

### BRIEF



A security official stands guard at the Kartavya Path on a cold winter morning during fog, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

### UGC caution

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) warned universities on Wednesday against offering MPhil courses, saying it is not a recognised degree and cautioning students against taking admission in such programmes. "It has come to the notice of the UGC that a few universities are inviting fresh applications for MPhil (Master of Philosophy) programmes. In this regard, it is to bring to the notice that MPhil is not a recognised degree.

### Online fraud

Thane: A 54-year-old woman from Panvel in Maharashtra lost more than Rs three lakh to an online fraud while buying dry-fruits, police said on Wednesday. As per the woman's complaint, she came upon an advertisement for a dry-fruits store on Facebook on September 20 and ordered some dry-fruits. When she contacted the number mentioned in the advertisement, the person at the other end instructed her about how to make payment through a UPI-based app.

### Magisterial probe

Jammu: A man died after he was detained by police on the basis of a court warrant in Jammu district following which authorities have ordered a magisterial probe, an official said on Wednesday. While the relatives of the man raised questions on the circumstances surrounding his death, police denied any foul play.

### First case

New Delhi: Delhi has reported its first case of COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1, officials said on Wednesday. Delhi has more than 35 active cases with nine fresh infections being reported on Wednesday, an official said, adding that a 28-year-old man, who had comorbidities, died, with Covid not being the primary reason.

### Fire

Mumbai: About a dozen people were feared trapped after a fire broke out at a three-storey shopping centre in suburban Malad (West) on Wednesday evening, a civic official said. Fire was reported at Acme Shopping Centre on Jain Mandir Road around 6.50 pm, the official said, adding that four fire engines and other vehicles were rushed to the spot.

**Weather**  
High 28 Low 13

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 21654.75  
SENSEX 72038.43

**BULLION**  
GOLD 63360  
SILVER 75170

### MAJOR SUCCESS

# Mahadev app owner Chandrakar detained in Dubai

■ ED may file fresh charge sheet

Mumbai/Raipur, Dec 27 (PTI): Sourabh Chandrakar, one of the promoters of the Mahadev online betting app, has been put under "house detention" in Dubai while Indian probe agencies, including ED, have been "alerted" and are working through diplomatic channels to secure the deportation or extradition of the two who are vital to the money laundering and police investigation into the alleged illegal activities of the 'Mahadev Book Online' app that also have political links in Chhattisgarh and elsewhere, the sources said.

The Enforcement Directorate may also file a fresh charge sheet in this multi-crore money laundering case soon, they said. The development comes weeks after Ravi Uppal, another promoter of the betting and gaming app, was detained by local authorities in Dubai on a red notice (RN) issued by

Interpol at the behest of the ED.

The sources said Chandrakar's location in Dubai has been intimated to the federal agency and he has been put under "house detention".

Indian agencies are working, through diplomatic channels, to secure the deportation or extradition of the two who are vital to the money laundering and police investigation into the alleged illegal activities of the 'Mahadev Book Online' app that also have political links in Chhattisgarh and elsewhere, the sources said.

The ED is also expected to file a fresh (supplementary) charge sheet in this case against two people arrested by it in November from Chhattisgarh - alleged cash courier Asim Das and police constable



Bheem Yadav.

The agency, in its first charge sheet filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Raipur, had named Chandrakar and Uppal along with some others.

In this charge sheet, it had quoted the statement of Dilip Chandrakar, the uncle of Sourabh Chandrakar, that before Sourabh went to Dubai in

2019 he ran a juice shop named 'juice factory' along with his brother in Bhilai town of Chhattisgarh.

The ED claimed Sourabh Chandrakar got married at Ras Al Khaimah, UAE in February 2023 and about Rs 200 crore "in cash" were spent for this event in which private jets were hired to ferry his relatives from India to the UAE and celebrities were paid to perform. Uppal, 43, was detained last week in Dubai.

Both businessmen are being probed by the ED in the money laundering case linked to alleged illegal betting through online apps, apart from investigations by the Chhattisgarh and Mumbai Police Crime Branch.

A red notice was issued against the two by Interpol on the basis of the ED's request that was based on a

court-issued non-bailable warrant.

The projected proceeds of crime in this case are about Rs 6,000 crore, according to the ED.

The agency had claimed in November, just before the first phase of Chhattisgarh assembly polls, that forensic analysis and statement made by a 'cash courier' Asim Das have led to "startling allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters have paid about Rs 508 crore to former Chhattisgarh chief minister and senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel, adding that these allegations were "subject matter of investigation".

Das had later submitted before the special court in Raipur that he had been framed as part of a conspiracy and he had never delivered cash to politicians.



## Cabinet nod to open Consulate General of India in Auckland

In Auckland

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI): India will soon open a consulate general in Auckland, which is home to a large number of non-resident Indians in New Zealand.

The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, approved the proposal to open a Consulate General of India in Auckland, an official statement said. The consulate is likely to be opened and fully operationalised within 12 months, it added. India

currently has a consulate in Auckland, which is headed by an honorary consul. The opening of a consulate general would pave the way for the appointment of a consul general, a post usually held by an officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). Opening the Consulate General of India in Auckland would help increase the country's diplomatic footprint and strengthen its representation in view of its increasing global engagement, the statement said.

## Accused Neelam Azad challenges police remand

PARL SECURITY BREACH CASE

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI): Neelam Azad, an accused arrested in the December 13 Parliament security breach case, Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court alleging her police remand was illegal as she was not allowed to consult a legal practitioner of her choice to defend her during the trial court proceedings.

In her petition seeking a writ of habeas corpus directing her production before the high court as well as an order to "set her at liberty", Azad said not allowing her to consult a

lawyer of her choice amounted to violation of her fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution, making the remand order unlawful. The trial court has remanded her in police custody till January 5.

The matter is likely to be mentioned for urgent hearing before a vacation bench of the high court on Thursday.

Under Indian laws, a detainee or a person on their behalf can file a habeas corpus petition in a high court or the Supreme Court for their production if they feel they have been detained illegally. Upon production, if the court

concerned concludes that the detention is illegal, it can order their release.

"Upon her arrest, the petitioner's family wasn't informed. It was informed only in the evening of 14.12.2023. Further, she wasn't permitted to meet any person including advocates which is mandatory under Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India. Even at the court a single DLSA (Delhi Legal Services Authority) counsel was appointed to all the accused persons without giving them any choice among counsels," the plea, filed through lawyer Suresh Kumar, alleged.

## 'Govt working to make cooperatives strong aspect of rural life'

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said his government is working to make cooperatives a strong aspect of rural life, asserting that they are being scaled up in fisheries and different sectors of agriculture after making a mark in dairy and sugar industries.

In a virtual interaction with beneficiaries of the ongoing 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', he batted for protecting the interests of small farmers saying they are at times forced to sell their produce at low prices due to a lack of storage facilities and his government will boost storage capacity massively across the country. "We have to build



PM Modi addresses the beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via a video conference, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

lakhs of such storage facilities," he said.

With the yatra seeking to cover those so far left out of his government's flagship welfare schemes, he said the change in the lives of crores of beneficiaries of these pro-

50 days since the yatra began and it is a record that it has already covered 2.5 lakh villages, he said.

During the yatra, he said, one crore people have been given 'Ayushman' cards to benefit from the government-run health insurance scheme for the poor, 1.25 crore people have undergone health check-ups while more than 70 lakh were inspected for tuberculosis.

Taking a swipe at previous dispensations, he said if the situation seen during their tenure had prevailed now, then prospective beneficiaries of these schemes would have lost their hopes doing the rounds of government offices.

## NEW FACADE



Buildings bear new facade near Hanuman Garhi Temple, as part of redevelopment project in Ayodhya, Wednesday.

## Pro-Kannada outfit goes on a rampage

Bengaluru, Dec 27 (PTI): The Karnataka Rakshana Vedike on Wednesday targeted business establishments in Bengaluru and damaged their signboards and name plates that did not display the information in Kannada.

The activists of the Narayana Gowda faction of the KRS held rallies in various parts of the city, especially in business hubs such as MG Road, Brigade Road, Lavelle Road, UB City, Chamarajpet, Chickpet, Kempe Gowda Road, Gandhi Nagar, St Marks Road, Cunningham Road, Residency Road and Sadahalli Gate near Devanahalli. The activists



Police personnel try to stop Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Narayana Gowda faction) activists vandalising a signboard of a business establishment, in Bengaluru, Wednesday.

claimed that the business establishments were "undermining the official lan-

guage of Karnataka, which is Kannada."

Many malls, shops, commercial buildings, companies and factories, especially multinational companies, faced the ire of KRV activists, who damaged and defaced signboards and name plates which were not in Kannada.

Later, the agitating members, including KRV convenor T A Narayana Gowda, were taken into preventive custody by the police. Addressing reporters, Gowda said that name plates and signboards in Karnataka should be in Kannada. Citing BBMP rules, he said, "Sixty per cent of the (space on the) signboards and name plates should be in Kannada.

## ED attaches fresh assets worth over Rs 278 cr

MOBILE APP FRAUD

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has attached assets worth more than Rs 278 crore of various entities, including those with links to China, in a money-laundering probe over the alleged cheating of investors through mobile phone-based app 'HPZ Token'.

The ED had earlier attached properties worth Rs 176.67 crore in the case. An order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been issued to provisionally attach "proceeds of crime in the form of movable and immovable prop-

erties valued at Rs 278.71 crore belonging to various persons and shell (dummy) entities, including Chinese-linked shell entities, which were allegedly found to be involved in duping investors of hundreds of crores", the central agency said in a statement.

The money-laundering case stems from an October 2021 FIR registered by the cyber crime police station in Nagaland's Kohima on the charge of duping gullible investors, who were promised "astronomical" returns on investing money for the purpose of mining Bitcoins and other crypto currencies, it added.

## Rajnath visits border areas in J-K

■ Reviews security situation along LoC

Jammu, Dec 27 (PTI): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday visited the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control (LoC), officials said. Singh also carried out a firsthand assessment of the ongoing counter-terror operations in Rajouri and Poonch districts, they said. The defence minister's visit comes nearly a week after four soldiers were killed when their vehicles were ambushed by terrorists in the Surankote area of Poonch on December 21. Accompanied by Army



chief General Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, the defence minister flew to Rajouri district this afternoon immediately after his arrival here.

On his return from Rajouri, Singh visited Raj Bhawan and held a closed door security review meeting, the officials said.

Assures justice, asks Army to 'avoid mistakes'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday assured justice to the families of three civilians who were found dead last week after being allegedly picked up by the Army following an ambush on two of Army vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

## 'Inciting to establish Islamic rule': JK outfit banned

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

A faction of Muslim League Jammu Kashmir, led by separatist leader Masarat Alam Bhat, was on Wednesday declared a banned organisation by the government under the stringent anti-terror law.

The ban comes as a response to the outfit's involvement in anti-national and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the intent to create a reign of terror in the country, the Union Home Ministry said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while announcing the ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, empha-

sised that the Modi government's message is clear that those who act against the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of the nation will face the full wrath of the law and will not be spared.

"The Muslim League Jammu Kashmir (Masarat Alam faction) is declared as an 'Unlawful Association' under UAPA. This organisation and its members are involved in anti-national and secessionist activities in J&K, supporting terrorist activities, and inciting people to establish Islamic rule in J&K," Shah said in a post on X. Masarat Alam Bhat is known for his anti-India and pro-Pakistan propaganda.

# Notorious goon linked with Mahadev Book arrested

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** Vaishali Nagar Police succeeded to arrest an absconding notorious criminal, who was also linked with the Mahadev Book Online Betting. The accused Deepak Kumar Singh alias Deepak Nepali was arrested under the National Security Act 1980. About 17 crimes are registered against him in various police stations of the city. He was wanted in cases of kidnapping, fraud and online betting.

On the instructions of SSP Ram Gopal Garg and under supervision of ASP (City) Abhishek Jha, the team of Vaishali Nagar Police Station traced and



arrested the notorious criminal Deepak Kumar Singh alias Deepak Nepali, who was absconding for a long time. Police were continuously keeping an eye on all the possible hideouts of Deepak Nepali. Meanwhile, Police received a tip off about Deepak Nepali's presence in Vaishali Nagar area.

He was trying to escape from the city, but the cops of Vaishali Nagar Police Station managed to arrest him. He was booked under the National Security Act 1980. A total of 17 cases against him are pending in the court and 05 cases are under investigation. The accused is being interrogated in connection with other cases.

cases registered in Police Station Chhawani, 2 in Supela, 2 in Jamul, 01 each in Vaishali Nagar, Old Bhilai and Bhilai Nagar. He was one of the key persons who managed and spread the illegal cricket betting business of Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh.

He was absconding for a long time in the cases of kidnapping, loot and assault in police station Chhawani, online betting in Jamul, fraud and online betting in Police Station Old Bhilai. 12 cases against him are pending in the court and 05 cases are under investigation. The accused is being interrogated in connection with other cases.

## Contract labour dies in suspicious condition

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** A contract labour died in suspicious condition at CEZ area of Bhilai Steel Plant on Wednesday. The deceased was Darendra Kumar (40) son of Anjor Singh, a contract worker with M Mohan at Projects Coke zone of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant. He was undergoing Safety training in CEZ area on December 27. He went out of the training hall. After some time, he was found lying on the ground near the Safety training hall in CEZ area. An ambulance was called in and he was rushed to Main Medical Post at around 4.40 pm. He was declared brought dead at 04.50 pm in the Main Medical Post. Investigations are on.

# Police exploring all angles in Jamul suicide case

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** Police are exploring all the possible angles in the shocking incident of Jamul in which a man poisoned himself and his family on the intervening night of Tuesday. The man and his elder daughter died while two other members of the family are recuperating in the hospital. The investigating officers have not found any suicide note or any other evidence in connection with this case.

The family members, friends and neighbours are also unable to ascertain the cause. Overall, the cops are clueless on this case. On Wednesday, the last rites of the deceased

man Hemlal Verma and his daughter Priya were performed at Jamul muktidham.

It could be recollected here that a shocking incident occurred on the intervening night of Tuesday at Ward 04 of Jamul. Hemlal Verma (41), who worked as a Contract Worker (Pump Operator) in Bhilai Municipal Corporation, poisoned self, wife and two daughters.

Hemlal brought some liquid and informed the family that it was some medicine to remain protected from Corona, cough and cold. He insisted and made his wife Jahanvi (38) and daughters Priya (14) and Muskaan (11) to consume it. Thereafter, Hemlal too

consumed the same.

After some time, all the four complained nausea and vomiting.

Jahanvi came downstairs and sought help from her father-in-law Sundar Lal Verma. A local doctor examined the family and suggested them to immediately go to the hospital. Later, the Doctor himself took the entire family in his car to Sparsh Hospital in Ramnagar. Hemlal Verma and his elder daughter Priya succumbed during treatment. His wife Jahanvi and daughter Muskaan are recuperating in the hospital. The wife is also unaware about the reason that made Hemlal take this extreme step.

