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BRIEF

Actor Aamir Khan cuts a cake during his birthday celebrations, in Mumbai, Thursday.

Suicide

Datia: A 31-year-old constable allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle inside a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district on Thursday, an official said. A relative of the deceased claimed he was under depression after being harassed by a senior officer.

Major fire

Mumbai: A major fire broke out in a furniture godown in Mumbai's Goregaon suburb on Thursday afternoon, officials said. There is no report of injury to anyone in the blaze that erupted at the storage unit located near Narayan Plaza around 3.50 pm, they said.

Elected

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on Thursday declared elected unopposed to the legislative council, along with 10 others, who stood for the biennial polls to the Upper House. Besides Kumar, who will be enjoying a fourth consecutive term, those who got elected include former chief minister Rabri Devi (RJD), who is the leader of the opposition in the legislative council, and cabinet minister Santosh Suman.

Flight services

Kolkata: Flight services at Sikkim's only airport in Pakyong will resume on March 31 after remaining suspended for six months, a senior official said on Thursday. Low-cost carrier SpiceJet will operate two flights -- one from Kolkata and another from New Delhi, Pakong airport Director RK Grover told PTI.

Tiger attack

Chandrapur: A 58-year-old man was killed in a tiger attack in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Thursday, a forest official said. The incident took place in forest area number 494 in Ballarpur range when Namdeo Atram had gone to collect wood, he said.

Weather

High 36 Low 20

MARKET

NIFTY 22,146.65 ▲
SENSEX 73,097.28 ▲

BULLION

GOLD 65,591
SILVER 75,267

'Corruption, mis-governance are INDI Alliance's ideology'

Fuelling anti-national agenda

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the opposition INDIA bloc of being guided by corruption, mis-governance and fuelling anti-national agenda, asserting he stands for rooting out corruption and appeasement. His ideology is ensuring the country's welfare through people's welfare, he said at a programme here attended by the beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme, under which loan is given to street vendors. Targeting INDIA group parties who have united in the national capital to take on the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, Modi said they have come together on the agenda of "abusing" him day and night. The Aam Aadmi Party



PM Modi addresses the beneficiaries of PM SVANidhi scheme, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, in New Delhi, Thursday.

and the Congress have joined hands in Delhi where all seven Lok Sabha seats are currently held by the BJP. Modi said the PM SVANidhi scheme has been a big boost to the lakhs of families of street vendors who were never paid any "attention" by previous governments. They used to suffer insults and ran from pillar to post

as they hardly got loans from banks and had to obtain capital at exorbitant interest rates, he said. "Modi ki guarantee has ensured that they can get loans from banks at simple rates," he said, adding more than 62 lakh people have been given loans of about Rs 11,000 crore.

At the event, the prime minister distributed loans to 1 lakh street vendors (SVs) including 5,000 SVs from Delhi as part of the scheme. He handed over PM SVANidhi loan cheques to five beneficiaries. He also laid the foundation stone of two additional corridors of Delhi Metro's Phase 4.

On Wednesday, the Union Cabinet approved two new corridors of Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project - Lajpat Nagar to Saket G-Block and Inderlok to Indraprastha - in a move that will further improve the metro connectivity in the national capital. The BJP government at the Centre has been

working to improve the lives of the poor and middle class in the national capital, Modi said, adding that it has been making honest efforts to ease traffic and curb pollution in Indian cities.

Over 1,000 electric buses have been deployed in Delhi, he said, and highlighted the expansion of expressways around the city's periphery and increase in its Metro network. The PM pointed out that past governments did not take any interest in the welfare of street vendors which led to them facing disrespect and hardships.

They did not pay any heed to the needs of street vendors nor did they make any effort to tackle their issues, PM Modi said.

"This servant of yours has come out of poverty. I have lived in poverty. That is why those who have not been cared for by anyone, they were not only cared for but have been worshipped by Modi," said the prime minister.

Naxalite wanted in over 100 cases held

Bijapur, Mar 14:

A Naxalite wanted in more than 100 cases, including murder and abduction, and carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh was arrested in Bijapur district, police said on Thursday. Sudhakar alias Undam (55), who was active as a divisional committee member of Maoists, was apprehended in a forest between Gundam and Puvarti villages during an operation by security personnel on Tuesday, an official said.

Three workers from WB killed after falling off bridge

Dhamtari, Mar 14:

Three workers hailing from West Bengal were killed after their motorcycle hit the railing of a bridge and they fell into a dry canal in Dhamtari district, police said on Thursday.

The accident took place on Wednesday evening under Sihawa police station limits when the three men were heading on the two-wheeler from Bhothli Bodra village towards Sankra village, a police official said.

Narayana Health MM

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Ex-bureaucrats Sukhbir Sandhu, Gyanesh Kumar named ECs

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Former bureaucrats Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Gyanesh Kumar have been named as the new election commissioners by a panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, committee member and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Thursday.

Chowdhury, however, gave his dissent note on the selection, raising questions over the procedure. He said he had sought the names of the shortlisted candidates for the posts in the Election Commission but was provided 212 names the night before the committee met. Addressing reporters at his residence soon after the meeting ended, Chowdhury said six names came up before the panel for the selection of



the two election commissioners and the names of Sandhu and Kumar were finalised by a majority of members of the high-powered panel.

The six names shortlisted were that of Utpal Kumar Singh, Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, Gyanesh Kumar, Indevnar Pandey, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Sudhir Kumar Gangadhar Rahate, all former bureaucrats. The selection panel is chaired by the prime minister. It has as members one Union minister - Home Minister Amit Shah - as nominated by the government and the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

"Of the six names, the names of Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were finalised for appointment as election commissioners," Chowdhury said.

He said that "I did not have information about the background, experience and integrity of these people and I did not like the procedural lacunae" but the appointments were made. While Kumar during his tenure in the home ministry oversaw the abrogation of the Constitution's Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Sandhu is a former chief secretary of Uttarakhand. Kumar and Sandhu are 1988-batch officers of the Indian Administrative Service and belonged to the Kerala and Uttarakhand cadres, respectively.

Kovind report moots simultaneous LS, assembly polls

32 parties supported one nation, one poll; 15 opposed

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

A high-level panel on Thursday recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days in its report on 'one nation, one election' submitted to President Droupadi Murmu.

Simultaneous polls will help save resources, spur development and social cohesion, deepen "foundations of democratic rubric" and help realise the aspirations of "India, that is Bharat", the panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind said in its report that runs into more than 18,000 pages.

However, the panel has made 321 pages public.



Ram Nath Kovind, Chairman of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on 'One Nation, One Election', presents the report to President Droupadi Murmu, in New Delhi, Thursday.

The committee noted that B R Ambedkar had envisioned the necessity of uniformity in the electoral process and further advocated for the Union to be responsible for conducting elections in India.

Separately, the Law Commission is also likely to come up soon with its own report on simultaneous polls, of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary.

Sources said that the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of government - Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies like municipalities and panchayats - starting with 2029 and a provision for unity government in cases like hung house or no-confidence motion.

The 2024 general elections for Lok Sabha, along with four state assemblies,

are expected in April-May amid indications that the Election Commission may announce these polls as early as this Friday.

The Kovind panel, which has not specified any period for rolling out simultaneous polls, said that in the first stage, elections for the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies can be held together.

In the second step, the elections to municipalities and panchayats will be synchronised with the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in such a way that elections to municipalities and panchayats are held within 100 days of the holding of parliamentary and assembly polls. For the purpose of synchronising Lok Sabha and assembly elections, the committee recommended that the President notifies the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election as the "appointed date".

BREATHER TO CUSTOMERS

Paytm gets third-party app license from payments authority

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

The National Payments Corporation of India on Thursday granted approval to Paytm-owner One97 Communications Ltd to participate in UPI as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) under the multi-bank model. Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, and YES Bank will act as Payment System Provider (PSP) banks to Paytm.

YES Bank shall also be acting as merchant acquiring bank for existing and new UPI merchants for One97 Communications Ltd (OCL). "@Paytm" handle shall be redirected to YES Bank, NPCI said in a statement. OCL provides payment services under the Paytm

Four banks -- Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, SBI, YES Bank to act as PSP to Paytm

brand. "This will enable existing users and merchants to continue to do UPI transactions and AutoPay mandates in a seamless and uninterrupted manner," it said. Paytm has been advised to complete migration for all existing handles and mandates, wherever required, to new PSP banks at the earliest.

The NPCI's decision comes a day ahead of the Reserve Bank deadline asking customers and merchants of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to shift their accounts to other banks by March 15.

EC reveals electoral bond donors

New Delhi, Mar 14:

In a big move towards transparency in political funding, the Election Commission of India has uploaded the data of the electoral bonds given to it by the State Bank of India. The details have been uploaded on Thursday, a day before the deadline set by the Supreme Court.

The data pertains to purchases of bonds of three denomination - Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore - dating back to April 12, 2019 and reveals purchases by companies as well as individuals.

EC reveals electoral bond donors. They are...Complying with the directions of the Supreme Court, the SBI on Tuesday evening handed over data pertaining to the purchase and redemption of elec-

toral bonds to the Election Commission. Donors to political parties through electoral bonds include Grasim Industries, Megha Engineering, Piramal Enterprises, Torrent Power, Bharti Airtel, DLF Commercial Developers, Vedanta Ltd among donors to parties using electoral bonds, reveals data released by EC.

Other names on the list are Apollo Tyres, Lakshmi Mittal, Edelweiss, PVR, Keventer, Sula Wine, Welspun and Sun Pharma.

Recipients of funds through electoral bonds include BJP, Congress, AIADMK, BRS, Shiv Sena, TDP and YSR Congress. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, JMM, Sikkim Democratic Front, Jana Sena Party among recipients of electoral bonds.

Mamata suffers major injury



Kolkata, Mar 14:

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday evening suffered injuries on her forehead and was admitted to a hospital, the TMC said. "Our chairperson @MamataOfficial sustained a major injury. Please keep her in your prayers," the party posted on X along with pictures of Banerjee bleeding from her forehead. According to sources, she was admitted to the state-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata. The details of how she received the injury are still awaited.

Govt cracks down against OTT platforms

For vulgar content

New Delhi, Mar 14 (PTI):

Government on Thursday said it has taken action to block 18 OTT platforms and social media accounts associated with them for publishing obscene, vulgar and in some instances pornographic content.

In a statement, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said 18 OTT platforms and 19 websites, 10 apps (seven on Google Play Store, three on Apple App Store), and 57 social media accounts associated with them have been disabled for public access in India.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur has emphasised

the responsibility of the platforms to not propagate obscenity, vulgarity and abuse under the guise of 'creative expression'.

The decision to act against the OTT platforms was taken under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 in consultation with other ministries/departments of the Government, and domain experts specialising in media and entertainment, women's rights, and child rights, the statement said. PTI/SKU

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has taken action, in coordination with various intermediaries, to block 18 OTT platforms publishing "obscene," "vulgar," and, in some instances, "pornographic content".

Fire mishap in BSP, production unaffected

Bhilai, Mar 14:

A major fire broke out at around 10.45 pm on Wednesday in the Ammonia Stripping Tower, which was closed for the last 10 years, in the PETP area of the Coal Chemicals Department of Bhilai Steel Plant. The fire tenders from the BSP's Fire Brigade reached the spot and launched fire fighting operations. They managed to douse the flames within an hour. The cause of the fire is not yet clear and there was no casualty in this incident. There is no impact on the production of the plant due to this incident.

The fire mishap triggered chaos in the entire



plant. Top officers of Bhilai Steel Plant also reached the mishap site. Concerned officials are

making efforts to explore the cause of mishap. Though the tower was closed for the last ten

years, the fire mishap caused a huge loss of property to the Bhilai Steel Plant.

Collector inspects 42 MLD water filter plant

Bhilai, Mar 14:

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary and Durg Municipal Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar conducted a surprise inspection of 42 and 24 MLD filter plants during their morning visit on Thursday. She oversaw the filter bed, aeration chamber, wash water and other places of the filter plant and observed the entire work being done for water purification. Taking stock of each method of water purification, she gave instructions to the officers to ensure that pure drinking water is supplied regularly in every ward of the Municipal Corporation area. After visiting the lab of the filter plant and discussing with the chemist, she instructed to cautiously test the elements and turbidity found in the water. The team of the



Water Works Department is working diligently to ensure that the citizens of the Municipal Corporation area continue to get pure drinking water.

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary also gave instructions to conduct random tests from all the zone areas along

with water sample testing to ensure that impure water does not reach anywhere. They oversaw the process of water coming from Shivnath river and collection of water samples in the filter plant, took information about availability of chlorine, bleaching and other resources used in water

purification. In the water testing lab, they inspected the registers date wise. The Corporation Commissioner asked to maintain the records of water testing of samples taken from the water tank and the tail end water source every day. While taking information about the raw water coming from the river and clear water being supplied in the filter plant, he asked the chemist in the lab for information about the daily test reports and took information about the automatic SCADA system. He sought information and report from the officials regarding the capacity of the motor pumps being used in water supply.

Executive Engineer Dinesh Netam, Health Officer Javed Ali, Deputy Engineer Mohit Markam, Water Works Inspector Narayan Thakur and other officials were present.

Workshop on E Gram Swaraj Portal and GPDP held



Bhilai, Mar 14:

A workshop was organized on the topic of Panchayat Development Index, e-Gram Swaraj Portal and GPDP for all the secretaries of development blocks Durg, Dhamdha and Patan of Durg district at District Panchayat Resource Center Anjora (B). Kavya Jain, Deputy Director Panchayat, gave guidance for making a quality GPDP. She asked to pay special attention and complete the Panchayat

Development Index work by March 25, 2024. They also discussed the audit related problems in the Panchayats.

Detailed information on Panchayat Development Index was given by member Hari Ram Parmar through an online website. Panchayat Development Index includes 577 questions from thirteen departments. The data was given to Panchayat Secretaries through Jaankari Portal to fill the portal online. While preparing the GPDP action plan in E Gram

Swaraj, it is mandatory to take 25 percent of the work from other schemes on the basis of the resolution taken by including the schemes of the Government of India (MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, NRLM) and the schemes of the State Government. All the secretaries of the district participated in the workshop. Tameshwar Sahu in-charge DPIM and Prabha Dhruv district faculty member were also present in the workshop.

Free Health Camp organised at Village Dumardih

Bhilai, Mar 14:

SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant, conducts several public welfare activities as part of its organizational social responsibility towards the community in and around its areas of operations. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Department of the Plant organized a one-day free Health Camp, at Model Steel Village Dumardih on March 13, 2024.

A total of 111 villagers, from Dumardih, availed free health services at the day-long Health Camp. Free medicines were also distributed to villagers attending the camp.

The Medical Team from the CSR department, comprising, Dr Ankit Ghosh, Medical Consultant, Rekha Dev, Nurse, for Blood-Sugar and BP examination, Anil Singh, Pharmacist, and Shambhu Dayal, for registration, vol-



unteered their services for the Medical Camp at Village Dumardih. Budhelal from the CSR department was also present during the Health Camp.

It is noteworthy that conducting Health Camps is one of the prime initiatives, through which BSP's CSR Department has contributed substantially towards Public Health and medicine. The CSR Department of Bhilai Steel Plant conducts health camps from time to time in the adjoining areas or mines, with the aim of ensuring adequate Medical and health facilities to the communities within which it works.

People to face the music for not cooperating in door to door collection

Bhilai, Mar 14:

Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary accompanied by Durg Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar and corporation officers, visited the Zero Waste Center in front of Raipur Naka Overbridge and Ward 60 and Ward 21 Scindia Nagar of Durg Municipal Corporation limits. She oversaw the arrangements for cleaning drains and roads. Talking about regular cleaning of drains and roads, she instructed the health officer to get the sanitation works done in every ward as per the roster. During the visit, Collector Chaudhary interacted with the citizens of Ward 21 and after coming to know their problems, gave instructions to the concerned officers to get their problems resolved soon. Thereafter, Collector Richa Prakash Chaudhary



inaugurated Mani Kanchan (Zero Waste Center) in Ward 60. She sought information about the type and total quantity of waste coming out of the garbage from the center supervisor and Swachhata Didis. Zero Waste Supervisor said that 4.8 tonnes of waste is processed from a total of 1123 houses in 4 wards. During the ward visit, the Collector found that people were not cooperating in door to door garbage collection. Collector instructed to issue a notice to those who do not give garbage in

door to door collection and impose fine on the people who do not cooperate.

She inspected the drain cleaning work and instructed the officers to identify all the drains which are jammed and make better arrangements for their drainage and improve the sanitation system. During the inspection, she gave instructions to the Corporation Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar regarding the street lighting arrangements. She asked to replace the out of order street lights immediately.

Macleods selects 21 students of Sri Rawatpura Sarkar in campus

Bhilai, Mar 14:

MNC Pharmaceuticals Limited reached Sri Rawatpura Sarkar Group of Institutions Kumhari for the selection of Pharmacy and ITI students. A total of 160 students from Sri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy Jabalpur, Sri Rawatpura Sarkar Institute of Pharmacy Kumhari, Sri Rawatpura Sarkar University along with Sri Shankaracharya College Bhilai participated in this placement drive.

Dr JK Upadhyay, Vice Chairman of Sri Rawatpura Sarkar Lok Kalyan Trust, was the chief guest at the placement drive. Also present were Saidatta Nanda, President Macleods Pharmaceuticals Limited, HRD, Ranjit Unnithan, Raj Kumar and Om Prakash Tripathi, Deputy Director (Training and Placement) from Head Office.

The program started by lighting the lamp in front of Goddess Saraswati. Campus Director Preeti Gurnani wel-

comed the guests by giving them bouquets. The guests present at the program gave speeches to encourage the students.

