologies suitable for neglected areas in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. They've made strides in climate-smart agriculture, fish-



eries, animal sciences, and recycling technologies, emphasizing the need to address multiple stresses simultaneously. Dr. Reddy highlighted the development of nature-positive maps for adaptation and mitigation strategies across various crops and regions, advocating for the use of genome tools to manage both biotic and abiotic stressors effectively.

Prof. Piyush K Pandey, Vice-Chancellor of Amity University

Chhattisgarh, Raipur, outlined the university's global presence with a student enrollment of 200,000 students and its local presence in Chhattisgarh with 3,000 students across ten schools. He expressed willingness to collaborate with NIBSM in AI and machine learning for managing biotic stresses and developing farmer-applicable technologies, emphasizing the importance of collaborative science over isolated efforts. Dr. S N Puri elaborated on

the origins of the institute and NIASM as deemed universities of national importance, aiming to strengthen graduate and postgraduate student capabilities. He envisioned NIBSM as a crucial national institute in plant protection, focusing on addressing farmers' major challenges such as pest and disease management and optimizing input usage to enhance their incomes. Dr. Puri stressed the need to sensitize policymakers and administrators on pest management, quarantine, and regulatory issues, while also highlighting the importance of nematode and storage pest management. He emphasized the institute's role in national policy formulations.

Prof. A N Mukhopadhyay highlighted NIBSM's unique position as the world's first institute of its kind and its potential

contribution to food security for India's 1.4 billion population through crop protection technologies. He underscored the significant losses in crop yield due to pests, diseases, and food waste during storage, stressing the importance of low-cost technologies for small-scale farmers and advocating for NIBSM's involvement in policy matters.

With the participation of renowned scientists from India and around the world, the conference serves as a platform for discussing the latest scientific innovations in crop stress management. Various stakeholders, including agro-based industries, farm machinery companies, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), agro-chemical companies, NGOs, agri-drone manufacturers, horticulture firms, and livestock firms, are actively engaged in presenting

their products and ideas for wider discussion and networking opportunities.

Throughout the conference, an abstract book compiling all accepted abstracts for publication is released, along with a souvenir and Saga of NIBSM Journey, depicting major events pictorially. Additionally, two technical bulletins published by ICAR-NIASM, Baramati, showcasing Natural Resource Management technologies developed by the institute, are also released. The inauguration of the Biotic Stress Management Society by dignitaries marks another significant event during the conference.

The inaugural session concludes with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Joint Director of NIBSM, Raipur.

Our ancestors have given us a glorious heritage : Harichandan

Foundation Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh celebrated at Raj Bhavan

Raipur, Feb 28:

The Foundation Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was celebrated with colorful cultural programs in the chief hospitality of Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan said on this occasion that the tireless hard work and determination of our ancestors has given us a glorious heritage of which we should be proud.

Under the "Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat" program of the Central Government, all the states celebrate each other's foundation day to promote the spirit of unity in diversity. In this sequence, the



foundation day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh was celebrated with enthusiasm at Raj Bhavan. The Governor congratulated the people of these states on the occasion of Foundation Day.

Addressing the function, Governor Harichandan said that this program is an initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which aims to promote mutual understanding and cooperation among the people of diverse cultures living in different states and union territories of India. Such pro-

grams provide an opportunity to people from different states to share their languages, cultures, traditions and practices, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

He said that from the lofty peaks of the Himalayas to the serene valley of Mizoram, both the states have a rich cultural heritage, diverse languages and complex traditions. Arunachal Pradesh is known for its ancient culture. This state is mentioned in major religious texts of India such as Kalika Purana and

Mahabharata.

The Governor said that when he thinks of the state of Mizoram, he imagines hilly terrain, winding rivers, flora, endlessly diverse landscapes and rich fauna. Mizoram's vibrant culture, wonderful arts and folk arts symbolize its rich heritage. This state ranks third in the country in education rate. The traditionally cherished beliefs and various socio-religious practices of the Mizo tribe give them a unique identity. He said that in a rapidly modernizing world, it is important that we cherish our traditions and strive for sustainable development and take these states to new heights.

The program was graced by Mizoram State representative Dr. Preeti Mishra and Arunachal Pradesh representative Ms. Hege B. Yasin also addressed the function. He gave information about the characteristics of their respective states and

urged people to visit these states from tourism point of view.

At the beginning of the program, Mizoram Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhupati and Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lieutenant General KT Pernaik extended greetings on the State Foundation Day through video messages. On this occasion, short films related to these states were also screened.

Folk dances of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh and dances steeped in tribal culture were performed by students of various universities. The Governor honored the representatives of these states with scarf and presenting mementos. Secretary to the Governor Mr. Yashwant Kumar, Legal Advisor Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, representatives of the concerned states, professors and students of various universities were present in the program.

CONDOLENCES



The Governor Vishwabhushan Harichandan offered floral tributes to Pista Devi Agrawal, at the residence of Minister for Higher Education and tourism Brijmohan Agrawal and expressed his heartfelt condolences towards grieved family members.

Two labourers out of danger

Injured in tragic incident at NMDC Kirandul construction site

Kirandul, Feb 28:

On Tuesday afternoon, a tragic incident was reported at a construction site in the Kirandul Complex of NMDC wherein 4 lives were lost due to the collapse of rock formations on the hillside. An unpredictable collapse of strata from a 15 meter high and 70 meter length rock formation landed on the workers on the construction site at Screening Plant III.

Though rescue operations were immediately initiated, 4 contractual workmen could not be rescued alive. Two other contractual workmen who sustained injuries during this incident are being treated at the NMDC Hospital and now out of harm's way.

In adherence to stringent commitment to safety, NMDC is conducting a thorough investigation into the incident. In the wake of this unfortunate event, the Senior Management of NMDC extended their deepest condolences and support to the bereaved families.

IIIT Naya Raipur organises 'Red Ribbon Club' event

Naya Raipur, Feb 28:



The Red Ribbon Club of IIIT Naya Raipur organized an event to recognize and raise awareness about HIV prevention and AIDS, on the February 24, 2024. The event encompassed various competitions, including essay writing, poster making and a quiz, emphasizing the importance of educating the community about preventing HIV and AIDS. The event encompassed a series of thought-provoking activities, aligning with global initiatives like World AIDS Day and National Youth Day. These activities are aimed at fostering awareness, understanding, and dialogue about the critical issue of HIV/AIDS.

Mrs Sunita Chansoria, an NSS Program Officer from Durga College, Raipur, was the Chief Guest of the event. Her presence added significant value to the event, symbolizing collaboration and shared commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. During the event, Dr. Manoj Kumar Majumder, Student Activity Centre (SAC) President and Dr.

Lakhindar Murmu, NSS Coordinator, were felicitated for their outstanding contributions to the cause. Their tireless efforts in organizing and promoting activities related to HIV prevention and awareness were acknowledged and appreciated by the Red Ribbon Club.

In his message, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Director, IIIT Naya Raipur, congratulated the Red Ribbon Club for organizing an impactful event. He commended the winners for their dedication and creativity in addressing the crucial issue of HIV/AIDS prevention and emphasized on the institution's commitment to social engagement and re-

sponsibility. Dr Sinha encouraged everyone to continue being torchbearers of positive change, using their knowledge and skills to contribute to the betterment of society.

The event proved to be a significant step towards fostering a culture of awareness and prevention in the community. Through activities like essay writing, poster making, and quiz competitions, participants actively engaged with the subject, contributing to the broader goal of creating a society well-informed about HIV/AIDS. Mrs Sunita Chansoria distributed mementos to the essay-writing, poster-making, and quiz competition winners.

Newly elected office bearers of Raipur Press Club pay courtesy visit to CM

Invited CM to attend the swearing-in ceremony

Raipur, Feb 28:



The newly elected office bearers of Raipur Press Club paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at the State Guest House Pahuna today. They presented the work of Chhattisgarh's litterateur, Vinod Kumar Shukla, titled 'Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi', to the Chief Minister. Raipur Press Club President Praphull Thakur invited Chief Minister Shri Sai to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected office bearers. Chief Minister congratulated

and extended best wishes to all the officials and thanked them for the invitation.

Chief Minister's Media Advisor Pankaj Jha, Press Club Vice President Sandeep Shukla, General Secretary Vaibhav Shiv Pandey, Treasurer Raman Halwai, and Joint Secretaries Sushri Tripti Soni and Arvind Sonwani were also present on the occasion.

WHRD workshop concludes with health awareness

Raipur, Feb 28:

Three day long women Human Rights Defenders workshop concluded today. 28 February is observed as National Health Day in India. This year's theme for this day is 'Indigenous technologies for Viksit Bharat'. Keeping this day in view with vital information about health facilities and available technologies in rural areas of the Bastar division. Sri Zabbar of State Health Resource Centre shared information with the participants.

There were 14 sessions in total. Some of them were participatory while some sessions were resource person based. Ms. Poonam from Bijapur enlightened the participants about condition of women in naxal hit Bastar area,



while board member of Shivi Development Society Ms. Rekha Chouhan's session was based on economic empowerment. Ms. Safina Sheikh oriented about concept of women human rights defenders & reviewed the economic activities of SDS in three districts of Bastar division. Rajesh Singh Sisodia held

a session on leadership development and skills therein. Ms. Archana Chouhan's session was based on SHG formation. Hanuman Sahay Program Officer introduced the participants with objectives and strategies of the SDS. Advocate Mamta Mishra vividly describe about legal rights & provisions for women.

Ms. Swalekha Sheikh (C.G. Police) spread awareness about cyber crime & crime against women. Ms. Khushbu Sahu explained how to use media & social media tools for spreading the voice. Workshop concluded with distribution of certificates to the participants by the organising team.

Issue of jobs through fake caste certificates raised in Assembly

Raipur, Feb 28: The issue of appointment in government departments with the use of fake caste certificates was raised during the Question Hour in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. On the question of BJP MLA Asharam Netam, Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that cases had been found against different officers and action in this regard was under process. Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that a total of 232 cases were registered and action was pending against 102. The government took action in 130 cases, he said, adding that 60 cases are pending for action in the department.

It is a matter of pride to win a medal at Int'nl level : CM

World Karate Championship silver medal winner Ms. Sneha Banjare had a courtesy meeting with the Chief Minister.

Raipur, Feb 28:

Ms. Sneha Banjare, silver medalist in the World Karate Championship, Dubai, met Chief Minister Vishnudeo Sai on Tuesday at the State Guest House Pahuna. Chief Minister Sai congratulated Ms. Banjare on winning the silver medal in the World Karate Championship held in the United Arab Emirates. The Chief

Minister said that it is a matter of pride to achieve this achievement while representing the country and the state at the international level. This has increased the prestige of the state.

Chief Minister Sai said that success achieved by you will also inspire the daughters of the state and girls will come forward in the sport of karate. Daughters have always worked to break myths and have proved their capabilities in every field. He took information about the competition from Ms. Banjare. She was felicitated with the medal she won in the competition and certificate. It is noteworthy that in

the World Karate Championship held in UAE, Sneha Banjare of Korba district has won the silver medal in the 68 kg senior category. Players from 84 countries of the world participated in the competition. 49 players were selected from India, in which Sneha was selected as the only player from Chhattisgarh. Sneha had reached the finals in her category by defeating participants from 11 countries. In the final she faced the Egyptian player and won the silver medal. Sneha is currently a MPEd final year student at Gurughasidas University. As a player, Sneha has won many medals.

Tanu Rani clinches silver medal

In Khelo India University Judo Championship

Raipur, Feb 28:

Tanu Rani, representing Ardency Judo Academy Bhillai, has etched her name in sporting fraternity by securing a silver medal at the Khelo India University Games 2024 held in Guwahati, Assam. This remarkable achievement not only marks a significant milestone for Rani but also represents the first-ever Judo medal for both Hemchand Yadav University and the state of Chhattisgarh at the prestigious tournament.



Anees Memon, President of the District Judo Association, lauded Rani's accomplishment, emphasizing her status as one of the state's finest athletes. Chhattisgarh State Judo Association President Arun Divedi and Secretary S.R. Soni extended their heartfelt congratulations, recognizing Rani's dedication and consistent improvement in performance. Highlighting Rani's

journey to success, Shweta Vijayanag, Secretary of Ardency Judo Academy, recounted her previous achievements, including a bronze medal at the Cadet National Championships and notable performances at School Nationals. Rani's perseverance and hard work, coupled with guidance from coaches Vijay Nag and Rahul Kumar of Ardency Judo Academy, have been instrumental in her success.

Despite hailing from a modest background, Rani's determination has shone through, with her father driving an auto to support the family. Coach Vijay Nag emphasized the immense talent of players like Rani and expressed optimism about their potential to excel at the international level given adequate support from the government.

Illegal liquor sale from govt shops

Probe against placement agency announced in Assembly

Raipur, Feb 28:

The issue of supply, over rate and illegal sale of country-made liquor was raised in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. BJP MLA Rajesh Munat asked whether an FIR would be registered against the placement agency in this case? On this, Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that an investigation will be conducted against the placement agency. If irregularities are found, a criminal case will be registered, he said. Raising the issue in the House BJP MLA Rajesh Munat asked about the policy on the basis of which liquor is purchased.

In absence of the Chief Minister, Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal replied that the liquor policy had already been framed. Liquor is supplied from liquor companies in proportion to the demand, he said, adding that procurement is done through tender. Munat asked that from 2019 to 23, only three companies kept supplying in Chhattisgarh? How many companies participated in the tender for domestic and foreign liquor? he asked.

Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said 'there are only three producers of country liquor in the state. Therefore only three tenders came'. Rajesh Munat said that 37 firms had participated in the tender in 2018-19, 67 in 2019-20 and after that 21 firms had participated. After this the number reduced.

Speaker Dr Raman Singh asked Munat why he was asking questions. On this Munat said that this was because the ED investigation in Chhattisgarh started due to alcohol. Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that government's policy was that only distilleries of Chhattisgarh would be included in the tender for country liquor. The districts were divided into eight zones and liquor was supplied from all three distilleries.

Rajesh Munat said that the same company supplied for five years. Was work given to only one distillery for supply for five years? he asked. Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that due to the lowest rate in the tender, the work of supply was given to only one company. According to Munat two types of liquor were sold in

government liquor shops-one is legal and the other illegal. Cases were registered against the illegal sellers, but no action was taken against even a single person, he said, adding that not a single action was taken against the placement agency. In five years, 157 cases were registered and action was taken against only two persons, he said. He said that 567 cases were registered in the entire state for selling illegal liquor from government shops, but action was taken only on five. He asked 'Will this matter be investigated?' Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that the figures given by the member were not correct. Action has been taken against 500 employees of the placement agency, he said.

Rajesh Munat asked whether action will be taken against those who

looted money of Chhattisgarh. On this Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that ED and ACB were investigating in this matter. Munat said that the placement agency supplied illegal liquor from government shops. Duplicate holograms were used, he said. Chhattisgarh's money was looted in a planned manner. Is this placement agency still working today?

Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that the placement agency was still working. The investigation into this matter is still going on, he said, adding that action will be taken against whoever is found guilty. The minister said that the placement agency did not make any effort to protect its employees. Whenever cases came up, action was taken, he added.

ELECTION PREPARATIONS



Labourers make flags of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, in Mathura, Wednesday.

President Murmu begins four-day Odisha tour

Baripada (Odisha), Feb 28 (PTI):

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday began her four-day visit to Odisha by offering prayers at the Maa Kichakeswari temple in Mayurbhanj district, officials said.

Accompanied by her daughter Itishree Murmu, Odisha Governor Raghubar Das and Union minister Bishweswar Tudu, among others, the President visited the eighth-century temple at Khiching.



President Droupadi Murmu being received by Governor of Jharkhand C.P. Radhakrishnan upon her arrival in Ranchi, Wednesday.

Staffers, also partook 'prasad' on banana leaves by sitting on the floor of the temple, priests at the place of worship said. On the way to the temple, hundreds of school-children waved flags and tribals greeted the President with their traditional music and dance.

convocation of Central University Jharkhand (CUJ) in Ranchi.

During her four-day visit, the President is scheduled to attend a series of programmes in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Berhampur, Cuttack, and Khurda districts. After visiting the temple at Khiching, the President moved towards her hometown Rairangpur, where she would lay the foundation of a central government holiday home.

Findings of committee on ordeal faced by two GNLU students 'scary': HC

Ahmedabad, Feb 28 (PTI):

The Gujarat High Court on Wednesday described the findings of a committee which looked into the allegations of harassment of a queer student and rape of a female student at Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) as "scary".

After going through parts of the report, submitted in a sealed cover, a division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Aniruddha P Mayee expressed shock at "incidents of molestation, rape, discrimination, homophobia, favouritism, suppression

of voices" going on at the Gandhinagar-based institute.

"This report is really scary," said the court, hearing a suo motu Public Interest Litigation based on a newspaper report dated September 22, 2023.

As per the newspaper, a male student of GNLU suffered mental trauma due to the harassment meted out to him only for the reason of being a queer, while a female student had accused a batchmate of raping her.

The court had earlier directed the institute to reconstitute its fact-finding committee, set up to

inquire into the alleged incidents. The new committee was headed by Justice (retired) Harsha Devani of the high court.

One of the victims categorically stated that "a politically influential faculty in a residential college play the role of parents ... they have taken the post as something meant to tarnish the image of the university," it said.

"It was so difficult for them (the students) to speak (to the committee members). They are students of law, they are supposed to help others to hear their voices," the court added.

All these lectures, talks, seminars...everything goes to rubbish, it has no meaning at all," it said.

A competent authority should consider the fact-finding report, the high court said, and posted the matter to March 12 after directing the lawyer assisting the court as well as the lawyers representing the GNLU to determine the appropriate authority.

The fact-finding report also mentions allegations against certain faculty members, the registrar and the director of the institute which needs a high-level inquiry, the judges said.

Man sentenced to cumulative 51 years imprisonment for rape of minor stepdaughter

For rape of minor stepdaughter

Idukki (Kerala), Feb 28 (PTI):

A Kerala court on Wednesday convicted and sentenced a 40-year-old man to a cumulative 51 years imprisonment for the rape of his then 17-year-old stepdaughter in 2018 at their residence in Munnar here. Devikulam Fast Track Special Court (PCO) judge Sirajudheen P A sentenced the accused to varying jail terms for offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the IPC for a total of 51 years, special public prosecutor (SPP) Smiju K Das said. However, the man will serve 20 years in

prison as sentences have to be served concurrently and that was the highest jail term announced by the judge, the SPP said. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.55 lakh on the convict which shall be given to the victim, the prosecutor said. The court also recommended compensation to be pro-

vided to the victim as per the Victim Compensation Scheme and give a direction for the same to the District Legal Services Authority, Idukki-Thodupuzha, the SPP said. The girl was raped on three separate days in November 2018 when the victim's mother was not at home, the prosecutor said.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD. 2nd Floor, Shyam Square, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) Ph: 0771-2582702. APPENDIX-(IV) RULE 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) Under Rule No. 8 (1) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002...

Women driven e-autos to improve last mile connectivity

At two Bengaluru metro stations

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (PTI):

To enhance last-mile connectivity to Bengaluru's Namma Metro stations, a fleet of women operated electric auto rickshaws were introduced at Indiranagar and Yelachenahalli metro stations on Wednesday.

The Low Emission Access to Public Transport (LEAP), an initiative of Alstom, a multinational company that offers solutions for a low carbon future, is done in collaboration with WRI India, a research organisation that aims to influence government policies and civil society actions. The other

collaborators are Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) and Metroride, an app dedicated to first and last mile connectivity.

"As part of the pilot phase of the programme, we will have electric autos deployed as a last-mile service at Yelachenahalli and Indiranagar stations, serving commuters in a radius of 4 km from each station," Olivier Loison, managing director of Alstom India, told PTI.

The pilot initiative was launched by former MP Rajeev Gowda, vice chairman of State Institute for the Transformation of Karnataka and member of Brand Bengaluru Committee. Kalpana Kataria, executive director of BMRL was also present.

Loison said Indiranagar was chosen as a pilot project because it's a commercial hub close to the city centre and therefore, witnesses heavy traffic movement. "Although a residential area primarily, Yelachenahalli too is rapidly transforming into a major IT hub," he said.

According to him, sustainable transport options in these two stations can significantly benefit metro commuters by bridging last mile connectivity issues.

The reason why women drivers were specifically brought under the programme is to ensure gender inclusivity, said Loison. "Women will feel safer with women drivers of the e-autos," he added.

Vantara initiates for global conservation effort

Jamnagar, Feb 28:

Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation announced the launch of their Vantara (Star of the Forest) programme, an umbrella initiative to focus on rescue, treatment, care and rehabilitation of injured, abused and threatened animals, both in India and abroad.

Spread over 3000 acres within the Green Belt of Reliance's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat, Vantara aims to be one of the leading contributors to conservation efforts globally.

By working with leading experts in animal care and welfare, Vantara has converted a sprawling 3000-

acre space into a jungle-like environment that mimics the natural, enriching, lush and verdant habitat for the rescued species to thrive in.

आम सूचना. सर्वप्रथम आपका ध्यान है कि हमारे द्वारा जारी किया गया है कि... (Public notice regarding a legal matter or company update in Hindi).

NAME CHANGE

The general public is informed that I Shyam Sundar Agrawal, age 57 years, father late. Mr. Tejprakash Agrawal, Resident - Aadiwasi Colony, Kushalpur, Raipur Tehsil and District-Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001, who declares the following on oath: I have given up my old name Shyam Sundar and have taken the new name Shyam Sundar Agrawal, father Tejprakash. Therefore, from today onwards, I should be known & recognized by my new name Shyam Sundar Agrawal father Tejprakash Agrawal in all government, semi-government & other documents.

Shyam Sundar Agrawal Resident- Aadiwasi Colony, Kushalpur, Raipur Tehsil and District- Raipur, C.G. - 492001

Entire stretch of river Ganga in WB unfit for bathing: NGT

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI):

The entire stretch of the Ganga in West Bengal contains high faecal coliform making the water unfit for bathing, the National Green Tribunal has observed, warning the authorities concerned of imposing a fine unless there was progress in tackling the pollution. The tribunal underlined that 258.67 million litres per day (MLD) of untreated sewage was directly flowing into the river.

The NGT was hearing a matter involving prevention, control and reduction of pollution of the Ganga across each district and state through which the river or its tributaries flow. It was considering a report from West Bengal, submitted in pursuance of its earlier directions. A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash

Shrivastava noted that reports were filed by the District Magistrates (DM) of North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Nadia, Malda, Hooghly, Purba Burdhaman, Howrah, Purba Medinipur and South 24 Parganas. "On perusal of these reports, we, in general, find that no adequate facilities for

treatment of sewage generated per day have been set up and that even the timeline for achieving the target of 100 per cent treatment of sewage has not been disclosed," the bench, also comprising judicial member Sudhir Agarwal and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA. Mahadev Ghat Road, Sunder Nagar, Raipur (C.G.) 492013. Ph: 0771-2244245. Website: www.rbi.org.in. Email: rbi@raipur.rbi.org.in. Empanelment of Car Hiring/Taxi Operator Agencies/Companies to Provide Vehicles On Call Basis To Reserve Bank Of India, Raipur.

pnb Zonal Sastra Centre, Raipur. CORRIGENDUM. In the Willful Defaulter notice published in Central Chronicle on 24.02.2024 for Borrower- Khusrim Kundani. In the advertisement "Review Committee" will be read / treated as Identification Committee.

punjab national bank पंजाब नैशनाल बैंक. Zonal SASTRA Centre, Raipur. PLOT NO. 46, SECTOR 24, NAYA RAIPUR 492018. E-MAIL: zsb358@pnb.co.in, Ph: 0771-2210472. Notice with regard to Order of Identification Committee for Identification of Willful Defaulters.

MOTILAL OSWAL HOME LOANS. Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. Regd. Office: Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opp. Patel ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, CS: 8291889968. Website: www.motilaloswal.com. Email: hfquery@motilaloswal.com.

DEMAND NOTICE. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("the Act") AND THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 ("the Rules"). The undersigned being the authorized officer of Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (MOHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the Act read with the Rule 3, issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice(s) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The undersigned reasonably believes that borrower(s) is/are avoiding the service of the demand notice(s), therefore the service of notice is being effected by affixation and publication as per Rules. The contents of demand notice(s) are extracted herein below.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant Name/Guarantor Name, Date of Demand Notice and Outstanding, Description of the Immovable Property. Includes details for LXMORAIPUR522-230639756 / Sandeep Kumar Shivpujan Tiwari / Manita Tiwari.

Nyota Bhojan organized in primary school Keshala

Kharora, Feb 28:

The Government Primary School Keshala was transformed into a hub of happiness as students were treated to a sumptuous "Nyota Bhojan" under the auspices of the "Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (MDM)". The event, organized by a compassionate secret donor, brought smiles to the faces of the children as they enjoyed a wholesome feast comprising rice, pulses, vegetables, achar, papad, and kheer puri.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the children witnessed their teachers personally serving the deli-



cious food, fostering a sense of camaraderie and care within the school community. Notably, all the teachers dedicatedly contributed to ensuring that every child was served with love and warmth.

Dignitaries including the school Chairman of Management Development Committee, Shankar Lal Dewangan, Deputy Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Keshala, Mayaram Vanshe, along with esteemed members of

the School Development Committee, including Nehru Dewangan, Shivkumar Dewangan, Gauri Dewangan, Shuddh Prakash Dahria, Ganeshwari Navrange, Anjani Gilhare, and Priyanka Sidar, graced the occasion, adding to the spirit of unity and gratitude.

Expressing heartfelt appreciation, the head of the organizing committee, Santosh Kumar Verma, conveyed sincere gratitude to the generous donor and all those who contributed to making the "Nyota Bhojan" a memorable and uplifting experience for the students of Primary School Keshala.

Shivendra Verma appointed as state president

■ Priyankar Sen made state organization minister

■ Of Chhattisgarhia Yuva Kranti Sena

Kharora, Feb 28:

In a significant development for the youth movement in Chhattisgarh, the Chhattisgarhia Kranti Sena marked a pivotal moment as it solidified its commitment to safeguarding the state's heritage and promoting the welfare of its people. During a gathering at Karma Bhavan Kota, a new executive committee was formed, comprising members from Chhattisgarhia Mahila Kranti Sena,



Chhattisgarhia Yuva Kranti Sena, and the political party Johar Chhattisgarh Party.

Amit Baghel, State President of Johar Chhattisgarh Party, extended warm congratulations to the newly appointed officials, adorning them with auspicious yellow rice tilak, symbolizing their newfound responsibilities. Yashwant Verma, State General Secretary of



Chhattisgarhia Kranti Sena, presented Chhattisgarh's emblematic Chinchhari Kisanha Gamchha to the appointees, signifying their dedication to the state's welfare.

Amidst discussions on upcoming initiatives like the Hasdeo Bachav Andolan, scheduled for March 10, the gathering outlined plans to organize a human chain stretching from Mahadev Ghat to the

Assembly in Raipur. Additionally, a tree-planting ceremony near the Assembly, accompanied by offerings from the Kharun river, is set to mark the day's events.

Notable appointments include Shivendra Verma as the State President of Chhattisgarhia Youth Revolution Army, Priyankar Sen as the State Organization Minister, and Kanchan Dabang Chhattisgarh as the State Secretary.

Meanwhile, the Raipur executive committee of Chhattisgarhia Yuva Kranti Sena welcomed a dynamic lineup of leaders, including Pharmacist Rahul Verma as Convener and Manoj Sahu as Co-Convener, among others.

Paddy at Katgodi purchase center exposed to rain



Sonhat, Feb 28:

Concerns have arisen following reports of negligence at the Katgodi Paddy Procurement Center, where stored paddy was left exposed to intermittent rain without adequate protection. Despite the rain lasting from 2 pm to 6 pm on Tuesday, the center's manager failed to take necessary precautions to safeguard the government-purchased paddy by covering it with plastic or polythene.

The oversight has sparked questions regarding the manager's respon-

sibility and the potential repercussions of such negligence. Community members are eagerly awaiting action from higher authorities in response to these revelations, with hopes that strict measures will be taken to rectify the situation and prevent similar incidents in the future.

As discussions unfold regarding the appropriate course of action, the community remains vigilant, awaiting updates on whether the authorities will implement corrective measures to address the issue and ensure the preservation of the stored paddy.

Chaos over unannounced school leave without notice

■ In primary and middle schools

Kharora, Feb 28:

At the government primary and pre-secondary schools in village Padkidih, students were unexpectedly given leave from classes at 2 pm, leaving both parents and children puzzled about the sudden break in the academic schedule. Students from various grades, including 8th, 7th, and 5th, were left questioning the reason behind the unannounced leave, only to find that even their teachers were unaware of the cause.

According to sources, concerned parents voiced their objections, highlighting the upcoming examinations and emphasizing the importance of utilizing every available moment for academic preparation. They stressed the need for uninterrupted



classroom instruction to ensure students are adequately prepared for their exams, underscoring the significance of time in shaping their educational futures.

The principal of Padkidih Primary School attributed the leave to a Sankul-level training session on DigiLocker, although no formal written communication was provided to parents or students. Similarly, Dhaneshwari, the in-charge of Padkidih Pre-Secondary School, explained that while the

training was indeed essential for teachers, the lack of clarity surrounding the holiday caused confusion among students.

Ageshwar Singh Dhruv, the Sankul coordinator, clarified that the training was a mandatory requirement for teachers under a Central Government scheme, emphasizing the importance of DigiLocker training in streamlining administrative processes. Despite efforts to inform teachers through group communication, the abrupt leave decision caused some unrest

among the school community.

Teachers involved in the training echoed the necessity of the session, stating that it was imperative for all educators within the group to participate. However, some expressed regret over the lack of prior notice and the inconvenience caused to students and parents.