# MGM School's 'Batch Of '99' walks down memory lane

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** The reunion meet, aptly titled '99 Not Out' drew together students from the Class of 99, along with their esteemed teachers, for a nostalgic journey down memory lane. This special gathering marked the twenty-fifth year since their school passing out, and it unfolded over three memorable days.

The event commenced with a joyous assembly at the MGM school auditorium, where the atmosphere was electric with the excitement of old friends reuniting after many years. The air was filled with the laughter and warmth of cherished memories as the 99 batch came together to celebrate the enduring bonds forged during their school days.

The event kicked off with the alumni attending the school's sports day celebration. Members of the 99 batch were honoured guests, taking part in distributing medals to the accomplished winners of various sporting events within the school. A nostalgic moment unfolded as one of the alumni CA Rinu V Koshy clad in his era school dress, evoked memories by leading the school prayer.

The atmosphere was enlivened with vibrant and captivating dance performances by Smita Pillai, Prerna, Anju, Geeta, Swapna, Anupama, Ramanjeet, Jaspreet, Shimona, Amit Sharma, Ankur Jain, Sudhanshu, Heera Shankar, Anirudh, Deepak, Kirpal and Amit Jain.

Their energetic displays resonated like a delightful blast from the past, adding a touch of exuberance to the gathering. The event not only celebrated academic achievements but also showcased the diverse talents and enduring spirit of the alumni, creating an unforgettable experience for all in attendance.

The journey down memory lane was beautifully encapsulated through melodious and enchanting songs sung by Manjusha and Shishir on the stage. Adding to the nostalgic ambiance, teacher Shaji Mathew graced the stage, contributing with his soulful rendition of an old-era song. The audience, deeply moved by the performances, enthusiastically joined in, creating a harmonious atmosphere where everyone could cherish and relive the bygone era together.

The teachers who played a pivotal role in shaping the future of the alumni were honoured and appreciated during the reunion. They were felicitated with heartfelt gratitude, receiving mementos and thoughtful gifts as tokens of appreciation for their enduring dedication and influence on the lives of the students.

This gesture was a sincere expression of gratitude, recognizing the profound impact these educators had on the paths and successes of the alumni. The Teachers who participated included Madam Valsala Tambi who travelled down from Kerala, Madam Kamalamma, Madam Retnamma, Madam Mariamma, GC Sharma, Sanjay Lakhe Sir, Madam Sujaya, Madam Beena T Biju, Madam Geeta, Shaji Chacko Sir, Shaji Mathew Sir, Madam Anita Rajan, Madam Swapna Chacko, Madam Beena P, and Madam Minu. The office staff from that era, affectionately known as

found impact these educators had on the paths and successes of the alumni. The Teachers who participated included Madam Valsala Tambi who travelled down from Kerala, Madam Kamalamma, Madam Retnamma, Madam Mariamma, GC Sharma, Sanjay Lakhe Sir, Madam Sujaya, Madam Beena T Biju, Madam Geeta, Shaji Chacko Sir, Shaji Mathew Sir, Madam Anita Rajan, Madam Swapna Chacko, Madam Beena P, and Madam Minu. The office staff from that era, affectionately known as

Bhaiya also joined the festivities. Their presence added a special touch of nostalgia.

Principal Shaji Chacko conveyed his warm wishes and extended congratulations for the grand success of the event. During his address, he reflected on the illustrious teachings from MGM that have left a lasting impact on the students. His words celebrated the enduring legacy of the institution and the positive influence it has had on the lives of those who passed through its halls. The heartfelt expression of gratitude and ac-

knowledgment from the principal added a meaningful touch to the overall celebration.

Offstage games were expertly conducted by Pooja, adding an extra layer of fun and engagement to the reunion. The seamless flow of the event was facilitated by the dynamic compering skills of Komal and Ankur, who guided the various activities with charm and enthusiasm. Some of the teachers shared their thoughts. Additionally, Amol, an alumnus, took the opportunity to express his thoughts during the meet.

Following the formal events, the students gathered at a private farmhouse for a more relaxed and enjoyable celebration. The festivities included entertainment by

DJs, a scenic boat ride on the Shrivnath River, and engaging karaoke singing sessions. This informal setting provided a wonderful opportunity for the alumni to unwind, reminisce, and create new memories in a more casual and festive atmosphere. The diverse activities added a layer of joy and fellowship to the overall reunion experience.

The alumni continued their reunion within an out-bound trip to the National Forest Reserve at Kanha Kisi. This excursion provided a joyful, memorable, and enjoyable opportunity for them to reconnect with their "chuddy buddies" in the midst of nature.

The trip not only fostered solidarity but also allowed the alumni to create lasting memories in a serene and scenic setting, enhancing the overall reunion experience. The organizing committee, comprised of Komal, Smita, Pooja, Anupama, Surinder, Amit Jain, Amit Sharma, Deepak, Kirpal, Ankur, and Rinu.



# Devendra expresses gratitude to voters

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** After winning the assembly elections, Bhilai Nagar MLA Devendra Yadav is reaching out to his voters to express his gratitude. In this series, MLA Devendra Yadav reached Ward 39 Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar Ward and visited door-to-door to meet the citizens.

A crowd of hundreds of people gathered on finding the MLA in their locality. On his arrival, the citizens accorded him a grand welcome with garlands and flowers. Thereafter, the women offered aarti and applied tilak to Devendra Yadav.

After his victory, there was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm among



the people. People took selfies with the MLA. Addressing the people, MLA Yadav expressed his gratitude to everyone who showed confidence in him. He said that he will always be grateful for the love and

blessings he got from the people. Addressing the people, he said that it is because of their faith that he is standing among them as an MLA. Devendra added that the people have once

again given him the privilege of serving the public. He promised to fulfill this responsibility with complete honesty and devotion. He added that he will continue to serve the people.

# Sinter Plants shatter records with Historic Sinter Production

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** Sinter Plants of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant have achieved a historic milestone by soaring past its own records and setting a new record. On December 24, 2023, the team produced 27,287 tons of Sinter, surpassing the previous record of 27,049 tons set on October 23, 2023 for the highest ever daily sinter production.

This has been achieved under the leadership of MRK Shariff, GM I/c SP-III and Jagendra Kumar, GM I/c, SP-II and guidance of Anup Kumar Dutta, CGM(SP). The team's dedication was reflected in the substantial outputs from



SP-2 and SP-3, contributing 18,654 tons and 8,633 tons, respectively, to this historic total.

This marks a significant milestone in the Plant's journey towards operational excellence and innovation. It is a testament to the team's hard work and unwavering commitment

to quality and efficiency, as well as a reflection of the seamless collaboration between various departments.

The major repairs of both Sinter machines of SP-III were unprecedented. Such a huge variety and volume of jobs have been taken up in a capital repair

with the unwavering support of the management. Not to be left behind, Sinter Plant - II with their never say die attitude have been attaining new heights in increasing reliability and productivity of the plant.

This event sets a new benchmark for the Sinter production and shall serve as a beacon of inspiration, showcasing the potential for further growth and efficiency. The performance of the team has been appreciated by the Higher Management of Bhilai Steel Plant and they have expressed confidence that with their resilient spirit, Sinter Plants will keep attaining new heights every day.

# Atul serves homeless on Atal Jayanti



Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** BJP leader Atul Parvat served the homeless people on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. #Bhilai Can Do - Parvat Foundation President and BJP leader Atul Parvat and

his friends visited the premises of Feel Parmartham Foundation located in Sector-3.

They offered floral tributes at the portrait of Late Atal Bihari ji. He gifted a medical bed for the patients living at Feel Parmartham Foundation. Parvat said that it is a very special day as Good Governance Day is

being celebrated with enthusiasm in the entire state of Chhattisgarh. Atal ji was a true public hero and was accepted by all sections of the people. Atal ji's contribution to the country will always be remembered. Amitesh Singh, Ram Kumar, Satvik Tiwari, Navjot Singh were present on this occasion.

# IGP gives tips to improve basic policing

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Dec 27:** Inspector General of Police (Durg Range) Badri Narayan Meena chaired a meeting of all the gazetted officers of Durg District in the Police Control Room on Wednesday. Ram Gopal Garg, Senior Superintendent of Police, Durg and all the gazetted officers, police station / chowki in-charge of the district were present.

IG Meena stressed on the need to improve policing in the district, dealing with the public in a better manner, reaching among the general public, getting information about their problems and resolving the same.

He also spoke about reviewing and solving cyber crime cases, minor acts



and taking action under restrictive sections. He asked the police officers to identify and rectify the road accident sites, improve night patrolling, review the work of Dial 112, resolve pending cases, etc. He asked the police station / chowki in-charges to inspect the crime scenes in property related crimes and encourage people to

install CCTV cameras. City Superintendents of Police / Police Sub-Divisional Officers were directed to explore the requirement of resources in the police stations. He directed to take concrete and effective action against those doing illegal activities in the district and curb the illegal activities completely.

Abhishek Jha (Additional Superintendent of Police, City), Anurag Jha (Additional Superintendent of Police, Crime), Mita Pawar (Additional Superintendent of Police, IUCAW) and all gazetted officers of the district, police station / chowki in-charges were present.

## OBITUARY

PC Rao



**Bhilai:** Karmachari Nagar Durg resident PC Rao left for heavenly abode at the age of 76 years on Tuesday. Last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Nehru Nagar Christian Cemetery. She was the mother of railway employee P Sunil Kumar.

## Samaj should reinvest money earned for welfare of society: Om Birla



**Raigarh, Dec 27:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that it is with the blessings and inspiration of Lord Shri Agrasen that the Agroha Bhavan has been dedicated in this industrial, cultural and handicraft rich land of Raigarh in Chhattisgarh and he extended greetings to CM Vishnu Deo Sai. Since it is also the economic capital and tribal dominated as well and it is the responsibility of you all to bring them forward and establish a harmonious society. The long experience and able leadership of CM Deo will take this state forward and here experienced leaders like Brijmohan Agrawal who has served both in MP and

Chhattisgarh is also there and OP Choudhary has got good experience as an IAS and all this will benefit the state, he added. LS Speaker Om Birla hailed the works of the Trustees of Agroha Dhaam and said it is for the first time that he is inaugurating such a huge bhavan. Agrawal Samaj has established many factories and industries in the country and provided employment to thousands. It was after independence, the Agrawal samaj formed 'dharamshalas' in big and small cities all over the country, he said, adding that it is responsibility of all to form well-developed 'Bharat'. The people from Agrawal samaj wants to

open Colleges, Hospitals and others and it is good thing, but all the Samaj should work along with the government to make it 'Viksit Bharat' and it is with assistance of all that Chhattisgarh would become a well-developed state, as there is lot of potential and scope and the new government stands committed to it.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai said that it is an honour that dedication of 'Agroha Bhavan' in Raigarh is being carried out at the hands of LS Speaker Om Birla. Agrawal samaj has always worked for the service to humanity and construction of Agroha Dhaam stands testimony to it and it will be utilized for the welfare of the society and he extended greetings to all the Trustees for the same. Sai also expressed gratitude to all denizens of Raigarh saying that for 20 yrs they elected him as their LS MP and it is with their blessings that he got opportunity to serve them as CM and would continue to render service to state. Being CM he assured that those who

have thought of opening a hospital would get all assistance from the state government and there is need for a big hospital as well. Sai said that what all promises made by BJP through 'Modi ki Guarantee' would be fulfilled and expressed gratitude towards all for being present for this auspicious work.

Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that Agrawal Samaj is highly inclined towards service to the society and the Agroha Bhavan here is huge and beautiful and if the Trustees make arrangements for studies and marriage of poor, then it will be equally more appreciable. Minister OP Choudhary extended greetings to Agrawal Samaj for Agroha Bhavan and said that it will prove to be highly useful to people of Raigarh.

## Govt orders immediate ban on release of fund for Rajiv Yuva Mitran Clubs

**Raipur, Dec 27:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has put a break on release of fund for the Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club scheme introduced by the erstwhile Congress government led by Bhupesh Baghel.

Director Sports & Youth Welfare has issued an order in this regard. State Government has also sought the certificate of the expenditure on the above scheme from all the District Collectors. As per the order issued here, the state government has immediately

order ban on release of any fund to Rajiv Yuva Mitran Clubs. District Collectors have been asked to furnish the Utility Certificates against the use of the fund

for the above expenditure. It is notable that the amount of Rs 132 crore had been released to more than 13 thousand Clubs across Chhattisgarh in the last two years.

## CM pays tribute to Pandit Sundarlal Sharma

● On his death anniversary

**Raipur, Dec 27:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid tribute to the freedom fighter, social reformer, and renowned author, the late Pandit Sundarlal Sharma, on his death anniversary on December 28th. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai stated that Pandit Sundarlal Sharma was a pioneer in raising awareness and bringing social change in Chhattisgarh.

During the independence struggle, Pandit

Sundarlal Sharma actively participated in various national movements and worked for the strength of the freedom movement in Chhattisgarh. Pandit Sundarlal Sharma, popularly known as the "Gandhi of Chhattisgarh, fought for the rights of farmers and played a significant role in the famous Kandel Satyagraha. He raised his voice against the social evils like superstition and untouchability prevalent in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh. His thoughts and values will continue to inspire us.



### WARM WELCOME



The denizens of Raigarh including various social organizations and institutions accorded huge welcome to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on his maiden visit after becoming CM and showered flower petals to welcome him. During this Minister OP Choudhary was also present.

## DGP directs to keep close watch at check-posts

To avoid illegal transportation of paddy from neighbouring state Also directs to increase police mobility



states and also to conduct strict checking of all the vehicles at the check-posts formed. He also directed to conduct regular police patrolling in the border areas by forming combined team in co-ordination with Revenue, Food and Co-operative Department to avoid illegal transportation of paddy from neighbouring states. DGP also directed the SPs to take strict action against the

persons with criminal background and anti-social elements involved in illicit sale of liquor, drugs and involved in incidents like chain snatching, stabbing and others.

DGP Juneja reviewing about the night patrolling and police patrolling keeping in mind visible policing and the crimes related to property issues and increase police mobility and take firm action against goons, anti-social elements. He also directed the SPs to posts sufficient force in the hotels, bazaars, temples and other public places in view of likely rush of crowd during the new year celebrations in their region and ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

## CG Board's practical examinations to start from Jan 10



**Raipur, Dec 27:** Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) will conduct practical examinations of class 10th-12th board from January 10, 2024. The files and projects of these examinations will be kept safe for six months. A passing mark is required for the practical-project and the-

ry examinations. The marks will be added in the annual examination.

It is noteworthy that some schools do not send the examination records to the students on time, this affects the board results and the board has to withhold their results. In view of all this, Board has instructed schools to keep

records for six months. According to the notification issued by Chhattisgarh Board, the practical examination of regular students will be held between January 10th to 31st. This year the board has made it clear that no extra chance will be given to the students who are absent in the practical examination. External examiners will be appointed for practical examinations. At the same time, Chhattisgarh Board's class 10th and 12th main examinations will be held in March. However, official information has not come yet. For the last several years, examinations have been starting from March 1st to 5th.