In the programme, written test of B Pharma students was conducted and then interview of all the students was taken. The selected students include Vivek Kumar, Shubham Kumar, Abhilash Sahu, Vishal Gupta, Sachidanand Pandey, Sajal Singh, Badal Sonkar, Umesh Chandana, Anurag Verma, Karan Chaubey, Ratnesh Pushkar, Sanjeev, Yogendra Pandey, Bhupin Sahu, Ayush Yadav, Jitendra. Kumar, Debashish, Khomchand Sahu, Dhananjay Nishad and Bhupendra Sinha. These 21 students passed the examinations and secured their place in Macleods Pharmaceuticals.

Dr JK Upadhyay, Vice Chairman of Sri Rawatpura Sarkar Lok Kalyan Trust along with Campus Director Preeti Gurnani and Deputy Director (Training and Placement) Om Prakash Tripathi congratulated the selected students for their bright future.

JCI Durg-Bhilai shines on IWD with "Adarshini" celebration

Bhilai, Mar 14:

JCI Durg - Bhilai marked International Women's Day with a resounding success by organizing the "Adarshini" event under the leadership of Chairperson Lady JC Padma Yogesh Rathi. Highlighting the achievements of outstanding women across diverse fields, Lady JC Padma Yogesh Rathi expressed that the contributions of today's women are unparalleled and serve as a tremendous source of inspiration.

Former Chairperson Monika Surendra Khetan graced the occasion by unveiling a vibrant fashion show that tastefully celebrated womanhood and its remarkable achievements. Secretary Lady JC G Nominee shared a compelling vision for the women's wing of JCI Durg-Bhilai, emphasizing the critical values of unity and empowerment.

The event saw the pres-



ence of accomplished women from various domains, with Chief Guest Navi Monica Pandey representing police, Poonam Mantri from Enterprise, Dr Sonali Chakraborty from Women Empowerment, Dr Hansa Shukla from Education, Neeta Jain from Law, Dr Mansi Gulati from Medicine, Kanchan Gupta from Fashion, and Payal Jain from Business, who were felicitated for their exemplary contributions. Program Director Lady

JC Vikita Mittal orchestrated the function brilliantly while Mentor Anju Gajwani shared profound insights on womanhood. Lady JC Suman Modi conducted engaging interactive games, and Program Co-Director Dr JC Gunja Pincha presented an attractive fashion show that creatively engaged the dignitaries.

The Lady Wing of JCI Durg-Bhilai delivered a heart-touching presentation during the fashion show, matching steps with

the honoured dignitaries.

With a harmonious blend of glamour, purpose, and emotions, the Women's Day celebrations of JCI Durg - Bhilai paid a splendid tribute to the strength and achievements of women in society. The remarkable presence of Lady JC Niti Ballewar, Akanksha Luniya, Neetu Garg, Priti Rathi, Seema Tawri, Reshu Jain, Pragya Jain and Nitisha Modi added a special touch to the program.

Employees of RED felicitated with Shiromani Awards

Bhilai, Mar 14:

Employees of the Refractory Engineering Department (RED) of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant were awarded with 'Karm Shiromani' and 'Pali Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was organized on March 12, 2024. Ashok Kumar Gupta, GM (RED) was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Anil Kumar Chaudhary was awarded the 'Pali Shiromani' Award, while Kaam Dev Sahu, Uttam Kumar Singh, and Shiv Shankar Tandan were awarded the 'Karm Shiromani Award' for their commendable performance at the workplace. Mementos and Certificates were presented to all the awardees, along with a Letter of Appreciation to their respective Spouses.

Chief Guest Ashok Kumar Gupta, GM (RED) felicitated the awardees and appreciated them for their achievements



and contributions at the workplace. He said that the safety of our employees is our first priority. He emphasized the use of safety equipment and judicious utilization of resources to obtain better results. I hope that all the winners keep up the excellent work, he said.

Other senior officers including Prasanta Saha, GM (RED), Rajesh Garg, GM (RED), and R Gopalakrishnan, GM (RED), were present on this occasion, appreciated the awardees, and encouraged all the employees of RED to work in future with the same spirit. The Programme was compered by Dr Upendra Kumar Sharma, JO (Pers Steel Zone-1), and Chaitram Sahu, ALWO also contributed for organizing the programme successfully.

Obituary

Sita Devi Sharma

Bhilai: Sita Devi Sharma, wife of retired railway employee Sakhichand Sharma, left for heavenly abode at the age of 71 years on Wednesday. Funeral

procession was taken out from her residence situated at Indira Nagar, BMV Charoda and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Charoda Basti Muktidham. She was the mother of Santosh Sharma, Rajesh Sharma and journalist Dilip Sharma.

Padumlal Sahu

Bhilai: Retired vaccinator of Health Department and Balod resident Padumlal Sahu left for heavenly abode at the age of 85 years on Thursday. She

breathed last at Shri Shankaracharya Hospital. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed on the banks of river Tandula in Balod. He was the father of Surendra, Subhash, journalist Devilal Sahu and Uttam.

Chief Vigilance Officer & ED (Vigilance) of SAIL visit Bhilai

Bhilai, Mar 14:

SN Gupta, Chief Vigilance Officer (SAIL) and Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance-SAIL) arrived on a 3-day visit to SAIL- Bhilai Steel Plant. Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A) welcomed SN Gupta and Sanjay Sharma upon their arrival at Bhilai Niwas on March 11, 2024. Anirban Dasgupta, Director (SAIL-BSP) met CVO SN Gupta and ED Sanjay Sharma at Ispat Bhawan.

Both the dignitaries from SAIL Corporate Office, New Delhi interacted with the Vigilance Team of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant at Ispat Bhawan on March 11 and shared valu-

able insights with the team. A presentation on highlights of performance in steel production and other areas was made at Director I/c Conference Hall following which SN Gupta and Sanjay Sharma interacted at length with a cross-section of Senior Officials on different aspects of current performance, as well as about plans for the future. Anirban Dasgupta, Director I/c (SAIL-BSP), Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), S Mukhopadhyay, ED (Projects), AK Chakraborty ED (MM), Dr Ashok Kumar Panda, ED (F&A), Pawan Kumar, ED (P&A), and Dr



Ravindranath M, CMO I/c (M&HS) were present in the meeting, along with CGM I/cs, CGMs, and other Senior Officials. Their Bhilai Visit on March 11 concluded with the visit to Akshay Patra's Mid-day Meal Kitchen at Sector-6, Bhilai. On March 12, 2024, SN

Gupta, Chief Vigilance Officer (SAIL) and Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance-SAIL), visited Dalli Rajhara Iron Ore Mines of BSP, wherein they observed the iron ore extraction process and attended a meeting with the Senior Officials of Mines Department.

On March 13, SN Gupta and Sanjay Sharma planted saplings at Ethics Garden, Sector-8, before leaving for their visit to the Plant, where accompanied by Sandeep Gupta, GM (Vigilance) and other senior officers of the Plant, they took keen interest in operations at Modex Units, including Blast Furnace 8, Steel Melting Shop-III, Ore Handling Plant-B, Sinter Plant-III, Coke Ovens & Coal Chemical Department, and Universal Rail Mill. They witnessed the production of hot metal at BF-8, the production of crude steel at SMS-III, and the produc-

tion of the world's longest 130-metre rail, and the loading of 260-metre welded rail panels at URM.

At the beginning of the Plant visit, SN Gupta and Sanjay Sharma were briefed about safety at the Safety Excellence Centre inside the Plant, where they were welcomed by Anjani Kumar, ED (Works), PR Bhalla, CGM (Safety & Fire Services), and other Senior Officials of the Plant.

Before leaving for Raipur Airport, SN Gupta, Chief Vigilance Officer (SAIL), and Sanjay Sharma, ED (Vigilance-SAIL), observed the PCB Plant and also visited the Ancient Shiv Temple at Deobaloda.

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Prime Minister

Govt to form Economic Advisory Council

Finance Minister Choudhary dares Congress to debate over fiscal management



allegation of poor financial management, Finance Minister OP Choudhary said that state government has given back to the public one and a half times more than the loan it have taken. He dared the Congress leaders to debate after five years as to whose financial management was better. The intention of our government is clear and added that BJP government will make better financial management.

Meanwhile, the senior Cabinet Minister



Ramvihar Netam claimed that the Vishnu Deo Sai led government is not provided facilities. The previous government kept building a road of rose petals for its leaders. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap and Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal also said that the BJP government has been able to deliver the promises with 3 months it had made to people before the Assembly polls.



Congress government for the last five years, but the sportspersons were not provided facilities. The previous government kept building a road of rose petals for its leaders. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap and Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal also said that the BJP government has been able to deliver the promises with 3 months it had made to people before the Assembly polls.

Cash of Rs 18.62 lakh seized

Raipur, Mar 14: The Anti-crime and Cyber unit and Mandir Hasoud Thana police seized cash of Rs 18.62 lakh from a four-wheeler vehicle bearing No. OD/15/U/9001 near Mandir Hasoud Toll-Naka area here on Thursday morning. When the police conducted search of the bag inside, they found this cash in huge quantity and on asking about valid documents they failed to produce any. The Mandir Hasoud Police has seized the cash amount and taken the person in custody and seized the car and also informed about it to the IT department.

Three-day yoga practice training camp inaugurated

Raipur, Mar 14: Social Welfare Minister Lakshmi Rajwade on Tuesday inaugurated a 3-day yoga practice training camp at Shiv Mandir premises, Bhatgaon, Surajpur district headquarters. The camp is being organized by Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog Raipur. The program was presided over by ML Pandey, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Yog Aayog. Yoga kit was distributed to the participants by Mrs. Rajwade. During the program, a road show was also organized along with a bike rally.

Union Bank celebrates International Women's Day



Raipur, Mar 14: Union Bank of India, one of the leading banks of the country, celebrated International Women's Day week under the leadership of Regional Head Mr. Anuj Kumar Singh in which a Pinkathon was organized on March 04, 2024. In this sequence, a health and eye check-up camp was organised for the women employees and customers in the Regional Office on March 6, 2024, in association with Ram Krishna Care Hospital, Om Netralaya and Care Health Insurance, and on

March 07, 2024, A women's workshop was organized on the eve of International Women's Day. Along with this, women customers and women employees of the bank were also felicitated. On this occasion, Government D.B. Girls PG College Professor Dr. Madhulika Agarwal was invited as the chief guest. The event was organized by Empower Her Committee of Raipur Region, Mrs. Aparna Gupta, Regional Representative, Union Bank Empower Her Committee, Raipur told

that the objective of Empower Her Committee is to provide overall support along with career counselling, skills, behavioral training and empowerment to the women employees in the organisation. On this occasion, Deputy Regional Head Mr. Saurabh Chaphekar and other members of Empower Her Committee, Mrs. Saroj Sinha, Kirti Suthar, Archana Agarwal, Deepati Dewangan, Chetna, Mamta njali Biswal and Khushboo Sahu were mainly present.

'Chhattisgarh-Vision 2047' conference to be organized today

- Housing and Environment Minister OP Choudhary will inaugurate the conference
- Discussion on the 25-year roadmap for development alongside environmental protection

Washeries, Thermal Power Plants, Coal Mines, Iron Ore Mines, major hospitals, and Sponge Iron Associations will participate. Besides, state heads of Rolling Mill Associations, Mini Steel Plant Associations, Minor Mineral Associations, and Joint Solid Waste Disposal Facility along with Commissioners from Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, and Bhilai Municipal Corporations will also attend the conference.

Chhattisgarh Environment Protection Board Member Secretary P. Arun Prasad highlighted that the conference will focus on discussions about economic development and environmental sustainability. The goal is to position Chhattisgarh as a developed state alongside India by its 100th year of Independence in 2047. 'Chhattisgarh - Vision 2047' serves as an important platform for sharing ideas and suggestions to formulate a roadmap for environmental protection over the next 25 years.

Raipur, Mar 14:

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, on Thursday, bestowed honours upon 544 talented players from various sports disciplines during the 'Rajya Khel Alankaran Samaroh 2024' held at the Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium in Raipur. Besides, he also honoured families of martyrs in the programme, presided over by Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh.

In his address, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai stressed the importance of nurturing talent, stating, "Talent is God's unique gift to society. When talents flourish, society also flourishes." He congratulated all the players, highlighting the significance of the award ceremony initiated in honour of Chhattisgarh's martyrs, which was started by the government led by former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh.

- CM Sai honours 544 talented players from various sports disciplines in Rajya Khel Alankaran Samaroh 2024
- Outstanding players will be announced soon: Verma

He expressed regret over the absence of such ceremonies under the previous government's tenure, stating that "The previous government did not organize any such award ceremony in the state for the last five years. After a considerable delay, these talented players in the state are finally receiving their well-deserved awards."

Sai highlighted the recent efforts and significant decisions of the state government in promoting sports including plans to establish national and international level residen-



tial sports academies in Chhattisgarh, the launch of the 'Chhattisgarhiya Krida Protsahan Yojana' to revive traditional sports, and the decision to construct a modern sports stadium in Jashpur, along with indoor stadium complexes in Raigarh and Balodabazar districts.

Chhattisgarh Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh praised the dedication of young players, recognizing their efforts to revive the 'Khel Alankaran Samman' ceremony. He noted that the ceremony had been halted by the previous government, leading players

to take to the streets in protest. As a result of their actions, the ceremony is now being reinstated by the current government, with a commitment to promoting sports activities and supporting players.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tank Ram Verma paid homage to the courageous martyrs and spoke about the initiation of the 'Utkrisht Khiladi Yojana' in 2007. He mentioned that 74 players have been employed in the state. A committee has been formed to re-examine applications from players seeking recognition as out-

standing players (Utkrisht Khiladi), with the process set to commence soon.

In the programme, a total of 6 players were honoured with the Shaheed Rajiv Pandey Award, 06 with the Shaheed Kaushal Yadav Award, 02 with the Veer Hanuman Singh Award, 27 with the Shaheed Pankaj Vikram Samman, 05 with the Shaheed Vinod Choubey Samman, and 25 with the Chief Minister's Trophy, all for the year 2019-20. Similarly, for the year 2020-21, 11 players were honoured with the Shaheed Rajiv Pandey Award, 03 with the Shaheed Kaushal Yadav Award, 01 with the Veer Hanuman Singh Award, 16 with the Shaheed Pankaj Vikram Samman, and 26 selected players were honoured with the Chief Minister's Trophy. Besides, a total of 269 players who won medals

in national competitions were honoured with total award money of Rs 30.36 lakh for the year 2019-20, and as many as 142 players were awarded Rs 19.32 lakh for the year 2020-21.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tank Ram Verma, Education Minister Brijmohan Agrawal, Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam, and MP Sunil Soni were present as special guests at the programme. MLAs Rajesh Munat, Motilal Sahu, Anuj Sharma, Indrakumar Sahu, along with other public representatives, office bearers of various sports associations, Sports and Youth Welfare Secretary Shri Himshikhar Gupta, Director of Sports and Youth Welfare Smt. Tanuja Salam, officials of the Sports Department, and a large number of players were also present.

Amount of Rs 4.84 cr sanctioned for eight urban bodies

Under 15th Finance Commission

Raipur, Mar 14:

Chhattisgarh Government's Urban Administration and Development Department has approved a total of Rs 4 crore 83 lakh 81 thousand under the 14th and 15th Finance Commission for eight urban bodies of the state. These include a total amount of Rs 4 crore 79 lakh 68 thousand for seven urban bodies under the 15th Finance Commission and an amount of Rs 4 lakh 13 thousand for Sarangarh Municipality under the 14th Finance Commission. The department has made the aforementioned sanctions following the approval made by Deputy Chief Minister and Urban Administration and Development Minister Shri Arun Sao to accelerate development works in urban bodies. Shri Sao has given the instructions to commence the pro-

posed development works as soon as possible and complete the same within prescribed time limit, while adhering to the quality standards.

Under the 15th Finance Commission, the Urban Administration and Development Department has sanctioned Rs 1 crore 17 lakh four thousand for Narayanpur Municipality, Rs 15 lakh for Kirori Malnagar Nagar Panchayat, Rs 18 lakh for Sargaon Nagar Panchayat, Rs 18 lakh for Kirori Malnagar Nagar Panchayat, Rs 93 lakh 35 thousand for Khongapani Nagar Panchayat, Rs 18 lakh 98 thousand have been sanctioned for Chhura Nagar Panchayat, Rs 53 lakh 97 thousand for Simga Nagar Panchayat and Rs 1 crore 63 lakh 34 thousand have been sanctioned for Sakti Municipality. Under the 14th Finance Commission, Rs 4 lakh 13 thousand has been sanctioned for Sarangarh Municipality.

Raipur, Mar 14:

Kidney is one of the most important organs of the human body. Every year many people lose their lives due to kidney disease, the need for kidney transplant is increasing day by day due to kidney failure. In the context of this important organ, World Kidney Day is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March, and efforts are made to make as many people as possible aware about kidney disease.

Doctors of Ramakrishna Care Hospital, Dr. Ajay Parashar, Dr. Sanjeev Anant Kale, Dr. Pravash Kumar Chaudhary, Dr. Harsh Jain and Dr. Malay Ranjan Sarangi addressing the scribes here said that there are some symptoms of kidney disease, like increased amount of creatinine and uric acid in the body. There is a desire to urinate frequently and frequent trips to the bath-



room, blood is seen in the urine, swelling around the eyes can also be a symptom of kidney disease. There is no desire to eat anything, appetite almost disappears, along with this there is pain in the muscles.