In response to the situation, Block Education Officer Gedale emphasized the importance of clarity and coordination in implementing training initiatives. He clarified that while DigiLocker training was essential, closing schools without proper authorization was inappropriate. Moving forward, efforts are underway to ensure smoother communication and minimize disruptions to students' learning experiences during critical examination periods.

Nyota Bhojan: A nutritious feast for school children

Korea, Feb 28:

Under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana has taken flight in Chhattisgarh, fostering unity and nutrition through the innovative 'Nyota Bhojan' scheme. Rooted in the rich tradition of communal dining during festivals and celebrations, Nyota Bhojan invites participation from all segments of society, emphasizing the importance of community partnership in nurturing the health and well-being of school children.

The scheme, a voluntary endeavor, aims to complement existing school meals by offering a diverse range of nutritious food items such as pulses, vegetables, rice, sweets, namkeen, and seasonal fruits during school hours. While not a substitute for regular meals, Nyota Bhojan supplements the nutritional intake of children, enhancing their immunity and fostering a sense of inclusivity and



belonging within the community.

Discussions during school management committee meetings highlight the meticulous planning involved in sourcing culturally acceptable food items and coordinating with donors to ensure timely provision for students. The active involvement of community members is crucial in expanding Nyota Bhojan's reach and impact, promoting mutual harmony and cooperation.

In a bid to recognize and encourage community participation, individuals contributing significantly

to Nyota Bhojan may be honored during national celebrations such as Independence Day or Republic Day.

Furthermore, as part of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana, millet bars will be distributed weekly to school children across nine districts, including Korea, until April 30, 2024. This initiative, facilitated by the State Seed and Agriculture Development Corporation Limited, underscores the government's commitment to promoting nutrition and well-being among the younger generation.

Private resolution passed to reduce mandi fee back to two percent

■ Farmer Welfare Fee brings back smiles on the faces of farmers

Kurud, Feb 28:

A private resolution was passed in the Chhattisgarh Assembly to reduce the mandi fee back to two percent and through this resolution, the farmer welfare fee imposed by the previous government has also been abolished. In this regard, MLA Ajay Chandrakar tabled this resolution in the Assembly on which the House agreed after detailed discussion and this decision of the government has brought great relief to rice millers, farmers, grain traders and traders and they have uniformly expressed happiness by thanking CM Vishnu Deo Sai, Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam and senior MLA Ajay Chandrakar.

President of Kurud Rice Mill Association, Hitendra Kela, expressed his gratitude for the abolition of Krishak Kalyan Mandi fee by the state government and said that the rice mill industry is in bad shape due to non-availability of custom milling and transportation for the year 2022-23 of the previous regime. Young rice miller Manish Agrawal said that this demand of hundreds of rice millers of the state has been pending for years and the previous government had increased the tax, by withdrawing which the Vishnudev Sai led government has given a big relief to the millers and farmers. The 2 percent market fee applicable in the BJP government was increased and 3 percent market fee and 2 percent Farmer Welfare Fund fee was implemented on paddy from November 30, 2021, he said.

Teachers trained for enhanced SMC roles



Pandariya, Feb 28:

In a significant step towards bolstering the efficiency of school management committees (SMCs), a comprehensive training session was successfully conducted for school heads and teachers from Padhi and Birkona Sankul.

The training, led by master trainers Kileshwari Umre, Kanhaiya Chandrakar, and Hamidullah Khan, delved into crucial aspects of SMC functioning, including constitutional rights, responsibilities, and effective meeting protocols.

Participants were briefed on the pivotal role of SMCs in addressing key issues such as student dropout rates, ensuring school facilities, tackling teacher shortages, and elevating educational standards.

Emphasizing the importance of active SMC involvement, trainers underscored the committee's role as a vital link between the school and the community. SMC members were encouraged to serve as dedicated advocates for students, fostering a conducive learning environment and promoting parental engagement in school affairs.

Furthermore, the training highlighted the significance of gender balance within SMCs and advocated for increased maternal involvement in school activities to harness the collective energy for the holistic development of children.

A diverse group of teachers, including Vikas Shukla, Vijay Chandel, Shivkumar Banjare, Rajendra Prasad Tiwari, Akhil Srivastava, Ranveer Singh, and many others, actively participated in the training, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the educational landscape of Padhi block.

Folk star Rajesh Awasthi's performance ignites joy among audience

■ Rajim Kumbh Mela resonates with Chhattisgarhi rhythms and aelodies

Rajim, Feb 28:

The Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela, steeped in the spirit of Ramotsav, reverberated with music, dance, and celebration as folk star Rajesh Awasthi took the stage, captivating the audience with the soulful melodies of Chhattisgarhi songs.

Amidst the sacred ambiance of Rajim's holy land in Gariaband district, the second day of the Kumbh Mela witnessed a spectacular performance by Chhattisgarh's renowned film star, Rajesh Awasthi. As Awasthi and his troupe took the audi-



ence on a musical journey, the rhythmic beats and uplifting tunes compelled spectators to join in the joyous dance.

The evening's festivities commenced with a heartfelt rendition of devotional songs, setting the stage for an enchanting display of Chhattisgarh's rich cultural heritage. From soul-stirring classical melodies by Kumar Pandit to foot-

tapping Chhattisgarhi tunes by Rajesh Awasthi, the performances showcased the diversity and vibrancy of Chhattisgarh's musical landscape.

Songs such as "Amangal Hari" and "Maya Hoge Re Maya Hoge Na" resonated deeply with the audience, leaving them spellbound and enraptured by the enchanting melodies. The program culminated with

a captivating performance by the Amar Shrivast team, offering a glimpse into the timeless traditions of Chhattisgarh.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions, the artists were honored with flower bouquets by esteemed dignitaries, including Nagar Panchayat President Rekha Sonkar and distinguished members of the Central Committee. The program, expertly conducted by Niranjan Sahu, left a lasting impression on all who attended.

The Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela serves as a platform for artists from various backgrounds to showcase their talent and celebrate the rich tapestry of Chhattisgarh's art and culture.

Thousands of people getting free food in Rajim Kumbh Mela

■ Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti of Sahu Samaj is serving Bhog Bhandara

Rajim, Feb 28:

As the Rajim Kumbh Mela unfolds with grandeur and devotion, the Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti of Sahu Samaj extends its benevolent arms to ensure that every visitor to the fair is well-fed and cared for.

Amidst the bustling atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela, the committee, led by chairman Lala Sahu, has organized a Bhog Bhandara near the main stage, serving thousands of devotees with wholesome meals every day. The initiative, undertaken in memory of late parents,



embodies the spirit of selfless service and community welfare.

Since the inauguration of the fair, devotees have been treated to a delectable spread, with dishes like Salga Bada Kadhi, a beloved Chhattisgarhi delicacy, delighting the taste buds on the first day. Subsequent days saw the continuation of this noble endeavour, with arrangements made by various individuals and families, in-

cluding Balram-Bharti Sahu and Rajim SDM Dhananjay Netat and his family, who personally served food to the attendees.

Chairman Lala Sahu emphasized the committee's commitment to fostering social goodwill and harmony, guided by the vision of Mahasamund MP Chunnilal Sahu and Rajim MLA Rohit Sahu. Their efforts, supported by Culture and Tourism Minister Brijmohan

Agarwal, have ensured the smooth operation of the Bhog Bhandara, housed in a fully-equipped pandal to accommodate all those in need.

The generosity and dedication of the Rajim Bhaktin Mata Samiti serve as a beacon of hope and compassion, embodying the true essence of the Kumbh Mela as a sacred gathering that nurtures both the body and soul of every devotee.

Link accounts of those in Bank with Aadhar soon: Dayaram

Under MVY
Collector issues instructions in the Time-Limit meeting

Jagdalpur, Feb 28: Collector Vijay Dayaram gave instructions to immediately resolve the accounts which are not linked to Aadhar in the bank accounts under Mahtari Vandan Yojana (MVY). Collector Vijay was taking a time-limit meeting in the Prerna Sabha room of the district office on Tuesday. He directed a Panchayat Secretary to issue a clarification for wrong entry in the online applications of Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

In the meeting, he gave instructions for department-wise review and necessary resolution on the issue of Jan Chaupal, public complaint and time limit. The Collector said that action will be taken against those who did not deposit the amount in the recovery work of material found less in the physical



verification of fair price shops. All SDMs should take attachment action. He reviewed the progress of construction of new SDM and Tehsil office and gave instructions to complete the construction work soon.

In the meeting, instructions were given to review development block wise KYC under Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme and work on the basis of the target of the department for Kisan Credit Card. Aadhaar seeding under KCC was also asked to be inspected. He directed to congratulate Bank Sakhi and Bank Mitra who provide banking facilities in

rural areas and do better work. The Collector also reviewed the progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, compilation of applications under Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, work approved under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana etc.

Apart from this, during the review of departmental schemes, identification of target persons of pilgrims for Ram Lalla Darshan Scheme, lifting of paddy from procurement centres, invitation meal program under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Yojana, adherence to standards in construction of kitchen cum storage in Anganwadi centres,

Availability of LPG gas in Anganwadi center, progress of caste certificate work of children, inspection of Aadhaar seeding. Installation of solar dual pumps installed under CREDA in Jaljevan Mission Phase 2, progress of development block wise work of Jaljevan Mission, construction work approved under BIGS, increasing sickle cell testing in urban areas, intensive cataract screening and treatment campaign, ration card by Food Department. Reviewed the progress of renovation. On this occasion, District Panchayat CEO Prakash Sarve, Divisional Forest Officer Uttam Gupta,

Additional Collector CP Baghel, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Haresh Mandavi and other district level officers were present.

Collector Vijay Dayaram K in the meeting. District Administration for Youth Activity (Daya Society) was formed under the leadership of. In district Bastar, multidimensional all-round development of children and youth like their physical and mental health, de-addiction, basic education, higher and technical education, nutrition, youth empowerment, development of state, national and international sports, tourism, environment, culture-folk art etc. Will work in important areas like self-employment, skill development, employment, livelihood, agriculture, horticulture and tourism. For the successful implementation of the scheme, Advisory Committee, Technical Cooperation Group and Monitoring and Supportive Supervision Committee were formed.

'Sant Samagam' to be inaugurated in Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela

● **From March 3**

Rajim, Feb 28: A Sant Samagam congregation will be inaugurated in Rajim Kumbh Kalp Mela from 3rd March. During the Sant Samagam, from March 3 to 8, a large number of saints and sages will arrive from places like Haridwar, Prayagraj, Kansi, Banaras, Mathura, Vrindavan, Ayodhya,

Amarkantak, Chitrakoot, Uttarakhand etc.

This time in the Sant Samagam, the divine court of Guru Sharan Maharaj "Pandokhar Sarkar" will also be held. Giving information, Rajiv Awasthi told that Maharaj ji will hold the court on 4th, 5th and 6th March and will solve the problems of the devotees coming to the Kumbh Mela by giving them dar-

shan It should be known that devotees have deep faith in Pandokhar Dham and Shri Gurusharan Maharaj, due to which even today, every month, hundreds of people from many districts of Chhattisgarh go to Pandokhar Dham to pray for Amavasya Puri and offer prayers to Shri Hanuman Ji Maharaj and have darshan of Shri Hathiwan Maharaj.

PMJY started by Central Govt for PVGT

● **16 special tribal rural population will benefit from road construction**

Khairagarh, Feb 28: PM Janman Yojana (PMJY) has been started by the Central Government for the development of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) living in the remote areas of the district by connecting the settlements with all-weather inaccessible roads, under which 13 PVTG settlements of

Chhuikhadan development block of KCG district have been started.

Due to the special efforts of MP Santosh Pandey, work on 13 roads connecting 16 villages with a total length of 35.13 km has been approved and approval of Rs 2431.49 lakh has been given by the Central Government for the construction of the road, in which the construction agency will be Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana through which the tender process has been completed and the construction work will

be started soon. 13 roads have been identified for smooth operation of transportation system in the area of special backward Baiga tribe.

With the construction of the road, villages like Amatola, Thakurtola, Samundpani, Golardih, Gerukhdan, Bandhatola, Bagarjhola etc. of the district will be connected to the main roads and the area residents of Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai district have expressed their gratitude to Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha MP Santosh Pandey.

Bohra raises issue of irregularities in NH 130A construction

Pandaria, Feb 28: In the Chhattisgarh Assembly session Pandaria MLA Bhavana Bohra showed her continuity and asked questions on important issues related to the region and the state. During the Zero Hour, Bhavana Bohra placed before the House the irregularities and quality-less construction work being done in the National Highway construction work from Podi Vahya Pandariya to Pandatarai

under Pandariya Assembly and after investigating the construction work, the negligent contractors and officials involved in it were brought before the House.

Bohra said in the Assembly that Rs 351.19 crore has been approved by the Central Government for the construction of

National Highway 130A under construction under Pandaria Assembly constituency, which is a two-lane road up to Mungeli-Takhatpur-Bilaspur via Pandaria. On the basis of these facts before the House, Bohra demanded action against the said contractor and investigation of the construction work for public interest and suspension of the officers suspected in it and found guilty in the investigation.



Collector takes stock of the preparations for Chitrakot Mahotsav



Jagdalpur, Feb 28: Collector Vijay Dayaram K took stock of the preparations for Chitrakote Mahotsav by inspecting the spot. On the occasion of Chitrakote Mahotsav, the Women and Child Development Department discussed the venue of marriage programs, departmental exhibitions of various departments, cultural programs and sports activities and other arrangements under the

Chief Minister Kanya Vivah Yojana and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

On this occasion, Superintendent of Police Shalabh Sinha, Chief Executive Officer District Panchayat Prakash Sarve, Additional Superintendent of Police Maheshwar Nag, SDM Lohandiguda SL Sinha, officials of Public Works Department, officials of District and Janpad Panchayat were present.

Pipe and tiffin bomb recovered from Toyanala

Jagdalpur, (Bijapur), Feb 28: A joint force of CRPF Cobra and STF were out on search from Chinnagelur under Tarrem police station area of the district. Meanwhile, the directional pipe bomb and tiffin



Naxalites to harm the soldiers in the footpath near Toyanala between Chinnagelur and Gudem has been recovered safely and defused on the spot. Due to the alertness of the soldiers, the plans of the Naxalites were once again foiled.

Toyana betwee n Chinnagelur and Gudem has been recovered safely and defused on the spot. Due to the alertness of the soldiers, the plans of the Naxalites were once again foiled.

Collector serves food to children



Bilaspur, Feb 28: In the government school of Chingrajpara Collector Avnish Sharan participated in the invitation banquet program and served food to the children, much to their delight.

Assistant Commissioner of Labor Department, Jyoti Sharma hosted a banquet for the children of Chingrajpara Government School on the occasion of her birthday and along with the regular mid-day meal, children were served nutritious kheer, fruits, chikki, and laddus.