## ATTENTION TAXPAYERS DON'T FORGET THIS DATE!

Last date to file ITR for A.Y. 2023-24 is



**Hurry!** Avoid any delay. Complete it today!

### Revised Returns

Revised IT returns u/s 139 (5) of the Income Tax Act 1961 for AY 2023-24 may be e-filed by 31st December 2023 without late fee, if there is any omission or wrong statement in original ITR filed on or before due date

### Belated Returns

Belated Income Tax Returns u/s 139 (4) of the Income Tax Act 1961 for A. Y. 2023-24 may be e-filed by 31st December 2023 along with late fee

Log on to the e-filing portal at [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in) to file your Income Tax Return, easily and securely.



For e-Brochures, scan QR Code



**Income Tax Department**  
**Central Board of Direct Taxes**

For more information, please visit [www.incometax.gov.in](http://www.incometax.gov.in)



For more information, scan QR Code

## Poor families of Ch'garh to get free rice

**From New Year for next five years**

**Food Department issued letter to Collectors**  
**67 lakh 92 thousand 153 ration card holding families of the state will get benefits.**



the next 5 years from January 2024 to December 2028, has announced Antyodaya under the Chhattisgarh Food and Nutrition Security Act. Instructions have been given to distribute free rice to priority, disabled and single destitute category ration card holders for the next five years.

Officials of the Food Department said that under the Food Security Act, 14 lakh 92 thousand 438 ration card holders of Antyodaya category, 52 lakh 46 thousand 656 of priority category, 37,708 of single destitute category and 15,351 disabled category ration card holders will be eligible from January 2024 and will get benefit from

free rice distribution for five years. With this decision, 67 lakh 92 thousand 153 eligible ration card holders of Antyodaya, Priority, Disabled and Single Destitute categories of the state will get free rice through government fair price shops as per their eligibility.

In this regard, a letter has been issued by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department located at the Ministry Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nava Raipur, and instructions have been given to all the Collectors and concerned officers to provide free rice as per their eligibility.

## Dr Mishra condemns burning of woman suspected of witchcraft

**Take strong stands against superstition and violence in Assam**

**Raipur, Dec 27:** Dr. Dinesh Mishra, President of Andhra Shradha Nirmoolan Smriti, has strongly condemned the horrific incidents that unfolded in Assam. In the first incident, a woman was brutally beaten and subsequently burnt alive on suspicion of being a witch. In the second incident, a couple was subjected to physical assault and forcibly expelled from their village on similar suspicions. Dr. Mishra has taken a firm stance against these acts of violence, demanding the immediate arrest of all those responsible and calling for strict action to be taken in both of these cases.

Two days ago in Sonitpur district, a tragic incident unfolded, where a woman named Sangeeta fell victim to baseless accusations of witchcraft.



She was brutally assaulted by a group of six individuals and set on fire. This horrifying

act occurred in Bahbari village, Tezpur police station area, late on the night of December 24th. Sangeeta, a 30-year-old mother of three, lost her life in this senseless attack. In another distressing incident, an elderly couple from Chatai Nine Mile village faced accusations of being witches. Not only were they physically assaulted, but their belongings were also thrown onto the road, and they were forcibly expelled from the village. The harassed couple has reported the incident to the Chari Duwar police station.

Dr. Dinesh Mishra took a stand against such acts of violence fueled by superstition. He is demanding the prompt arrest of all those responsible and urging authorities to take strict action in both cases.

## CM Sai graced the 'Nava Suruj Kavi Sammelan' with his presence



**CM paid tribute to the brave Sahibzadas for their martyrdom**

**Audiences were mesmerized with the poetic performance of country's renowned poet Kumar Vishwas and Padmashree Dr. Surendra Dubey**

**Dy. CM Vijay Sharma and Arun Sao also attended the program**

**Raipur, Dec 27:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai participated in the poetry event- 'Nava Suruj Kavi Sammelan' organized on the occasion of 'Veer Bal Diwas' at Sardar Balveer Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in the capital city Raipur. Chief Minister commenced the program by garlanding the portraits of Chhattisgarh Mahtari and Baidhani Veer Sahibzadas.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and the large number of audiences present at the program enjoyed the poetic performances of the renowned artists.

Padmashree Dr. Surendra Dubey and Dr. Kumar Vishwas captivated the audience with their extraordinary poetic rendition. At Kavi Sammelan program, Manveer Madhur, Govind Rathi, Sapna Sharma presented their original works on the stage.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao, Shri Vijay Sharma, Cabinet Minister Brijmohan Agarwal, OP Chaudhary, MLA Anuj Sharma, MLA Khushwant Saheb, MLA Ajay Chandrakar, MLA Dharam Lal Kaushik were also present in the program.

## IIIT organizes hands-on winter school till Dec 30

**On introduction to IoT and Machine Learning**

**Raipur, Dec 27:** IIIT-Naya Raipur is organizing a Hands-on Winter School program on 'Introduction to IoT and Machine Learning', for ITI, Diploma, BSc, MSc, BCA, MCA, B. Tech., M. Tech. students, faculties and industry professionals, from Dec 26-30, 2023. This Winter School will help the participants to build a competent job-ready profile to start a career in the fields of Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine Learning (ML), even if the participants don't have a background in Programming or Hardware Development.

Everyone today is aware of the big boom in the field of IoT and Machine Learning in the market. Almost all domains like healthcare, entertainment, manufacturing, agriculture, academics and de-



fense, etc., require Machine Learning and IoT in some way or the other. This 5-day winter school program will provide the basics and the broad picture regarding IoT and ML. In this program, the participants will be taught everything they need to know, step-by-step, starting from scratch, with hands on practice on customized IoT Kits and Machine Learning Models. Participants will also be provided with one-on-one mentoring, extensive doubt clearing sessions and support from experts in IIIT-NR.

The inaugural session of

the program was held on December 26, 2023, in the presence of Dr. Pradeep K. Sinha, Director, IIIT-NR, Dr. Rajesh Ingle, Dean (Academics), Dr. K. G. Srinivasa, Dean (Research) and Dr. Rajarshi Mahapatra, HoD (Electronics & Communication Engineering). In his inaugural address to the participants, Dr. Sinha said that the program was conceived with the thought that the knowledge and expertise available with the faculty pool of IIIT-NR should be disseminated for the benefit of interested students and faculty in

nearby institutes also. He further added that the participants will have access to state-of-the-art laboratories of IIIT-NR also. His address was followed by a detailed overview of the program by the faculty coordinator of the program, Dr. Debanjan Das.

The participants include students from GEC Raipur, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Raipur; Chhattisgarh College of Education, Durg, etc. The 5-day program will end on December 30, 2023.

## Vijay Mishra's special cameo in film 'Miss You More Sweet Heart'

**Dazzling dance and songs will enchant audiences**

**Film premieres on December 29**

**Raipur, Dec 27:** The Chhattisgarhi film "Miss You More Sweet Heart" is all set to grace the silver screen across the state starting December 29. This cinematic masterpiece, a vivid tapestry of rural charm and folk vibrancy, promises to be the perfect year-end treat.

'Miss You More Sweet Heart' is based on a reincarnation love story featuring the captivating on-screen chemistry of Bhupesh Chauhan and Ishika Yadav. What's truly enchanting, however, are the mesmerizing dance sequences and ear-pleasing melodies that have been meticulously crafted for the film. The melodious music



of Amit Pradhan, complemented by the enchanting voices of Sunil Soni, Shubham Sahu, Monica Verma, and Munmun Chakravarti, will undoubtedly leave listeners spellbound. Adding to the film's allure, veteran Chhattisgarhi and Hindi theater luminary Vijay Mishra, fondly known as 'Amit,' graces the screen in a special role. Mishra expressed his excitement, emphasizing that 'Miss You More Sweet Heart,' helmed by Shekhar Chauhan and Arun

Johnson, is a true embodiment of Chhattisgarhi culture, evident in its songs, dances, locations, and costumes.

The film is backed by a dedicated team, with producers Pulkit Nanjiani and Hrithik Amrani ensuring its wide release, and Lucky Rangshahi handling distribution.

Furthermore, Vijay Mishra shared that the film's characters have been brought to life through the exceptional performances of Salim Ansari, Pushpendra Singh, Sangeeta Nishad, Deepali Pandey, Yogesh Aggarwal, Nakul Mahalwar, Lucky Raghuvanshi, Sarla Sen, Subhashini George, Junior Shahrukh Khan from Mumbai, and others. Vilash Raut and Radhe Yadav have impeccably enhanced the visual aesthetics and makeup, making 'Miss You More Sweet Heart' an absolute visual delight.

## Congress accuses BJP of giving bonus to fake farmers

**Raipur, Dec 27:** PCC Congress communication chief Sushil Anand Shukla has accused the BJP government of cheating the farmers. He said that farmers were given one year's bonus. According to him only half the farmers got benefits. Not only this, work has been done to give bonus to some fake people, he alleged. Congress also hit back at BJP's allegation on Veer Bal Diwas. Congress BJP government is the government of EVMs, he said adding that BJP government does not have the trust of the people. The previous Bhupesh government served the public, he said.

## Dhobi Samaj delegation meets CM, demands to free Dhobi Talab from encroachment

**Raipur, Dec 27:** A delegation of Chhattisgarh Sarva Dhobi Mahasangh led by state president Shankar Singh Nirmalkar today met Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and handed over a memorandum of demand for freeing Dhobi Talab from encroachment and carrying out beautification in the area. Charging the previous Congress government with cheating Dhobi Samaj Nirmalkar said that although he had written to senior most Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, yet no step was taken to remove encroachment.

## Newly elected MLA Kiran Dev allotted new bungalow

**At F-01 in Nayapara**

**Jagdalpur, Dec 27:** Newly elected MLA Kiran Dev has been allotted F-01 bungalow of Nayapara. This will be called the official address of Jagdalpur MLA Kiran Dev. According to the information received, Kiran Dev refused to take the old MLA residence located in Gurunanak Chowk and preferred F 01 bungalow of Nayapara. After which newly elected MLA Kiran Dev has been allotted F 01 bungalow of Nayapara.



It is noteworthy that before allotment to newly elected MLA Kiran Dev, the said bungalow was allotted to Rajeev Sharma,

Vice Chairman of Indravati Development Authority. It should also be known that earlier the said bungalow was allot-

ted in the name of the present Mayor Safira Sahu. After Safira Sahu gave no objection, this bungalow was allotted from the Mayor to the Vice Chairman of Indravati Development Authority. After the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the state, all the corporation boards and authorities have been abolished. After this, after being allotted in the name of newly elected MLA Kiran Dev, the said bungalow will become the MLA's residence in the coming days.

## St. Xavier's HS celebrates Christmas

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Dec 27:** Christmas celebrations held at St. Xavier's High School Raipur on 23rd Dec 23. The festivities commenced with a joyous assembly, where students and staff gathered to celebrate the spirit of Christmas. The school was adorned with festive decorations, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. Various events and activities were organized, including Christmas carol performances by the school choir, skits depicting the nativity scene.



Students actively participated in creating handmade Christmas decorations, adding a personal touch to the festivities. Special message by Chairman Sir Dr. A.F Pinto and Managing Director Madam Dr. Grace Pinto was displayed for

The students on the special occasion of Christmas. The Christmas celebration concluded with a communal feast, fostering a sense of unity. It was a time for reflection, gratitude, and spreading joy within the school community.

## Annual exhibition at Goodstart School



**Raipur, Dec 27:** Sixth annual exhibition was organized at The Goodstart School located in Professor Colony. Onkar Singh, who is the only auditor of Nanha Aakash as well as the President of Chhattisgarh Advertising Agency Association, participated as the chief guest. Children showcased their creativity. Some children of nursery class showcased their creativity with the thumb while some did it with the palms of the hands and some had made a peacock on paper

itself. All the musical instruments were made from pistachio peels.

According to Director of the school, Mrs. Dimple Soni, this is a very difficult task in itself because every student creates an activity on each page and on that teachers maintain the activities throughout the year, which in itself is a very commendable task. The activity being prepared in March, has to be maintained till December and has to be presented to all the parents in the same form.

## DJ Jeet honoured with Chhattisgarh Icon Award 2023



**Raipur, Dec 27:** On Sunday, December 24th, Raipur, Chhattisgarh witnessed the grand celebration of talent and excellence at the Babylon Hotel on Jail Road. The prestigious Chhattisgarh Icon Award, jointly organized by Lions Friend Clubs and the Madhu Foundation, shone a spotlight on the outstanding accomplishments of 36

individuals across various domains.

Among the distinguished attendees was DJ Jeet (Jitendra Singh Rajput), hailing from Saddu HBC Colony, Sector-1, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. DJ Jeet has emerged as the youngest DJ luminary in Raipur, clinching victory in the War of DJ competition an impressive three times.



His journey also boasts of collaborating with India's celebrated DJ maestro, DJ Suketu, earning him well-deserved accolades from the industry icon himself.

In recognition of his exceptional achievements, DJ Jeet was hon-

oured with the Chhattisgarh Icon Award 2023. The award was presented to him by legislator Purendra Mishra and the Media Chief of the BJP. The event was efficiently managed and coordinated by Anil Jotsinghani.

## AVMEMS conducts Veer Bal Diwas competitions

**Geedam/Dantewada, Dec 27:** Aastha Vidya Mandir English Medium School (AVMEMS) conducted various competitions and tree plantation programme on Veer Bal Diwas as per orders of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Education, Government of India, Central Board of Secondary Education and Directorate of Public Instruction, Raipur, Government of Chhattisgarh in auspices of the District Education Department, Dantewada at Education City Jawanga of Geedam block. Chief guest Dantewada MLA Chaitram Atami and special guests Geedam Janpad Panchayat President Anti Wake, Janpad Panchayat member Rajesh Kashyap, School Management Committee President Bomda Ram Kowasi, former District Panchayat Vice

President Manish Surana, Rakesh Kushwaha, Railway Board member Deepak Bajpai, social worker Dr. Budhri Tati, Jasveer Negi, Councillor Shrikant Rao were present. Principal of Aastha Vidya Mandir Gopal Pandey, along with Vice Principals Pramod Gupta and Rabindranath Panigrahi welcomed the guests and public representatives by presenting them with a bouquet. Martyrdom brave children Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh were remembered and their story was described and tribute was paid. A tree plantation program was also organized in the premises of Aastha Vidya Mandir in memory of the brave children. Various activities like speech, essay writing and painting competitions were organized among the students to showcase bravery and sacrifice.