Doctors told that cadaver kidney transplant took place in Ramakrishna Care Hospital, there is an Icube Dialysis Center in which 2500 to 3000 kidney dialysis is done every month. Nephro Critical Care ICU related to kidney disease is also available in Ramakrishna Care. Along with the facility of complete treatment of stones, Euro Robotic Surgery and Onco Renal Science is also available.

Ramakrishna Care Hospital made people aware on World Kidney Day

kidney transplants for all the people and will continue to spread happiness to many families.

People will not have to go out of the state for kidney transplant, they can get better treatment in the state itself at a lower cost, and can also take advice from doctors from time to time. Doctors of the kidney department of Ramakrishna Care Hospital said that people can take care of some important things to protect themselves from kidney disease, like drinking adequate amount of water throughout the day, this helps the kidneys to remove toxins from the body, avoid taking excessive amounts of protein supplements and pain killer medicines every other day can also have a negative effect on the kidneys. Smoking also has adverse effects on the kidneys. If you feel pain in the kidneys, you should immediately consult a doctor, they added.

21 Kidney transplants in AIIMS-R



- Experts suggests to take appropriate water to avoid dehydration

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Mar 14: All India Institute of Medical Sciences has successfully transplanted 21 kidneys in the last year, and more than 50 patients are waiting for it. Experts in AIIMS say that some districts and nearby areas in Odisha are posing a challenge for kidney patients, as a major chunk of patients are coming from this area. The nephrology and Urology departments at AIIMS Raipur have organized several awareness programs, including a cricket match between kidney donors and recipients. Dr. Vinay Rathore, HoD, Nephrology Dept., informed that the department is receiving most of the patients from Mahasamund, Gariaband, Kanker, and nearby areas of Odisha. Till date, 21 kidney transplants have been done with four cadaver transplants. Dr. Rathore informed that the department is visited by more than 1500 patients, includ-

ing 200 new patients every month. He suggested that patients with high blood pressure and a high sugar level should come for regular kidney checkups. 'As summer approaches and temperatures rise day by day, it is suggested to take at least 12 glasses of water per day by everyone and at least three liters of water per day by laborers and farmers working in the field to avoid dehydration, he added. Lt Gen Ashok Jindal (Retd) in his message congratulated consultants from the nephrology and urology departments for 21 kidney transplants. 'The nephrology department has successfully provided more than 8,000 dialysis to patients from different states. AIIMS has all the facilities for kidney patients under one roof. We are providing all facilities free of charge to patients. Early diagnosis will certainly help to curb the increase in kidney patients. A CME was also organized by the department. Families of two cadaver donors were felicitated in the program. It was graced by Dr. Vinit Jain, Dr. Kamlesh Jain, Prof. Alok C. Agrawal, Prof. Renu Rajguru, and Dr. Amit R. Sharma.

DRO be informed about pamphlets, posters for election campaign within 72 hrs

● Action to be taken if name and number of publisher and printer are not printed in posters and pamphlets

Raipur, Mar 14:

An important meeting was held today with various printers and publishers of the district on the instructions of Collector Dr. Gaurav Singh regarding the preparations for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections-2024. In this meeting held in the Red Cross meeting room, Deputy District Election Officer Umashankar Bande and master trainers gave detailed information to the printers about the guidelines of the Election Commission regarding the political publicity materials to be printed during the Lok Sabha elections. Bande said in the meeting that with enforce-



ment of the Model Code of Conduct for Assembly elections becomes effective, it will be binding on all printers and publishers to follow the provisions and guidelines contained in the Representation of the People Act. Deputy District Election Officer said that it will be the responsibility of the printers to submit three copies of the material printed for campaigning during the election and the declaration of the publisher to the District Election Office within 72 hours or three days of printing. He said that it will be mandatory to mention the name of

the printer and publisher and the printed number on the printed materials. The Deputy District Election Officer said that the matter to be printed in the publicity material for the assembly elections will be within the scope of the Model Code of Conduct.

Master Trainers told that for printing any kind of publicity material like handbill, pamphlet, poster, banner, flex etc., the order will be placed by the concerned person only after filling the declaration form to the printer. Master Trainer has advised the printers not to take printing orders without decla-

ration form. It was further informed in the meeting that it will be the responsibility of the printers to submit three sets of printed material and the publisher's declaration to the District Election Office within 72 hours of printing the publicity material. During this period, if any violation of the provisions of Section 127A of the Public Representation Act, 1951 is found, punitive action will also be taken. Violation of this Act can result in imprisonment of six months or a fine of Rs 2,000 or both. The Deputy District Election Officer said that under this Act,

no person shall print any election related pamphlet, poster or other publicity material unless he has a declaration signed by the publisher and attested by two persons. For printing, consent of the political party or candidate or election agent will be necessary. If the name of the publisher and printer is not mentioned in the pamphlet-poster, the punishment will be six months' imprisonment or a fine of two thousand rupees or both. It was further informed in the meeting that action can be taken against printers even for printing promotional material on printing material banned by the Government of India, State Government or local bodies and Commission-Tribunal. In the meeting, the suggestions of printers and publishers were also listened to carefully and their doubts were also resolved.

SST should keep a special eye on railway station-airport: Dr. Singh

● Including the border of neighboring districts
● Collector, S.P. took a meeting of all agencies and departments related to election expenditure monitoring, gave necessary instructions



Raipur, Mar 14: In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh held a meeting of the concerned departments in the Red Cross conference room regarding expenditure monitoring and suspicious transactions. Dr. Singh said that Raipur Lok Sabha election is more important and sensitive as it is the capital of the state. The action taken from Raipur impacts the surrounding districts as well as the entire state. He said that SST should keep special vigil on the inter-district border and investigate and take action on suspicious transactions.

Keep a special eye on railway stations and airports and take immediate action if any suspicious activities are reported, he added. The Collector said that election work is team work, every officer should discharge his responsibilities responsibly. Superintendent of Police Mr. Santosh Singh said that if the code of conduct is implemented during the elections, Section 144 would also come into force which everyone has to follow. All officers are expected to be impartial and discharge their duties responsibly. He said that even before the code of conduct is implemented as per the in-

tenation of the Election Commission, all the agencies and departments should start preparing for the elections. Also keep an eye on the movement of liquor, precious metals and cash in excess of prescribed norms. If valid documents are not available, take action and inform the responsible department. If any action is being taken then definitely take the cooperation of the police department team. Deputy District Election Officer, Umashankar Bande and officers and employees of all other agencies and departments were present in the meeting.

Officials should inspect Anganwadis regularly: Rajwade

Review of implementation of government schemes



Raipur, Mar 14: Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department Minister Smt. Lakshmi Rajwade took the first review meeting of her charge district Sakti today in the Collectorate office room. Taking detailed information about the implementation of government

schemes, she instructed the officers to tighten the administrative work. While reviewing the Women and Child Development Department, Mrs. Rajwade instructed the officials to regularly inspect the distribution of nutritious food and ensure that proper nutritious

food is provided to children and pregnant mothers. She said that she will conduct surprise inspection of Anganwadi centres and if any negligence is found, strict action will be taken against the concerned officers and employees. Rajwade gave instructions to improve the revenue works and ensure the arrangement of teachers according to the number of children in the schools. Taking information about the construction work under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, she said that after conducting survey and inspection at the ground level, the needy people should be given priority and the work of house construction should be done by them. While reviewing the works of Jal Jeevan Mission, she gave instructions to ensure proper arrangement of drinking water in rural areas. She directed to repair faulty hand pumps and take necessary action in case of non-availability of water supply in rural areas. District level officers including public representatives were present in the meeting.

Second phase Ch'garhi training prog completed in Mantralaya

● By Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog



Raipur, Mar 13:

The second phase of the three-day Chhattisgarhi training program has been completed by Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan. In the training, Mantralaya officers and employees were given training regarding practical use of Chhattisgarhi and working in Chhattisgarhi language in government work. During the training program, the trainees were given detailed information about the use and terminology of Chhattisgarhi in public behavior and administrative work. In the second phase of Chhattisgarhi training program organized by Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog, Nava Raipur, about 350 Mantralaya officers and employees took advantage

of the training on March 11, 12 and 13. Employees were encouraged to use Chhattisgarhi administratively during training. Before this, the first phase of training on Chhattisgarhi Rajbhasha has been given in the Mantralaya from February 26 to 28, 2024. In the training, practical information about applications, orders, circulars and other work in Chhattisgarhi was given. In the training program, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhatpahari, Secretary of Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog, gave necessary information regarding the cultural importance of Chhattisgarhi in Chhattisgarh, folk language education and its inclusion in the curriculum. He talked about preserving Chhattisgarhi and promoting the use of Chhattisgarhi in

public behavior. Today, on the last day of the training, Dr. Rajesh Dubey talked about using Chhattisgarhi in daily conversation. He explained in detail about Chhattisgarhi's vocabulary, spelling, grammar and the cultural importance and usefulness of Chhattisgarhi. In the training program, Chhattisgarhi writer Dr. Rameshwar Sharma threw light on the use of Chhattisgarhi language in daily practice. Director of Culture Department, Mr. Vivek Acharya also participated in the training program. Officials and employees of the Mantralaya also expressed their views during the training. Officials described the training program organized by the Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog as important for the use of Chhattisgarhi in government work. There was commendable contribution of ministerial officers and employees in the training programme.

Ch'garh IT staff stage demonstration



● Raise demands including promotion, regularization

Raipur, Mar 14:

Hundreds of employees of Chhattisgarh Income Tax Department demonstrated with their 8-point demands. On the call of the Central Headquarters, protests were held in the offices of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Principal Chief Director and Principal Income Tax Commissioner of the country from March 11 to March 13. During the demonstration at Raipur Income Tax Office, em-

ployees raised slogans. The employees have requested the Department of Personnel and Training to discuss the recruitment rules of Income Tax employees and other issues and find a solution to their demands. They also warned of a walkout from the offices after the lunch break on March 15 if their demands are not met. The main demands of the Income Tax Department employees include regularization of daily wage earners, protection clause in the recruitment rules of Office Superintendent and Stenographer Grade-1 as per the rules of DOPT, one time relaxation for promotion on vacant posts.

Youth are stakeholders of future and strength of nation: PM

● Lectures on semiconductor technology held at NIT Raipur under India's Techade- Chips for Viksit Bharat

Raipur, Mar 13: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur organized a series of lectures on Semiconductor Technology and hosted the live webcast of the Address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the youth on the laying of the foundation stone of 3 Semiconductor Facilities under India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat on 13th March, 2024. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. N. V. Ramana Rao, Director, NIT Raipur. Also, Registrar Dr. PY Dhekne, all the Deans, all the Heads of the Departments, all the

Faculty members and students had attended this program. The Hon'ble PM's address was webcasted in the E-Class Room (Sir M. Vishveshwarya Hall), CDC's PPT Hall (Homi Jehangir Bhaba Hall), Virtual Class Room D-2 (Vikram Sarabhai Hall) and Conference Hall (CV Raman Hall).

The event started with a melodious rendition of the National song of India. Dr. Shrish Verma, Professor and Dean (Academics), Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering delivered an introductory lecture on Semiconductor Mission. He talked about the meaning of the word Techade which is a combination of Technology and Decade. India is being recognized as a rapidly improving Tech Hub. India Semiconductor Mission



has been setup by the Government of India to create an end-to-end semiconductor ecosystem to enable the nation to become a significant player in the global semiconductor industry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji laid down the foundation stone of the three Semiconductor facilities India's First Fab Facility in Dholera, Gujarat, 2nd is the Gujarat OSAT facility in Sanand and the 3rd OSAT facility in Morigaon, Assam.



This was followed by a lecture on Semiconductor: Academy to Industry by Dr. B. K. Sahoo, Professor and Hod, Department of Physics. He talked about the electrical scenario of semiconductors. He explained band gap, band theory and semiconductor engineering. He highlighted advantages of man-made semiconductors over pure semiconductors. He also talked about various generations of semiconductors their properties and importance in all

spheres of technology. Dr. Chitrakant Sahu, Associate Professor, Electronics and Communication Engineering had lectured on Semiconductor Technology and Scaling Trends. He said that semiconductors are the backbone of smart devices. He discussed technology scaling trends with respect to the size of semiconductor chips. PM Narendra Modi started his address on the foundation laying of three semiconductor units by



noting how the day shall be historical as we take a step forward towards making India a Global Hub for semiconductor chip production. He congratulated the entire nation for taking this bold step together. He stated how our nation and the democracy commits and delivers. He expressed his enthusiasm for this grand project and acknowledged the large number of institutes/colleges that virtually joined the event. He called the youth the stakeholders of

future and strength of the nation. He emphasized on how these chips will be completely designed and made in India. Very few countries manufacture the semiconductor chips. He also mentioned how India has become the 2nd biggest mobile manufacturer and reminded the audience about the National Quantum Mission, National Research Foundation and AI mission of India. He elaborated on how technological advancement is indispensable for all domains from communication to transport. This semiconductor plant project opens doors of opportunities for the youth and magnifies employment capacity. The webcast concluded successfully. After this, there was an online Expert Lecture by the Industrial Expert, Dr. Namrata Gupta, Senior

R&D Engineer, Synopsis INC, on "The Semiconductor Edge: Past, Present and Future". She talked about increase in demand of semiconductor chips and how domestic production becomes pivotal subsequently. She said that the use of semiconductors in today's world is as important as internet of things. She discussed cost effective and robust solutions of the issues faced in Semiconductor ecosystem design and manufacturing. Her presentation included names of designing and manufacturing companies of Semiconductors like Intel, Samsung, Synopsis, etc. The session concluded successfully and a large number of young minds participated in this great event. More than 650 students along with the faculty members of NIT Raipur participated in the event.

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Chronicle

Public gave zero marks to Congress: Choudhary

Raipur, Mar 14: Finance Minister OP Choudhary has attacked Congress and former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Congress alleges that the public did not get anything but BJP government has transferred Rs 20,000 crore to the public accounts in 3 months, he said. Bhupesh Baghel is failing again and again and the public has given them zero marks to Congress, Choudhary said. Choudhary further said that



certificate from Congress was not needed as public gave mandate to BJP in the 2023 elections. In upcoming Lok Sabha elections also public will give

mandate to BJP, he said. BJP government has not yet completed 100 days and before that money has already been deposited in the accounts of the farmers, said Choudhary, adding that Mahtari Vandan Yojana has started and 2 years bonus has been given. Accommodation has been provided and CBI investigation has been announced in PSC, he said, adding that Congress does not understand what to do.

ITM Badminton Cup begins from today

Raipur, Mar 14: ITM University Raipur is organizing an inter-college level badminton tournament ITM Badminton Cup 2024 on March 15-16 at Naya Raipur-based ITM Badminton Academy of ITM University Premises. The primary objective of this tournament is to provide a platform for students to showcase their talents, foster sportsmanship, and encourage

healthy competition among participants. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sumer Singh & Director General Ms. Lakshmi Murthy will be present in the inaugural program of the tournament. Interested students may online register themselves for singles/ doubles categories in this tournament. University's Registrar Sourav Chatterjee and Joint Registrar Vikas

Bhonsale informed that one or more students from a university/ college may register for the tournament. Transportation facilities will be provided to the students from Raipur, Bilai, and Durg to the venue of ITM University. Interested students may contact Sports Coordinators Prof. Arijit Goswami and Manu Prakash Mishra for any inquiries and support.

Training given to officers and employees for LS 2024

Kurud, Mar 14:

Under the direction of Superintendent of Police Dhamtari in Mahasamund Lok Sabha area. (Vidhan Sabha Kurud) Police officers and Employees engaged in election work District level training was organized in District Panchayat Auditorium, Kurud. The above election training is being conducted in all section and police station levels of Dhamtari districts to conduct free, uninterrupted and fair elections in the upcoming Lok

Sabha elections 2024.

The following points were discussed in the training, which included Law and order- restrictive and short for effective control on illegal elements Maximum action should be ensured under the sections of the Act, other than visit to polling stations- Sector Police to identify vulnerable areas and officers should visit each polling station and identify vulnerable areas and persons who can influence voting should be identified. Legal provisions related to Model

Code of Conduct were also explained and detailed discussion was held regarding pre-poll day and poll day.

Discussions were also done on Postal Ballot Officers/employees engaged in election work as well as private Ballot papers will be issued to employees who will be given information and information in the prescribed format on time. Law provisions, IPC, RP Act, CRPC and special local act was also explained in detail and rank wise discussion about the responsibilities

of police officers/employees during elections was also done. Station in-charge Kurud Niri. Arun Sahu, station in-charge Magarlod Niri. Rajesh Jagat, station in-charge Bhakhara Niri. Lekhran Thakur, outpost in-charge Birejhar Uni. Chandrakant Sahu, Chowki Karelibadi Uni. Ajay Singh, Election Cell Incharge Uni. Rakesh Mishra, Pr. Kishan Diwan, Khinesh Sahu, R. Devendra Sahu, Duges Sahu including police officers and employees were present.

Beautification of Sheetla Pond on hold

Mandir-Hasaud, Mar 14:

The beautification of Sheetala pond and STP plant to be installed on the lines of Marine Drive is still incomplete and once again the ancient pond of Hassaud is turning into a pool of filth. Shitala pond situated in the middle of Hasaud settlement is currently filled with filth, as there being no arrangement for movement of water in the pond. As per information, Nagar Panchayat President Om Prakash Yadav had proposed for beautification of the pond, to which Dr. Shiv Kumar Dahria happily approved the amount of Rs 128.73 lakh and the work was also started by issuing tender. But more



than 2 years have passed, the work is incomplete. Same way, toe wall, drain construction, sidewalk construction, lighting work, pathway construction, and STP plant was to be constructed, of which neither has concluded finally. On talking to former Nagar Panchayat President Omprakash Yadav regarding this matter, he said that the work of the pond is almost complete, but due to change in government, reasons the work is getting delayed. He told that all the work of the municipality is done by the administration and is running under the supervision of the contractor and should also complete the work as soon as possible.