Assistant Commissioner of Labor Department, Jyoti Sharma hosted a banquet for the children of Chingrajpara Government School on the occasion of her birthday and along with the regular mid-day meal, children were served nutritious kheer, fruits, chikki, and laddus.

have sweets served and interaction with the Collector also made them happy. Little Vartika Sidar told that she studies in first class and it feels great to have such delicious food, cake and chocolate today. Little Viraj Kaivart said that today we had dinner with Collector Sir; we liked it very much and also expressed his desire to become a Collector when he grows up.

Annual convention of Ch'garh Sonkar Samaj held



Rajim, Feb 28: The annual convention of Chhattisgarh Sonkar Samaj was held in the local Ram Janaki temple premises, which saw the participation of many

people of the society. Hollywood actor Prakash Awasthi and actress Mona Sen, who came as guests at the program, described the Sonkar community as hardworking

and honest. On this occasion, State President Sharda Prasad Sonkar said in his address that Sonkar community is continuously making progress in the field of education.

General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Sonkar Samaj, Chetan Sonkar said that there is a need to promote mass marriages to avoid expensive marriages. Teacher and senior member Santu Ram

Sonkar said that good ideas are needed to create unity in the society, while Former President Dhaniram Sonkar said that Sonkar Samaj has worked extensively in promoting talents. Senior Vice President Jitendra Sonkar, Treasurer Ramesh Sonkar, Auditor Akhilesh Sonkar, Deputy Minister Bhagwat Indoria and a large number of social officials and members were present.

Police Public School, Raipur

(CBSE Affiliation No.: 3330379)
Pension Bada Raipur (C.G.)
Contact - 0771-4907612
E-Mail- policepublicschool19@gmail.com
Website - www.policepublicschooling.edu.in

:: Recruitment for session 2024-25 ::

PPS is looking for highly motivated and dedicated teachers who will facilitate a top-level teaching-learning environment as well as take care of the social and emotional growth of students. Excellent communication skill in English is a must.

| Post | Subject | Qualification | Experience | Age | Salary |
|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| PGT (1 each) | Geography | M.A./M.Sc. (Geography) and B.Ed. | Minimum 3 years | Below 40 years | 35K |
| | History | M.A. (History) and B.Ed. | Minimum 3 years | Below 40 years | 35K |

Interested candidates may email their CV in the prescribed format (Please check website for details.) or even submit it at the school office on or before 15th March 2024. Interview will be conducted in the last week of March, 2024.

प्रचार्य
पुलिस पब्लिक स्कूल
पेंशन बाड़ा, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
G-08156/1

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, E/M CIRCLE, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh from contractors C.G. P.W.D. in new Registration system (unified Registration system) for the following work:-

| NIT.No. | Name of work | Probable amount of contract |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 101/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153314 Registered contractor class in "D" & above For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) | PROPOSED O/W/MOW DEPOSIT SR UTILITY SHIFTING & GENERAL EIF WORK IN GOVT RESIDENTIAL & NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT SCIENCE COLLEGE SECTION UNDER PWDE/M WORKSHOP SUBDN RAIPUR. | Rs. 80.00 Lacs |
| 102/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153313 Registered contractor class in "D" & above For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) | PROPOSED O/W/MOW/DEPOSIT/SR & general electrification work facade lighting and LED Lighting work UNDER PWD E/M SUBDIVISION WORKSHOP SECTION UNDER PWD E/M WORKSHOP SUBDIVISION RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 50.00 Lacs |
| 103/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153312 Registered contractor class in "C" & above For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) | PROPOSED O/W/MOW/DEPOSIT/SR & General electrification work facade lighting and LED Lighting work UNDER PWD E/M SUBDIVISION WORKSHOP RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 150.00 Lacs |
| 104/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153311 Registered contractor class in "C" & above For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) | PROPOSED O/W/MOW/DEPOSIT/SR & general electrification work IN GOVT. NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS at hirapur & Kabir nagar section under PWD E/M SUBDIVISION WORKSHOP RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 150.00 Lacs |
| 111/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153322 Registered contractor class in "C" & above For Form "B" (ITEM Rate Tender) | NIT SCHEDULE FOR SHIFTING OF ALL ELECTRICAL LINES SUCH AS POLES & TRANSFORMERS DUE TO ROAD WIDENING WORKS UNDER PWD (B/R) DIVISION GARIYABAND DISTRICT GARIYABAND | Rs. 114.00 Lacs |
| 114/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153286 Registered contractor class in "C" & above For Form "B" (ITEM Rate Tender) | NIT SCHEDULE FOR PROVIDING, FIXING AND MAINTENANCE OF VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM, SOUND SYSTEM, COMPUTER SYSTEM, PROJECTOR, LED TV & LV PACKAGE ITEMS TO PROPOSED WORK IN GOVT. RESIDENTIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS UNDER PWD E/M DIVISION RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 94.00 Lacs |
| 117/SE E/M/2023-24 (I Call) System Tender No. 153223 Registered contractor class in "D" & above For Form "A" (Percentage Rate Tender) | NIT SCHEDULE FOR PROVIDING 33/11 KV. LT. LINE, TRANSFORMER, GP SHIFTING, HEIGHT RISING WORK, STREET LIGHT WORK AND OTHER ELECTRIFICATION WORK TO PROPOSED DEPOSIT, MOW & SR WORK UNDER PWD E/M DIVISION RAIPUR (C.G.) | Rs. 120.00 Lacs |

Note:-last date of bid submission nit 114, 05-03-2024 remain all will 11-03-2024

The tender documents can be downloaded from the web-portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Only those contractors/bidders, interested in bidding shall pay the tender document cost online.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. E/M Circle Raipur (C.G.)
G-08134/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI GODAVARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(3rd CALL)

System Tender No. : 153279/NIT No. : 44/SAC/2023-24, Chhuikhadan, Dated : 27.02.2024
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 15.03.2024 at 17:30 Hour

Name of Work : Remodeling and C.C. lining of Darbantola Main Canal R.D. 0 m. to 2400 m., Barryapat minor R.D. 0 m. to 1800 m. with construction of 08 Nos. V.R.B., 10 Nos. fall, 01 No. minor Head and fixing of colaba pipes of Barryapat Diversion scheme in block Chhuikhadan of District- Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai

Probable Amount of Contract: - Rs. 214.77 Lakhs
(As per S.O.R Dated 01.08.2010 (As amended dated 22.08.2022))

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 05.03.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE - All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)
G-08144/2

ESAF ESAF SMALL FINANCE BANK

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches, are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below:

REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavan, Manuthy, Thrissur - 680 651, Kerala.
DATE OF AUCTION : 12-03-2024 TIME : 2 PM TO 5 PM
AUCTION VENUE : THROUGH E-AUCTION
AUCTION ADDRESS : <https://gold.matexnet.org/>
Contact No. 9500173386 / 9962979770

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Akaltara: 75230000076075, 57032, 75230000162013, Balod: 75230000095579, 68651, Bhalai: 75230000183023, 63230000353042, Bilaspur: 75230000172724, 75230000080157, Champa: 752300001074031, 109175, 105403, 115613, 115433, 63230000026433, 75230000054327, Donagargarh: 75230000053299, 75230000105903, 132351, 152443, 137842, 137852, 177365, 75230000076685, 29005, 29025, 75230000009713, 6323000004870, Katghora: 63230000036969, Kawardha: 75230000062042, Kharsia: 63230000029373, 12314, Korba: 63230000042747, 18213, Mahasamund: 63230000029873, 63230000325415, 75230000059828, 75230000001538, 75230000173043, Pakhanjore: 6323000016447, Pithora: 63230000020029, Raigarh: 63230000346775, Raipur: 75230000111661, 100812, 172534, 174021, 164900, 75230000030893, 72433, 72443, 57232, 57282, 79430, 63230000025680, Rajnandgaon: 63230000026568, 63230000335106, 357324, 75230000095389, 75230000095319, Shivrinarayan: 75230000148881.

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.

Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thursur
Date: 29-02-2024
Authorized Signatory

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612
E-mail: recovery.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The under mentioned Borrower / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 and under section 14 of the Act of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

| S. N. | Branch Name/Ph.No. | Name of Borrower / Guarantor | Description of Property | Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date |
|-------|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 01 | Devpuri Branch Raipur 9752410790 | Mr. Sandeep Kumar Lanje R/A H. No. 334, Ward No. - 17, P.O. Manpur, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh- 492229 and Co-Borrower Mrs. Garima Rakesh R/A H. No. 334, Ward No. 17, P.O. Manpur, Rajnandgaon, C.G. - 492229 | All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. /Plot No. _____ in Survey No. _____/City or Town Survey No./Khasra No. 259/2 after Mutation Kh No. - 259/11 (Part), Area 1885 Sq.ft. situated in Madhav Rao Sapre Ward No. 68, Village Raipura, P. H. No. - 57, R. I. Circle Raipur - 1, Vipra Nagar, within the registered sub-district Raipur and District Raipur. Bounded: On the North by: Land of Manorama Shukla, On the South by: Land of Ankush Gabhne, On the East by: Land of Ashish Sharma On the West by: Road. | 28.12.2023 Rs. 28,39,082.00 + interest + other charges 27.02.2024 Physical Possession |

The Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Date: 29.02.2024, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**Central Chronicle**

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 149

Safety First**India's Railway Renaissance**

In a transformative move aimed at revolutionizing railway infrastructure across the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spearheaded the inauguration and commencement of over 2,000 projects worth a staggering Rs 41,000 crore. Among these ambitious endeavors, 553 railway stations are slated for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, with an allocation exceeding Rs 19,000 crore. This monumental initiative, encapsulated in the government's 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Railway' program, is poised to elevate the rail network and its stations to unprecedented levels of comfort and convenience for passengers nationwide. Echoing the sentiments of progress, Prime Minister Modi emphasized in his address, "Whatever India undertakes today, it does so with unparalleled speed and scale." Undoubtedly, the acceleration of development is commendable, yet amidst the clamor for progress, a fundamental principle must remain steadfast—safety. The haunting specter of recent train mishaps, claiming precious lives, serves as a poignant reminder of the paramount importance of ensuring the safety and security of every individual traversing the vast expanse of our railway network. Last year bore witness to tragic incidents that shook the nation to its core. The collision of the Coromandel Express and two other trains in Odisha's Balasore district exacted a heavy toll, with over 290 lives lost. Similarly, the collision on the Howrah-Chennai line in Andhra Pradesh and the eerie incident of a freight train hurtling unmanned for 70 kilometers underscored grave lapses in safety protocols. These incidents serve as glaring indictments of the critical imperative to bolster safety measures within our railways. While passengers yearn for swifter journeys and enhanced amenities, the bedrock of their trust lies in an unwavering commitment to safety. The onus rests squarely on the shoulders of the Railways to heed the lessons of past mishaps and institute corrective measures with unwavering resolve. The deployment of Kavach, an indigenous automatic train protection system, assumes paramount significance, necessitating expeditious implementation across all corridors nationwide. Despite assertions of improved safety performance, as articulated by the government in December, the journey towards safer train travel remains fraught with challenges, demanding relentless vigilance and proactive measures. In the pursuit of progress, the sanctity of human life must reign supreme. The evolution of India's railways into a modern, efficient, and passenger-centric entity hinges upon the unwavering adherence to safety protocols. Every rivet, every track, and every station must be fortified with the bulwark of safety, ensuring that the specter of tragedy is banished from our collective consciousness. As the wheels of progress continue to turn, let us not falter in our commitment to safeguarding the lives of those who traverse the length and breadth of our nation by rail. Let us forge ahead with determination, cognizant of the fact that true progress is not measured solely by milestones achieved but by the lives safeguarded along the journey. In the grand tapestry of India's railway renaissance, let safety serve as the enduring thread that binds us together—a testament to our unwavering commitment to the welfare and well-being of every citizen. For in the crucible of adversity, it is safety that emerges as the cornerstone of progress, guiding our path towards a brighter, safer tomorrow.

Preserving the Pristine Peaks**A Call for Sustainable Tourism in the Himalayas**

Rina Roy



The majestic Himalayas, a crown jewel of India's natural beauty, have long captivated the hearts of tourists from far and wide. Yet, amidst the awe-inspiring landscapes and breathtaking vistas lies a pressing concern—the detrimental impact of unchecked tourism on this fragile ecosystem. Recent findings from the esteemed Delhi-based think tank, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), shed light on the environmental challenges faced by hill towns grappling with an influx of visitors. Alarming, many of these towns lack adequate sanitary infrastructure to accommodate the growing numbers of tourists. Shockingly, statistics reveal that only 68% of residents in Shimla, 31.7% in Uttarakhand, and 50% in Joshimath are connected to sewage networks, leaving a significant portion relying on septic tanks and soak pits. This results in the seepage of grey water into the ground, contributing to soil erosion and contamination of water sources. Moreover, in steep terrain, untreated black water further exacerbates the problem, polluting streams and waterfalls that are vital lifelines for local communities. The rapid urbanization spurred by tourism has led to a proliferation of hotels and guesthouses, often lacking adequate waste management systems. As a result, contaminated water finds its way into the pristine waterways, tarnishing the very beauty that draws tourists in droves. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that the government takes swift and decisive action to address the environmental degradation plaguing the Himalayan region. Investing in improved sewage and sanitation infrastructure is paramount to mitigating the harmful effects of tourism on the delicate ecosystem. Furthermore, measures must be put in place to regulate and manage waste disposal, ensuring that development is sustainable and in harmony with nature. It is not merely a matter of preserving natural beauty; it is a question of safeguarding the livelihoods of local communities dependent on these ecosystems for their survival. Neglecting to act now risks irreversible damage to the Himalayan environment, with far-reaching consequences for both people and wildlife. As concerned citizens, we urge the government to prioritize the preservation of the Himalayas by implementing robust environmental policies and investing in sustainable tourism practices. Only through concerted efforts and collective action can we ensure that future generations continue to marvel at the unparalleled beauty of this magnificent mountain range. Let us come together to preserve the pristine peaks of the Himalayas, not just for ourselves, but for the countless generations to come.

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 emailto:editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com.