# Veer Bal Diwas celebrated at Khairagarh University

Musical tributes and speech competition shine



Khairagarh, Dec 27:

Indira Kala Sangeet University in Khairagarh commemorated Veer Bal Diwas, paying tribute to the martyrdom of Fateh Singh and Zorawar Singh, the brave sons of the tenth Sikh Guru, Shri Gobind Singh on December 26. The day was marked by a university-level speech competition where participating students passionately shared their perspectives on the heroic sacrifice of these young warriors. Prior to this, stu-

dents from the university's music faculty moved the audience with soul-stirring musical performances that emotionally honored the child heroes. The auditorium resounded with thunderous applause, making it a memorable event.

In alignment with the Prime Minister's directive, as per the instructions of the Higher Education Department, and under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Padmashree Dr. Mamta Chandrakar, Veer Bal Diwas was cele-



brated at Indira Kala Sangeet University, Khairagarh.

The event was graced by regional MLA Yashoda Nilambar Verma as the chief guest, and the program was presided over by Vice Chancellor-in-charge, Prof. Dr. Kashinath Tiwari. Several dignitaries, including Registrar Prof. Dr. Neeta Gaharwar, Dean Prof. Dr. Naman Dutt, and senior city resident Mihir Jha, participated in the program.

The first phase of the program featured inform-

ative sessions where guests and speakers shared insights into the life and legacy of Guru Gobind Singh and his brave sons.

The second phase showcased mesmerizing musical presentations by students of the Indira Kala Sangeet University. Under the guidance of Dr. Naman Dutt, the talented team delivered a brilliant performance, capturing the essence of Veer Bal Diwas through their music.

In the third phase, university students engaged

in a spirited speech competition centered around Veer Bal Diwas. Kaushiki Billaure, Hrisika Madhavi Sharma, and Purvi Bulle secured the first, second, and third positions, respectively, in the contest. Other participants, including Poonam Shukla, Priyanka Raghuvanshi, Praveen Kumar, and Purvi Nagaich, also impressed the audience with their eloquence.

The entire program was conducted seamlessly by Prof. Dr. Rajan Yadav, Head and Dean of the Hindi Department. Dr. Ashutosh Chaur and Vivek Navare served as judges for the speech competition.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the university family, including Assistant Registrar Rajesh Gupta, along with numerous faculty members and students.

# Appointment of coordinators sparks debate in gaeneral meeting

• Questions arise over qualifications for coordinator positions

Fingeshwar, Dec 27:



The General Meeting of the Fingeshwar Block Panchayat held on December 22, at the Block Panchayat Assembly Hall brought forth an important discussion regarding the qualifications of appointed coordinators. Deepak Sahu, an active member of the Block Panchayat, initiated a productive conversation by addressing concerns about coordinator appointments that appeared to deviate from the stipulated qualifications within the development block.

During the meeting, Ramendra Joshi, the Education Officer responsible for the development block, responded to Sahu's inquiries concerning the prerequisites for Sankul Coordinators and Development Block Resource Coordinators. Joshi clarified that teaching experience was the preferred qualification for

Sankul Coordinators, while Development Block Resource Coordinators should ideally possess qualifications equivalent to those of a Pre-Secondary School Headmaster.

Sahu persisted in his quest for clarification, questioning whether the current Sankul Coordinators met the specified qualifications and, if not, the reasoning behind their initial appointments. Similarly, he expressed concerns regarding the appointments of Development Block Resource Coordinators who lacked the required qualifications.

In response, the Education Officer emphasized that these appointments fell under the purview of the District

Mission Coordinator, representing the district's interests, and the responsibility did not rest with the development block's education office.

It is noteworthy that this issue was previously raised by Rohit Sahu, a former district member and the current Legislative Assembly representative for the Rajim constituency, during a prior Block Panchayat General Meeting. However, the matter remained unaddressed, despite the support of officials affiliated with the Congress party. As the situation unfolds, there is optimism that the current legislative representatives, who advocate for proper appointments based on qualifications, can collaborate to resolve this issue collectively.

# New AC-3 tier coach to be added in two trains

**Bilaspur, Dec 27:** The railway administration is making strides in improving passenger facilities. To offer a superior travel experience to passengers in the air-conditioned class, both the Bilaspur-Chirmiri-Bilaspur Express (Train No. 18257/18258) and the Chirmiri-Chandiya Road-Chirmiri Passenger Special (Train No. 08269/08270) will now permanently include an additional AC-3 tier coach. Commencing from January 5, 2024, for Train No. 18257's departure from Bilaspur to Chirmiri, and from January 6, 2024, for Train No. 18258's departure from Chirmiri to Bilaspur, passengers can relish this upgraded facility. Furthermore, starting January 6, 2024, Train No. 08269/08270 Chirmiri-Chandiya Road-Chirmiri Passenger Special will also be equipped with this enhancement. This addition is set to elevate passenger comfort, benefiting a larger audience traveling in air-conditioned class coaches.

# Residents of Ghatbarra submits memo to Surguja Collector

**Surguja/Udaipur, Dec 27:** The villagers of Ghatbarra under the Udaipur development block in Surguja district submitted a memorandum to the Collector on Monday to resume the operation at Rajasthan government's coal blocks. This follows their appeal to former Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo on Monday.

On Tuesday, approximately 200 villagers delivered a signed memorandum to the district headquarters in Ambikapur. During the meeting with Saruguja Collector Kundan Kumar, they urged swift action on acquiring village Ghatbarra's land for Parsa East Kanta Basan (PEKB) Mine Project.

The villagers requested timely compensation, employment, and the provision of forest rights patas to benefit those concerned.

In the memorandum, they wrote, "The process of land acquisition for the affected land in Ghatbarra due to the PEBK Project is underway, involving a pending gram sabha. Despite the ongoing coal mining activity near Ghatbarra's border, we, the villagers, have not yet received employment or compensation for our land. Additionally, the compensation for the land acquired under forest rights has not been provided. Due to the delay in land acquisition, we, the villagers, are deprived of

# To Support Rajasthan's PEKB Block

employment and compensation for our land, affecting our families' well-being."

The region has seen the spread of misinformation by external entities spending significant amounts on social media, falsely portraying the decade-old mine, which sustains the livelihoods of over 5000 people, as problematic. While the central government allocated three coal blocks - PEBK, Parsa and Kanta Extension - to the Rajasthan government in 2007, and subsequently, only the PEBK block has



witnessed coal mining in the past decade. The second phase of mining in PEBK block has been delayed, affecting the Ghatbarra residents who have yet to receive the promised benefits.

Notably, due to power shortages and high elec-

tricity costs in Rajasthan, the then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met with the former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, on March 25, 2022. During this meeting, Gehlot urged the removal of all obstacles re-

lated to these coal blocks and their transfer. Subsequently, on November 30, 2022, Rajasthan State Power Director Rajesh Kumar Sharma had multiple interactions with Chhattisgarh officials, advocating for the development of the Parsa East Kanta Basan Coal Project.

The Supreme Court, in a recent decision, upheld the right of the Rajasthan government to continue mining in these mines.

During the meeting with the Saruguja Collector, residents of Ghatbarra - Sunny Yadav, Hublal, Bablu Harijan, and Surendra Yadav - humbly requested Collector Kundan

Kumar to expedite the land acquisition process for Ghatbarra affected by the Parsa East Kanta Basan Coal Project. They emphasized the importance of promptly providing compensation, resettlement, and rehabilitation benefits, including employment opportunities and compensation for land acquired under forest rights.

Now, it remains to be seen whether the ongoing efforts by the residents of the Parsa region in support of the mine receive support from the district administration or whether the truth will prevail over the falsehoods spread on social media by a handful of individuals opposing the project.

# Congmen to take out huge rally on Dec 28: Chhabra

• On occasion of Cong Foundation Day in Nagpur

Bemetar, Dec 27:

Ashish Chhabra, former MLA of Bemetara assembly constituency, said that the Indian National Congress is entering its 139th year on December 28. As per every year, this year also Congressmen will celebrate Dec 28th as Congress Foundation Day. Congress Party is a political party as well as an ideology. INC is the oldest party of the world's largest democratic country participating in the work of independence and development of the country.

Congress Foundation Day will be celebrated with enthusiasm in all the districts, cities, towns and blocks of the state. This rally is the beginning of the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Lakhs of senior Congress leaders, officials and workers from across the country will participate in this national level rally. Thousands of workers from all the districts including Chhattisgarh will participate, this rally in Nagpur will be a call for change in the country's politics, rising inflation and unemployment, failure of the BJP government at the Center in matters of national security, attack on the autonomy of constitutional institutions.

This rally will be the voice of the common man in protest against the Indian Constitution.

The Congress Party has been fighting for the people by becoming the voice of the people since its inception in 1885. The Congress Party fought for the independence of the country and for the reconstruction of India after the independence of the country.

Congress has also made an important contribution in India, it is vocal about the public problems, we will remain the voice of the people, we are ready for the change in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

We are ready for the change in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in

2024; we are ready to hold a huge rally in Nagpur on the occasion of Congress Foundation Day on 28th December; we are ready at the national level. Is organizing a rally, in which Congress President, Congress Parliamentary Party President, former Congress President and senior leaders of the party will participate.

On this occasion, members of the local Congress Working Committee, officials of the All India Congress Committee, senior leaders of the state, MPs, State President of the Mocha Organization Cell department will participate in a huge national rally organized in Nagpur on 28 December 2023 at 2 pm.

# RPF's operation 'Narcos' busts drug smugglers

119 arrested, 1248 kg of drugs confiscated in major crackdown

• Narcotics worth over Rs 1.56 cr seized

**Bilaspur, Dec 27:** In a remarkable display of dedication to passenger safety and the protection of railway property, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South East Central Railway has achieved significant success in its ongoing Operation "Narcos." This operation, initiated to combat the escalating threat of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, has resulted in the seizure of narcotics valued at more than Rs 1.56 crore. Operation Narcos, aimed at thwarting drug smuggling via railways, commenced in June 2022.



The RPF, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and other law enforcement agencies, has intensified its efforts to identify and apprehend drug smugglers operating on trains. To date, a staggering 1248 kg of various narcotic products, with a market value exceeding Rs 1.56 crore, have been confiscated. The Railway

Protection Force, South East Central Railway, has apprehended 119 individuals within its jurisdiction, all involved in the illegal transportation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). These offenders have been handed over to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for further legal action.

South East Central

Railway, being a major player in passenger and goods transportation, faces the challenge of criminals utilizing its extensive network for smuggling NDPS across states. The Railway Protection Force has been empowered to conduct search, seizure, and arrest under the NDPS Act since April 2019, actively participating in the government's efforts to curb illicit trade.

Recognizing the profound impact of drug addiction on individuals and the nation's welfare, the Railway Protection Force, South East Central Railway, is committed to continuing its campaign against drug smuggling with unwavering determination.

# District-level disabled sports held at BR Sao School

Mungeli, Dec 27:

A remarkable district-level disabled sports competition unfolded at the prestigious Veer Dhananjay Singh Stadium within the BR Sao School, located in the heart of the district headquarters. This uplifting event brought together participants from classes 1 to 12, representing all three blocks of the district Mungeli, Lormi, and Patharia. In the thrilling 100-meter race, junior category boys showcased their prowess, with Nilesh Verma securing the first position, followed by Meenu in second place and Devendra in third. Among the girls, Gitanjali clinched

the top spot, while Damini and Muskaan claimed second and third positions, respectively. In the senior category, the 100-meter race saw Ravi emerging as the winner, followed by Priyanshu in second place and Shekhar in third. In the shot-put event, Shubhi Jaiswal exhibited her strength and skill, securing the first position, while Aditi Baghel came in second, and the junior class Jalebi race featured Lokpal in first place, Divyansh in second, and Hishant in third. Among the girls, Geetanjali achieved the first position, followed by Soumya in second and Ganesha in third. The Chair Race saw jun-



ior boys competing fiercely, with Priyanshu clinching the first position, Shekhar in second, and Rahul in third. The junior girls' category witnessed an equally spirited contest, with Aarti securing first place, followed by Soumya in second and Damini in third. Additionally, the 50-meter race witnessed Tony, Krishna, and Chandan securing the first, second, and third positions among

boys, while Rani, Madhu, and Sandhya claimed top honours among girls.

The competition was conducted under the expert guidance of APC Kashyap, who ensured a fair and inspiring event for all participants. Prizes were distributed to the deserving winners, who secured first, second, and third places, and a delectable meal was provided to all the parents, teachers, and students attending

the program. District Education Officer GR Chaturvedi and APC Sanjay Sahu, who graced the occasion to offer their encouragement and were honored with tokens of appreciation. In his address, the District Education Officer emphasized the importance of providing disabled children with equal opportunities, acknowledging their hidden talents. He advocated for inclusive education, emphasizing that these children deserve opportunities rather than sympathy.

The program received invaluable support from various individuals, including BRC DC Dahire, BRP Sanjeev Saxena, BRP Ravi

Lahare, BRP Priya Yadav, CSC Bhagwan Singh Mandvi, CSC Rameshwar Prasad Sahu, Chandrashekhara Upadhyay, Sita Sahu, Madhu Neun, Narayani Kashyap, Sanjeev Kurre, and exercise teacher Dabo. The event witnessed a gathering of approximately 200 participants, including children, parents, and teachers, underlining the significance of inclusivity and the triumph of spirit. The program was skillfully conducted by Chandrashekhara Upadhyay, and a heartfelt vote of thanks was extended by APC Ashok Kashyap, the dedicated in-charge of inclusive education.

# Residents await MLA's stance on battling illicit liquor

**Arang, Dec 27:** The future of the ongoing movement against illegal liquor sales in villages, including Bhansoi in the Arang assembly constituency, which had previously led a successful anti-liquor campaign, now rests on the actions of regional MLA Guru Khushwant Singh. Bhupendra Sharma, convener of Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, an active participant in the anti-liquor campaign in the area, shared this sentiment during a meeting with villagers involved in the movement. He advised them to adopt a wait-and-see strategy for a few days.

Recalling that before becoming an MLA, Guru Khushwant Singh had taken direct action against illegal liquor vendors in many villages, along with the Satnam Sena formed by him, Sharma expects that as an MLA of the ruling party, he will now be able to assist the local excise and police administra-

tion effectively. Sharma emphasized their commitment to curbing the illegal sale of liquor, as well as addressing issues related to marijuana, gambling, and drugs. In case of failure, they are willing to take concrete administrative action. Similar to the public warning issued by Anuj Sharma, the newly elected MLA of Dharsiwan area, during the election campaign, and the clear instructions given to officials after taking the oath, residents hope that Guru Khushwant Singh will also issue similar public instructions. Since the successful anti-brewery movement during the 1993-94 excise season, the majority of the 30-35 villages in the Mandir Hasaud and Kharora police station areas, including Bhansoi village in the Arang police station area, have remained resolute in their commitment to the cause.

# India-Russia relations reflect geopolitical realities: Jaishankar

Moscow, Dec 27 (PTI):

India-Russia relations reflect geopolitical realities, strategic convergence and mutual benefit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Wednesday as he held a wide-ranging and "useful" meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov here during which they discussed the international situation and contemporary issues.