Sarva Shikshak Sangh expresses concern over misuse of ambulance

Kurud, Mar 14:

Expressing concern over misuse of ambulance given to Jeevan Deep Comitee, the Sarva Shiksha Sangh has decided to opt back the services and instead hand it over to Vande Mataram Committee. The ambulance service for public welfare was established by Sarva Educational Association Kurud and an ambulance was provided though but the alleged carelessness in operations of the ambulance the committee has decided to hold the services to Jeevan Deep Committee and hand it over to Vande Mataram Committee.



According to information received from sources, the ambulance provided by the educational association is not available on time and the driver of the vehicle does not take the patients to the government hospital but to private hospitals.

Patron Sarva Shiksha Sangh Kurud, Harish Kumar Dewangan State President Vyayam Sangh, Yogendra Chandrakar Chhattisgarh Teachers Association, Human Chandrakar President Joint Teachers Association, Rajesh Pandey President Third Class Government Employees Association, Ashok Nirmalkar Chhattisgarh Teachers Association, Hulesh Chandra Kar Chhattisgarh Assistant Teachers Association, Prakash Sen Teachers Association, J K Sahu Ch G Teachers Association have demanded this change over in ambulance operations at the earliest.

Head Master holds 'Nyota Bhoj' for children

Of Primary School Chourenga

Simga, Mar 14:

'Nyota Bhoj' was organised at Primary School, Chourenga coming under Sankul Kendra Chourenga by Maniram Sahu here on March 13 and he is the Head Master of the School. On this occasion, the noted citizens of the village and Sankul co-ordinator and entire teaching staff of Pre-Secondary School of the village and High School staff were present.

This programme was organised in the memory of mother of Mr. Sahu and in this the children were offered 'kheer', 'puri', 'fruits', 'sweets' along with



food. This initiative is inspirational for other schools in the Sankul and this programme concluded under guidance of SK Gendale Block Education Officer.

Five day yoga training program concluded in DIET

Korba, Mar 14:

Five day yoga in District Education and Training Institute Korba was concluded here in which the orientation program started from 04 March, in which all the teachers of development blocks of Korba district received training along with distribution of certificates. Principal of DIET, Shri Ramhi Sharaf shared his own experiences and made the trainees aware of the importance of yoga by adding and practicing yoga on a daily basis.

Chief Training Incharge Arvind Sharma said that a person can remain healthy and disciplined only through yoga and pranayam. Program



Coordinator Mrs. Kiran Lata Sharma also stressed the importance of moral education for children along with yoga. As the instructor of the program Rajesh Rajwade, Mr Vinod Ratnakar and Ms. Yogita Sahu explained the impor-

ance of Yoga and Pranayam. Ashtaga Yoga, Shatkarma, Bandha, Yoga Mudras, Stress Management, Surya Namaskar etc. were discussed in which all the trainees participated enthusiastically.

Villagers report unlawful fees charged for ration cards distribution

Dhamdha, Mar 14:

An unlawful trend has emerged in Gram Panchayat Salhekhurd, situated just 15-20 kilometers from the block headquarters, where the renewal and distribution of ration cards to eligible beneficiaries are marred by illegal financial demands. Common beneficiaries seeking ration cards are being subjected to unjust deductions under the guise of house tax and water tax.

The reports reveal that a fee of one hundred rupees is being levied for the issuance of ration cards, devoid of any official receipt. Instead, uncertified transactions are being recorded, leaving no trail of ac-



countability. This blatant violation of government

schemes, intended for public welfare, tarnishes the

integrity of the system. Numerous villagers have come forward to register complaints regarding this illicit practice. In response, they were handed market collection receipts lacking essential details such as house numbers. Such malpractice not only breaches the government's commitment to providing free ration cards to millions of families across the state but also undermines the public's trust in welfare initiatives.

As concerns escalate, all eyes are on the local and district administrations to take decisive action against these unlawful activities, ensuring justice and accountability prevail in the distribution of essential resources.

Touching farewell given to ASP Manisha Thakur Raote

At Force Academy Majhgawan

Gaurela-Pendra- Marwahi, Mar 14:

The Force Academy GPM Majhgawan under the mentorship of Dr. Lal Umed Singh, SSP Balrampur and founder of Force Academy GPM Majhgawan bid a touching farewell to Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Manisha Thakur Raote, who played a pivotal role in nurturing the academy since its inception. ASP Manisha Thakur Raote has been transferred to Kanker district.

ASP Manisha Thakur Raote's dedication and commitment from the academy's nascent stage have been instrumental in inspiring over 250 children to pursue their aspirations and shape their futures. The trainees of Force Academy



expressed their heartfelt gratitude by honouring her with a grand salute, showering her with flowers, and accompanying her from the ground to the coaching center to mark her farewell.

Addressing the gathering during the farewell ceremony, ASP Manisha Thakur Raote

urged the trainees to strive for excellence and achieve their goals, expressing her hope to witness their success in the future. She emphasized the importance of hard work and determination in realizing their dreams, encouraging them to return with achievements that would compel her to visit

Majhgawan once again.

As tokens of appreciation and remembrance, the trainees presented ASP Manisha Thakur Raote with photo collages capturing cherished moments and a copy of the Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta. They expressed their gratitude for her guidance and support, extending their best wishes for her future endeavours while expressing hopes for continued association with the Force Academy Majhgawan.

The farewell ceremony witnessed the presence of Bhubendra Singh Tanwar, Pawan Singh, Chandraprakash Padwar, Piyush Kesharwani, Aarti Porte, Armaan Khan, Pushpeshwari Singh, Mukta Singh, and all the trainees of the academy. The event was gracefully conducted by the academy's coordinator, Lalji Padwar.

Ayushman Card: Lifeline for needy patients

CT scans and medical facilities transform health of poor patients

Korea, Mar 14:

In a significant stride towards enhancing healthcare accessibility for the underprivileged, the district hospital in Korea is witnessing a transformative change, with CT scans being conducted seamlessly through Ayushman cards, offering a ray of hope to those in need.

Under the diligent supervision of Baikunthpur MLA Bhैया Lal Rajwade and Collector Vinay Kumar Langleh, concerted efforts are being made to bolster the primary and community healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that every patient receives quality treatment and care.

Thanks to the unwavering commitment of State Health and Family Welfare Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal and MLA Bhैया Lal Rajwade, numerous doctors have been appointed in recent days, reinforcing the healthcare workforce and bolstering medical services.

Dr. R.S. Sengar, the Chief Medical Officer of the District Hospital, revealed that over 1,420 patients have undergone CT scans at the hospital, with 870 patients benefiting from free examinations facilitated through Ayushman cards. Moreover, approximately 1,641 patients have received life-sav-



ing dialysis treatments, highlighting the hospital's commitment to comprehensive healthcare.

The hospital, equipped with a dialysis machine, also offers a wide range of medical services, including maternal and child health, non-communicable disease screening, emergency medical services, and mental health support. Additionally, the recent postings of anesthesiologists and radiologists promise to further enhance patient care and treatment outcomes.

Furthermore, the installation of a sonography machine at the Community Health Centre in Sonhat has alleviated the plight of expectant mothers, saving them from the arduous journey to Baikunthpur District Hospital. Over 413 pregnant mothers have received free examinations, easing their financial, mental, and physical burdens.

Recognizing the district's exemplary healthcare stan-

dards, the Health and Wellness Center in Saraighana has been accredited under the National Quality Assurance Standard (NQAS), underscoring the commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare services.

In a commendable initiative, the Chief Minister Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme has provided medical assistance to approximately 74,000 patients across 17 Haat Bazars, offering essential screenings and treatments for various ailments. Hemoglobin, blood, diabetes, blood pressure, malaria and other diseases are tested through camps in these Haat Bazars.

Collector Vinay Kumar Langleh has reiterated the district administration's dedication to ensuring adequate healthcare provisions, urging officials to conduct regular visits to remote healthcare facilities, guaranteeing the availability of doctors, staff, and medicines for all residents.

District admn lacks strong will for action against land mafia!

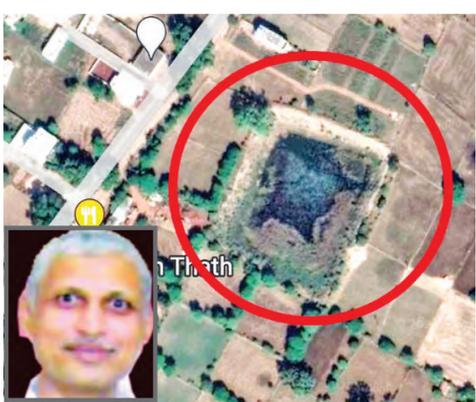
Even after report by SDM, no action has been taken till date

Kawardha, Mar 14:

The local district administration is still lacking that strong will and perhaps in state of fear and becoming overcautious is not taking any action against the land mafia and their family members over the cases of fake land registries, manipulating of the Nazul land records from 'Chouhadi' or in cases of disclosure of illegal construction works by land mafia in the district.

It is notable here that Central Chronicle has been publishing the news about irregularities and fake works of Land Mafia Jain brothers over the last few months and till date no firm action has been taken against them and that gives rise to raising of eyebrows by many.

Last year it was complaint against the land mafia Pankaj Jain in the Collector's 'jandarshan' programme that the inquiry against him started and after which many surprising revelations came to fore against land mafia Pankaj Jain and his so-called brother Mahavir Jain. In the name of adoption, the land mafia sarafa trader brother known to have mastered the art of fooling the local administration are smart enough to change the name of their



father depending upon the profit and loss in land dealing and registry.

Pankaj Jain has sometimes has shown his father's name as Late Dalichand Bothara and got the fresh land purchased and mutation of ancestral land done in his favour and of being adopted, Mahavir Jain has given information as witness in writing in Nazul department. When the alleged irregularities by the brothers and theft of stamp duty was disclosed, then by terming Sampatraj as his father, then efforts are being and since the adoption is not legal and not following all religious traditions and rituals, Mahavir Jain has given information in writing about the adoption being illegal in one case with the Registrar.

After the complaint in Collector's Jandarshan in context of Lalatalab on Rajnandgaon road, Tehsildar Kawardha and SDM have handed over their report to the Collector and in this the SDM has found the complaint of manipulating with the revenue record through a conspiracy against Pankaj Jain as correct and it is by making wrong 'Choudahi' of Nazul land, got the registry done and the SDM has recommended filing of criminal case against Pankaj Jain in this case and sent written report to the Collector Kabirdhaam.

Many surprising revelations have come to fore in case of inquiry on Lalatalab case and as per information, the land Kh. No. 380 purchase by Pankaj

Jain at Lalatalab is registered as pond in the revenue record. In the 'Adhikar' records, the Kh. No. 390 is in the name of Pusaiya Deva Namaloom R/o Bhagutola and from this the villagers drink water and wash clothes. The Kh. No. 379 which is ahead of the pond is the government land and 380 is surrounded from all four sides. Whereas in the registered 'bainama' (agreement) by Pankaj Jain, the Kh. No. registered in the 'Choudahi details' and Revenue Records is different from that of the 'Choudahi'.

The above Lalatalab was purchased by Pankaj Jain on 23/03/2005 by terming Late Dalichand Bothara as his adopted father, whereas in the Khasara of Patwari H. No. and B-1, the purchaser of Kh. No. 380 is Pankaj Kumar alias Anand Bothara S/o Sampatraj and has got the correction done in the record with 'basara' amendment. As per information in this regard, on 10 Oct 2018, with change in 'basara' and the new 'basara' No. is 64/37. With name of father being different, it was in nexus with the then Patwari, the land mafia got the Khasara No. included and got the 'basara' changed, so that it is by changing name of father, all the irregularities can be hidden behind the cover. Reliable sources informed with name of father being different, different 'Khasara No.'s cannot be included into one and nor the 'Basara'

changes can be done. But it is by taking the then Patwari into confidence, the land mafia paved way for this scam.

SDM in his report to the Collector has mentioned that in the registered deed, Pankaj's name of father is Dalichand Bothara, whereas in other documents his father's name is registered as Sampatraj Jain. The applicant by making internal setting with the departmental employees, got the records manipulated and in their favour. Sometime they showed name of their father as adopted son of Late Dalichand and sometimes as Sampatraj Jain and this clearly shows that the applicant Pankaj Jain through conspiracy got manipulations done in the revenue records and by making wrong 'Choudahi' of Nazul land got the registry done and all this comes under violation criminal category. It is taking into cognizance the facts and reports, filing of criminal case against Pankaj Jain would be most appropriate action.

The case of action against the guilty land mafia is in the court of Collector and as to whether the administration get the FIR lodged or once against the red-tapeism is more dominant is yet to be seen. But since the issue of 'Lalatalab' is related to public interest, the chances of filing of public petition in the High Court cannot be denied.

Mumbai clinch Ranji Trophy for 42nd time

Beat Vidarbha by 169 runs in final

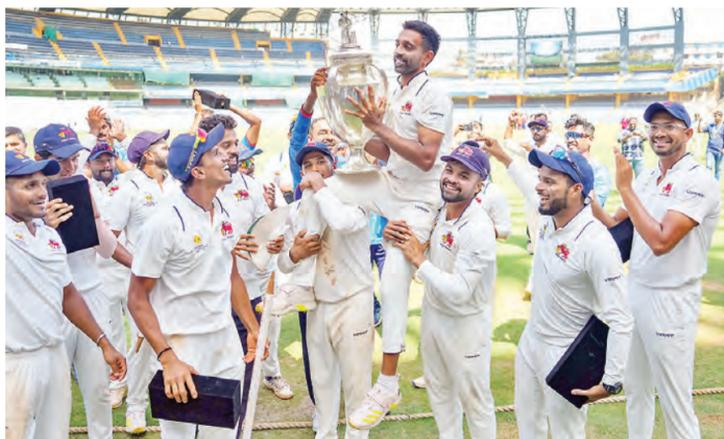
Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Domestic heavyweights Mumbai ended their eight-year barren run to lift a record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title here on Thursday, beating a resolute Vidarbha by 169 runs on the fifth and final day of a thoroughly engrossing summit clash.

The fate of the final -- Mumbai's 48th in the 90 years of the tournament's history -- here at the iconic Wankhede Stadium was sealed when the hosts set a 538-run target for the visiting team.

Vidarbha captain Akshay Wadkar (102) and the unheralded Harsh Dubey (65) kept Mumbai at bay for the entire first session on the last day after Vidarbha resumed on 248 for five, needing another 290 runs to win.

The team was eventually bowled out for 368 in a contest that ebbed and flowed with Vidarbha frustrating the hosts for long periods of play on the last two days. Wadkar



Mumbai's Dhawal Kulkarni lifts the championship trophy after winning the Ranji Trophy final test cricket match against Vidarbha as he played his last match, at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, Thursday, March 14.

led the fight for his side with his first century of the year which also helped him cross the 600-run mark this season. Dubey brought up only the second fifty of his first-class career. Together, they forged the longest stand of the in-

nings, consuming 255 balls in 194 minutes from day four until a little after the resumption of the second session on the final day.

Wadkar fell shortly after play resumed -- leg before off Tanush Kotian (4/95) -- and once the pair

was broken, it all ended in a jiffy for the visitors who have now lost the Ranji Trophy final for a third time after winning two titles.

Tushar Deshpande continued to employ the short ball to dismiss Dubey (65 off 128 balls, 5 x4s, 2x6s)

and Aditya Sarwate, who missed the majority of the game owing to a back spasm.

While Kotian cleaned up Yash Thakur (6) for his fourth wicket, Dhawal Kulkarni signed off from all forms of cricket with the final wicket of the game in the form of Umesh Yadav for a fairytale ending.

Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane praised Vidarbha for their gritty display before lifting the trophy and rightly so.

For a team which paid a heavy price for a poor first-innings score -- 105 to concede a 119-run lead in response to Mumbai's 224 -- Vidarbha showed resilience to give a fine account of themselves in the second innings.

Brief scores

Mumbai: 224 & 418
Vidarbha: 105 & 368 in 134.4 overs (Atharva Taide 32, Aman Mokshade 32, Karun Nair 74, Akshay Wadkar 102; Tanush Kotian 4/95) by 169 runs.

Sindhu goes down to An Se Young in All England Championships

Birmingham, Mar 14 (PTI):

An error-prone PV Sindhu suffered a straight-game defeat to her nemesis An Se Young of Korea in the women's singles second round at the All England badminton Championships here on Thursday. Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, seemed to be in good touch as she fought hard against the world No. 1 Korean but failed to curb her mistakes as she slipped to a 19-21, 11-21 loss in their 42-minute clash.

It was the Indian's seventh successive loss to the indomitable An Se Young, who had become the first Korean woman singles player to win the World Championships last year.

The Korean won in Malaysia and France this season, while Sindhu is on a comeback trail after recovering from a left knee injury.

The Indian tried to attack but her 22-year-old opponent looked in a different league as she varied the pace of the rallies and used her repertoire of strokes well to come up trumps. For Sindhu, things



Sindhu went downhill after the break in the second game as errors kept piling up.

Sindhu was up 4-1 but An Se Young started reading the game better and slowed down the rallies. She kept sending the tosses and clears, waiting for errors from Sindhu, who invariably sent the shuttle wide and long.

Soon the Korean was 9-6 up. She committed two unforced errors before charging to the net to put one away and when Sindhu faltered at

the net it was 11-8 in favour of Young.

Sindhu kept the attack, producing a backhand push and a cross smash. The Korean, however, stayed solid in her defence to move to 13-10 and then 15-11 with another precise smash.