BMC BUILDING, IN MUMBAI

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) building, in Mumbai, Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Marital Traditions and Modern Trends**RAJENDER KUMAR SHARMA**

In Hinduism, marriage is considered one of the sixteen sacraments. The word "marriage" is derived from Vi + Vah, signifying bearing special responsibility. In Hindu religion, the marriage ceremony signifies the relationship between husband and wife, considered unbreakable (except in some special tragic circumstances). By taking seven rounds of fire and keeping the Pole Star as a witness, the two, body, mind, and soul, get tied in a sacred bond. In Hindu marriage, the spiritual relationship between husband and wife is esteemed more than the physical relationship, which is deemed extremely sacred. Physical relations occur primarily for procreation purposes. According to Hindu beliefs, marriage ceremonies are indispensable in the four ashrams. Manusmriti delineates eight types of marriages, including Brahma, Daiva, Aarsha, Prajapatya, Asura, Gandharva, Rakshasa, and Paishach. Among these, Brahma marriage is considered the most auspicious. This marriage involves fixing the girl's marriage with a suitable groom with the consent of both families, termed 'Brahma Vivah.' Generally, after such a marriage, the girl is adorned with jew-

ellery/ornaments. Present-day "arranged marriages" align closely with this concept. Marriages such as Gargi-Yagyavalkay and Ram-Sita are emblematic of this category. Adapting to Changes while Preserving Traditions Change is inherent in nature, yet Hinduism is considered an eternal religion with limited scope for change, owing to the scientific basis underlying its rituals. Every ritual in Brahma Vivah, a predominant marriage type in Hinduism, is grounded in scientific and social facts. Practices such as matching the Gotra of the girl and boy before marriage (i.e., avoiding marriages within the same Gotra), Haldi ceremonies, tying the groom's head, and the bride veiling during processions are all rooted in tradition. However, influenced by modernity, Western culture, and cinematic portrayals, the younger generation is increasingly deviating from these science-based religious practices. This deviation has manifested in phenomena such as "live-in relationships" and "gay marriages," which are seen as blatant violations of natural laws and remain unacceptable in Indian society. The Emergence of Pre-Wedding Photoshoots in Arranged Marriages

Today, various new experiments are being conducted even within arranged marriages. One such trend is the pre-wedding photoshoot. There is considerable enthusiasm among young men and women for pre-wedding photoshoots, which are viewed as an exciting prelude to marital life. Couples meticulously plan the location, music selection, and other details of their video and photo shoots, making it a memorable experience.

Innovations in Ladies Sangeet Ceremonies

Similarly, innovations are underway in ladies' Sangeet ceremonies. Traditional folk songs have been replaced by contemporary music. Previously, women sang folk songs and performed folk dances, with men excluded from participation. Nowadays, choreographers are hired to train women for Sangeet performances. However, this modernization has led to discomfort among male family members and elders, who feel uneasy about male choreographers teaching dance to female family members, considering it a departure from societal norms and a source of shame for the families.

Divergent Views on Pre-Wedding Photoshoots

While pre-wedding photoshoots are embraced by some, others view them as contrary to societal norms and cultural values. In Bhopal, for instance, Jain, Sindhi, and Gujarati communities have prohibited pre-wedding photoshoots, citing concerns about obscenity and potential embarrassment if engagements were to be broken. They argue against the necessity for pre-wedding meetings and preparations, emphasizing the importance of upholding cultural traditions and social dignity.

Perspectives of the Youth and Elders

The younger generation sees pre-wedding photoshoots as a means to create cherished memories and foster understanding, particularly in arranged marriages. They advocate for embracing change and reject the imposition of societal and religious constraints on personal choices. However, this perspective clashes with that of the elders, who perceive pre-wedding photoshoots as undermining traditional values and fostering superficiality in relationships. They lament the loss of anticipation and mystery that traditionally surrounded marriages, attributing it to the advent of pre-wedding photoshoots.

Marriage: A Sacred Union

Marriage, in essence, signifies the union of two souls in an unbreakable bond of love. In Hindu society, married women are accorded utmost respect and adorned with symbols of marital status. Marriage encompasses various aspects of life, including love, relationships, children, and social standing. In light of this, some question the necessity of pre-wedding photoshoots, viewing them as a departure from traditional norms and an embrace of superficiality over the sanctity of marital relationships.

In conclusion, while pre-wedding photoshoots offer an avenue for creating lasting memories, they also raise questions about the preservation of cultural traditions and the sanctity of marriage. As societal values evolve, it becomes imperative to strike a balance between embracing change and upholding time-honored customs, ensuring that the institution of marriage retains its sacred significance in Hindu society.

Senior Columnist, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Maoist Decline**

In ongoing conflicts in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, police forces have significantly weakened Maoist insurgents. Three Maoists were recently killed in Chhattisgarh's Koyalibeda forest. Home Minister Amit Shah credited the Centre's holistic approach, focusing on health and education in tribal areas, for reducing Maoist activity. Police benefit from local familiarity and community rapport. While Maoists excel in intelligence gathering, police have countered effectively. Home Ministry data shows a 72% reduction in security force fatalities and a 68% decrease in civilian casualties over nine years, signaling significant progress in the fight against Maoist insurgency.

Dr. Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

Ghazal Maestro

Renowned ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas, known for classics like "Chithi Aayee Hai," "Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein," and "Ghungroo toot gaye," passed away at 72 after battling illness. As a ghazal enthusiast, his loss deeply saddens me. His melodious voice and radiant persona remain unforgettable. Daughter Nayaab Udhas announced his demise on Instagram. With the departure of legends like Jagjit Singh and Mehdi Hassan, Udhas leaves an irreplaceable void in modern ghazal music. Known for hits like "Mukarrar," "Tarrannum," and "Mehfil," Udhas made significant contributions to Indian music, earning accolades like the Padma Shri in 2006. May his soul rest in peace.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Revolution in magnetism

In Villigen, Switzerland, scientists at the Paul Scherrer Institute have discovered Altermagnet, a new type of magnetism. It was found by analyzing the electron structure of a manganese telluride crystal, which was previously believed to be an antiferromagnetic material. These new magnets can be used to create magnetic devices that don't interfere with one another because they don't have any external magnetic fields. This feature would increase the storage capacity of computer hard drives because, unlike ferromagnetic materials, which can only be packed so thickly before interfering magnetic fields, Altermagnets may be placed more densely. It will also result in spintronic computations, which will utilize magnetic spin rather than electric circuits to carry out calculations more quickly than they currently can.

Arka Goswami, West Bengal

Impact of Individual Spending on India's Economic Landscape

Yash Pal Raihan

An individual's spending habits are not just personal choices; they have far-reaching implications for the nation's economy. Recent shifts in India's economic policies, such as increased import duties and strategic trade agreements, underscore the significant influence of consumer preferences on the broader economic landscape.

A Paradigm Shift

The latest findings from the

Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) shed light on a transformative shift in Indian spending behaviors, marking a noteworthy departure from historical norms. For the first time, the average expenditure of Indian households on food has dipped below the 50 percent threshold, signaling a fundamental change in consumption patterns. Concurrently, expenditures on non-food items, including education, healthcare, travel, and consumer durables, have surged past the 50 percent mark. This trend is not confined to urban areas; even rural households, particularly those in the bottom quintile of the income pyramid, allocate over half of their monthly outlay to non-food items.

Implications for Policy Frameworks

The wealth of data derived from the HCES provides policymakers with invaluable insights into evolving consumption dynamics, enabling the recalibration of fiscal policies and economic indices. Notably, per capita monthly consumption in rural areas has skyrocketed from Rs 1,430 in 2011-12 to Rs 3,773 in 2022-23, representing

a staggering 163.8 percent surge. This translates to an average annual growth rate of 14.89 percent for rural households. Similarly, urban households have witnessed a substantial increase in consumption, with average monthly expenditures climbing from Rs 2,630 to Rs 6,459 over the same period, reflecting a 145.58 percent jump. Despite facing slightly lower annual growth rates of 13.23 percent, urban households continue to experience significant economic expansion.

Embracing Processed Foods

Amidst shifting consumption patterns, staple grains like rice and wheat have experienced a decline in demand, while processed foods and beverages have gained popularity. Convenience packaged in vibrant wrappers has reshaped dietary habits, reflecting evolving consumer preferences and lifestyle choices. However, this transition is not without its challenges, as disparities persist between affluent and economically disadvantaged households, exacerbating socioeconomic inequalities.

Revising Consumer Price Indices

The forthcoming revision of the Consumer Price Index offers an opportunity to recalibrate the weight-

ing of food items, potentially mitigating inflation volatility and fostering a more stable economic environment. A projected reduction in the food weighting from the current 46 percent to 40-41 percent could yield significant benefits, curbing inflation swings and minimizing the need for government interventions such as export curbs. This, in turn, would provide greater stability to agricultural markets and alleviate farmer grievances.

Addressing Socioeconomic Disparities

The survey's findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to promote inclusive growth and bridge socioeconomic divides. As affluent households spend their less fortunate counterparts by substantial margins, policymakers must prioritize measures to address income inequality and foster social cohesion. By implementing equitable policies and bolstering access to essential services, the government can create a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Stimulating Industry Growth

Amidst evolving consumption patterns, opportunities for economic expansion abound, particu-

larly within the food processing sector. Discrepancies between current food inflation indices and actual spending patterns highlight the potential for industry growth, offering a pathway to increase farmer incomes and stimulate rural economic development. Strategic investments in rural food processing infrastructure can unlock new avenues for prosperity, catalyzing sustainable economic growth.

Conclusion

In essence, individual spending transcends the realm of personal choice, exerting a profound influence on national economic trajectories and policy imperatives. As India navigates the complexities of evolving consumption patterns and socioeconomic dynamics, policymakers must heed the insights gleaned from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey, charting a path towards equitable prosperity and shared economic progress for all segments of society. By fostering inclusive growth, mitigating socioeconomic disparities, and harnessing the potential of burgeoning industries, India can pave the way for a more resilient and equitable economic future.

BRIEF

Fodder banks



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed on establishing at least one fodder bank each in four directions of the country in order to ensure food security of the livestock population, Union Minister Parshottam Rupala said on Wednesday. Addressing a fodder symposium here at Vigyan Bhavan, Rupala — who is in-charge of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying — praised Modi for his commitment towards the livestock sector. “While approving a proposal related to livestock in the previous cabinet meeting, the PM had emphasised on the need to set up at least one fodder bank each in four regions of the country while continuing with the existing policies,” Rupala said.

More flights

Mumbai: Low-cost carrier Air India Express is looking to operate 40 per cent more flights next fiscal on the back of fleet expansion, sources said on Wednesday. At the same time, the airline will focus more on consolidating on the domestic routes and will not be adding many destinations, while the international network may see some marginal increase, said the sources aware of the developments. Air India Express currently operates 350 daily flights and has a fleet of 69 planes. It has some 1,300 pilots, including 400 of AirAsia India and another 400 on training.

Virtual inauguration



Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee virtually inaugurated a Rs 570-crore green-field integrated packaging plant in Panagarh. Dhunseri Poly Films, spread over 38 acres in the Panagarh Industrial Park, is promoted by Dhunseri Ventures Ltd. The first phase of the unit was completed in a “record span” of two years in 2023.

Commercial lending

Mumbai: The overall commercial credit portfolio grew 11 per cent in the September quarter to Rs 28.2 lakh crore, a credit information company said on Wednesday. The delinquency rate at the end of September quarter dropped to the lowest in the last two years, as per the quarterly report by Sidbi and Transunion Cibil. It attributed the increased economic activity for the higher pick-up for loans by the commercial sector, and added that the demand for commercial loans grew 29 per cent during the quarter over the same period last year, which indicates improved lender confidence.

Bengaluru tax payers are giving us buoyancy: FM

Bengaluru, Feb 28:

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday hailed Bengaluru tax payers for their contributions in building a strong and ‘Viksit Bharat’, and said the Department of Revenue is running its entire national faceless income tax assessment scheme from Karnataka’s capital city. Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the upcoming complex “HONGIRANA” for Income Tax officers and staff here, she said the tax payers of Bengaluru have been absolutely giving us the buoyancy, and thanked all individual and corporate taxpayers in this region for making sure for building a strong and ‘Viksit Bharat’.

“Your contribution is relentless. There has never been a dip. So thank you very much Bengaluru for keeping that momentum up”, she said. Sitharaman also emphasised the investments that the Central



government is making in Bengaluru. She noted that the Government has brought about the entire faceless system for income tax assessment and ease of doing business to ensure that tax assesses are not harassed and do not have the perception that discretion of the officer who they have to go and sit and talk to will make their tax payment difficult. She said the Department’s entire central processing centre — the digital processing unit which governs the entire country — is located in Bengaluru,

driving the income tax system for the whole nation. The faceless system was a big step forward in ease of doing business. “So money doesn’t go away from Karnataka. It comes back as well and comes back not just like that Yes it comes back for roads, it comes back for connectivity, it comes back for metro, it comes back for rail, it comes back for the suburban railway system, It comes back for Mangaluru port, it comes back for the ‘Kalyana’ Karnataka (region) and so on”, Sitharaman said. “But specifically, I want to highlight the fact that Department of Revenue’s entire national faceless scheme runs from Bengaluru and you can imagine therefore, the scale of investment which would have happened for that, I am very happy and proud the manpower is also from Bengaluru and they run the whole system for the country,” the Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka said.

Sensex, Nifty tumble over 1 pc due to selling in Reliance, bank stocks

Mumbai, Feb 28:

Benchmark Sensex tanked more than 1 per cent while Nifty declined below the 22,000 level on Wednesday due to selling in index heavyweight Reliance Industries and bank stocks amid weak global market trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 790.34 points or 1.08 per cent to settle at 72,304.88 with 26 of its constituents ending in the red and four in the green. During the day, it tanked 872.93 points or 1.19 per cent to a low of 72,222.29. The Nifty slumped 247.20 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 21,951.15. As many as 46 Nifty shares closed with



losses while four advanced. Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid fell the most by 4.43 per cent due to profit booking by investors. Reliance Industries dropped around 2 per cent, con-

tributing 185.59 points to the slide. IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Wipro, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and UltraTech Cement were the biggest laggards. Hindustan Unilever,

Number of ultra-rich in India increases 6 pc last year to 13,263: Knight Frank

New Delhi, Feb 28: The number of Ultra-high Net Worth Individuals in India increased 6 per cent annually to 13,263 last year on rising prosperity and the number of affluent would grow further to reach nearly 20,000 by 2028, according to Knight Frank. Ultra-high Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs) are defined as individuals having a net worth of USD 30 million and above. In a virtual press conference on Wednesday, real estate consultant Knight Frank India released “The Wealth Report 2024” saying that the number of UHNWIs in India grew 6.1 per cent to 13,263 in 2023 as against 12,495 individuals in the previous year. The num-

ber of UHNWIs in India is expected to expand to 19,908 by 2028 from 13,263 in 2023. Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Bajjal said “In a transformative era of wealth creation, India stands as a testament to thriving prosperity and burgeoning opportunities in the global economic spectrum. A remarkable surge in its UHNWI population, catapulting by 50.1 per cent within the next five years is an indication of this phenomenon.”

As per Knight Frank’s report, 90 per cent of Indian UHNWIs are expecting to witness an increase in their wealth during the year 2024.

Solid foundation laid by Modi has now become launch pad for India to jump to next level: Jaishankar

Belagavi (Karnataka), Feb 28: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said the solid foundation laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last ten years has now become a launching pad for the country to jump to the next level.

When Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, India was the 11th largest economy in the world and has now become the fifth, he said inaugurating a school of Karnataka Lingayat Education Society at Taluka headquarters town of Chikkodi in this district. The solid foundation of 10 years which Modi has given to the nation has now become a launching pad for the country and

ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL GOOD



Union Minister Smriti Irani and former CEO of Microsoft Bill Gates at the Alliance For Global Good On Gender Equity and Equality event, in New Delhi, Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Rupee falls 3 paise to settle at 82.92 against US dollar

Mumbai, Feb 28:

The rupee declined by 3 paise to settle at 82.92 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking bearish equity markets and foreign fund outflow amid increased month-end demand for the American currency. Forex analysts

said that softening crude oil prices provided a cushion to the Indian currency which was weighed down by a stronger dollar. Also, market participants were cautious ahead of the domestic GDP data to be released on Thursday and the US GDP numbers expected on Wednesday, they

said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.90 and touched the intra-day low of 82.95 against the greenback.