Jaishankar, who is on a five-day visit to Russia, and Lavrov also exchanged views on the Indo-Pacific region, the Ukraine conflict, the Gaza situation, Afghanistan and Central Asia, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, G20 and the UN.

"A wide-ranging and useful meeting with FM Sergey Lavrov of Russia. He noted the progress



Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, and India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar exchange documents following their talks in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

As strategic partners, discussed the international situation and contemporary issues," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

He noted the progress

in bilateral economic cooperation, energy trade, connectivity efforts, military-technical cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. "Signed on

Consultations for the period 2024-28. India-Russia relations reflect geopolitical realities, strategic convergence and mutual benefit," he said. "For us, Russia is a valued partner, a time-tested partner. It is a relationship from which both India and Russia have benefitted enormously," Jaishankar said while responding to a question during a joint media appearance along with Lavrov after talks.

"My presence here today and the fact that all the developments that I have pointed out including our growing trade investments, our military-technical cooperation, our connectivity projects all of this will give you a good sense of the importance and value that we attach to the relationship," he added.

## Sweden moves a step closer to NATO membership

After Turkey's parliamentary committee gives approval

Ankara (Turkiye), Dec 27 (AP):

The Turkish parliament's foreign affairs committee gave its consent to Sweden's bid to join NATO on Tuesday, drawing the previously nonaligned Nordic country closer to membership in the Western military alliance.

Sweden's accession protocol will now need to be approved in the Turkish parliament's general assembly for the last stage of the legislative process in Turkey. No date has been set.

Turkiye, a NATO member, has delayed ratification of Sweden's membership for more than a year, accusing the country of being too lenient toward groups that Ankara regards as threats to its security, including Kurdish militants and members of a network that Ankara blames for a failed coup in 2016.

Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billström welcomed the committee's decision on a mes-

sage posted on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. "The next step is for parliament to vote on the matter. We look forward to becoming a member of NATO," he tweeted.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg welcomed the development, saying that he counts on Turkey and Hungary "to now complete their ratifications as soon as possible. Sweden's membership will make NATO stronger."

Hungary has also stalled Sweden's bid, alleging that Swedish politicians have told "blatant lies" about the condition of Hungary's democracy. Hungary hasn't announced when the country's ratification may occur.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had openly linking ratification of Sweden's NATO membership to the U.S. Congress' approval of a Turkish request to purchase 40 new F-16 fighter jets and kits to modernize Turkey's existing fleet.

Erdogan also called on NATO allies to life arms

embargoes imposed on Turkey.

The White House has backed the Turkish F-16 request but there is strong opposition in Congress to military sales to Turkey.

The Turkish parliament's foreign affairs committee had begun discussing Sweden's membership in NATO last month. The meeting however, was adjourned after legislators from Erdogan's ruling party submitted a motion for a postponement on grounds that some issues needed more clarification and that negotiations with Sweden hadn't "matured" enough.

On Tuesday, a majority of legislators in the committee voted in favor of Sweden's application to join.

Sweden and Finland abandoned their traditional positions of military nonalignment to seek protection under NATO's security umbrella, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Finland joined the alliance in April, becoming NATO's 31st member, after Turkey's parliament ratified the Nordic country's bid.

## Nepal PM Prachanda vows to change working style

Kathmandu, Dec 27 (PTI):

Nepal will focus its attention towards "game changer" mega hydropower projects, Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda said on Tuesday while vowing to change the "traditional" style of working and policy making.

"The situation has been created in such a way to allow Nepal to forge partnerships with India, Bangladesh, and China in the area of power trade, the government will now shift its attention to the game changer mega projects," the prime minister said as he addressed the nation on the completion of one year by the coalition government formed under his leadership. Prachanda informed that an additional feasibility study 10,800 MW Karnali Chisapani Hydropower project has already commenced and the study of the 1902 MW Karnali Mugi hydropower project has been completed.

"The government is facilitating the timely completion of the 900 MW on-going Arun Third proj-

## GRIEF AMID RUINS



Ahmad Bazzi reacts next to his house, destroyed by an Israeli airstrike Tuesday night, in Bint Jbeil, South Lebanon, Wednesday. Ahmad is the father of a Hezbollah fighter and his civilian son, both of them killed by the airstrike inside the house.

## Pakistan goes for crucial elections in new year as ties with India remain frozen

Islamabad, Dec 27 (PTI):

Pakistan-India bilateral relations remained frozen for the fourth year over the vexed Kashmir issue but analysts hope the strained ties could be repaired if Nawaz Sharif becomes the prime minister for a record fourth time in the general elections in February in the absence of his main challenger Imran Khan who is in jail in multiple cases.

The main highlight of the outgoing year was a visit to India by then-foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in May to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation ministerial moot in Goa. The usual pre-visit hype centred on the question of any meeting between Bilawal and his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar. But both sides did not show any desire for such a meet-

ing. Instead, the two leaders in their official speeches at the ministerial huddle, targeted each other's countries through innuendoes and pointed jargon.

Bilawal's choice of words, especially urging the participants not to let terrorism hinder political relations, irked many in India. Jaishankar in his address to the SCO meeting underscored the importance of stopping the issue of cross-border terrorism.

Thus, Bilawal's trip, which was the first by a Pakistani foreign minister to India in almost 12 years, failed to repair the strained ties which remained frozen over the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic relations with India by expelling its envoy in Islamabad and

stopped trade ties following New Delhi's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019 after abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution.

In December, Pakistan's current caretaker government and Pakistani political leaders also reacted sharply to India's Supreme Court upholding the Indian government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution.

As the year 2023 fades into history, it leaves a feeble ray of hope that changes may come in the India-Pakistan equation due to the changing regional situation and domestic compulsions.

Pakistan has lately found itself in an enviable position due to the floundering of its gamble in Afghanistan.

**छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित**  
ग्राम- उरला, पो-बी.एम.वाच. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक/3662/छगदुमस/क्रय/2023 दिनांक 27/12/2023

**लेब उपकरण/मशीन प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य हेतु तृतीय निविदा सूचना**

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा एन.पी.डी.डी.-II, योजनागत प्रस्तावित विभिन्न प्रकार के लेब उपकरण/मशीन प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य हेतु तृतीय निविदा सूचना आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि-29.01.2024 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट:- [www.cgcoopdairyfed.in](http://www.cgcoopdairyfed.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**प्रबंध संचालक**

**छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य सहकारी दुग्ध महासंघ मर्यादित**  
ग्राम- उरला, पो-बी.एम.वाच. चरोदा, जिला-दुर्ग, छ.ग.

क्रमांक/3652/छगदुमस/क्रय/2023 दिनांक 27/12/2023

**LC-MS/MS मशीन प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य हेतु तृतीय निविदा सूचना**

दुग्ध महासंघ द्वारा एन.पी.डी.डी.-II, योजनागत प्रस्तावित 01 नम LC-MS/MS मशीन प्रदाय एवं स्थापना कार्य हेतु तृतीय निविदा सूचना आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि-11.01.2024 निर्धारित है, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण दुग्ध महासंघ की वेबसाइट:- [www.cgcoopdairyfed.in](http://www.cgcoopdairyfed.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**प्रबंध संचालक**

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER  
MAHANADI PROJECT, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(Second Call)

System Tender No.: 150249 / NIT No.: 15/SAC/23-24 Dated: 22.12.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 08.01.2024 at 17.30 Hour

Name of work: Reconstruction/Renovation of Canal Structures and Remodelling and C.C. Lining of Juda Minor, Kasiyara Minor, Paisor Minor, Sarkhor Minor, Pandariya Minor and parsadih Minor Canals of Dy No. 14 of Lawan Branch Canal of Mahanadi Project.

Probable Amount of Contract:- Rs. 720.16 Lakhs  
(As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 29.12.2023, at 17.31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**  
Water Management Division No. 2, Balodabazar  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project  
Raipur (C.G.)  
G-06647/2

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
MAHANADI CIRCLE, RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(First Call)

System Tender No.: 150239 / NIT No.: 27/SAC/23-24 Dated: 21.12.2023

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 11.01.2024 at 17.30 Hour

Name of work: Construction of Jaroud Stopdam on Jaroud Nalla in Block Arang, District Raipur.

Probable Amount of Contract:- Rs. 177.57 Lakhs  
(As per S.O.R. Dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022)

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 28.12.2023, at 17.31 Hours, (IST) onwards.

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

**Executive Engineer**  
Water Resources Division No. 1, Raipur  
For, Superintending Engineer,  
Mahanadi Circle, Raipur (C.G.)  
G-06659/1

**एनएमडीसी**  
**NMDC Limited**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
'Khanji Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hill,  
Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028  
CIN: L13100TG1958GOI001674

**CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT**  
Tender Enquiry No: H0(Contracts)/Engg./Stockpiles/2023/929/192, Dt:28/12/2023  
MSTC Ref. No: NMDC/H0/13/23-24/ET/12  
Estimated cost including GST is Rs. 48.86 Crore.

NMDC Limited, A "MAHARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from prospective bidders for the work of "Covering of 3 Stockpiles at Bachelii and Kirandul Complex, Chhattisgarh".

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and/or downloaded from 28/12/2023 to 25/01/2024 from following website links:

- NMDC website-<https://nmdcportal.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/>
- Central Public Procurement portal-<https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> and search tender through tender enquiry number
- MSTC portal-<https://www.matcoemcomerce.com/eprocchome/nmdc/buyer/login.jsp>

For further help refer to 'vendor guide' given in MSTC website.

The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited website. The details of submission of bid through online are given in NIT. The bidders on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website/CPP Portal/ MSTC website for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

For further clarification, the following can be contacted - Executive Director (Works), NMDC Limited Hyderabad, Tel. no. +91-040-2353536, email: [contracts@nmdc.co.in](mailto:contracts@nmdc.co.in)

**Executive Director (Works)**

**कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)**

**ई-प्रोकर्यमेंट प्रथम निविदा सूचना** दिनांक 26/12/2023

नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जलन क्र. 08 अंतर्गत मध्य क्षेत्र में पंचोक्त टैकेटरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	NIT क्र.	सिस्टम टैकेटर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (₹ लाख में)	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि
1	43	150178	वार्ड क्र. 64 टैकेटर बिल्डिंग में नवीन इलेक्ट्रिक कालन सिस्टम कार्य।	20.30	19-01-2024

उपरोक्त कार्य को निविदा की शर्तनाम बंद, भरोसे रहित, विस्तृत निविदा चिकित्सक, निविदा दस्तावेज में अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोकर्यमेंट पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

जोन अफसर  
जलन कार्यालय क्र. 08  
न.प.नि., बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

**Green City, Clean City, Dream City.**

**FORM NO. CAAR.2**  
(Pursuant to Section 230(3) and rule 6 and 7)  
**BEFORE THE HONBLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENCH AT CUTTACK**

Company Application C.A.(CAA) No. 16 / CB 2023  
In the Matter of: 1. ABIS HATCHERY PRIVATE LIMITED (PAN: AEAACA4993J) having its Registered Office at IB Corporate House Village - Indamara, Post - Pendrai, Rajnandgaon-491441 in the State of Chhattisgarh (DEMERGED COMPANY/APPLICANT NO 1)

And  
In the Matter of: 2. ABIS AGROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED (PAN: AASCA1150A) having its Registered Office at IB Corporate House, North Wing, 1st floor, Village - Indamara, Post - Pendrai, Rajnandgaon-491441 in the State of Chhattisgarh (RESULTING COMPANY/APPLICANT NO 2)

... APPLICANT COMPANIES

**ADVERTISEMENT OF THE NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF DEMERGED COMPANY**

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 20th December, 2023 passed in Company Application C.A.(CAA) No. 16 / CB 2023, the Cuttack Bench of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal at Cuttack, has directed separate meetings to be held of the EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF DEMERGED COMPANY APPLICANT NO. 1 for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification(s), the proposed Scheme of Arrangement for demerger of Dairy Farming business of ABIS HATCHERY PRIVATE LIMITED (being Demerged Company/Applicant No. 1) by transfer and vesting of the same in ABIS AGROTECH PRIVATE LIMITED (being Resulting Company/Applicant No. 2) with effect from the Appointed Date, 01st April, 2023.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF DEMERGED COMPANY shall be held on the day, date and time mentioned herein below at which time and place the EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF DEMERGED COMPANY are requested to attend and vote on the resolution contained in the notice convening the meeting.

**कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग ( भ/स ) संभाग राजनांदगांव ( छ.ग. )**

**निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ( प्रथम आमंत्रण )**

निविदा विज्ञापन क्र. 8969/30/वि.वि./लोकनि./2023-2024 दिनांक 22/12/2023

एकीकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत मध्य क्षेत्र में पंचोक्त टैकेटरों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

- निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि: 11/01/2024 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक
- टैकेटरों द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदाएं प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि: 18/01/2024 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि: 19/01/2024 अपराह्न 11.30 बजे

क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	अमानती राशि
01	02	03	04
30 T 0186	विभिन्न वार्डों अंतर्गत चौकों में नॉनपैवमेंट रोड एवं कंक्रीट रोड का निर्माण कार्य	14.44	10900.00
30 T 0187	जिला न्यायालय राजनांदगांव के प्रथम तल पर रिफाईट कर कार्य निर्माण कार्य	19.94	15000.00

**विशेष शर्त:-**  
निविदा समग्र-सारी एवं आवश्यक निर्देश- आवेदन पत्र के साथ निम्नलिखित दस्तावेज को जमापत्रित प्रस्तुत करना अनिवार्य है: (1) पंचायत की छायापत्र (2) जो एम.टी. प्रमाण-पत्र (3) पैन कार्ड (4) बैंक मालिकता (5) अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में देखा जा सकता है।

**कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग ( भ/स ) संभाग राजनांदगांव ( छ.ग. )**

G-06659/1

PARTICULARS	DAY	DATE	TIME	VENUE OF MEETING
EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS	WEDNESDAY	31 January 2024	11.00 A.M	IB Corporate House, Village - Indamara, Post - Pendrai, Rajnandgaon-491441, Chhattisgarh
UNSECURED CREDITORS	WEDNESDAY	31 January 2024	12.00 NOON	Rajnandgaon-491441, Chhattisgarh

The Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Cuttack Bench vide its order dated 20th December, 2023 passed in Company Application C.A.(CAA) No. 16 / CB 2023 has directed the Cut off date for dispatch of notice to the Equity Shareholders as per list drawn on 31-03-2023 amended to the Company Application and the cut off date for dispatch of notice to the Unsecured Creditors as per list drawn on 15-09-2023 and amended to the Company Application. In terms of the said order, notice convening the meeting will be sent to all those who are EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF DEMERGED COMPANY as on 31.03.2023 and UNSECURED CREDITORS OF DEMERGED COMPANY as on 15.09.2023 by any one of the modes prescribed in the order. Copy of the said Notice containing the Scheme of Arrangement and of the Explanatory Statement under Section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013 can be obtained free of charge at the Registered Office of ABIS HATCHERY PRIVATE LIMITED - DEMERGED COMPANY at IB Corporate House Village - Indamara, Post - Pendrai, Rajnandgaon-491441 in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Persons entitled to attend and vote at the said meeting, may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered office of the DEMERGED COMPANY not later than 48 hours before the starting of the said meeting.