Sindhu tried to charge to the net and target her rival's body but Young's instinct helped her to survive twice as she sent the shuttle away.

From 13-17, Sindhu fought back to 16-17. But Young again pulled away with two points before grabbing four game points with a forehand drop.

Sindhu pounced one at net and then produced a tight smash on her rival's forehand to stay alive. The Korean then slipped during a rally as Sindhu made it 19-20. However, just in time, An Se Young sent a backhand sailing over Sindhu's head to the backline to seal the opening game.

The second game An Se Young grab nine match points and sealed the match with 21-11 points.

Didn't feel like Pant was batting after a long time: Amre



Visakhapatnam, Mar 14 (PTI):

Rishabh Pant's bat swing remains "vintage" and his batting in Delhi Capitals' pre-season camp doesn't indicate that he has been away from the game for 14 months, said the team's assistant coach Pravin Amre.

Earlier this week, the BCCI declared Pant fully fit for the IPL, which will mark his comeback from a horrific car accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in December 2022.

"As coaching unit and personally, it was really pleasing

to see him bat. It didn't feel like he was batting after a long time. The bat swing was vintage," Amre was quoted as saying by DC in a media release.

"We have to give credit to him. The way he has worked hard throughout the year is not easy. It shows how mentally strong and hungry he is."

In Pant's absence, DC were led by veteran opener David Warner last season, where the side failed to make it to the playoffs, finishing ninth with five wins and nine defeats.

DC will be playing their first two home matches in Vizag, with its regular home ground, the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, currently hosting the Women's Premier League.

"Vizag has always been a high-scoring ground, and that's what we wanted. It has got that true bounce, and we are just looking forward to seeing what it has to offer," Amre said.

BCCI giving importance to domestic cricket is a very good thing: Rahane

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Old guard Ajinkya Rahane understands the significance of religiously turning up for domestic matches to become a battle-hardened cricketer. So it came as no surprise when the batter Thursday lauded the BCCI for pushing players towards excelling in red-ball cricket.

The BCCI has been actively urging the senior cricketers towards playing red-ball cricket, including domestic competitions such as the Ranji Trophy.

"I want to mention about BCCI for giving importance to domestic cricket, which is a very good thing. Allowing players to go and play domestic cricket is very important," Rahane said after guiding Mumbai to a record-extending 42nd Ranji Trophy title.

The board had recently dropped middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer and wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan from the central contracts list for not taking the Indian team management's advice of playing Ranji Trophy in order to regain their form and prove their fitness.

Speaking about the triumph, Rahane said



Mumbai must look to repeat this performance in the next season.

Mumbai won the premier domestic competition for the first time since 2015-16, defeating Vidarbha by 169 runs in the final here at the Wankhede Stadium.

In fact, for the Ranji Trophy behemoths, it was their 11th win in 13 finals alone at the Wankhede.

"For us, what is important is that (in the) last couple of years, as a team we are playing good cricket. Our players are actually going into Indian team and representing Indian team which is a very good sign for Mumbai cricket again," Rahane told the media after leading his team to title triumph.

Mbappe scores as PSG beats Nice 3-1 to reach French Cup semifinals

Paris, Mar 14 (AP):

Kylian Mbappe returned to the starting lineup and took just 14 minutes to score as Paris Saint-Germain beat Nice 3-1 to reach the French Cup semifinals. He started the past two league games on the bench as part of coach Luis Enrique's rotation policy, which most observers accept involves leaving out Mbappe to prepare for next season without him. Mbappe looked sharp, expertly swapping waist-high passes with midfielder Fabian Ruiz and putting the ball between goalkeeper Marcin Bulka's legs for his 35th goal of the season. Ten minutes later, Mbappe hit the post with a deflected shot. PSG has won the trophy a record 14 times but not since 2021 and faced a



Nice team that is the only one to beat PSG in the league this season. Bulka made an awful blunder for the second goal, botching a clearance and spinning around unaware of where the ball was landing. Ruiz

profited to roll it into an empty net in the 33rd. But PSG's defense remains vulnerable, as it has been for several years. Nice pulled a goal back four minutes later when striker Gaetan Laborde who scored in September when Nice won in Paris was unmarked on the right of the penalty area and guided a low half-volley into the left corner.

Winger Jeremie Boga and right back Jordan Lotomba missed chances for Nice early into the second half as PSG's midfield struggled. Nice was punished in the 60th when central defender Lucas Beraldo headed in a cross inadvertently flicked on by Nice defender Dante, who was trying to clear the ball.

Lionel Messi leads Inter Miami in 3-1 win over Nashville



Fort Lauderdale, Mar 14 (AP): Lionel Messi had a goal and an assist before leaving the game due to a leg injury as Inter Miami beat Nashville 3-1 in the second leg of the CONCACAF Champions Cup round-of-16 matchup on Wednesday night. Messi found his former Barcelona teammate, Luis Suarez, in stride for a goal that opened scoring in the eighth minute. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner

then added a first-half goal to give Inter Miami an early 2-0 lead. The Argentine superstar checked out of the match in the 50th minute. Coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino said after the game that Messi is dealing with a mild leg injury that started bothering him during the game, so the team took him out as a precaution. He had rested during Sunday's 3-2 loss to Montreal, which is the only game he has missed this season. Martino said Messi will likely miss the team's MLS match Saturday against D.C. United. "I don't want to risk it," Martino said. He added that Messi will undergo tests, and the team would evaluate from there. Messi was replaced Wednesday by Robert Taylor, who scored in the 63rd minute to give Inter Miami a 3-0 lead.

BILASPUR SMART CITY LIMITED
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Phone No.: 07752-222642, Fax: 07752-413688, e-mail: tenders.bscl@gmail.com

E-Procurement-REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

No./BSC/2023-24 Bilaspur, Dated 13/03/2024
BSC/Invites online Proposal following works from eligible contractors:

SIT No.	System Tender No.	Name of work	Probable Amount of Contract (in Lakhs)	Bid Due Date
224	154142	Selection of Concessionaire for Development of Restaurant and Operation & Maintenance of Restaurant & SPORTS COMPLEX-CUM-MINI STADIUM AT GOVT. MULTIPURPOSE SCHOOL GROUND, BILASPUR.	25.00 Lacs Per Annum	04/04/2024 IST 05:30 PM

Interested parties may view and download RFP Document details online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

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

e-PROCUREMENT EOI NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st CALL)

System Tender No.: 154052/NIT No.: 02/SAC/2023-24, Raipur, Dated: 13.03.2024

Online EOI are Invited for The Following Subject up to 03.04.2024 at 15:00 Hour (IST) :-

Subject: Consultancy services for the policy implementation, business process improvement, planning of water resources and enhancement in water use efficiency for the water security, safety and sustainability.

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 20.03.2024, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.

Deputy Director
Hydrometeorology Division No. 4 Raipur
for, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)

DIRECT RECRUITMENT : Non Technical Positions सी डेक CDAC
Advt.No. : C-DAC/MB/02/2024/2403

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is a premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas.

Applications are invited for the following Non Technical positions from eligible candidates:

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Interested candidates may visit "Careers" page of www.cdac.in for detailed notification and apply online on or before March 31, 2024.

Note: Addendum/further communication in this regard, if any, will be notified through C-DAC's website only.

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अटल नगर, सेक्टर 19, नवा रायपुर

// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

क्रमांक पु/बो/खंड-10/ब्रंच-1/1368/2024 नवा रायपुर, दिनांक 13/03/2024

छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से पुलिस महानिदेशक, छत्तीसगढ़ द्वारा निर्माताओं या उनके अधिकृत विक्रेता की ओर से विभिन्न सामग्रियों के क्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

सं. क्र.	निविदा क्रमांक/दिनांक	सामग्री का विवरण	संख्या	ईएमडी राशि (रु.)	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
1	PHQ/P&P-1/1363/2024 Dtd 13-03-24	Explosive Blanket (3rd Call)	20 Nos.	20,000/-	27/03/2024 @ 03:00 pm	27/03/2024 at 04:00 pm
2	PHQ/P&P-1/1365/2024 Dtd 13-03-24	NVD (Night Vision Device) 4th Gen Binocular (2nd Call)	90 Nos.	4,50,000/-	03/04/2024 @ 03:00 pm	03/04/2024 at 04:00 pm
3	PHQ/P&P-1/1366/2024 Dtd 13-03-24	High Beam Search Light (2nd Call)	180 Nos.	18,000/-	03/04/2024 @ 03:00 pm	03/04/2024 at 04:00 pm
4	PHQ/P&P-1/1367/2024 Dtd 13-03-24	Anti Blast Goggles (3rd Call)	1710 Nos.	1,71,000/-	27/03/2024 @ 03:00 pm	27/03/2024 at 04:00 pm

Address for submission of Tender:- DIG of Police (P&P), Block no.-3, Room No.309 Police Headquarters, Chhattisgarh, Sector 19, Nava Raipur, Rs.3000/- (Per item)

Tender fee :-

निविदा की शर्तें एवं निविदा प्रपत्र छत्तीसगढ़ पुलिस की वेबसाइट www.cgpolice.gov.in में अपलोड किया गया है, जिसे वेबसाइट में जाकर डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक (यो/प्र) हेतु-पुलिस महानिदेशक

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, भिलाई (छ.ग.)

निविदा सूचना

क्रमांक/लो.क.वि./जोन 4/2023/ /1693/492 भिलाई, दिनांक 13/3/24

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.सं.	सिस्टम क्र.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा लागत (राशि रु. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड किये जाने की अंतिम तिथि
1	154040	जोन क्र. 04 शिवाजी नगर क्षेत्रांतर्गत पार्क लाईन संभारण कार्य सामग्री सहित। (द्वितीय बार)	49.86	01.04.2024

निविदा स्वीड पोस्ट/रजिस्टर्ड डाक से स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी संचालनालय की वेबसाइट eproc.cgstate.gov.in में भी देखी जा सकती है। (घर से निकलने वाले गीते एवं सुखा कचरे को अलग कर सफाई मित्र (रिक्शा) को देंगे।)

कार्यपालन अभियंता

Public Works Department
Sector-19, North Block, Naya Raipur (C.G.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice
E-mail : tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in

NIT No. 498/TC/EinC/PWD/2023-24 Dated- 12.03.2024

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCPLWE RRP-III in the district of Kanker, Dantewada, Bilapur for construction of 02 Roads & 02 Bridges with estimated cost amounting Rs 2839.85 Lakhs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration) of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 13.03.2024 and may be submitted up to 17:00 Hrs. on 01.04.2024

For participating in bidding process, bidders are required to register in the above web-site with nominal fee of Rs 500/- to be paid online to service provider. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from authorized certifying authorities.

The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form and (b) original affidavit duly verified and notarized as per clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) and 4.4 B (c) to Chief Engineer, Tender Cell, First Floor, Nirman Bhawan, PWD, North Block, Sector-19, Naya Raipur (C.G.) 492-002 as per provisions of bid document through Speed/Registered post, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Detailed schedule of important dates may be seen on notice board of offices and also available on website of Public Works Department <http://pwd.cg.nic.in>

Chief Engineer
(Central Tender Cell)
Office of Engineer-In-Chief
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
JILA NIRMAN SAMITI, JAGDALPUR DISTT.-BASTAR (C.G.)

Memo No. 1519 /JNS/2024/Jagdalpur Date 12-3-24

e-Procurement Tender Notice
Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

NIT No. - 11 Dated 12/03/2024
Last date Submission of Bid Documents - 29.03.2024

Tender No.	Name of Work	PAC (in lakh)	EMD	Calls
1	2	3	4	5
154058	Construction of Indra Dhanush Park at Tirtha (Chitrakote) for Improvement of Tourism. (Zonal Tender).	990.00	495000/-	4th call

(Nodal Officer)
Jila Nirman Samiti
E.E. P.W.D. (B/R)
North Bastar Div. no. 1 Jagdalpur



CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 164

One Nation, One Election

A Step Towards Efficiency or Constitutional Quandary?

The notion of 'One Nation, One Election' resonates with the spirit of unity, suggesting a harmonized electoral process across India's diverse landscape. The submission of a report on this matter by a committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind underscores the government's commitment to exploring avenues for enhancing the efficiency and integrity of our democratic processes. The panel - set up in September - has since studied "best practices from other countries", consulted 39 political parties, economists, and the Election Commission of India. It said today it backs the idea, but calls for a legally sustainable mechanism that can break and re-align existing electoral cycles. The committee is of unanimous opinion that simultaneous polls should be held, the report, submitted to President Droupadi Murmu, said, noting that Lok Sabha and Assembly polls could be held together with local body elections (also synchronised) 100 days later. At its core, 'One Nation, One Election' seeks to synchronize Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, streamlining the electoral calendar and reducing the frequency of polls. This proposal, enshrined in the BJP's 2019 manifesto, has ignited fervent debate and elicited varied responses from across the political spectrum. Proponents of the initiative argue that simultaneous elections offer numerous advantages, including substantial financial savings, streamlined governance, and increased voter participation. The rationale behind these claims is compelling: by reducing the frequency of polls, the government can minimize the logistical and financial burdens associated with repeated electoral cycles, thereby enabling a more efficient allocation of resources towards developmental initiatives. Furthermore, proponents assert that synchronized elections would mitigate disruptions caused by the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, facilitating the seamless implementation of welfare schemes and policy initiatives. By aligning electoral cycles, the government aims to foster political stability and enhance governance effectiveness, ultimately bolstering democratic institutions and processes. However, amidst these purported benefits lie significant constitutional and logistical challenges that merit careful consideration. Critics argue that 'One Nation, One Election' poses a threat to India's federal structure, potentially undermining the autonomy of state governments and eroding the principles of democratic decentralization. The proposal necessitates a constitutional amendment, requiring ratification by state governments and political parties, a formidable task fraught with political complexities. Legal experts have cautioned against the potential constitutional pitfalls, highlighting the need for a robust legislative framework to safeguard democratic principles and federalism. Furthermore, concerns have been raised regarding the practical implementation of synchronized elections, particularly in the event of premature dissolution of legislative assemblies or hung parliaments. Addressing these contingencies demands meticulous planning and coordination, ensuring that electoral integrity and democratic norms remain uncompromised. Opposition parties, including the Congress, AAP, and regional entities, have voiced vehement opposition to the initiative, citing concerns over its potential ramifications on democratic principles and governance dynamics. Chief Ministers Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin have criticized the proposal as an affront to constitutional integrity, warning against its potential to subvert democratic norms. Amidst the polarized discourse surrounding 'One Nation, One Election', it is imperative to prioritize constructive dialogue and consensus-building. While the initiative holds promise for enhancing electoral efficiency and governance effectiveness, its implementation must be guided by a steadfast commitment to constitutional principles and democratic values.

Agni-V

India's Strategic Triumph

India's test-firing of the Agni-V ballistic missile equipped with MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle) technology stands as a watershed moment in the nation's defence capabilities. The successful execution of Mission Divyastra underscores not only India's technological prowess but also its steadfast commitment to bolstering national security in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. The development and deployment of the Agni-V missile with MIRV technology represent the culmination of years of relentless dedication and pioneering innovation by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Led by Director Sheena Rani, this milestone achievement underscores India's progress towards gender inclusivity in crucial sectors such as defence and technology. It is not merely a demonstration of scientific acumen but also a testament to the nation's resolve to achieve self-reliance in defence capabilities. India's acquisition of MIRV technology propels it into an elite club of nations possessing such sophisticated capabilities. This strategic breakthrough holds profound implications for regional stability and global security dynamics. Nestled between nuclear-armed neighbours China and Pakistan, India's demonstration of cutting-edge missile technology serves as a potent deterrent against potential adversaries. The ability to deploy multiple warheads on missiles enhances India's strategic flexibility and resilience, thereby bolstering its deterrence posture and safeguarding national sovereignty. In an era marked by escalating security threats and geopolitical uncertainties, India's investment in advanced missile capabilities is a reaffirmation of its commitment to maintaining peace and stability. A robust deterrence posture is essential to dissuade aggression and preserve the territorial integrity and national interests of the nation. The Agni-V missile, with its long-range capabilities and MIRV technology, serves as a formidable deterrent against any potential aggression, thereby reinforcing India's commitment to regional and global peace. The acquisition of MIRV technology not only strengthens India's own security architecture but also contributes to the broader regional and global security landscape. As a responsible nuclear power, India's enhanced deterrence capabilities can act as a stabilising force, countering emerging threats and preventing the escalation of conflicts. The message sent by India's successful missile test is clear: it is committed to defending its sovereignty and interests while promoting peace and stability in the region and beyond. However, with great power comes great responsibility. As India enhances its defence capabilities, it must remain cognizant of the ethical, moral, and international obligations that come with such advancements. Ensuring the responsible stewardship of nuclear technology and maintaining transparency in its defence policies are imperative for fostering trust and confidence in the international community. The Agni-V missile stands not only as a symbol of India's technological prowess but also as a beacon of hope for a safer, more secure world.

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

INTERNATIONAL YOGA MAHOTSAV

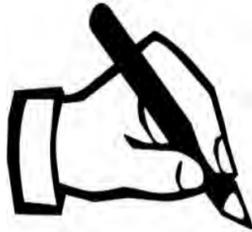


A young woman does yoga at the International Yoga Mahotsav, at Parmarth Niketan in Rishikesh, Thursday, March 14.