The local unit finally settled at 82.92 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 3 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday,

the rupee settled 1 paise lower at 82.89 against the US dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the Indian rupee fell on weak domestic markets and a strong US dollar; however, softening crude oil prices cushioned the downside.

RBI proposes norms for disclosure of climate-related financial risks for lenders

New Delhi, Feb 28:

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday proposed to make it mandatory for banks and NBFCs to disclose information about their climate-related financial risks on a stand-alone basis. Climate-related financial risks mean the potential risks that may arise from climate change or from efforts to mitigate climate change, their related impacts and economic and financial consequences. Climate-related risks are one of the emerging risks and are expected to significantly impact the regulated entities (REs) as well as have implications on financial stability, the RBI said in draft

guidelines on Disclosure framework on Climate-related Financial Risks, 2024. The REs include commercial banks (excluding Local Area Banks, Payments Banks and Regional Rural Banks), certain primary (Urban) cooperative banks, All India Financial Institutions (viz. EXIM Bank, NABARD, NaBFID, NHB and SIDBI) and all large non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). “The REs should disclose information about their climate-related financial risks and opportunities for the users of financial statements. It will foster an early assessment of climate-related financial risks and opportunities

and also facilitate market discipline,” the draft said. The REs, it said should disclose the information detailed in these guidelines on a stand-alone basis and not a consolidated basis. Foreign banks shall make disclosures specific to their operations in India. The REs are already required to disclose information on material risks as a part of certain disclosures. Given the growing importance of climate-related financial risks, there is a need for REs to disclose more structured information about their climate-related financial risks, said the draft on which the RBI has invited comments by April 30, 2024.

Q3 GDP may slide to 6.7-6.9% on poor farm sector show: SBI Research

Mumbai, Feb 28: The Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.7-6.9 per cent in December quarter FY24 as compared to 7.6 per cent growth in the second quarter on poor performance in the farm sector, a report by SBI Research said on Wednesday. The report comes a day ahead of the release of official GDP data for the third quarter of 2023-24 financial year. India retained the tag of the world’s fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-than-expected rate of 7.6 per cent in September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing. The 6.7-6.9 per cent growth forecast by SBI Research is lower than the Reserve Bank’s 7 per cent growth projection for the quarter. SBI Research has projected Q4 GDP at 6.8 per

cent. SBI Research said the biggest reason for the lower growth forecast is the very poor show by the farm sector as, barring fisheries, the whole sector is badly affected. As per the first advance estimates, the production of major kharif crops in 2023-24 is pegged at 148.5 million tonne, which is 4.6 per cent lower than that in the year-ago period. While the sowing season for rabi crops indicates a slight increase in overall acreage compared to the previous year, there are concerns over the sown area under cereals, which saw a decline of 6.5 per cent from the previous year, the report said. While agriculture may see some moderation if the rabi output does not offset the kharif shortfall, value added in agriculture will decline, it added.

Expect faster adoption of EVs in luxury car segment: Volvo

Mumbai, Feb 28:

Swedish premium car maker Volvo on Tuesday said it is expecting a faster adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the luxury car segment within the overall passenger vehicle division in the country. The company further said EVs may account for one-third of its total car sales in India this year. “The EV penetration in the overall passenger vehicle segment is nothing, about 2 per cent, while in the luxury segment it is 7 per cent. So, adoption of EVs in the luxury segment will be faster,” Volvo Car India Managing Director Jyoti Malhotra said. He said by 2030, as much as 50 per



cent of the total passenger vehicles sale is expected to come from the luxury segment. In 2023, Volvo Car India retailed 2,423 cars, while 690 of them were EVs. The company plans to introduce its two fully electric cars — EX30 and EX90 — in the domestic market next year. Volvo Car has said it is planning to be an all-electric vehicle company globally by 2030.

“I would say 2023 was a good year for us from an overall volume perspective with a growth of almost 31 per cent, which is good in the sense that we were the fastest within the Asia Pacific,” Malhotra said. The more heartening thing is the growth that Volvo Car India saw in the adoption of EVs, he said. “For us, we are selling more EVs and our ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) products are made to order. (As much as) 30-35 per cent of new customers are for electric cars,” he said. The company is selling its EVs through online direct sales, and plans on selling its ICE and hybrid products also online.

Govt added 200 GW generation capacity in last 9 years: R K Singh



New Delhi, Feb 28: The government has transformed India from power-deficient to power-sufficient by adding about 200 GW of electricity generation capacity in the past nine years, Union Minister R K Singh said. “We have connected the whole country with a unified grid, capable of transferring 1,16,000 MW from one part of the country to another. All these steps are powering the future of India,” Singh said at the launch of industry event ELECRAMA on Tuesday. The Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy stated that the government has transformed the power sector from power-deficient to power-sufficient by adding about 200 GW of generation capacity in the past nine years.

Circumventions of rules a generic, industry-wide problem in AIFs: Sebi member Narayan

Mumbai, Feb 28:

Sebi’s Whole Time Member Ananth Narayan on Tuesday said circumvention of regulations is an industry-wide and generic issue with the Alternate Investment Fund ecosystem. Narayan stressed that the capital markets regulator wants to learn from the industry and work in close collaboration with it to frame the rules going ahead. Speaking at an event organised by industry body IVCA here, Narayan said a recent consultation paper is an attempt on the same and added that Sebi has already decided to make some relaxations like equity pledging by an AIF to borrow in the case of an



infrastructure company. However, Narayan made it clear that when it comes to circumventing regulations like evergreening of loans or foreign exchange management, Sebi will have to act. He said the estimate of 40 funds involving investments of over Rs 30,000 crore circumventing norms is a “conservative” one, and actual numbers are far higher. “Structure to circumvent has been an industry-wide

problem. You can argue about whether it is endemic or one-off, we think it is more than one-off. It’s definitely a generic issue we are grappling with,” Narayan told the audience largely composed of fund managers.

It can be noted that the RBI has also come up with a regulation increasing the provisioning for banks’ investments in AIFs over fears of the route being used for evergreening of loans. Industry veteran Srin Srinivasan from Kotak Alternate Asset Managers said the RBI’s move has put the sector in a “tizzy” and many public sector banks are not honouring the capital calls now.

Rajim Kumbh illuminated with radiant splendor

Revival of Kumbh tradition brings glory to Rajim

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Feb 28: The fourth day of the Kumbh Kalpa Mela witnessed a mesmerizing sight as the entire area was adorned with a celestial glow akin to milky light, illuminating the surroundings including VIP Marg, Rajim Bridge, Belahi Bridge, and Chaubandha Bridge.

This remarkable transformation has rekindled the spirit of the Kumbh Mela in Rajim, marking a resurgence in its grandeur and significance.

Previously, the event had undergone a diminution under the previous government, but with the advent of the BJP government in 2023, the resplendence of Kumbh has returned, bringing immense joy to the people.

Moreover, the influx of devotees into the Mela area has been remarkable,



with thousands visiting daily to partake in the festivities. The ambiance within a radius of approximately 7 kilometers is nothing short of enchanting. Infrastructure enhancements such as the construction of a stone road directly connecting prominent temples and riverbanks have not only

facilitated easier access but also contributed to environmental sustainability by preventing river pollution caused by previous makeshift roads.

Laser show and cultural program spread the atmosphere

Adding to the enchantment, captivating laser shows depicting episodes

from the Ramayana period are captivating audiences near the main festival stage, celebrating the glory of Lord Rama. Cultural presentations ranging from Chollywood to Bollywood artists have been enthralling spectators, with renowned playback singer Anuradha Paudwal's devotional bha-

jans on February 24th leaving a profound impact.

The festival also showcases the rich cultural heritage of Chhattisgarh through performances by local artists at Lok Kala Manch, providing a platform for traditional arts such as Ramayan, Phaag Geet, Raut Nacha, and more, ensuring a diverse and engaging program for attendees.

Navapara Rajim both cities bathed in light

The spectacle extends beyond the Mela grounds, with vibrant lights adorning the bridge connecting Navapara and Rajim cities, as well as along the VIP route. The radiant illumination transforms the night into a scene of ethereal beauty, casting a luminous glow across the river and accentuating landmarks like the Laxman Jhula, captivating the hearts of all who witness it.

Disruptions in ration distribution spark concern

Central Chronicle News

Dhamdha, Feb 28: The fair price shop system, integral to ensuring access to essential commodities for residents, is facing significant disruptions in the Gram Panchayat Nandvay of the Dhamdha development block. Operated by a committee formed by the Panchayat, these shops are tasked with providing daily necessities such as rice, oil, sugar, and salt to beneficiaries. However, recent reports suggest a major lapse in the distribution process, prompting calls for urgent intervention.

Complaints have surfaced regarding irregularities in the fair price shop, including discrepancies in the quantity and quality of provided items. Allegations point to instances where materials fall short of the prescribed government allocations,



with excuses offered to justify the shortfall. Concerned by these issues, stakeholders have raised their grievances with Rural Public Sub-Divisional Officer, Vinay Soni, urging swift action to address the systemic deficiencies. Central to the push for reform is the demand to dissolve the existing steering committee overseeing the fair price shop operations and instate a new committee. Additionally, there is a growing call to replace the current vendor with a more accountable individual. The

aim is to restore trust in the distribution process and ensure that beneficiaries receive their entitlements without compromise. Given the gravity of the situation, there is a collective plea for comprehensive inspections of all fair price shops across the block within stipulated timeframes. This scrutiny would encompass assessments of both product quality and adherence to measurement standards. The community awaits with anticipation to see the proactive measures the

Struggle at Civil Hospital Kurud exposes systemic shortcomings

Patients urges reforms amidst doctor shortages and service disruptions

Central Chronicle News

Kurud, Feb 28: A poignant scene unfolded at Civil Hospital Kurud, shedding light on the challenges faced by patients and their families due to systemic deficiencies in the healthcare system. In a touching display of filial devotion, a son was witnessed carrying his elderly mother in his lap to the hospital, underscoring the absence of essential amenities such as stretchers, wheelchairs, and wardboys.

Amidst the bustling corridors of the hospital, the absence of orthopedic specialists compounded the plight of patients, who were left waiting outside in anticipation of medical attention. Reports indicate a pervasive sense of



helplessness among patients and their families, exacerbated by the apparent indifference of healthcare authorities towards their predicament.

The Civil Hospital Kurud serves as a lifeline for residents from Kurud city, surrounding rural areas, and beyond, drawing hundreds of patients daily seeking medical

care. However, the facility grapples with glaring deficiencies, including a severe shortage of medical staff such as doctors, nurses, and wardboys.

This dire situation leaves patients and their families grappling with immense hardships, from navigating transportation challenges to enduring long wait times due to insuffi-

cient personnel.

Furthermore, allegations of irregularities in doctor attendance patterns have surfaced, with concerns raised regarding doctors' arbitrary schedules and purported absenteeism. Such practices not only erode trust in the healthcare system but also exacerbate the already precarious situation faced by patients in need of urgent medical attention.

In response to mounting concerns, Dr. Hemraj Dewangan, acting in-charge BMO, acknowledged the challenges faced by the hospital but deferred official statements to the absent BMO, indicating a need for comprehensive and accountable leadership to address the pressing issues at hand.

Ensuring govt scheme benefits reach Kamar communities: Roma Srivastava

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Feb 28: In a concerted effort to ensure equitable access to government welfare schemes, Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat, Roma Srivastava, convened a pivotal meeting following directives from Collector Namrata Gandhi, aiming to maximize the benefits extended to the Kamar community, a special tribal group deserving of targeted assistance.

Under the proactive guidance of Collector Namrata Gandhi, CEO Roma Srivastava spearheaded a deadline meeting, emphasizing the imperative of directing governmental efforts towards uplifting the Kamar beneficiaries. In attendance were key district-level officials, including Additional



Collector G.R.Markam, Joint Collector Ramkumar Kripal, and Hrishikesh Tiwari, reflecting a collaborative approach towards inclusive development.

During the deliberations, CEO Srivastava issued directives for all departments to promptly devise action plans tailored to benefit the Kamar beneficiaries across various welfare schemes.

Emphasizing the importance of healthcare access, the health and food departments were tasked with jointly facilitating the issuance and distribution of Ayushman cards among Kamar families, ensuring seamless access to healthcare services.

Furthermore, concerted efforts were directed towards streamlining administrative processes, including the meticulous

compilation of accurate beneficiary lists for schemes such as Jan Dhan Account, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. The imperative to identify and rectify discrepancies in beneficiary data underscores the commitment to ensuring that every eligible individual receives the intended benefits.

CEO Srivastava also underscored the importance of developmental programs in selected settlements, with a focus on facilitating model settlements and ensuring the active participation of block-level officers. Moreover, proactive measures were outlined to address community health concerns, with coordinated efforts slated for the upcoming National Pulse Polio Campaign from Mrch 3 to 5.

Illegal liquor vendor apprehended

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Feb 28: In a resolute effort to uphold law and order, Rudri Police Station initiated legal proceedings against an individual engaged in the illicit sale of liquor, marking a significant stride in curbing anti-social activities within the region. Responding to intelligence gathered during routine patrols, Rudri Police received crucial information from a concerned informant near Bhatgaon, indicating illegal liquor sales within the vicinity of Majratola. Acting swiftly on this tip-off, Rudri DSP, along with a dedicated team, orchestrated a targeted raid to address the illicit activity. The collaborative efforts of law enforcement personnel, supported by community cooperation, culminated in a successful operation at the residence of Chhotu Ram in village Bhatgaon Majratola. Upon inspection, authorities seized 42 quarters of country plain liquor, meticulously packed in a white plastic sack, amounting to a total value of Rs. 3360. Additionally, cash proceeds from the unlawful sales, totaling Rs. 470, were confiscated, bringing the



total seizure to Rs. 3830. Under the purview of the Excise Act, Section 34(2), the accused was promptly charged, underscoring the unwavering commitment of Rudri Police to maintain public safety and uphold the rule of law. The successful execution of this operation was made possible through the collective efforts of dedicated personnel including Rudri DSP, Pt. Vinkeshwari Pinde, Pt. Ghanshyam Verma, Pt. R. Birendra Larend, R. Devshankar Som, Girdhari Nishad, and M.R. Jaini Mandavi, exemplifying the collaborative spirit driving effective law enforcement in the region.

● **Joint meeting facilitates compliance with court guidelines and exam preparedness**

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Feb 28: In a proactive move to ensure compliance with court directives and foster a peaceful environment ahead of the board exams, Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney convened a constructive meeting on February 27. The gathering brought together DJ operators, sound system handlers, and amplifier operators, marking a collaborative effort to address community concerns.

The proliferation of

marriage programs in the city's Marriage Palaces and Gardens has brought forth a concerning issue that the pervasive noise pollution stemming from the operation of loud DJ systems and amplifiers not only inconveniences students and individuals with health concerns but also disrupts the peace of common citizens and nearby residents.