Proxy Form for the said meeting can be obtained from the registered office of ABIS HATCHERY PRIVATE LIMITED - DEMERGED COMPANY at IB Corporate House Village - Indamara, Post - Pendrai, Rajnandgaon-491441 in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Further take note that by the said order, dated 20th December, 2023 passed in Company Application C.A.(CAA) No. 16 / CB 2023, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Cuttack Bench has dispensed with the meeting of Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of the Resulting Company, and has recorded that there is no requirement of meeting of Secured Creditors of both the Applicant Companies in view of Nil, secured creditors verified by a chartered accountant.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Mr. Anil Kumar Agrawal, Chartered Accountant (I) (No. NY-09993434100), (Email id: [anil\\_7863@yahoo.co.in](mailto:anil_7863@yahoo.co.in)) as the Chairperson of the said meeting including any adjournment thereof.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Ms. Alsha Amin, Advocate (I) (No. 08981204500) (Email id: [alshamin@gmail.com](mailto:alshamin@gmail.com)) as the Scrutinizer of the said meeting including any adjournment thereof.

The above mentioned Scheme of Arrangement, if approved in the meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Cuttack Bench.

Dated this 27th day of December, 2023

**Amil Kumar Agrawal**  
Place: Rajnandgaon  
Chairperson appointed for the meetings



# CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 87

## Toxic Waters

### Arsenic and Fluoride in groundwater

The new development that has far-reaching implications for the well-being of millions across the nation, the National Green Tribunal has taken a commendable step by issuing notices to 24 states and four Union Territories. The matter at hand pertains to a grave concern: the alarming presence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater sources. It becomes abundantly clear that swift, comprehensive action is imperative to protect the health and future of our citizens. The states to which notices have been issued include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. The inclusion of these states underscores the widespread nature of this crisis and the urgent need for collective action. The National Green Tribunal, an institution entrusted with safeguarding the environment and public health, rightly recognized the gravity of the situation. Describing the presence of these harmful elements as "very serious," the tribunal emphasized the urgent necessity of preventative and protective measures. This is not merely a matter of environmental concern; it is an issue of paramount public health importance. The tribunal's intervention stems from its suo motu cognizance of a media report that shed light on the disturbing reality of arsenic and fluoride contamination beyond permissible levels in groundwater across various states and Union Territories. This report, a harbinger of the impending crisis, exposed the widespread presence of arsenic in groundwater across 230 districts in 25 states, as well as the contamination of fluoride in 469 districts spanning 27 states. The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated. The bench, comprised of Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel, rightfully scrutinized the actions of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), the body responsible for regulating groundwater resources. In its submission, the CGWA acknowledged the presence of arsenic and fluoride in numerous districts and states. These chemicals have well-documented toxic effects on human health, posing severe health hazards to our citizens. It is disconcerting to note that the CGWA attempted to evade its statutory responsibility by invoking water as a state subject. However, this feeble excuse had already been unequivocally dismissed by a 1997 Supreme Court verdict and a 2022 tribunal order. The tribunal rightly expressed its astonishment at the CGWA's audacity in shirking its obligations, particularly in the face of such a dire and well-established crisis. The issue at hand demands immediate and concerted action from all concerned authorities. The presence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater sources across numerous states and districts is not a matter to be taken lightly. It necessitates a unified, intergovernmental approach to tackle this pressing problem. The National Green Tribunal has rightfully expanded the scope of parties involved in this critical matter, encompassing 28 states and Union Territories, along with the Central Ground Water Authority and the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. This comprehensive approach is essential to ensure that all stakeholders are held accountable and contribute to finding effective solutions.

## Learning from empathy cards

Sujit De

Ashika Singh, a Madhyamik examinee was unable to find the right bus for her destination in the absence of her parents. As there was not much time left for the start of the examination, she became nervous and began crying. When Souvik Chakraborty, a police officer-in-charge of Howrah Bridge traffic guard in West Bengal, saw the unknown girl crying alone near Howrah bridge, he realised that the time was really short to reach to the examination centre. He then promptly took her to his police vehicle and dropped her off to the venue after taking help from his colleagues and seniors in Lalbazar police headquarters to turn all the traffic signals on their way green ensuring a clear pathway. On reaching the centre in the nick of time, he wished the girl best for her examination. According to the Cambridge dictionary the word 'empathy' means the ability to share or experience by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation. The action taken by Souvik Chakraborty is an excellent example of empathy. A few months ago, the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud rightly pointed out that India needed institutions of empathy more than institutions of eminence. He also suggested some steps to stop such nasty incidents like the suicide by a Dalit student at IIT Bombay and another Dalit student's suicide last year at National Law University in Odisha. Indeed, every society needs empathy that is the ability to share the feelings of others more than eminence which is nothing but fame or acknowledged superiority within a particular sphere. A society needs good human beings rather than highly intelligent serial killers or extremely greedy, unscrupulous business tycoons. These people may be superior and smart in their respective field but they damage and destroy the country, society and environment and do not do anything constructive. Whereas an ordinary, honest and caring person contributes a lot to the society. From the tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi to flooded streets in Chennai after a few hours of rain highlight that there is something wrong in urban planning. We do not need smart brutes but smart human beings to make anything be it a city or a country look smart. Parents and educational institutions must realise that cooperation is more important quality than competition among citizens for a country's survival and progress. Media has a great role to play in this regard. They should highlight and report elaborately about acts of empathy like the 12 rat-hole miners who rescued 41 trapped workers from a tunnel in Uttarkashi after working at a stretch for nearly 24 hours inside a narrow steel pipe of 800mm diameter on their toes. After the rescue operation, one of them said, "Labourers have saved fellow labourers. May be some day we will be trapped somewhere during work and these rescued workers will save us." This very thought, "May be some day we will be trapped" blooms from "the ability to share or experience what it would be like to be in that person's situation". Such acts of empathy need to be highlighted and discussed in educational institutions at least in one period in every week so that what the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud underscored could be translated into reality. A teacher can use empathy cards to help young children develop their ability to empathise. Each card outlines a particular situation and asks how the person would feel if he or she were in that very situation. Now let us play with empathy cards. Suppose I myself get an empathy card asking, "Imagine you were a Kashmiri. Then how would you feel now if you have been living in Jammu and Kashmir before and also after it becoming two union territories?" Honestly, my answer would be, had my state been turned into two union territories, it would have made me sad.

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](mailto:email@editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com).

## DAL LAKE AMID DENSE FOG

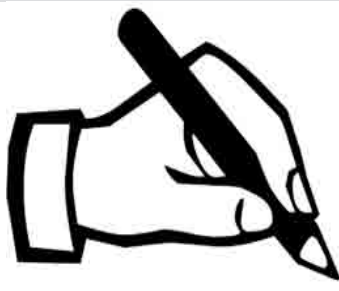


Shikaras anchored at Dal Lake amid dense fog as intense cold wave continues in Kashmir valley, in Srinagar, Wednesday, Dec. 27.

## On the way of Self-Reliance



SATISH SINGH



*To make the youth self-reliant and strengthen the country's economy, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched "Start Up India" scheme on 16 January 2016, which can be considered a successful initiative started by the government today. India is progressing rapidly with the help of "Start Up India" Scheme. Only 111 unicorn startups had employed 4,42,714 people by July 2023, which is 12,765 more than the 4,29,949 employees recorded in September 2022. The Unicorn startups are those whose value is more than 1 billion US dollars. From this figure, the increasing importance of startups in India can be estimated.*

According to data from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the number of startups in India was 8635 in 2018, 11279 in 2019, 14498 in 2020, 20046 in 2021 and 26542 in 2022. Though, the number of tech startups in India was 68 thousand by June 2023, which is expected to increase to 1.8 lakh by 2030, whereas, between 2014 and June 2023, the number of startups has increased to more than 99 thousand, out of which about 50 percent are headquartered in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, which shows that today startups are thriving not only in metros but also in small towns. As per a report by NASSCOM and Zinnov, Indian startups had raised Rs.1.79 lakh crore in 2021. According to this report, India has become the country with the fourth highest number of startups in the world, while USA, China and Britain are at the first, second and third places respectively. The data clearly shows that the country's startup ecosystem is growing rapidly, and this is

also increasing the country's reputation as a hub of innovation and technologies.

When an innovative product or service of a company solves the problem of a customer in his own home, then it is called a startup. It can be started by one person, or many people can do it together. A startup started with new ideas, innovative solutions and technology quickly makes its place in the market due to its uniqueness and amazing commitment. To run the startup, the promoters can invest themselves or can invest capital in the business by taking a loan from a bank or financial institution. There is more risk in startup, but when the business runs, it gives significant returns to the promoter and provides employment to many others.

To promote startups, the government has started Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups. To provide loans to startups, financial institutions must comply with the conditions of the DIPP. Only financial institutions approved by DIPP can provide loans to startups. Financial assistance

to startups is given in the form of working capital, debentures, term loans etc. Member lending institutions of DIPP can provide loan amount up to Rs.5 crore to startups without third party guarantee or collateral security. If a startup wants to take a loan of Rs.1.5 crore under this scheme, then 75 percent of its financial assistance is given by the institute and the remaining 25 percent amount must be arranged by the entrepreneur himself or herself. At the same time, the financial institution gives up to 85 percent of the loan to entrepreneurs seeking a loan of less than Rs.5 lakh and the entrepreneur must arrange 15 percent of the amount himself or herself.

The government has also launched Atal Innovation Mission, Startup India Seed Fund Scheme etc. to promote innovation in startups. With this, the e-Biz portal, developed by Infosys, is serving as a communication hub for all business investors and entrepreneurs, helping startups to grow. However, to ensure the growth of startups, there is also a need to create a conducive environment in India, simplify regulatory requirements, provide appropriate facilities, etc.

Young population equipped with technology, large number of middle class who have less capital but are equipped with innovative ideas, favourable regulatory scenario etc. have important contributions for the sharp increase in the number of startups in the country. Due to the increasing number of startups, the contribution of startups to India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to increase by 5 to 10 percent by 2030.

The biggest obstacle in the development of startups is investment, but this obstacle is gradually being eliminated with the support of the government. Government banks and other financial institutions are not averse to funding startups. Domestic and foreign multi-national companies are also in-

vesting in Indian startups. With the strengthening of the Indian startup ecosystem, investor participation can increase to 46 percent by 2030. At the same time, by 2027, the number of Indian high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) may increase to 1.7 million at a compound annual growth rate of 16 percent.

Indian startups are expanding not only within the country but also globally. The growth of startups in India has ushered in a new era of economic progress and innovation. With the help of startups in India, people's income and employment generation are increasing and people are becoming self-reliant.

It is believed that the start-up will manufacture goods in the country, which will reduce their prices. Importing goods from abroad increases their price, because the expense incurred in bringing the products from abroad is also added to the price of the products. If any item is manufactured in the country, then the needs of the people of the country will be fulfilled, at the same time foreign exchange will come to the country through export, rise in income, profit in domestic trade, increase in government treasury, surge in growth rate, strength in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), growth in employment rate etc. may be possible.

In view of the steady improvement in the Indian economy, it is expected to reach the level of Rs. 3 trillion to Rs. 5 trillion by the year 2025. At the same time, in the recent report of HSBC, the Indian economy has been estimated to reach the level of Rs.7 trillion in 5 to 10 years, because the phase of rapid improvement in the economy continues. In this way, with the help of startups, the possibility of the country's economy becoming even more rosy has increased.

Satish Kumar Singh, Assistant General Manager, State Bank of India, Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Controversy

A fresh controversy has arisen regarding the inauguration date of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The official date, January 22, was challenged by Swami Muktanand, who deemed it a political choice rather than an auspicious religious one. He suggested waiting for an astrologically favorable moment, which might coincide with upcoming parliament elections. Such disputes often reveal political affiliations within the Sangh Parivar and have previously led to boycotts, such as Akali Dal's abstention when RSS chief was present. While some liken the temple's significance to Independence Day, these comparisons are met with skepticism, as the Ram Temple issue has been politically exploited over the years. The Trust must clarify its stance to ensure a purely religious agenda. **Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar**

### India's Goal

The country's socioeconomic framework is heavily influenced by policies crafted by our leaders, elected or otherwise. According to the World Bank, India is currently a lower-middle income economy. On the other hand, according to the latest reports released by the IMF, India is in a very bright spot. Apart from a few areas of improvement, it is ready to achieve its target to become a four trillion economy by 2024-along with being a 10 trillion economy in PPP terms. The nation needs a sustainable push through policies and controlled inflation rates.

Karan Singh, Chennai

### Tiger Tragedy

In disheartening news for animal enthusiasts, Maharashtra has witnessed a devastating surge in tiger fatalities this year, outpacing Madhya Pradesh. The Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) reported a grim tally of 52 tiger deaths in Maharashtra, with Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts bearing the brunt. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) data further underscore an alarming trend, with 168 tiger deaths recorded in 2023. Leopard deaths have also spiked, with 544 reported. These losses, attributed to poaching and electrocution, demand urgent government intervention. Despite efforts, the tiger population remains imperiled. Authorities must investigate thoroughly to minimize these casualties and ensure a future where these majestic creatures roam freely.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

### Damp squib session

The recently concluded winter session of parliament turned out to be a lackluster affair. While some important transactions and bills were passed, the session was marred by continuous protests and suspensions. The government and the opposition were locked in constant conflict, missing opportunities for constructive debate on critical issues. Instead of addressing the nation's concerns, they engaged in political bickering. Sadly, the parliamentarians appeared indifferent to taxpayers' opinions, and the session ended with little to show for it. This "damp squib" session left citizens disillusioned. **Dr. Ganapathi Bhat, Akola**

## BEAUTIFUL GLORIOUS LIFE



Dr. Madhavi Lata Agrawal

**Life is beautiful only if you want to live it so. In life we face a lot of do's and don'ts, creating a misunderstood life. Silence and understanding are not easy to be followed or gathered. Words can be understood and remembered only if the meaning retold in your mind is rich, so why not keep a list of stunning things to do, attractive life to be followed, for only if you are gorgeous will the world be gorgeous. Think of all the best things life has to offer just within reach but only if you think in the superlative.**

The air you breathe - the purest form of life which no man made machine can propagate, think of the richness and the sustenance the pure air gives is entirely

and authentically pure. Once you do wrong the air too becomes heavy and impure for you live with impurity and everything in life is looked at depressingly. A pure soul finds

the best in all - and it is up to us to find the merits within us with the advantages /disadvantages that life has to offer. A negative motion or thought in life will only create negativity and fill your mind with dust.