India's ambitious Fifth-gen fighter programme starting to take shape finally



RAHUL KAMBLE



The Cabinet Committee on Security on March 7 cleared the project to design and develop the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), which will be a fifth-generation, medium weight stealth fighter jet. It is being developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), under a project worth around Rs 15,000 crore. DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) will develop the stealth jet and the associated technology in partnership with various private and public sector agencies. According to sources, about five prototypes will be built in around five years. Public sector unit Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will have a role in manufacturing of the Prototypes. The aircraft will propel India into a handful group of nations that have or are developing 5th generation fighter jets, based on futuristic technology in partnership with various private and public sector agencies. A fifth-generation fighter jet has four main attributes. First, it is stealthy. That means it is near-invisible to enemy radars, which is a function of the jet's radar cross section. Secondly, it can

'Supercruise', or fly faster than the speed of sound without using the fuel-guzzling afterburners on its engines. Third, it has advanced avionics and sensors with network centric operations. Increasingly, artificial intelligence is also being used in this regard to enhance pilot-aircraft interface. This allows a single pilot to both fly the aircraft and engage in combat. Last but not least, it should be able to outrange its adversaries by detecting and engaging targets from long distances, which is achieved by employing active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars. To achieve stealth, these aircraft are specifically shaped to scatter radar waves, instead of reflecting them back. After that, special materials and paints, called 'Radar absorbing structures' and materials, are used to further reduce radar reflectivity. When operating in stealth mode, these fighters have to conceal their weapons in an internal bay and can only count on the fuel carried in tanks located within their body. Weapons or fuel tanks carried externally, like conventional aircraft do under their wings, reflect radar waves and compromise stealth. AMCA is proposed to be developed in

two phases. Phase 1 development will result in AMCA Mk-1, powered by the US GE-414 engine. Phase 2 development will result in AMCA Mk2, which will feature an advanced, more powerful engine. What is more significant is it would be a difficult-to-swallow pill that the AMCA projected to be inducted by 2035 may not be a 'Completely 5th-generation fighter aircraft'. Based on specifications, it would be categorised as a 4.5 gen Bird. AMCA Mk-1 will lack 'at least' three defining 5th-generation fighter traits which include Supercruise, Supermaneuverability and Sensor fusion. Additionally, AMCA Mk-1 would feature limited stealth. Why these timeline developments are significant, can be appreciated from the already existing global Fifth-gen fighter ecosystem.

China is set to outpace the US in the production of stealth aircrafts. In fact, China's inventory of the J-20A Mighty Dragon, China's first fifth-generation fighter, was slated to overtake that of the US Air Force's F-22 Raptor last year. The F-22 Raptor was the first-ever fifth-generation fighter to enter service. However, the F-22 hasn't been in production for some time now, and the US has shifted its attention to the F-35 Lightning II family of stealth fighters, which are meant to be more affordable. Incidentally, in April of 2018, India pulled out of the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft programme, or FGFA, which was a joint effort with Russia that was supposed to lead to an India-specific variant of the Russian Su-57 stealth fighter. Even South Korea and Turkey have taken a lead in the race for fifth-generation fighter aircraft. In July of 2022, the prototype of South Korea's KF-21 Boramae next-generation fighter jet conducted its first flight. Indonesia is a 20 per cent partner in the Boramae

programme. The KF-21 Boramae is stealthier than previous fourth-generation jets. In February this year, Turkey's next-generation fighter, known as the TF KAAN, took off for its first flight. Of concern to India would be the fact that in August last year, the Turkish government had announced that Pakistan could officially join the Turkish Aerospace KAAN aircraft programme. Also, the reports of Chinese J-20 being offered to Islamabad has been an eyebrow raiser.

Following years of ups and downs, the home-grown, Desi-bird LCA Tejas has been inducted by the Indian Air Force and a naval version is in the works. To address the Elephant in the room, India's fighter squadron strength is on a decline and lagging behind the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. New Delhi is exploring all options to augment the squadron numbers as a couple of Rafale and Tejas LCA squadrons are too inadequate to fill the gap. From the point of view of the IAF, the urgency and importance of acquiring manned stealth fighters mandate CCS approval for the AMCA project. Supercruise, Supermaneuverability, and situational awareness can always be added to a stealth platform later, as well as evolving technologies such as loyal wingman & drone swarm control. Although have stiled the much awaited go-ahead to the project, it is important to be aware of the pitfalls and remain alert to the impact of project delays on the IAF's combat capability. Meticulous careful steps in this direction alongwith meeting the requirements of the IAF, can prove to be a game changer.

(Writer is a freelance writer from Mumbai.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TMC and Congress must unite

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has opted to contest the Lok Sabha elections independently, despite repeated attempts by the Congress to negotiate a seat-sharing agreement. This decision by Mamata, disregarding Congress' overtures for reconciliation, risks dividing opposition votes and inadvertently benefiting the BJP. A collaborative approach between TMC and Congress could have consolidated opposition strength against the BJP. Mamata's refusal to engage in alliance talks may weaken the opposition's stance. Therefore, it is imperative for Mamata to reconsider her stance and forge a strategic alliance with the Congress to bolster opposition unity and enhance the chances of defeating the BJP in West Bengal.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Secularism Under Siege

India's swift enactment of the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) deals a severe blow to secularism. The implementation, spearheaded by the Narendra Modi-led government, undermines principles of equality and inclusivity by favoring certain religious groups while marginalizing Muslims. The timing of the rules' announcement, just before elections, smacks of political opportunism, aimed at stoking communal tensions. Coupled with the National Register of Citizens, the CAA poses a significant threat to communal harmony and the rights of millions. It is imperative for all citizens to vehemently oppose this assault on our democratic fabric and stand united in defense of secular values.

MK Nair, Raipur

Political Maneuver

The rollout of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) just before the General Election appears to be a calculated move by the BJP. Coming four years after its passage in Parliament, this move aligns with the BJP's agenda outlined in its 2019 manifesto. Alongside other promises like the abrogation of Article 370 and the construction of the Ram Temple, the timing of the CAA's notification risks sparking protests. While the assurance of citizenship benefitted the BJP among Bengal's Namasudra community in previous elections, its impact on future electoral outcomes remains uncertain. The BJP's strategy will be closely watched to gauge its potential to gain more seats from the TMC in upcoming elections.

Krishna Kumar Nair, Kollam, Kerala

Reimagining Public Broadcasting for a Viksit Bharat

Shashi Shekhar Vempati

A decade of reforms in Indian Public Broadcasting merit a critical examination for not only the transformation that has taken place since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office but also for the pivotal role public service media is poised to play in India's developmental journey towards achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. If the period between 2004 and 2014 when the UPA governed India, is often referred to as the 'lost decade', it is especially true of public broadcasting given the lackadaisical approach of the then government towards undertaking any meaningful reforms. Doordarshan and All India Radio remained trapped in a time warp of status quo as organisations with a 20th century mindset incapable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century. However, since 2014, thanks to the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prasar Bharati embarked on an unprecedented journey of public broadcasting reforms the impact of which was best felt when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. This transformation has been not just about technological upgrades but based on a vision for how broadcasting must evolve to meet the challenges of the internet era. The transformation witnessed since 2014 is staggering both in

scale and its complexity. The reach of DD FreeDish, India's largest free-to-air DTH platform, has doubled, serving over 45 million families. It became a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic to students in every corner of India. The availability of more than 30 educational channels through DD FreeDish meant critical access to educational content to millions of students who could overcome limitations of internet access and did not need to depend on computers for remote classes. FreeDish's role in saving the academic year for these millions of students was lauded by global media outlets that observed how India leveraged public broadcasting effectively to save the academic year. The role of Doordarshan in engaging citizens across India through the COVID-19 lockdown through the broadcast of epics Ramayan and Mahabharat caught the eye of International Media such as the Wall Street Journal. The viewership record established by Ramayan will be a high benchmark for Indian Television for a long time to come. The most significant reform in public broadcasting undertaken over the past ten years has been the phasing out of over 1200 obsolete analog terrestrial television transmitters. It was ironic that despite television viewing across India shifting to cable and satellite, for more than a decade there was

no effort to phase out these obsolete transmitters which had nearly zero viewership. With this phase-out, Prasar Bharati has not only saved significant expenditure on electricity but it has also freed up valuable spectrum for 5G and rural communication services. Redeploying the manpower from these transmitter sites towards managing its fast expanding FM radio network, Prasar Bharati also undertook long overdue convergence between its television and radio operations breaking the silos within which Akashvani and Doordarshan had long operated. The expansion of Doordarshan's satellite channels from 23 in 2017 to 36 in 2021, including dedicated channels like DD Kisan, underscores a commitment to diversified content catering to the needs of every Indian. Similarly, Akashvani's footprint expanded significantly, ensuring that the voice of India reached the farthest corners of the country and beyond. Digitalization and the integration of IT systems across Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) have made public broadcasting more accessible and inclusive. The introduction of sign language commentary for major events and the digitization of archival content preserve India's rich cultural heritage while making it accessible to all. Internationally, DD India's growth as a channel has been remarkable, becoming the number one English news

channel in India and expanding its global footprint to over 190 countries through a combination of platforms such as myK in Korea, YuppTV in North America apart from YouTube. This international outreach is critical for projecting India's perspectives and values on the global stage. Financial sustainability has also been a focus, with Prasar Bharati achieving a 13% revenue growth in 2021-2022 from commercial operations. This financial prudence, coupled with technological advancements, established a strong foundation for a roadmap towards a self-sustaining public broadcasting ecosystem. The strategic interventions, like broadcasting weather reports for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and expanding the digital footprint through platforms like the NewsOnAir App, reflected a bold and innovative approach to leveraging public broadcasting for national interest and global outreach. The impact of a decade of reforms in public broadcasting is clearly visible with the Reuters Institute of Journalism Studies in its annual surveys ranking Doordarshan and Akashvani as the most credible and trustworthy sources of news in India. Yet, these reforms are not an end but a beginning. To realize Prime Minister Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, public broadcasting must continue to evolve. It must serve as a platform for educa-

tion, innovation, and dialogue, bridging the digital divide and ensuring that every Indian, irrespective of their socio-economic status, has access to information, education, and entertainment. This becomes apparent when one considers the diversity of India's languages across regions many of which are either underserved or underserved by the private media. Akashvani's services spanning more than a hundred languages and dialects are a reminder of how challenging it is to disseminate developmental messages to the remotest regions of India in a consistent and accurate manner. Through Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat, Akashvani has not only amplified developmental messaging across India but it has also contributed to the technologies of future. Today AI models are being developed for these languages and dialects by leveraging the corpus of Mann Ki Baat recordings and the archives of Doordarshan and All India Radio. The journey from 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' to 'Viksit Bharat' is long and challenging, but with the strategic use of public broadcasting, India is poised to achieve this vision, ensuring that the voice of every Indian is heard, and the story of India's development reaches every corner of the globe by amplifying these billion voices.

(Writer is Former CEO of Prasar Bharati)

Fitch raises India's GDP forecast for next fiscal to 7 pc

New Delhi, Mar 14:

Fitch Ratings on Thursday raised its forecast for India's economic growth to 7 per cent for the next fiscal year starting April 1 on the back of strong domestic demand and sustained level of business and consumer confidence. With a stronger-than-expected 8.4 per cent growth in gross domestic product (GDP) during the third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal year, Fitch saw the Indian economy expanding 7.8 per cent in 2023-24 financial year (April 2023 to March 2024), marginally higher than the government's estimate of 7.6 per cent. In its latest 'Global Economic Outlook', the rating agency said the country's economic growth continued to outperform quarterly forecasts with domestic demand (investment growth increased 10.6 per cent



year-on-year while private consumption was 3.5 per cent higher). For the world, Fitch Ratings has raised its 2024 global GDP growth forecast by 0.3 percentage points to 2.4 per cent, as near-term world growth prospects have improved. This on back of a sharp upward revision to its US forecast to 2.1 per cent, from 1.2 per cent in the December 2023 Global Economic Outlook (GEO). "Stronger US growth prospects outweigh a marginal cut to our China 2024

growth forecast -- to 4.5 per cent from 4.6 per cent -- and a minor revision to our eurozone forecast, to 0.6 per cent from 0.7 per cent," it said. "Growth in emerging markets, excluding China, has been revised up by 0.1 percentage point to 3.2 per cent, with forecasts raised for India, Russia and Brazil." It expected world growth in 2025 to edge up to 2.5 per cent as the eurozone finally recovers -- on a pick-up in real wages and consumption -- but as US growth slows. For India,

Fitch Ratings said, "With GDP growth having exceeded 8 per cent for three consecutive quarters, we expect an easing in growth momentum in the final quarter of the current fiscal year, implying an estimate of 7.8 per cent for growth in FY24." Recent quarterly data has shown that GDP is rising much faster than gross value-added -- indirect taxes net of subsidies is the difference between the two -- and this unusually wide gap may normalise. Strong business survey data for January and February represents an upside risk to these estimates, it said. "We expect the Indian economy to continue its strong expansion, with real GDP forecast to increase 7 per cent in FY25, a 0.5 percentage point upward revision from our December forecasts," Fitch Ratings said. "Domestic demand, especially investment, will be the main

driver of growth, amid sustained levels of business and consumer confidence." Its forecasts imply that growth in the short term will outpace the economy's estimated potential, and that the pace of growth of activity will then moderate towards trend in FY25, with real GDP rising 6.5 per cent. It said consumer price inflation picked up in the last months of 2023, driven by food prices. CPI inflation reached 5.7 per cent year-on-year in December, before falling to 5.1 per cent in February. Core inflation measures are steadily declining, underlining that developments in food prices (which account for around half of India's consumer price index) will be key to inflation developments and the pace at which inflation will approach the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4 per cent mid-point of its 2 per cent-6 per cent target band.

India set to become exporter of forged wheels used in railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Chennai, Mar 14:



Sixty to seventy years after being an importer of forged wheels used in the railways, India is all set to become an exporter of the train component, Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Thursday. The minister, who also holds the portfolio of Electronics and Information Technology, was here to inaugurate the Chennai Design Centre of US-based semiconductor manufacturer Qualcomm, when he said that construction activities for setting up a plant to produce forged wheels for the railways has commenced in Tamil Nadu. The railways has entered into a joint venture with Ramakrishna Forgings Ltd to set up the manufacturing facility at Gummidipoondi near Chennai, at an outlay of Rs 650 crore in the first phase.

"As you are aware, Vande Bharat trains have been very successful. The wheels that are used in Vande Bharat trains are of special quality. They undergo a special manufacturing process. The wheels that we use in the wagons undergo a casting process," he told reporters. "The factory to produce the forged wheels is now being set up. Construction has started. The plant will have the capacity to produce 2.5 lakh wheels, of which 80,000 will be used in India and the remaining 1.70 lakh will be ex-

ported," he said. "For 60-70 years, India was an importer of forged wheels. India will now emerge as a major exporter of forged wheels. I am very happy that this plant is being set up in Tamil Nadu, and in another 16-18 months, the production will start," he said. Similarly, Vaishnaw said, the Integral Coach Factory here would also develop standard gauge Vande Bharat trains. "Standard gauge rakes are used all over the world. So, when we are thinking of exporting Vande Bharat trains few years down the line, we must have the development of standard gauge Vande Bharat trains today," he said. Designing and testing of standard gauge Vande Bharat trains need to be done, after which national and international approvals need to be obtained before they can be formally launched, he added, saying it will take some time.

Wholesale inflation eases to 0.2 pc in Feb



New Delhi, Mar 14:

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased in January to 0.2 per cent from 0.27 per cent in the preceding month. The WPI inflation was in the negative zone from April to October and had turned positive in November at 0.26 per cent. "The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale

Price Index (WPI) number is 0.20 per cent (provisional) for the month of February, 2024 (over February, 2023)," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. Food inflation moved up marginally to 6.95 per cent in February from 6.85 per cent in January, data showed. Inflation in vegetables was 19.78 per cent, up from 19.71 in January.

DFS Secy says 5 PSU banks to reduce govt shareholding to meet MPS norms

New Delhi, Mar 14:

Five public sector lenders, including Bank of Maharashtra, IOB and UCO Bank are planning to reduce government stake to less than 75 per cent to comply with Sebi's minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi has said. Out of 12 public sector banks (PSBs), four were complying with MPS norms as on March 31, 2023. "As part of an ongoing effort, three more PSBs have complied with minimum 25 per cent public float during the current financial year. Remaining five PSBs have laid out action plans to meet MPS requirement," he told PTI in an interaction.



Currently, government holding in Delhi-based Punjab & Sind Bank is 98.25 per cent. It is followed by Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank at 96.38 per cent, UCO Bank 95.39 per cent, Central Bank of India 93.08 per cent, Bank of Maharashtra at 86.46 per cent. As per the Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), all listed companies must maintain an MPS of 25 per cent. However, the regulator had given special forbearance to state-owned banks. They have time till August 2024 to meet the requirement of 25 per cent MPS. Joshi said banks have various options to bring down the stake, including follow on public offering or Qualified Institutional Placement. Depending on market condition, each of these banks will take a call in the best interest of shareholders, he added. Without giving a timeline, he said, efforts were on to meet the requirement. Joshi said the finance ministry has directed all state-owned banks to

review their gold loan portfolio as instances of non-compliance with regulatory norms have been noticed by the government. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) in a communication addressed to heads of PSBs has asked them to look at their system and processes related to gold loan. A directive in this regard was issued last month advising them to fix anomalies relating to collection of fees and interest and closure of gold loan accounts. The letter flagged various concerns, including disbursement of gold loans without requisite gold collateral, anomalies regarding collection of fees and repayment in cash.

Rupee falls 1 paisa to end at 82.82 against US dollar

Mumbai, Mar 14:

The rupee depreciated 1 paisa to settle at 82.82 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid a strong greenback against major rivals overseas and rising crude oil prices. However, a firm trend in domestic equity markets supported the local currency and restricted the fall, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened slightly weak at 82.84 and witnessed an intra-day low of 82.89 and a high of 82.82 against the greenback during the session. The local unit finally settled at 82.82 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of just 1 paisa from its previous



close. On Wednesday, the rupee declined 1 paisa to settle at 82.81 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.07 per cent at 102.47. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 0.77 per cent to USD 84.68 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 335.39 points or 0.46 per cent to close at 73,097.28.