During the meeting, Superintendent Varshney emphasized the importance of adhering to the provisions outlined in the Guidelines and Noise Control Act mandated by the Honorable High Court. To mitigate disturbances, all operators were directed to cease DJ and Dhupal operations after 10:00 PM.



Additionally, operators were instructed to obtain prior permission according to established rules before hosting any event.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by operators in implementing regulations amidst pressure from event organizers, Superintendent Varshney

actively sought suggestions from the DJ and sound service operators. Discussions centered on practical solutions, including the installation of separate electrical connections with automatic shut-down mechanisms post-10:00 PM.

Furthermore, proposals

were made to engage event organizing committees and marriage ground operators to ensure compliance and address any instances of contempt.

Varshney underscored the importance of seamless communication and swift action in addressing grievances. Instructing all operators to maintain a record of mobile numbers for district police station in-charges, Varshney emphasized the need to escalate complaints directly to the respective police stations.

Furthermore, Varshney assured operators that if issues persist unresolved, they are encouraged to bring them to his attention for further intervention.

Recognizing the con-

straints of busy schedules, Varshney proposed a more efficient approach for future meetings. Instead of requiring all operators to attend in person, Varshney suggested that only chief officers represent their teams, sharing problems, suggestions, and instructions through their WhatsApp group.

Highlighting the legal ramifications under Section 11 (1) of the Noise Control Act, Varshney reiterated the authorities' commitment to penalize loud noise offenders. Additionally, he stressed the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and event organizers, emphasizing the need for swift action against any breaches.

133 pilgrims from Dhamtari selected for Shri Ramlalla Darshan

● **CEO's directives ensure smooth arrangements for pilgrimage**

Central Chronicle News

Dhamtari, Feb 28: In a significant step towards fostering spiritual connectivity, a lottery draw held under the auspices of State Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai initiated the process of the Shri Ramlalla Darshan Scheme. Attended by esteemed officials including Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat, Roma Srivastava, and

Superintendent of Police Anjneya Varshney, the ceremony saw the selection of 133 pilgrims from the district for a journey to Ayodhya.

CEO District Panchayat Roma Srivastava wasted no time in issuing directives to ensure the comfort and safety of the selected pilgrims. Instructing officials to arrange for vehicles, security, and essential amenities such as food and water, Srivastava emphasized the importance of conducting health check-ups for the pilgrims before departure, ensuring their well-being throughout the

journey. With 100 rural and 33 urban travelers selected through the lottery system, the inclusive nature of the selection process sets a precedent for future spiritual endeavors.

Under the auspices of the Shri Ramlalla Darshan Yojana, applicants seeking to embark on the Ayodhya Dham Yatra are required to submit their applications in the prescribed format to their respective Gram Panchayats or urban bodies. Alongside the application form, individuals must furnish a recent color photograph and provide proof of identity



and residence, such as a ration card, driving license, electricity bill, voter ID

card, Aadhar card, or any other document acceptable by the state government.

Additionally, applicants are mandated to supply the names and contact information of two emergency contacts, with one of them required to be the mobile number of the nominated person. Subsequently, Gram Panchayats and urban bodies will compile and forward the list of interested applicants to the Collector for further processing.

Eligibility criteria under the scheme stipulate that individuals aged 65 and above, applying to travel alone, are entitled to bring along one assistant on their journey. For

groups comprising three to five persons, one helper may accompany them, provided each member of the group is above 65 years old. In larger groups, assistants will be allocated at a rate of one per five passengers. However, if spouses are travelling together, the provision for taking an assistant is unavailable, provided one of them falls below the age of 65. These guidelines aim to ensure equitable access and support for all participants throughout their pilgrimage experience.

Recognizing the significance of collective spiritu-

al experiences, the scheme accommodates group applications, allowing up to 10 individuals to apply together. In such cases, one applicant serves as the group head, with the group's applications processed collectively.

Additionally, provisions are made for assistants accompanying the group, ensuring a seamless journey for all participants. The upcoming implementation of online application procedures promises further accessibility and efficiency, enhancing the pilgrimage experience for all travelers.

Kishan, Iyer dropped from BCCI central contracts



New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI):

Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer were on Wednesday excluded from the BCCI central contracts after ignoring the board's directive of playing in the Ranji Trophy.

India skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja figured in the A plus category, the highest bracket of the BCCI's central contract.

Six cricketers feature in the A category including R Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya. Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and

Yashasvi Jaiswal have got B category contracts.

As many as 15 athletes have been handed C category contracts including Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Ruturaj Gaekwad, Shardul Thakur, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, KS Bharat, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan and Rajat Patidar.

"Please note that Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan were not considered for the annual contracts in this round of recommendations," said the BCCI in a statement.

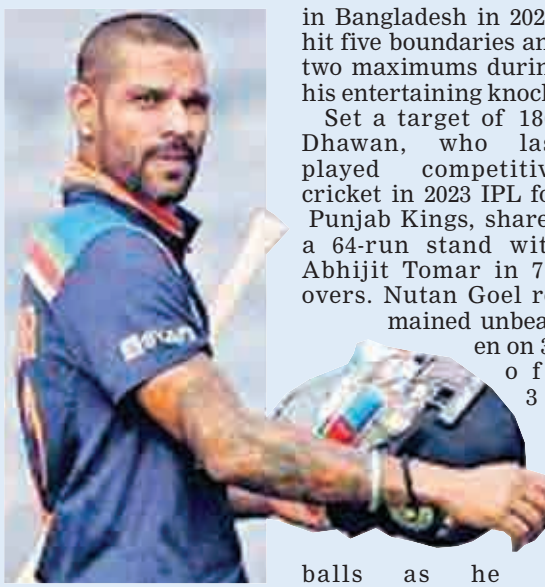
The selection committee has also recommended

fast bowling contracts for Akash Deep, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Umran Malik, Yash Dayal and Vidvath Kaverappa.

"The BCCI has recommended that all athletes give precedence to participating in domestic cricket during periods when they are not representing the national team," the statement added.

In a departure from the norm, the BCCI this time has not mentioned the remuneration of the players across the four categories. Cricketers are normally paid Rs 7 crore per annum in A plus bracket, Rs 5 crore in A, Rs 3 crore in B and Rs one crore in C category, over and above their match fees.

Dhawan hits 39 on return



Navi Mumbai, Feb 28 (PTI):

Out-of-favour veteran Indian batter Shikhar Dhawan returned to competitive cricket with a 28-ball 39 but his knock went in vain as DY Patil Blue lost by one run to Tata Sports Club in the DY Patil T20 Cup here on Wednesday.

The 38-year-old, who last played for India during the ODI series

in Bangladesh in 2022, hit five boundaries and two maximums during his entertaining knock.

Set a target of 186, Dhawan, who last played competitive cricket in 2023 IPL for Punjab Kings, shared a 64-run stand with Abhijit Tomar in 7.1 overs. Nutan Goel remained unbeaten on 38 off 35

balls as he added a valuable 58 runs for the fifth wicket with Shubham Dubey (42).

However, in the end, Blue fell short by just one run to finish on 184 for seven in their allotted 20 overs.

Former India wicket-keeper Dinesh Karthik, playing for Blue, was dismissed for a first-ball duck but he took the important catch of Samarth Vyas.

Muzumdar looks to create fast bowlers pool from WPL ahead of T20 WC

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (PTI):

With just seven months left for the Women's T20 World Cup to begin in Bangladesh, India head coach Amol Muzumdar is keen to identify and build a pool of fast bowlers from the on-going Women's Premier League.

The Indian pace unit looks a bit thin after the retirement of legendary Jhulan Goswami and moving on from veteran Shikha Pandey.

Currently, the Indian pace bowling is marshalled by Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Titas Sadhu and Amanjot Kaur. "Four fast bowlers played the last series (against Australia). I want to create a pool of fast bowlers (from the WPL). It makes a lot of difference if you strengthen the bowling attack," Muzumdar was quoted as saying ESPNCricinfo.

"I would want another pool of 20-25 players to create a bench strength for the Indian team," he added.

The ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup will be held in September-October in



Bangladesh. Muzumdar had taken over as India coach last year ahead of home series against England and Australia.

While India won the Tests against the visitors, they lost the T20I and ODI series. Muzumdar was also delighted to see frontline Indian batters such as Shafali Verma, S Meghana and Richa Ghosh among runs ahead of the marquee event later this year.

"There is an upscale movement in India's bat-

ters. The confidence from those two series against England and Australia is on display (here) because of how they performed there."

The former Mumbai batsman was also chuffed to see the presence of mind Sajana Sajeewan showed while carrying Mumbai Indians to a victory over Delhi Capitals with a last-ball six.

"Sajana's six gives you an idea of the depth in Indian cricket," said Muzumdar.

HI head Tirkey, secretary Bhola Nath Singh deny rift in joint statement

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI): Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey and secretary general Bhola Nath Singh on Wednesday denied outgoing CEO Elena Norman's assertion of a rift between them, saying that they are "united" and working in the best interest of the sport.

Norman resigned on Tuesday and in an interview to PTI she alleged that there was factionalism in the body. The 49-year-old Australian suggested that Tirkey and Singh were at loggerheads and also complained of a difficult work environment. In a joint statement, Tirkey and Singh rejected Norman's claims. "Recently there have been statements by outgoing officials published in the media, claiming that there are divisions within the organisation. This is not correct. We remain united in working together, and as always in the best interest of the sport," the two said.

"Hockey India is an autonomous and professional body dedicated to the development of Indian hockey. Our primary objective as an organisation has been and continues to remain the welfare and progress of the sport of hockey and our athletes."

Jaiswal rises to 12th, Jurel to 69th in ICC Test rankings

Dubai, Feb 28 (PTI):

India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal advanced towards a top-10 spot in the ICC rankings for Test batters by climbing three spots to 12th while his compatriot Dhruv Jurel leapfrogged 31 places to 69th on Wednesday.

Jaiswal, who started the series in 69th position, continues his ascent to the top after scores of 73 and 37 in the fourth match of India's ICC World Test Championship series against England in Ranchi.

Player of the Match Jurel's scores of 90 and 39 has jumped a whopping 31 places while former England captain Joe Root is back in the top three.

Root, a formerly top-ranked batter, struck an unbeaten 122 in the first innings in Ranchi to



move up two places to third position. He also moved up three spots to fourth among all-rounders.

Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's five-wicket haul in the second innings has helped him narrow the gap with top-ranked Jasprit Bumrah to 21 rating points at 846 after the fast bowler was rested for the Ranchi Test.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep

Yadav moved up 10 places to the 32nd spot and England's Shoaib Bashir, who climbed 38 places to 80th, have also attained career bests.

Opener Zak Crawley entered the top 20 for the first time after scores of 42 and 60, while a bunch of spinners have also prospered in the latest weekly update.

The T20I Rankings see Australia batter Travis Head move into the top

20 for the first time after scores of 24, 45 and 33 in the series against New Zealand.

Tim David's quickfire 31 off just 10 balls in the first match see him move up six places to 22nd and past the 600-point barrier for the first time in his career.

The top six bowlers are unchanged, with Josh Hazlewood the only new one in the top 10 after finishing with figures of 4-1-12-1 in Auckland.

In the ODI rankings, the biggest mover has been Namibia's Bernard Scholtz, whose hauls of four for 31 against Nepal and two for 15 against the Netherlands in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 Tri-Series in Kirtipur have lifted him to 11th position and 642 ratings points, the highest position ever achieved by a Namibia player in ODI cricket.

Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from: James Anderson

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI):

James Anderson, England's greatest fast bowler with an unparalleled longevity and nearly 1000 international wickets, says he has learned a few elements of pace bowling, including reverse swing, from Indian great Zaheer Khan. At 41, Anderson continues to lead the England attack and is two short of becoming the first fast bowler in the history of the sport to breach the 700-wicket mark.

Spin legends Muttiah Muralitharan and the late Shane Warne are the only bowlers with 700 plus wickets in Test cricket. "For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he covered the ball when he ran into bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," Anderson told JioCinema.

Zaheer, one of India's finest seamers, played his last Test in 2014 when Anderson was at the top of his game.



Among the current lot of Indian pacers, Anderson is most impressed by Jasprit Bumrah's ability, calling him a "great exponent" of reverse swing.

Asked about Bumrah's match-winning performance in the second Test against England, Anderson said, "With

someone of his quality you expect that standard from him. You know that reverse swing can play a big part in India and he's a great exponent of it. He's got good pace and is very accurate, very consistent.

"That yorker we saw to Ollie Pope, he's got that up his sleeve as well. It's not a fluke that he's got to number one in the world. He's a world-class bowler and from our point of view we weren't surprised that he put up a performance like that."

The seasoned Englishman added, "There are not many better bowlers than Bumrah, Shami and Siraj. They're world-class bowlers. You put Ishant Sharma in there as well, and that's a really strong bowling attack."

Anderson's longevity in the game can be ascertained by the fact that his current England teammates such as Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed were not even born when he made his Test debut way back in 2002.

Having played 186 Tests and 194 ODIs over the last 22 years, Anderson's desire to be competitive remains intact.

Renuka set the tone for RCB by controlling Powerplay: Molineux

Bengaluru, Feb 28 (PTI): Renuka Singh has managed to control the Powerplay period by providing early breakthroughs and stopping run-flow with her swing bowling which played a significant role in RCB winning both its games, says team spin all-rounder Sophie Molineux.

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) are sitting on top of the table with four points. Mumbai Indians (+0.488) also have four points but they are placed second behind RCB who have better NRR of +1.665.

RCB had restricted Gujarat Giants to 107 for seven on Tuesday night with Renuka returning impressive figures of 4-0-14-2. RCB then overhauled the target in 12.3 overs to log their second win on the trot.

"Renuka has been incredible in both games and playing against her for India, she's just so reliable



and it's great to be on the same team as her. She swings the ball beautifully at the front and I think she's really set the tone for us in both games," Molineux said.

Bopanna-Ebden, Yuki-Haase pairs advance

Dubai, Feb 28 (PTI): Top seeds Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden entered the men's doubles quarterfinals of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships with a straight set win over the Tunisian-Pakistani pair of Skander Mansouri and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi here. Bopanna and Ebden, who won the Australian Open last month, took one hour and 41 minutes to get the better of Mansouri and Qureshi 7-6(4) 7-6(5) in the round of 16 on Tuesday night. Bopanna and Ebden, who made their first outing since winning the men's doubles title at the Australian Open, will face Ariel Behar of Uruguay and Czech Adam Pavlasek in the quarterfinals.

Another Indian, Yuki Bhambri and his Dutch partner Robin Haase also progressed to the quarterfinals, defeating Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik and Adrian Mannarino of France 6-7(6) 6-3 10-8 in a round of 16 match. Yuki and Haase will next face the winner of the match between the Belgian duo of Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen and third seed English-Kiwi pair of Jamal Murray and Michael Venus.