The dash of colours, intermingled in life will bring out numerous parts of yourself - and the best for each will tell different story as per your inner thoughts. Your life is yours to lead as you wish and the colours you shall dispense - for in sharing can we find life growing.

Let the world get the best from you for aren't you the best? - and the best is what you give or return to this world. You are not going to be the lone survivor but you can be the beacon that shall show

a path only if your thought is optimistic and if you pave the way with happiness many shall pass the same pathway and be filled with delight. It is all within us to give or not to give, to get or not to get, take or not to take, so put yourself forward and take the best for you are the best.

All were born same it is only your brain that tells you that you are poor, disabled or rich. So ignore this and just go ahead with what your mind tells you to do, do not think about the drawbacks that life can give just move on - move forward for no one is going to push you to the top, you yourself have to strive to move forward and rise to the top. Gird up your lions, fight for what you deserve and no one can push

you down.

You have it all in you to move forwards - there might be a set down or two but still aim to move forward. You shall learn from your mistakes for no one would be what he is today if he would not have fallen and learnt to pick himself to walk. A few steps at a time but you will surely learn to take the world in your stride and understand the story of this life.

A child when he puts forth his leg for the first is sure to trip and fall but still he stands up again to reach out to take the world in his stride. If a small child can do it why can't you?

(Writer is a Professor from Korba: Email: [mlakorba@gmail.com](mailto:mlakorba@gmail.com))



## BRIEF

### Apraava Energy

**Bengaluru:** Integrated energy solutions provider Apraava Energy on Wednesday announced that it has secured a 300 MW wind energy project in Aski, Karnataka. The project is part of the 1,200 MW auction capacity of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS)-connected wind power projects (Tranche-XIV) from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), the company said. The construction of the project will be completed within the stipulated timelines as per Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which is for a period of 25 years at a competitive tariff of Rs 3.24/kWh, it said in a release.

### Happy Forgings

**New Delhi:** Shares of auto components maker Happy Forgings Ltd ended with a premium of over 21 per cent against the issue price of Rs 850 on Wednesday. The stock made its debut at Rs 1,001.25, reflecting a jump of 17.79 per cent during the day, it rallied 27.98 per cent to Rs 1,087.85. Shares of the company ended at Rs 1,029.80 apiece, up 21.15 per cent. On the NSE, it listed at Rs 1,000, up 17.64 per cent. The stock ended at Rs 1,030.10 per piece, rallying 21.18 per cent. The company's market valuation stood at Rs 9,701.22 crore.

### Suzlon

**New Delhi:** Renewables solutions provider Suzlon has bagged two separate wind energy orders of 100.8 MW each from Mahindra Susten and an Indian arm of a leading nordic energy company. Suzlon will install 48 units of their S120 140m wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a Hybrid Lattice tubular (HLT) tower and a rated capacity of 2.1 MW each in Maharashtra for Mahindra Susten Pvt Ltd, the clean-teach arm of the Mahindra Group, a company statement said. "We are delighted to partner with Mahindra Susten, for their first wind energy project. Indian conglomerates like the Mahindra Group are setting examples for corporate India towards embracing renewable energy and meeting India's national sustainability goals," said Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group said.

### ICICI Pru Life

**New Delhi:** ICICI Prudential Life Insurance on Wednesday said tax authorities have slapped a demand notice of Rs 270 crore on it for alleged short payment of GST for 2017-18. The Maharashtra Goods and Service Tax (GST) authority has demanded GST along with applicable interest and penalty for 2017-18 fiscal for reversal of input tax credit; difference in GST liability filed in GSTR-1 and GSTR-9; mismatch in ITC claimed in GSTR-3B and GSTR-2A; and interest on GST payment on proposal deposit. The total demand of Rs 269.86 crore includes GST of Rs 119.56 crore, interest of Rs 138.34 crore, and penalty of Rs 11.95 crore.

# Sensex scales 72k peak for first time; Nifty hits all-time high

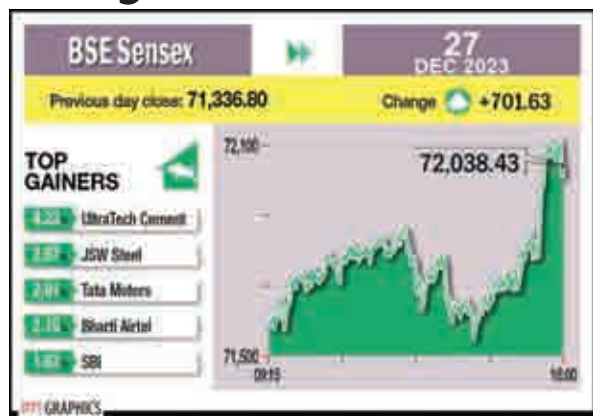
Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):

Sensex and Nifty soared to fresh closing record highs on Wednesday, with the 30-share benchmark index crossing the historic 72,000 mark, boosted by optimism over the country's macroeconomic fundamentals and firm global market trends.

Reflecting broader investor bullishness, the 50-share index surged to a record high of 21,654.75 on intense buying in metal, commodity, auto and banking sectors.

Rising for the fourth straight session, the BSE gauge jumped 701.63 points or 0.98 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 72,038.43. During the day, it zoomed 783.05 points or 1.09 per cent to reach its intra-day lifetime high of 72,119.85.

The Nifty climbed 213.40 points or 1 per cent to settle at a record high of 21,654.75. During the day, it rallied 234.4 points or 1.09 per cent to reach its all-time intra-day peak of



21,675.75.

"The upbeat domestic market continued reaching a new record high and easily recovered the last week's losses. This upward trend was predominantly supported by the Santa Claus rally in anticipation of early rate cuts by the US Fed and cooling global inflation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

UltraTech Cement was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 4.23 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Tata Motors, Bharti



Airtel, State Bank of India, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys and Bajaj Finserv were the major gainers.

On the other hand, NTPC and Tech Mahindra were the laggards.

## Bandhan Bank launches 'INSPIRE' for senior citizens

**Mumbai, Dec 27:** Bandhan Bank, the pan-India universal bank, has launched a programme called 'INSPIRE', exclusively curated for senior citizens. 'INSPIRE' offers the already existing benefits like preferential interest rates, priority banking services and doorstep banking facilities for the senior citizen customers of the Bank.

The 'INSPIRE' programme also provides life care benefits like special discounts on purchase of medicines, diagnostic services and medical treatments. Concessions on doctor consultation, medical check-ups and dental care are also offered

through partner health-care service providers. The Bank also plans to include additional features like direct access to phone banking officer to ease the banking experience of senior citizen customers.

Bandhan Bank has long had dedicated senior citizen desks at the branches to ensure personalised service to senior citizens. Specially trained executives are assigned to hand-hold senior citizen customers who wish to avail banking services anytime and from anywhere through mobile app, internet banking, SMS banking and missed call banking. Sujoy Roy, Head, Branch Banking, Bandhan Bank,

said, "At Bandhan Bank, we recognise the importance and need of financial independence at all ages. I'm glad to announce that Bandhan Bank has come up with this comprehensive bouquet of benefits meticulously designed for senior citizens. We have been privileged to win the trust of senior customers over the eight years of the Bank's operations and this programme is a mark of respect we have for them."

Bandhan Bank is offering compelling interest rates to senior citizens on fixed deposits. Senior citizens can enjoy FD interest rates of as high as 8.35% for a tenor of 500 days.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.41 per cent, and smallcap index advanced 0.20 per cent.

Among the indices, metal jumped 1.33 per cent, auto climbed 1.33 per cent, commodities (1.19 per cent), teck (0.96 per cent), IT (0.68 per cent), consumer durables (0.67 per cent) and capital goods (0.67 per cent).

Utilities, power and services were the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains.

European markets were mostly trading in positive territory. The US markets ended in the green on Tuesday.

"After a brief midweek panic last week, bulls are back with a bang, albeit with some caution. India VIX has touched a new high in a multi-month time frame, indicating the possibility of some volatility as we approach the monthly expiry.

## TotalEnergies invests \$300 mn in joint venture with Adani Green Energy

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

French energy giant TotalEnergies has invested USD 300 million (about Rs 2,500 crore) in a renewable energy joint venture with Adani Green Energy Ltd as it continues to re-raise faith in the conglomerate run by billionaire Gautam Adani.

The Adani group firm and the French giant will own 50:50 stake in the company which in turn will house a 1,050 MW project portfolio.

"TotalEnergies has acquired a 50 per cent stake in Adani Renewable Energy Nine Ltd (ARE9L) for an amount of USD 300 million," Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) said in a stock exchange filing.

ARE9L is a subsidiary of AGEL.

The 1,050 MW project portfolio includes 300 megawatts (MW) of operational capacity, 500 MW of under-construction solar projects and 250 MW of under-development projects.

TotalEnergies, which holds about 19.75 per cent stake in AGEL, had previ-

ously invested in Adani Green Energy Twenty Three Ltd, another subsidiary of AGEL.

"As per the valuation report dated November 27, 2023 obtained from Mazars Advisory LLP, an independent valuer, the aggregate valuation of the project portfolio companies is equivalent to USD 489 million," AGEL said in a notice to shareholders seeking approval for the TotalEnergies deal.

"As part of the transaction, TotalEnergies will acquire a 50 per cent stake in ARE9L, which will house this Project portfolio companies, for an amount of USD 300 million which are terms more beneficial to the company (AGEL)."

Upon the under-construction and under-development projects achieving commercial operations, TotalEnergies will also invest an additional amount to be determined based on actual project cost subject to certain parameters around the project cost and timelines. "Such further fund-

ing by TotalEnergies will be over and above the initial investment of USD 300 million and will be subject to suitable approvals as may be required," it added.

The French firm infused an amount of Rs 4,013 crore into AGE23L by subscribing to compulsorily convertible debentures issued by AGE23L, which have been used to redeem the existing non-convertible debentures held by TotalEnergies.

"The (Wednesday's) transaction also reinforces the strategic alliance between the company (AGEL) and TotalEnergies and will support the company in becoming the Indian leader of renewable energy, with a target of 45 GW renewable power capacity by 2030," the notice said.

Later in a statement, AGEL said the 1,050 MW joint venture (JV) with TotalEnergies has been completed. "As part of the JV, TotalEnergies invested USD 300 million in AGEL subsidiary, for acquiring 50 per cent stake in the projects."

## RBI approves IDFC-IDFC First Bank merger

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

Reserve Bank of India has given its nod for the reverse merger of IDFC Ltd with its banking subsidiary IDFC First Bank. The boards of IDFC First Bank and IDFC have approved the reverse merger in July.

"...IDFC Limited and IDFC Financial Holding Company (IDFC FHCL) have received letters dated December 26, 2023 from RBI whereby RBI has conveyed its 'No Objection' to the composite scheme of amalgamation, subject to compliance with the terms specified therein," IDFC Ltd said in a regulatory filing. As part of the composite scheme of amalgamation, IDFC FHCL would first merge with IDFC and then IDFC into IDFC First Bank Ltd. The scheme remains subject to

other statutory and regulatory approvals, including from the National Company Law Tribunal and the respective shareholders and creditors of the companies involved under the applicable laws, it said.

Under the proposed reverse merger scheme, an IDFC shareholder will get 155 shares for every 100 shares she/he holds in the bank. Both stocks have a face value of Rs 10 each.

Post the merger, the standalone book value per share of the bank will increase by 4.9 per cent, as calculated on the audited financials as of March 2023, it said, adding that as of June 2023, IDFC through its non-financial holding company, owned 39.93 per cent in IDFC First Bank. IDFC was an infra lender in the private sector space, and following its bigger peers like ICICI and

## HUDCO inks pact with Guj govt to invest Rs 14,500 cr to finance housing, urban infra projs

New Delhi:

State-owned HUDCO on Wednesday said it has entered into a pact with the Gujarat government to invest up to Rs 14,500 crore for financing of housing and urban infrastructure projects. The state government intends for overall development of Gujarat by implementing various housing and infrastructure projects, according to a regulatory filing. Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) has "executed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government of Gujarat for an investment up to Rs 14,500 crore for financing the housing and urban infrastructure projects in the state of Gujarat," the filing said. Being a techno-financial institution, HUDCO is in the business of providing financial assistance for housing and urban development projects in the country.

In December 2018, it took over Capital First, a consumer and MSME-focused non-bank since 2012, and was renamed as IDFC First Bank and became a full-service universal bank.

## P-Note investments surge to Rs 1.31 lakh cr in Nov on domestic mkt strength

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

Investments through participatory notes in the Indian capital markets jumped to Rs 1.31 lakh crore by the end of November, bouncing back from a decline in the previous month, owing to the robust performance of the domestic market. Before registering a decline in October, investments through P-notes have been increasing continuously since March, following the stable Indian economy against an uncertain global macro backdrop. The latest data includes the value of participatory note investments in Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued

by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to the latest data from markets regulator Sebi, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets - equity, debt, and hybrid securities - stood at Rs 1,31,664 crore at the end of November compared to Rs 1,26,320 crore at the end of October.

The growth in P-notes generally aligns with the trend in FPI flows. When there is a global risk to the environment, investment through this route increases, and vice-versa.

## POST-CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



People walk past a Tiffany & Co. store at the Americana at Brand shopping center on the day after Christmas in Glendale, California. U.S. retail sales rose 3.1 percent year over year this holiday season, based on in-store and online purchases, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse.

## RBI asks NBFCs to broad-base fundraising

Reduce dependence on banks

**Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):** The Reserve Bank on Wednesday asked non-bank finance companies to broad-base their fundraising to limit reliance on banks as it called for strengthening balance sheets and guarding against frauds and data breaches.

According to the report "Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2022-23" released by the RBI, the Indian banking system and NBFCs remain sound and resilient, backed by high capital ratios, strengthening asset quality and robust earnings growth. The consolidated balance sheet of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) in 2022-23 expanded by 12.2

per cent, driven by credit to retail and services sectors. Deposit growth also picked up, although it trailed credit growth, it said. Looking ahead, it said, "Given the increasing interconnectedness between banks and NBFCs, the latter should focus on broadbasing their funding sources and reduce overdependence on bank funding. Banks and non-banks both, need to bring in greater empathy in their customer services."

The concerted efforts are needed by all stakeholders to protect the banking and payments system from the risks of fraud and data breaches emanating from cyber threats, the report added.

## Gold rises Rs 100; silver plunges Rs 350



**New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):** Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 63,850 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a bullish trend in the global markets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous close, the precious metal had closed at Rs 63,750 per 10 grams.

However, silver plunged Rs 350 to Rs 79,100 per kilogram, while it had finished at Rs 79,450 per kg in the previous trade.

Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said gold prices edged higher on Wednesday, in the Delhi markets trading at Rs 63,850/10 grams, up by Rs

100 following a bullish trend in the overseas markets.

In the futures trade on the MCX, the February contract of gold jumped Rs 334 to Rs 63,359 per 10 grams. Also, the March contract of silver bounced Rs 109 to Rs 75,135 per kilogram on the bourse.