LAKME FASHION WEEK



Actors Neha Dhupia and Konkona Sen Sharma presents the creations by designer Sohyia Misra during the second day of the Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI, in Mumbai, Thursday, March 14.

IIFL Finance continues to serve existing Gold Loan customers, Gold in Lockers Safe

New Delhi, Mar 14:

IIFL Finance said that it continues to serve its existing gold loan customers without any interruptions and the customers' gold is safe in IIFL Finance's lockers. As per a RBI supervisory press release dated March 4, the company will not disburse new gold loans until further notice. However, the RBI circular allows IIFL Finance to continue service existing loans and customers without any hindrances. IIFL Finance said its gold loan branches will remain open as usual and staff will be available to serve existing customer needs on priori-

ty. IIFL Finance said, "We would like to further reassure you that your loan is completely safe with us and you have no reason to worry." "These are operational issues and we are fully committed to comply with all the guidance of RBI. We appreciate your support and trust in us. There are no ethical or governance issues with IIFL Finance." IIFL Finance has requested its gold loan customers to stay away from any rumor or misleading information from any source. IIFL Finance's gold loan business is present across India in 25 states and Union Territories though 2,721 branches.

Sensex recovers 335 pts, Nifty closes above 22100 on buying in IT stocks, positive macro data

Mumbai, Mar 14:

Benchmark Sensex rebounded 335 points while Nifty closed above the 22,100 level on Thursday as buying in IT and capital goods shares helped broader markets recover from the previous day's sharp losses. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 335.39 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 73,097.28 with 20 of its constituents ending in the green and 10 in the red. During the day, it jumped 602.41 points or 0.82 per cent to 73,364.30. The broader Nifty gained 148.95 points or 0.68 per



cent to close at 22,146.65 as 37 of its components settled higher and 13 with losses. Sensex 906.07 points, or 1.23 per cent while Nifty plunged by 338 points, or 1.51 per cent, to close below the 22,000 level on Wednesday due to heavy selling pressure. "The market was able to recover half of last trading day's sell-off as leverage-based square-off neutralised it, while institu-

tional buying sustained the buoyancy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. "Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) eased to a four-month low at 0.2 per cent in February, bringing ease to upcoming CPI trajectory, a relief for future rate cuts," Nair added. From the Sensex pack, HCL Technologies rose the most by 2.96 per cent. Gains in Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, Wipro, Bharti Airtel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Asian Paints helped key indices to recover losses.

Appreciate launches first low-cost, fractional global investing platform for Indians

Mumbai, Mar 14:

Appreciate, a SEBI and IFSCA registered fintech company, proudly announces its strategic collaboration with YES Securities and Samhita to offer a suite of investment and savings products for Indians across income groups on one platform - ranging from equity investments to savings account and fixed deposits. Appreciate, founded by Subho Moulik (CEO), Shlok Srivastav (COO), and Yogesh Kansal (CMO), and headquartered in Mumbai, has recently launched a product to address the hurdles faced by Indian investors looking to



invest in global markets. Appreciate breaks down barriers for investing outside India, from India - removing high remittance fees, hidden charges, and minimum investment amounts. The company has created a unique and seamless one-click investing experience to access

the U.S. stock market, which has a total market capitalization of over \$46 trillion. With the Appreciate app, Indians can now invest in global stocks or fractions of the world's most valuable stocks for as little as Re. 1. Investing in U.S. markets allows investors to gain

from USD appreciation and enables access to additional FX appreciation-linked annual returns, in addition to expected investment portfolio returns. Mr. Subho Moulik, Founder and CEO of Appreciate, emphasized the platform's commitment to helping investors, saying, "This is huge savings and returns unlock where millions of people want to take the first step towards financial diversification but have always been deterred by high minimums, high fees, and a poor experience. We have solved bottlenecks others have failed to solve to make investing in U.S. stocks easy and low-cost.

Rs 500 cr electric-mobility scheme shows govt's continued thrust on EV: Experts

New Delhi, Mar 14:

The Rs 500 crore Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 shows the government's continued thrust on vehicle electrification as it is indispensable on a long-term basis to fortify the case for an EV ecosystem, industry experts said on Thursday. Ministry of Heavy Industries has announced the new scheme to promote e-mobility in the country with an outlay of Rs 500 crore for four months beginning April 2024. The new scheme is for 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers. Commenting on the government's decision, Srikumar Krishnamurthy, Senior Vice President and

Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA said the scheme is a favourable move towards the acceleration of the electrification pace in the country. "The EMP scheme reflects the government's continued thrust on vehicle electrification, although the quantum of subsidy is seen lower in line with expectations," he said. ICRA expects the penetration levels of e-2w and e-3w (excluding e-rickshaws) to reach 6-8 per cent and 14-16 per cent, respectively in fiscal 2024-25, he added. Ayush Lohia, CEO, Lohia opined that the scheme offers a significant opportunity to expand the market and contribute to the growth of

the electric vehicle industry. "With subsidies of up to Rs 25,000 for small three-wheelers and Rs 50,000 for large ones, the scheme is expected to drive increased demand for three-wheelers and two-wheelers," he said. Lohia manufactures over 12 types of vehicles, ranging from electric rickshaws to auto rickshaws designed for both passenger and goods transportation. The scheme aims to support 3,72,215 EVs including e-2W (3,33,387) and e-3W (38,828 including 13,590 rickshaws and e-carts and 25,238 e-3W in L5 category). To encourage advanced technologies, benefits of incentives will be extended to only those ve-

hicles which are fitted with advanced battery. Commenting on the scheme, Hyder Khan, CEO of Godawari Electric Motors said the announcement clears the uncertainty which was plaguing the industry for the past few months as the FAME scheme was about to end this month. "The new scheme though puts focus on EV two-wheelers and three-wheelers, it could have given more clarity on the recertification of products as the process takes time. However, it's imperative to acknowledge that the government support is indispensable on a long-term basis to fortify the case for EV ecosystem," Khan said.

City development is the first priority: Kaushik

Initiates proactive measures for civic betterment

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Mar 14: In an exemplary display of commitment towards city development, Municipal Chairman Manharan Kaushik took charge by convening a meeting of officers and employees, underscoring the city's progress as the prime objective of the municipal government.

Marking his first day in office with diligence, Kaushik began his duties promptly, commencing formal proceedings with a solemn prayer in his chamber. Emphasizing the importance of direct interaction, he engaged with the civic body's officials and staff, conducting crucial deliberations and providing essential directives.

He urged everyone to



prioritize addressing the concerns of city residents promptly, ensuring their convenience in routine matters and maximizing the benefits of welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering, Kaushik reiterated the importance of unwavering dedication and integrity in public service.

Expressing gratitude for the responsibility entrusted to him by Kawardha MLA and Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state Vijay Sharma, he emphasized the collective effort required to fulfill this mandate.

Stressing the significance of a proactive approach, he assured his availability to address any challenges faced by the community, highlighting teamwork as pivotal to advancing city development initiatives.

Kaushik's resolute stance resonated as he issued a stern warning against complacency, emphasizing accountability and swift action against negligence.

He underscored the paramount importance of core services such as access to clean drinking water, city sanitation, housing schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, ration cards, and social welfare benefits. Kaushik emphasized the equitable distribution of benefits, ensuring that all eligible individuals receive their entitled entitlements promptly.

Concluding on a note of public service ethos, Kaushik affirmed the collective responsibility of all municipal stakeholders in serving the community effectively thereby minimizing citizen inconvenience and fostering a culture of accountability and service excellence.

Scooty driver narrowly escapes road accident

Truck driver's quick reflexes prevent catastrophe

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, March 14: A potential disaster was narrowly averted on the Rajnandgaon-Dongargaon road near Sukhri village as a scooty veered out of control and collided with an oncoming goods truck.

The incident unfolded on Wednesday evening when two riders, Shivcharan and Lucky Yadav from Bhilai, were carelessly speeding on their scooty bearing registration number CG07CN7923.

Their recklessness led to a collision with a truck bearing registration num-



ber TS35T7968 en route from Hyderabad to Raipur. Fortunately, the truck driver displayed remarkable presence of mind, swiftly applying emergency brakes upon noticing the oncoming scooty.

His quick action prevented a potentially fatal outcome as both youths narrowly escaped with

their lives. While Shivcharan, the scooty's driver, sustained minor injuries, his companion Lucky suffered severe leg injuries in the impact.

Promptly, passers-by and local police rushed to the scene, transporting the injured to the Dongargaon Community Health Center for urgent medical attention.

Sarvdharma sammelan and folk art festival unites communities



Akhil Bharatiya Satnam Sena Foundation Day

Central Chronicle News

Kharora, Mar 14: The spirit of unity and cultural harmony resonated through the streets of Kharora as the Akhil Bharatiya Satnam Sena Foundation Day, Tilda Kharora Unit Sarvdharma Sammelen, and Folk Art Festival came to a joyous conclusion. Led by President Pappu Purena, the event witnessed a vibrant display of traditions and shared values.

The festivities commenced on Monday, March 11, with a grand celebration marking the foundation day of the All India Satnam Sena at the

football ground near the Naya police station in Nagar Kharora. The occasion was graced by the esteemed presence of National President Bhandarpuri Guru Baldas Saheb Ji and his son Yuvraj Guru Saurabh Saheb Ji, revered leaders of the Satnam Dharma.

Amidst the beats of Mangal Bhajan and the grandeur of the Satnam Shobha Yatra, Yuvraj Saurabh delivered a powerful sermon emphasizing the message of Satnam, advocating for truth and equality among all beings. The symbolic hoisting of the Satnam Jaithkham flag further echoed the ideals of truth and unity that define the essence of Satnam Dharma.

Thousands of devotees

gathered at the football ground to seek blessings from the revered religious gurus, Baba Baldas Saheb Ji and Yuvraj Saurabh Saheb Ji, who imparted the teachings of respect and goodness in alignment with the revered Saint Shiramani Guru Baba Ghasidas Ji.

The atmosphere reverberated with excitement and enthusiasm as devotees cheered, clapped, and sought blessings, showcasing their unwavering faith and devotion. The successful organization of the All India Satnam Sena Foundation Day, spearheaded by President Pappu Poorena and the dedicated team, underscored the commitment to fostering unity and cultural cohesion in the region.

Former CMHO's tenure under scrutiny in Kabirdham

Central Chronicle News

Kawardha, Mar 14: Allegations of embezzlement have surfaced within the health department of Kabirdham district, shedding light on purported irregularities during the tenure of former CMHO Dr. Sujoy Mukherjee, reportedly supported by a former minister.

During Mukherjee's leadership, various malpractices including personal use of government vehicles, diesel and medicine purchase scams, recruitment irregularities, and favoritism in salary allocation have been brought to attention. Notably, a significant scam has emerged concerning the allocation of incentives within the

Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

Several doctors stationed across primary and sub-health centers, including the district hospital and block headquarters, are accused of wrongfully claiming incentives meant for their colleagues.

According to the information received, Dr. Pradeep Sahu, Dr. Harish Bharti, Dr. Aditi Chandravanshi, Dr. Garima Sahu, and Dr. Ankita Mahapatra have diligently served at District Hospital Kawardha for nearly two years.

Despite their hard work, however, they have not received the incentive payments owed to them. Shockingly, these doctors' names are listed on the duty roster for patient care. They were rightfully eligible for payment, yet due to alleged collusion among officials, the pay-

Alleged embezzlement unveiled in Ayushman Bharat Scheme



ments were diverted to other doctors who reportedly did not attend to the patients.

The discrepancy has been attributed to the absence of HRMIS (Human Resource Management Information System) IDs at their current postings. Exploiting this loophole, officials are believed to have diverted payments to undeserving recipients, perpetuating favoritism.

Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana / Khubchand Baghel Health Scheme, 40% of

the allocated amount is earmarked for the CMHTF (Chief Minister Hospital Upgradation Fund), aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure.

Another 25% is allocated to the GAD (Jeevandeep Committee), which is tasked with various healthcare initiatives. 34% of the funds are designated for the welfare of employees, including the Chief Doctor, Assistant Doctor, Staff Nurse, OT Technician, and other staff members.

Additionally, 1% of the funds are allocated for miscellaneous expenses, contributing to the comprehensive implementation of the healthcare program.

The revelation has sparked unrest within the health department, prompting calls for a thorough investigation and recovery of misappropriated funds. It is alleged that certain individuals received hefty sums, ranging from Rs 2 to 10 lakh, for purportedly attending to thousands of patients, a claim now under scrutiny.

What official says...

"A complaint has been received regarding irregularities in the incentive amount of Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Investigation is being conducted. Action will be taken after investigation".

- Dr. BL Raj CMHO Kawardha (Kabirdham)

Nutritious meals nourish young minds in Dongargaon

Nyota Bhojan organized in Arsitola, Kokpur, Chichdo and Jantar

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Mar 14: In a heartening display of community spirit and concern for children's well-being, Nyota Bhojan events were organized across several locations within the Dongargarh Development Block, under the purview of Kokpur's Integrated Center.

Led by a dedicated women's group comprising President Punita Bai, Secretary Hirmat Bai, Treasurer Lakshmi Bai, and others, the program aimed to provide nutritious meals to children,



fostering their growth and development.

The initiative, conducted under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Yojana, underscores the significance of communal harmony and nutritional support for children from all sections of society. Sankul coordinator Rahul Jain's presence added gravitas to the occasion,

which commenced with the auspicious worship of Goddess Saraswati, followed by warm welcomes and speeches from honored guests.

Highlighting the objectives of Nyota Bhojan, teacher Sanjeev Kulkhare emphasized its role in promoting a sense of belonging, enhancing the nutritional value of meals,

and bolstering the health of children across diverse communities. The cultural performances by school children added a delightful touch to the event, further enhancing its significance.

The success of the initiative owes much to the tireless efforts of dedicated educators such as Triveni Thakur, Malti Kulkhare, and Principal T.L. Pade, whose contributions were instrumental in orchestrating the event seamlessly. Additionally, Nyota Bhojan events were also organized in primary schools at Arsitola, Kokpur, Chichdo, and pre-secondary school Jantar, under the auspices of the Kokpur sankul, further extending the reach of this noble endeavour.

Girgaon school hosts Nyota Bhojan event

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Mar 14: In a significant stride towards promoting child health and fostering community-school collaboration, the Chhattisgarh government has initiated the tradition of Nyota Bhojan across primary and secondary schools, under the Prime Minister Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme. Serving as a bridge between society and educational institutions, this program aims to enhance mutual relations and coordination.

Embarking on this noble tradition, a Nyota Bhojan event was organized on March 13 at Girgaon Primary and Secondary School, located



within the Dongargaon development block. Hosted by the Shala Parivar Girgaon, the event featured a delectable menu comprising Kheer-Puri, Chole-Potato, Tomato Chutney, papad, and salad, as part of the school mid-day meal. In attendance

were esteemed dignitaries including BEO R.L. Patre, ABEO Kshitij Sori, Rashmi Thakur, Principal of Bijebhantha Higher Secondary School Shobha Srivastava, and village sarpanch Kuman Netam, along with members of the school management

committee. They extended warm wishes for the children's well-being and expressed their commitment to organizing similar events in the future.

The event was graced by the presence of secondary school principal Dwarika Sahu, teachers Lalit Mahajan, Yogesh Nishad, Savitri Netam, as well as primary school principal Rajkumar Thakur and teachers Shashank Sahu, Shamsuddin Ansari, Toman Chandravanshi, and Kumar Sahu. Their collective efforts and participation were pivotal in ensuring the success of the Nyota Bhojan event, for which they received heartfelt appreciation and gratitude from the school community.

Khairagarh police conducts workshop on election preparedness

SP Trilok Bansal leads efforts to ensure peaceful elections

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Mar 14: To ensure smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha elections and maintain law and order, a one-day workshop was convened at the SP office. Led by SP Trilok Bansal, the workshop focused on comprehensive preparations and strategies to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

Key directives were issued during the workshop, emphasizing preventive measures against anti-social elements and strict ac-

tion against individuals spreading rumors or disrupting peace via social media platforms. SP Bansal underscored the importance of swift response to recover illegal substances such as liquor, drugs, weapons, and cash used for inducement.

Attended by Additional SP Neha Pandey, SDO Lalchand Mohle, Deputy Superintendent of Police Headquarters UPU Pradeep Yerewar, and trainee ASP Pratibha Lahere, the meeting delved into a thorough review of election preparations and law enforcement strategies.

Additional SP Neha Pandey provided detailed insights into relevant

statutes, stressing adherence to legal protocols. SDOP Lalchand Mohle elucidated on operational protocols for polling day, while ASP Yerewar and trainee ASP Lahere elaborated on the Property Denotation Act. Station in-charges, including TI Rajesh Devdas and Salhewara TI Jitendra Banjare, discussed the meticulous implementation of the Model Code of Conduct. Furthermore, TI Shivshankar Gendale, TI Alok Sahu, and TI Dharmendra Vaishnav highlighted security measures in Naxal-affected areas, emphasizing collaborative efforts to ensure fair elections and curb criminal activities. Special emphasis

was placed on preventive actions, service of summons/warrants, and expeditious resolution of pending cases. Police were instructed to clamp down on gambling, illegal liquor sales, and drug abuse, with mobile check posts deployed to monitor illegal activities along police station routes and inter-state borders. In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, SP Trilok Bansal emphasized the need for maintaining peace and order during the voting process. Instructions were issued to speed up proceedings under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act, ensuring efficient enforcement of traffic regulations.