Altmaier stuns Zverev in Mexican Open



Acapulco, Feb 28 (AP):

Daniel Altmaier pulled off a major upset, beating top seeded Alexander Zverev in a battle of German players to qualify for the second round of the Mexican Open.

The 27-year-old Altmaier and world's 57th ranked player defeated his countryman for the first time in three tries in 2:26 hours and will play Miomir Kecmanovic next.

Zverev, sixth in the ATP rankings, lost a seven-match winning streak

against German players. His previous loss against one was in 2019, when he fell to Dustin Brow, in Stuttgart.

Earlier, second-seeded Holger Rune eased past American Michael Mmoh 6-

2, 6-3 and advanced to the second round.

Rune, ranked seventh in the ATP, needed 92 minutes to dispatch Mmoh, who made his way into the main draw through the qualification tournament.

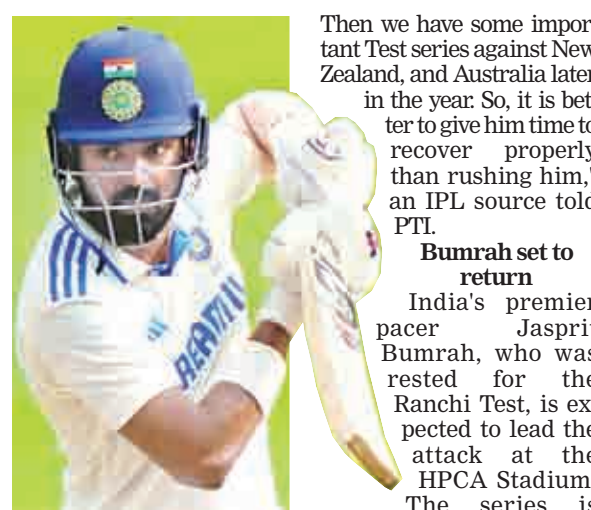
The 20-year-old Rune, from Denmark, reached the semifinals in Acapulco last year and now will meet Aleksandar Kovacevic, who took care of Jordan Thompson 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Earlier, fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Roman Safiullin 6-3, 6-4 and moved on to the second round where he will face Flavio Cobolli.

Rahul still feeling sore while batting in nets, unlikely for Dharamsala Test

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI):

Senior India batter K L Rahul is unlikely to feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala as he continues to feel sore in his right quadriceps. Rahul became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January but as per BCCI, he was 90 per cent fit before the third Test in Rajkot earlier this month. Rahul has now travelled to London to get an expert opinion on his injury and with the series in the bag, the Indian team management will not take the risk of playing him in the Dharamsala Test beginning March 7. He needs to be fully fit before the IPL where he will lead Lucknow Super Giants and is expected to bat in the middle order to bolster his chances of making the India squad for the T20 World Cup in the



USA and the Caribbean. "It is more to get an expert opinion (travel to London). He experiences a bit of pain (right quadriceps) while batting. It is to ensure that he recovers fully as he is a player that team needs long-term." "There is so much competition coming his way - IPL, he could also be in the T20 World Cup mix.

Then we have some important Test series against New Zealand, and Australia later in the year. So, it is better to give him time to recover properly than rushing him," an IPL source told PTI.

Bumrah set to return

India's premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the Ranchi Test, is expected to lead the attack at the HPCA Stadium.

The series is sealed but every Test match offers crucial World Test Championship points and Bumrah can play a big part in the cooler climes of Dharamsala. India are second in the standings with five wins, two losses and a draw. New Zealand lead the table with a winning percentage of 75 but they have only played four Tests.

PM launches new initiatives in TN

Lashes out at Cong and DMK

Thoothukudi (TN), Feb 28 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects, including a new launch complex of ISRO, totally worth about Rs 17,300 crore.

The ISRO complex at Kulasekarapattinam near here, is worth about Rs 986 crore and the facility is set to accommodate 24 launches per year.

Modi castigated the earlier UPA regime for not being 'bothered about' about Tamil Nadu's progress.. In a fierce attack on the DMK, he alleged the Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravidian party not does not cooperate with Centre on its welfare schemes. The DMK took credit for the work done by the BJP-regime at the Centre, he claimed.

The PM inaugurated projects in Thoothukudi and addressed a BJP rally

**PM Modi during a public meeting, in Tirunelveli district, Wednesday.**

at nearby Tirunelveli before concluding his two-day visit to Tamil Nadu. He had attended a rally in Tiruppur and an official event in Madurai on Tuesday.

Criticising the DMK for staging a walk out in the Parliament during a recent discussion on the Ayodhya Shri Ram temple, he alleged the DMK has again proved its hate for people's faith.

"Tamil Nadu's connect with Shri Ram is well-known. Before the January 22 consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, I visited differ-

ent temples, including in Dhanushkodi (in TN). The entire country was happy that the temple was coming up after so many years. A related matter came up in the Parliament but the DMK MPs ran away," Modi said at Tirunelveli rally. The DMK regime does not work but only took false credit and it affixed its 'stickers' on Central schemes.

"Now they have crossed the limit. They have pasted the sticker of China to take credit for ISRO launchpad in Tamil Nadu. This is an insult to our country, an insult to our

patriotic space scientists." The people of Tamil Nadu will punish the DMK.

The Tamil Nadu BJP alleged that in an advertisement in a daily the DMK used 'Chinese flag' and 'Chinese language' to claim credit for bringing the new ISRO complex at Kulasekarapattinam.

Against this background, Modi alleged DMK is not prepared to hail India's progress and the nation's achievements in space technology. "They gave this advertisement from the tax that you pay. It didn't have India's space success, didn't want to highlight it before the world."

DMK Deputy general secretary Kanmozhi said the new ISRO launch complex scheme marked her party's continuous efforts over the past 10 years, which will be a big boost for Tamil Nadu's development. Underlining his commitment for TN, he referred to election of union minister L Murugan to the Rajya Sabha from the "Hindi heartland" state of Madhya Pradesh.

FLOWERS IN FULL BLOOM

**Spring season flowers bloom in the lawns near Taj Mahal in Agra, Wednesday.**

Santhan's last wish to take care of his mother remained unfulfilled

Chennai, Feb 28 (PTI):

The last wish of Santhan, among the seven convicts released in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, to return to his home in Sri Lanka and take care of his aged mother never materialised.

Santhan alias T Suthendiraraja (55) died here on Wednesday following a cardiac arrest. He had been battling for his life in hospital for nearly a month, determined to return home, but his failing ill health took the better of him. His brother was by his side when he breathed his last. Santhan's counsel Pugazhendhi said.

Santhan would be taken to his house in Sri

**Santhan alias T Suthendiraraja**

Lanka for the last rites, the counsel added. Despite the Supreme Court releasing him from prison along with six other convicts in 2022, and with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Chennai, issuing an order to send him to Lanka on February 23, in his favour, Santhan could not be sent home as

ordained. Santhan was rushed to the Hepatology (liver) ICU of the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) here on January 28 in a critical condition from the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, where he was undergoing treatment for cryptogenic cirrhosis - a condition with no apparent underlying reason.

He was brought to the hospital here with breathlessness, fluid in the abdomen and swelling in the limbs. "He suffered a setback in his condition on Tuesday night and early today he passed away after a cardiac arrest," RGGGH dean Dr E Tharanirajan said.

Bhubaneswar, Feb 28 (PTI):

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates called on Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence here and discussed technology-driven farmer empowerment initiatives.

Gates, who arrived here on Tuesday, held discussions with the chief minister about various state government initiatives.

"Pleasure meeting @Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Mr @BillGates. Had a wonderful discussion on our technology-driven farmer empowerment initiatives, several welfare initiatives like # J a g a M i s s i o n , # M i s s i o n S h a k t i , #OdishaSchoolTransformation, #BSKY and health-

care transformation," Patnaik said on X.

He appreciated the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for supporting innovation in extending inclusive benefits to the people.

"Thanked him for his praise for Odisha's welfare initiatives and success in different sectors through #5T transformative governance," he added.

In the morning, he visited a slum in Bhubaneswar and interacted with the residents.

He visited the Biju Adarsh Colony in the Maa Mangla Basti along with state government officials.

Besides enquiring about the well-being of the residents of the slum, Gates also interacted with mem-

bers of women's self-help groups (SHGs).

State Development Commissioner Anu Garg said, "We have shown him that the slum dwellers have got land rights, tap water connections, toilets and power supply. He expressed happiness over the transformation of the slum area into a model colony." State Urban Development Secretary G Mathi Vathanan said that Gates spoke to the beneficiaries of different welfare schemes of the government. A resident of the colony said that the philanthropist interacted with them and asked about the changes in their lifestyle as a result of the schemes.

"He asked us about how we were living earlier and

our present status," she said.

Later, he visited Krushi Bhawan, the headquarters of the state agriculture and farmers' empowerment department.

The state has been partnering with the Foundation since 2017 to forward shared goals around improving farmers' income, nutrition security, and climate resilience in the state.

"This partnership has allowed the state to emerge as a leader in digital public infrastructure, with the government launching key farmer-centric systems including the Krushak Odisha database, GO-SUGAM portal, and Ama Krushi extension system," a senior official said.

With strategic support from the Foundation, the government has also been able to complete successful pilots surrounding crop diversification through the Maize Mandi and agriculture production cluster (APC) projects. These initiatives have now been scaled up across the state, Arabinda Kumar Padhee, principal secretary of the agriculture and farmers' empowerment department, said.

The forward-looking roadmap for digital agriculture in the state was also discussed with the focus being on Odisha emerging as one of the first states to implement an end-to-end technology stack in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, he said.

Bill Gates meets Odisha CM, discusses technology-driven farmer empowerment initiatives

Mizoram Assembly opposes Centre's decision to fence India-Myanmar border

Aizawl, Feb 28 (PTI):

The Mizoram Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution opposing the Centre's decision to fence the India-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with the neighbouring country.

The resolution, moved by Home Minister K Sapdanga, urged the Centre to reconsider its decision.

It urged the Union government to instead take steps to ensure that Zo ethnic people, "who have been divided in different countries, are unified under one administrative unit".

While moving the reso-

lution, Sapdanga said the Zo ethnic people, who have inhabited Mizoram and the Chin hills of Myanmar for centuries and once lived together under their own administration, have been geographically divided when the British occupied the region.

He said the British demarcated the India-Myanmar border and divided the Zo ethnic people's land into two countries.

"The Zo ethnic people can't accept the India-Myanmar border, which has been imposed on them by the British. They have been dreaming of reunification under one administrative unit someday," the

home minister said. He said fencing the India-Myanmar border or scrapping the FMR, which will mandate the approval of the imposed boundary, is unacceptable for the Zo ethnic people.

Although the Mizoram government is yet to receive official intimation about the Centre's plan, it is evident from media reports and statements of Union ministers that the Centre is planning to fence the India-Myanmar border and suspend the existing FMR with Myanmar, he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on February 6 announced that the entire India-Myanmar border would

be fenced. Two days later, on February 8, he said that the Centre has decided to scrap the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR) to maintain the country's internal security and demographic structure of the northeastern states. Sapdanga alleged that the recent decisions were motivated mainly by the demands of the Manipur government.

The idea of fencing the India-Myanmar border and lifting the FMR, as reported in a section of media, stemmed out of some reasons, including national security, smuggling of contraband items, illegal immigration and movement of insurgents, he said.

Sapdanga said national security "can't be an excuse" for fencing the India-Myanmar border and lifting the FMR.

"If the Centre is so concerned about national security, it should also fence all the international borders that the country shares with neighbouring countries," he said.

It should also abolish the mechanism India has with Nepal and Bhutan, under which people of these countries can visit each other's territory without a visa, he said.

He said that even during the peak period of insurgency in the northeastern states, the FMR with Myanmar was never questioned.

'Ensure videography at 100% booths, set up polling station in high-rise complexes too'

BJP TO ECI

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI):

The BJP on Wednesday urged the Election Commission to videograph the voting process at all polling stations during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and set up booths in complexes housing high-rise buildings.

In a memorandum, the BJP also urged the poll panel to consider reforming the approval process for political parties' media content to make it faster, allowing them adequate time to plan their campaign.

It also requested the Election Commission to

**Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw speaks to the media after meeting with the Election Commission of India (ECI), in New Delhi, Wednesday.**

ensure there is no ambiguity in the rule pertaining to putting flags and making wall paintings by party

workers at their homes during polls. "There should be clarity on this," they demanded.

A BJP delegation comprising Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and party national general secretary Arun Singh met the poll panel with the demands.

"The BJP keeps making efforts to see how the entire poll process could be made more and more transparent and the voters' involvement in the elections be further increased. Our delegation made some requests to the EC (in this regard)," Vaishnaw told reporters after the meeting at the Election Commission.

VARSITY CONVOCATION

**President Droupadi Murmu during the third convocation of the Central University of Jharkhand, in Ranchi, Wednesday.**

HC allows Indian couple to appear virtually from US

New Delhi, Feb 28 (PTI): The Delhi High Court has allowed an Indian couple, residing in the US, to appear through video conferencing before the registering authority here for registration of their

For marriage registration

marriage. Justice Subramonium Prasad directed the man and the woman to appear before the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, California and join the video confer-

ence from there while taking into account the submission by the authorities that in view of the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, the possibility of somebody impersonating the couple cannot be ruled out.

Woman delivers baby at busy road

Two nurses come to help

Noida, Feb 28 (PTI): Two trained nurses who were on their way to work stopped midway to attend an emergency by helping a 33-year-old woman deliver her baby at a busy road intersection in Greater Noida. The incident took place on Tuesday at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida when Prashant Sharma, who works in a private company, was pleading for help for his wife Roshni Sharma, who was undergoing labour pain. Noticing his cry for help, nurses Jyoti and Renu Devi, who work at nearby Sharda Hospital, tended to the emergency and with their help the woman delivered a baby girl along the road at the busy Pari Chowk. Nurse Devi said she was going for duty from Kasna. As soon as she got out of the auto at Pari Chowk, she saw the woman lying on the road, and her husband was pleading for help from the people.

टैटू (तोदना) मिटारो नई लेजर तकनीक द्वारा

डॉ. रा. शासन से मान्यता प्राप्त

कालड़ा बर्न एव

प्लास्टिक सर्जिकल सपोर्ट सेंटर

अपर. के. सी. के. ब्लाक, चौथे फ्लोर, सूर्य चण्डी

नामक, पुराने रोड, कलकत्ते मॉल के पास, रायपुर

फोन: 9827143060/8871003060

सुयश हॉस्पिटल (NABH से मान्यता प्राप्त)

स्पाइन विभाग

- रीढ़ की हड्डी में चोट या फ्रैक्चर
- रीढ़ की हड्डी में ट्यूमर
- डिस्क प्रोलेप्स
- पीठ दर्द एवं कमर दर्द
- सायटिका • Spine TB (Pott's Spine)

एवं रीढ़ की हड्डी से संबंधित सभी प्रकार की बीमारियों के विशेष इलाज की सुविधा.

24 Hours Helpline **9926386660**

कोटा-गुदियारी रोड़, होटल पिकाडली के पीछे, रायपुर

Ajay 9827144371