Additionally, a directive

was given to monitor social media platforms closely to prevent the dissemination of rumors and misinformation that could disrupt social harmony. Any activity found spreading rumors or obstructing social peace through social media will be met with immediate and strict action.

SP Trilok Bansal affirmed the commitment of the police force to take continuous action against hooligans to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. He emphasized the importance of conducting peaceful elections and warned that legal action would be taken against anyone found violating the Model Code of Conduct.

SP ensures preparedness for LS elections

Central Chronicle News

Gaurelaendra Marwahi, Mar 14: Ahead of the impending Lok Sabha elections, Gaurela Superintendent of Police, Bhavna Gupta, took proactive measures to ensure the smooth conduct of the electoral process. On February 13, Gupta conducted a comprehensive inspection of the inter-state barriers situated at Pendra police station and Marwahi.

During the meticulous inspection, Gupta emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness within the premises. Additionally, she personally reviewed various aspects of the police station's operations, including cases, complaints, crimes, client registers, and pending arrest warrants. Gupta also scrutinized the condition of the premises and buildings, offering necessary directives for the investigation of crimes and up-



keep of essential documents. Addressing the assembled employees and officers, Gupta stressed the significance of maintaining exemplary conduct and fostering positive interactions with the public. Emphasizing community-based policing, she urged everyone to uphold integrity and deliver quality service. Furthermore, Gupta underscored the importance of transparency in electoral proceedings, especially with the Lok Sabha elections looming on the horizon. She instructed all personnel to ensure

that information about their work is readily accessible to the public in a clear and organized manner. In light of the forthcoming elections, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Shyam Kumar Sidar received directives from Gupta to oversee the inspection of checking points at various inter-state borders, including Baraur, Changeri, Maladand, and Dharhar. Sidar was tasked with ensuring that all necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate fair and transparent voting processes.



हम ईश्वर से आपके उत्तम स्वास्थ्य एवं दीर्घायु होने की प्रार्थना करते हैं
आदरणीय लोकप्रिय सांसद

15
मार्च



श्री विजय बघेल जी

को जन्मदिन की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ

मोदी की गारंटी

विष्णु देव साय का संकल्प

और विजय बघेल की सोच

अबकी बार 400 पार



ललित चंद्राकर



राजा पाठक



पप्पू चंद्राकर



प्रकाश चंद्राकर



रामकुमार धनकर



परमजीत सिंह (टोनी)



बाबा वर्मा

सुभाष साव

सुनील चंद्राकर

सुरेन्द्र कौशिक

पोषण वर्मा

अजय बघेल

राजेश वर्मा

राजेश चंद्राकर

सुदीप अग्रवाल

जसवंत सिंह सैनी

सुजीत सिंह



अरुण सिंह

मनमोहन शर्मा

रज्जू सोनी

हर्ष भाले

अखिलेश मिश्रा

नरेश केला

सुरेन्द्र वर्मा

सुनील वर्मा

अनूप चंद्राकर

निरमल जैन

भगवान चंद्राकर



रविन्द्र (रोमी) सिंह

लोकमणी चन्द्राकर

लालेश्वर साहू

खेमलाल साहू

हर्षा लोकमणी चंद्राकर

दिनेश साहू

शंकर वर्मा

विनय चंद्राकर

कमलेश चंद्राकर

विधि यादव

मनीष यादव



पुरेन्द्र साहू

सोनु राम सिंह

शुभम शर्मा

साजन जोसफ

जीत यादव

राजेंद्र पाध्येव

दिलीप साहू

आशीष निमजे

रोहित साहू

विनोद अरोरा

निलेश अग्रवाल



मनोज सोनी

मदन वढ़ाई

मनोज चंद्राकर

गिरेश साहू

फतेलाल वर्मा

शैलेंद्र शेंडे

मनोज शर्मा

विपिन चंद्राकर

आशीष शर्मा

गंगाधीन साहू

धनराज साहू



राधे यादव

आशीष यादव

कृष्ण कुमार यादव

शरत कुमार

अमित बोस

वरुण साहू

निक्की भाले

निखिलेश दावड़ा

समस्त कार्यकर्ता
भारतीय जनता पार्टी

NTPC crosses 400 BU of generation

Surpasses the generation achieved during FY 2022-23

New Delhi, Mar 14:

NTPC Ltd, India's largest power generating company, crossed the 400 Billion Units (BU) of generation mark on 13th March 2024. During FY 2022-23, the company had generated 399.3 BU.

Till 13th Mar 2023-24, NTPC Coal stations recorded a plant loading factor (PLF) of 77.06%.

Earlier during the year, the Company recorded highest ever single day generation of 1428 MU on 1st September 2023. The stellar performance of NTPC units is a testimony to the expertise of NTPC engineers, Operation & Maintenance practices and systems.

Further, this accom-



plishment reinforces NTPC's commitment to delivering reliable and affordable power to the Nation.

While NTPC has an installed capacity of 75.4 GW,

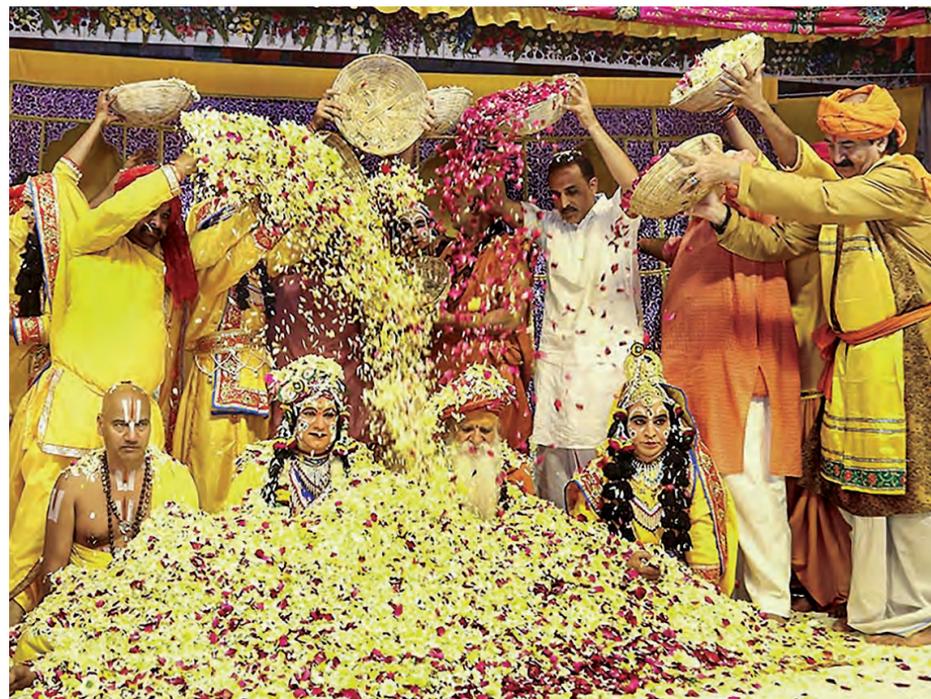
18 GW capacity including 5 GW Renewables is under construction. The company is committed to achieve 60 GW of Renewable Energy capacity by 2032.

Along with power gener-

ation, NTPC has also ventured into various new business areas including e-mobility, Waste-to-Energy, Green Hydrogen solutions and participated in the bidding for power distribution of Union Territories.

NTPC Ltd. is India's largest integrated power utility, contributing 1/4th of the power requirement of the country. With a diverse portfolio of thermal, hydro, solar, and wind power plants, NTPC is dedicated to delivering reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to the Nation. The company is committed to adopting best practices, fostering innovation, and embracing clean energy technologies for a greener future.

LATTHMAAR HOLI



Devotees celebrate 'Latthmaar Holi' at Ramanreti Ashram, near Mathura, Thursday.

INDIA bloc will defeat BJP on all 80 seats in UP 'Kriti Singh Debbarma made NDA nominee in LS polls'

Badaun (UP), Mar 14 (PTI):

Samajwadi Party leader Shivalp Singh Yadav on Thursday started his Lok Sabha poll campaign in Badaun in western Uttar Pradesh with a 'Jan Sampark Yatra' and claimed that the INDIA bloc will defeat the BJP on all 80 seats in the state.

Yadav, who has been fielded by his party from Badaun Lok Sabha seat, also said that the ruling BJP is not finding a candidate against him.

Earlier in a post in Hindi on X, Yadav said he shares a decades-long relationship with the region. "I have several stories and memories related to Badaun," he added.

The SP leader also shared a couplet of famous poet Shakeel Badayuni along with his



Shivalp Singh Yadav

post on the microblogging platform.

Talking to reporters during the 'Jan Sampark (public relations) Yatra', the SP leader stressed, "Badaun has been the stronghold of Samajwadi Party...from here 'Netaji' (Mulayam Singh Yadav), Professor Saheb (Ram Gopal Yadav) and Dharmendra have been MPs. Now I have come."

Dharmendra Yadav had won 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha polls from the seat but was trounced in the 2019 polls.

Claiming that the BJP is not able to find a candidate against him, Yadav said, "Let them first announce a candidate...INDIA bloc will trounce them on all the 80 seats."

The SP and the Congress — the INDIA bloc partners — have announced a tie-up for the Lok Sabha polls in UP. As per the seat-sharing arrangement, the SP will contest on 63 seats while the remaining 17 seats have been allotted to the grand old party.

On reaching Badaun for the first time after being made a candidate, Yadav was accorded a warm welcome.

"Development of

Badaun will be my first priority," he said and also sought support of the media in winning the seat.

To a question, he termed the BJP as "a party of liars". "All the promises made by the BJP have turned out to be hollow."

Asked about Ram Nath Kovind-led committee on simultaneous elections submitting its report to President Droupadi Murmu, the SP leader said, "The BJP is arrogant and that is why it is doing such things."

On when he will go to Ayodhya, Yadav said the temple has been built and when the god calls, he will definitely go.

Earlier, talking to reporters in Etawah before leaving for Badaun, the SP leader said, "Jan Sampark will start from Badaun."

Asked about the BJP-led

Centre's decision to implement the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, he said, "The BJP can do anything to harass people."

Reacting to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's recent attack on the then SP government in the state for opening fire on 'karsevaks' in Ayodhya in 1990, Yadav said, "The BJP does not do any work. It only raises old issues."

"Everyone knows that the Ram temple (in Ayodhya) was built following the (Supreme) court's order. The BJP does not have any issue, so it raises these things during elections," he added.

The SP won the Badaun Lok Sabha seat in 2014 but lost it to the BJP in 2019. The party, led by former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav, is eyeing to reclaim the seat.

To implement historic accord

Agartala, Mar 14 (PTI):

Tripura Motha chief Pradyot Debbarma on Thursday asserted that his elder sister Kriti Singh Debbarma was named as the NDA candidate in the East Tripura Lok Sabha seat to implement the "historic accord" with the Centre and the state government.

Kriti Singh Debbarma was named as the NDA candidate for the East Tripura Lok Sabha seat on Wednesday. She will contest the polls on the BJP's election symbol of lotus and not on the Tripura Motha's symbol of pineapple.

"We have signed a historic accord with the



Pradyot Debbarma

Centre and the state government for a permanent constitutional solution to the problems of the indigenous people of the state.

"It is very important to have a perfect person in Delhi to undertake discussions for implementing the accord," Pradyot Debbarma told reporters after arriving at MBB Airport here from the national capital with his elder sister.

Tripura Motha has recent-

ly signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre and the state government under which, a joint working group will be constituted to solve the problems of the indigenous people.

Thousands of party workers and supporters gave a rousing welcome to Pradyot Debbarma and Kriti Singh Debbarma. However, no BJP leader was present there.

Reacting to her nomination, she said, "I will give my best and will perform whatever task is assigned to me." Pradyot Debbarma added, "After discussions with the BJP, we agreed to make my elder sister the candidate for East Tripura Lok Sabha constituency. We believe she would lead us to a solution to the problems of the indigenous people."

'My belief aligns with BJP's vision for India's development'

Bengaluru, Mar 14 (PTI):

The scion of the erstwhile Mysuru royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar on Thursday said he decided to join the BJP as his own belief aligns with the party's vision for the development of India.

Wadiyar was named by the BJP as its candidate in Mysuru constituency in the coming Lok Sabha elections, replacing incumbent MP Pratap Simha, on Wednesday.

"There is no concept of Raja' (king) and Praja' (subjects) in modern India and everyone is a common man before God and the law", he said after visiting the BJP state office here, and meeting veteran party leader B S Yediyurappa at his residence.

"I think their (BJP) vision for country in terms



Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar

of development aligns with my own vision and beliefs and I think, therefore, if you work with an institution, you must align with their cause and so I chose the BJP," the 32-year-old who is entering the poll fray for the first time, said.

Mysuru is the home district of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The Congress is yet to name its candidate for the Mysuru seat. Wadiyar said he is confident of his victory and welcomed competition.

Thanking the BJP for

"I am as confident as one can be. Of course, the Chief Minister has held the bastion for a long time and we too have our own influence. I welcome all competition and I hope that we have a fair fight based on our ability and we will return victorious," he said.

Wadiyar sought to downplay some Congress leaders seeking to promote a narrative that the electoral fight in Mysuru is going to be between "common man vs king".

"Well, it is only a narrative. Before the law and God there is no such thing like a king. Everybody is a common man. So, this is a fight between common man and a common man only. It will be judged by the ability of the candidate," the US-educated Wadiyar said.

Thanking the BJP for

giving him an opportunity to contest the election, he said he would strive towards the development of Mysuru and Kodagu districts to bring them up on the world map.

Wadiyar said he decided to join politics as he can bring major changes in the region. "I think politics is the right way to influence the policies and bring in a means to implement at a greater scale of development."

On Pratap Simha, who was the MP for 10 years, being denied re-nomination, Wadiyar said he has spoken to him. "He (Pratap Simha) has already assured of his support and of course he has already done wonderful work in the last 10 years laying the foundation stone for much of the development of Mysuru. We will continue the good work he has done," he said.

Former Indian athlete Padmini Thomas leaves Cong, joins BJP

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 14 (PTI): Former Indian athlete Padmini Thomas and ex-District Congress Committee general secretary Thampanoor Sathesh on Thursday left the Congress and joined the BJP.

The move comes a day after the BJP's state chief, K Surendran, announced that more Congress members would be joining the saffron party. The development also comes a week after Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister and Congress leader Karunakaran, had joined the BJP.

Thomas, who won a silver and a bronze medal in the 1982 Asian Games, said that she decided to leave the grand old party as she was fed up with it.

She alleged that she suffered a lot emotionally and mentally which triggered



Padmini Thomas

her decision to join the BJP. "I have not joined the BJP for any positions. I was happy and impressed with the Modi government as it gave priority and reservation to women," Thomas, an Arjuna Awardee, told reporters here after joining the saffron party.

Sathesh alleged that the downfall of the Congress in Kerala began after the death of party stalwart K Karunakaran.

He said that some Congress leaders were of the view that the party would not be affected by

those leaving it.

"I would like to tell them that this is only the beginning. Soon, Congress workers from all 14 districts of the state will flow to the BJP," he claimed.

The reason he cited for this was the alleged neglect shown by the grand old party towards its workers.

"Whenever the UDF comes to power, the Congress leaders are inside and the workers are sidelined. The leaders have never tried to ensure jobs or employment for the workers."

"They never even bothered to find out how they were living. This time around, the BJP will have a good showing in the elections from Kerala," Sathesh contended.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition in the state assembly V D Satheshaan claimed that no one of any

importance has left the Congress to join the BJP.

He also claimed that BJP members have been joining the Congress in Haryana and Rajasthan and in Telangana, all the sitting MPs of the saffron party have expressed their intention to join the grand old party.

Satheshaan alleged that it was the ruling CPI(M) in the state which was using certain intermediaries to woo Congress leaders away from the party and make them join the BJP.

"The CPI(M) is trying to create a space for the BJP in Kerala where it does not have any," the opposition leader alleged.

Surendran on Wednesday had said that members of not just the Congress, but the ruling LDF in the state would also be joining the saffron party in the coming days.

FRESH SNOWFALL



Snow-covered area near the Atal Tunnel after a fresh snowfall, in Manali, Thursday.

Mumbai's iconic AI building with 'numerous firsts' gets new owner

Mumbai, Mar 14 (PTI):

Standing on the land reclaimed from sea for more than five decades now, Air India building in the country's commercial capital in the 1970s had people queuing up just to have the experience of using an elevator.

Designed by New York-based architect John Burgee matching the aspirations of J R D Tata, the 23-storey building was among the first in those days to have elevators, neon signage on top and two levels of basement parking to name a few facilities.

The building had "numerous firsts" is how a retired senior official of erstwhile Air India put it on Thursday as he recalled



his more than two decade-long stint there.

And the neon signage on top of the building that displayed Centaur, the logo of Air India which was later replaced after the merger of Indian Airlines, was also a key attraction in the 1970s as not many structures boasted of such an element.

With its central location, the iconic building, which completed 50 years in June

2020, also provides an expansive view of the Marine Drive from Nariman Point up to Malabar Hill.

On Thursday, the central government announced approving the transfer of the Air India building in Mumbai to the Maharashtra government for a consideration of Rs 1,601 crore.

Former executive director of erstwhile Air India Jitender Bhargava, who had worked out of the building for over 20 years, on Thursday told PTI that the building had "numerous firsts" and added that the board room was on the 23rd floor.

Centralised air conditioning facilities and elevators with piped music were among the other attractions. When Burgee designed the building, it was one of its kind at that time in 1970.

Centralised air condi-

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Ajay Advt.