In the international markets, gold was trading higher at USD 2,067 per ounce, while silver was down at USD 24.15 per ounce. "Gold prices continue to inch higher, as soft inflation data fuelled more bets on early interest rate cuts in 2024 and weighed on the dollar index and US treasury yields," Navneet Damani, senior vice-president of commodity research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

## Companies raise nearly Rs 9,000 crore in Dec IPO rush

**Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):** As many as 12 companies raised Rs 8,931.69 crore through initial share sales this month, making it the best IPO month in two years. The previous best was December 2021, when 11 companies mopped up Rs 9,534 crore through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). As per an analysis, 12 companies hit the market with their IPOs in December 2023.

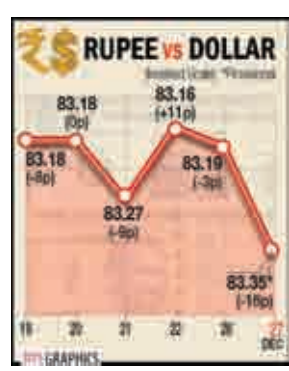
This week, six companies got listed after their IPOs and one company will start trading on Thursday. Reflecting the bullishness in the primary market, three firms each made their stock market debut on Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Rupee falls 16 paise to 83.35 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):** The rupee declined 16 paise to settle at 83.35 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday due to sustained outflow of foreign funds and increased demand for American currency from importers and banks.

According to forex traders, a robust buying trend in the domestic equity market failed to boost sentiment as investors remained concerned over volatile crude oil prices fearing disruption in global trade through the Red Sea route.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic currency opened at 83.21 and traded between the peak of 83.20 and the lowest level of 83.35 against dollar during intra-day



deals. The local unit finally settled at 83.35 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a fall of 16 paise from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the domestic currency settled at 83.19 against the dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP

Paribas, said Indian rupee depreciated on dollar demand from foreign banks and importers.

"FII outflows also weighed on the rupee. However, positive domestic markets and the weak tone in the US dollar cushioned the downside," he said but added that the rupee is expected to trade with a slight negative bias on month-end dollar demand from oil marketing companies and importers.

"USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 83 to Rs 83.70," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally lower at 101.07 on Wednesday.

# Farmers rejoice as Modi's bonus promise delivers

**CM Vishnu Deo Sai distributes first gift to farmers**

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Dec 27:** A wave of happiness swept over farmers as they received their long-awaited bonuses. Their smiles grew wider when they discovered that the entire bonus amount had been seamlessly deposited directly into their bank accounts, a fulfillment of Prime Minister Modi's guarantee. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai personally delivered this first gift to the state's hard-working farmers, reassuring them that all promises would be fulfilled in due course. The eagerly anticipated bonus payments for the 2015-16 Kharif crop of the year 2014-15 were adjusted directly into the bank accounts of farmers, bringing immense joy.

Bonus amount of Rs 245821920 was distributed in the accounts of farmers of 40 villages under 9 large cooperative societies of



Cooperative Bank Kurud branch. Under the jurisdiction of the Central Cooperative Society Raipur branch in Kurud, a substantial online bonus totaling Rs 4,373,880 was disbursed to the accounts of 1,407 farmer members hailing from Kurud and Kukkuha.

Furthermore, the dedicated farmer members of the Gadadih and Mandrod Committee contributed a significant online payment of Rs 60,272,640, which was distributed among 2,184

farmers. Similarly, Rs 61,162,200 found its way into the accounts of 1,921 farmer members associated with the Bhathagaon and Bagod Committee. The bonus initiative also extended to 1,568 farmers who were proud members of the Charra and Katalbod Committee, with their accounts receiving the bonus amount. Notably, an additional bonus sum of Rs 32,193,720 was thoughtfully disbursed to 1,082 farmers belonging to the Sivanikala

Committee. This generous distribution of bonuses was met with immense joy and appreciation from the farming community, who expressed their happiness and gratitude.

BJP General Secretary Krishnakant Sahu remarked that the farmers were elated to see Prime Minister Modi's guarantee in the BJP manifesto fulfilled, and their contentment was evident after receiving the bonus amount.

In a show of appreciation, farmers conveyed

their heartfelt thanks to Modi and the Chief Minister for their unwavering support. Farmer leader Virendra Sahu emphasized that the BJP's promise is Modi ji's guarantee, and they are determined to uphold it.

The bonus not only strengthens the economic condition of the farmers but also empowers them to engage in advanced agricultural practices. The BJP government's commitment to purchasing paddy at a respectable rate of Rs 31 per quintal has earned the farmers' genuine respect.

Cooperative Bank Kurud's Branch Manager, Tikendra Bais, highlighted the dignified ceremonies held across cooperative societies, where farmers received their bonus amounts and bonus certificates, marking a significant moment of celebration for the agricultural community.

# Janhvi Thakur honoured with Gallantry Award

**Veer Bal Divas celebration recognizes heroic acts**

Central Chronicle News

**Kurud, Dec 27:** On the occasion of Veer Bal Divas, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh State, Vishnu Deo Sai, shone a spotlight on a remarkable local hero. Janhvi Thakur, a courageous girl from Kurud city, was honoured for her extraordinary bravery in saving her younger brother's life. She received the prestigious Sahibzada Fateh Singh Gallantry Award.

The incident took place on August 15, 2020, around 10 a.m., when Janhvi Thakur's younger brother was playing on the terrace of their home. Suddenly, he came into contact with a live electric wire, putting his life in grave dan-



ger. Without hesitation, Janhvi Thakur sprang into action, grabbing a bamboo stick and using it to forcefully dislodge the electric wire.

Her quick and brave actions successfully saved her brother's life. For her heroic act, Janhvi Thakur has now been recognized with the Sahibzada Zorawar Singh

Gallantry Award.

The occasion of Veer Bal Divas on December 26 witnessed the honoring of four brave children in a program organized by Chhattisgarh Civil Society. This event highlights the remarkable courage and selflessness displayed by young individuals like Janhvi Thakur.

# Khairagarh police seize 35 quarter bottles of illegal liquor

**Crackdown on illegal liquor sales yields results**

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Dec 27:** A resolute campaign against illegal liquor and gambling/speculation, the Khairagarh Police, led by SP Ankita Sharma and ASP Neha Pandey, and with the guidance of SDO P Lalchand Mohale, achieved a significant breakthrough. Under the leadership of TI Khairagarh Rajesh Devdas, the police successfully apprehended individuals involved in sell-



ing illegal liquor on December 25.

The police team swiftly cordoned off the village of Dunda and arrested Manoj Yadav, aged 23, a

resident of Dunda, Khairagarh, who was found in possession of 3,600 ml of illegal liquor valued at Rs 2,800/-. It was discovered that the ac-

cused did not possess a valid license for the sale of liquor.

In response, the police took decisive action by invoking Section 34 (2) of the Excise Act. Following legal proceedings, the accused was sent to jail as per the court's orders.

This successful operation was made possible through the collective efforts of dedicated individuals, including Morjadhawj Deshmukh, Shankar Karunik, Mani Shankar Verma, Pradeep Yadav, Vijay Kurre, Shival Verma, Pradeep Dhankar, and the police station staff at Khairagarh police station.

# Kabirdham's disabled athletes shine in Khelo India Para Games

**Collector Janmejay Mahobe honoured disabled players of the district**

Central Chronicle News

**Kawardha, Dec 27:** Kabirdham district's exceptional disabled athletes received well-deserved recognition as Collector Janmejay Mahobe honored three remarkable players. These athletes achieved remarkable success at the Khelo India Para Games, held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in Delhi from December 10 to 17.

Kabirdham district proudly presented two disabled athletes and their coach, who showcased



their incredible talent on a national stage. Their outstanding performances secured Kabirdham's honour by winning two gold medals, two silver medals, a total of four medals.

Abhilasha Panda, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, shared the achievements of Kabirdham's athletes at the

Khelo India Para Games 2023. Sukhmandan Nishad and Chhoti Mehra from Kabirdham clinched gold medals at the event, which featured seven sports.

Chhoti Mehra's exceptional performance in shot put earned her a gold and silver medal, while Sukhmandan Nishad excelled in the 100-meter race

and long jump, securing a gold and silver medal as well.

Kabirdham district has further reason to celebrate, as these athletes had secured four gold medals in the 14th state-level para games held at Swami Vivekananda Stadium in Raipur from December 22 to 24.

Disabled player Hulshi Markam clinched three gold medals in long jump, 100-meter race, and shot put, while Khilleshwar Patel secured two gold medals in long jump and the 100-meter race. These exceptional athletes collectively contributed to Kabirdham's tally of nine gold medals, adding to their local pride.

# Bhavna Bohra inspects Community Health Center

Central Chronicle News

**Pandaria, Dec 27:** Pandaria's MLA, Bhavna Bohra, paid a thoughtful visit to the city's community health center on a pleasant Monday evening. Her visit was marked by a sincere inquiry into the well-being of the patients and an assessment of the hospital's overall arrangements.

During her visit, Bohra took the opportunity to meet with patients and their families who were receiving treatment at the hospital. She attentively gathered information about the hospital's facilities, medical supplies, hygiene standards, and health equipment. In her



commitment to ensuring top-notch healthcare, Bohra promptly directed senior hospital officials to address any identified shortcomings.

The MLA also made sure to inspect the Covid ward established at the hospital during the peak of the pandemic, highlighting her dedication to

healthcare management. The visit witnessed the presence of many dedicated BJP workers who joined Bohra in her mission.

She extended her gratitude and offering words of encouragement to the health workers and doctors tirelessly serving at the hospital.

Central Chronicle News

**Dongargaon, Dec 27:** The disbursement of the long-awaited bonus to farmers has triggered a rush of liquor enthusiasts to government liquor shops, but a shortage of country liquor has forced them to opt for pricier English varieties. Despite the Chhattisgarh government's recent change, the Excise Department delivered stock to Dongargaon earlier this week. However, due to the high demand from retail customers, the supply of country liquor could not keep up.

Country liquor is known for its affordability, but with the non-availability of their preferred choice, patrons are reluctantly pur-

## Country liquor shortage spurs shift to english varieties



chasing more expensive English liquor. The overcrowded English liquor shop witnessed operators selling liquor arbitrarily offering whatever brand they had on hand to customers, who accepted it amid the hustle and bustle. Excise Officer Kusumlata Jolhe explained that the shortage isn't limited to Dongargaon alone; the entire

Chhattisgarh region is grappling with a lack of country liquor due to stock supply issues. After stock depletion, replenishments are ordered from the warehouse. Despite instances of alcohol being sold at higher prices recently, concrete actions have yet to be taken, and the transfer of stock continues among different shops.

The removal of Chakhna shops near government liquor shops, once a hot topic, now appears ineffective. Chakhna shops continue to operate near the Dongargaon liquor shop. Additionally, liquor consumption remains rampant in open spaces, fields, and barns in the area. Liquor enthusiasts are leaving plastic pouches,

glasses, and broken glass pieces scattered in the vicinity, with little government and administrative control. Dongargaon Police is actively arresting Kochiyas (local liquor vendors) involved in the illegal liquor trade almost daily, confirming the sale of liquor in rural areas through Kochiyas for substantial profits.

Large numbers of Kochiyas are operating, making liquor readily available from government liquor shops in Dongargaon and Arjuni. During recent police operations, only plain country liquor has been seized. On December 25th, a Kochiya was apprehended in Rudgaon village within the police station area.

# Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra reaches Ranigaon

**Villagers embrace Central schemes for a better tomorrow**

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Dec 27:** The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra's mobile van made its way to Ranigaon in the Kota block, extending the reach of government initiatives and providing rural villagers with the knowledge and advantages of Central schemes. The common citizens of Ranigaon and surrounding areas are reaping the rewards of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary Viksit Bharat

Sankalp Yatra.

The Yatra has been gaining momentum with each passing day, drawing an increasing number of people to the camp organized as part of this initiative. On its fifth day, a resolution camp was held in Ranigaon village within the Kota development block. The event witnessed the presence of prominent figures such as Janak Ram Dewangan, the public representative of Ranigaon, Yuvraj Sinha, CEO of District Panchayat Kota, and other government officers and employees, all of whom graced the program as chief guests.

The camp has become a



hub for citizens who have not yet availed themselves of the benefits of central schemes. Here, individuals are applying for various schemes and gaining valuable insights into government programs. Farmers, in particular, received en-

couragement to adopt natural farming practices, with detailed information available at the Agriculture Department's stall. Information regarding Central Government schemes and nutrition campaigns was given in the stall

of the Women and Child Development Department. Sickling tests, TB screenings, sugar tests, BP checks, and distributing free medicines to patients in the stall of the health department.

A total of 75 individuals were examined during the camp. Additionally, information regarding Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana was disseminated by bankers at their stall, ensuring that the people of Ranigaon are well-informed and equipped to benefit from these initiatives.

# Tirodi, Ukwa and Gumgaon triumph in intense matches



Central Chronicle News

**Dongargaon, Dec 27:** The state-level football competition, hosted in the vibrant village of Maneri, has kept the excitement alive as it entered its fourth day of action. The event welcomed esteemed guests, including Janak Sahu, Village Patel Balram Sahu, former PTI B.P. Gangber, Pohandas Sahu, Rukhlmal Sahu, Omen Sahu,

Nandkumar Mandavi, Nohar Sahu, Naresh Kumar Sahu, and numerous villagers. The fourth day of competition saw fierce matchups unfold. In the first game, NBFC Raipur squared off against Eleven Star Tirodi, with Eleven Star Tirodi emerging victorious with a commanding 4-0 scoreline. The excitement continued with the second match between Blues Club Ukwa and Police Line Rajnandgaon,

where Ukwa secured a thrilling 6-5 victory in the penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in regular time. Additionally, in the matchup between Gumgaon and Dongargaon, Gumgaon secured a hard-fought 1-0 win. The football fever has attracted sports enthusiasts from the city and nearby villages who eagerly gather to witness the thrilling matches taking place in Maneri.

## Ton-up Rahul takes India to 245

Centurion, Dec 27 (PTI):

KL Rahul scored one of his most satisfying hundreds in extremely difficult batting conditions to take India to an above-par first innings score of 245 against South Africa on the second day of the opening Test here Wednesday.

At lunch, South Africa were 194 for 3 at tea. Dean Elgar with an elegant century (115 not out) and David Bedingham at 32 were at the crease.

South Africa firmly in control. India bled runs, 145 of them in this session between lunch and tea. Any little joy they may have had with Bumrah's double-strike has quickly dissipated with the Elgar-Bedingham partnership.

India are properly under the pump and their back-up bowlers, Shardul and Prasidh, have let them down so far.

Starting the day unbeaten on 70, Rahul made 101 off just 137 balls and this innings could well be considered on par with some of the best knocks played by Indians in SENA countries if the degree of difficulty is taken into account. No Test batter from any other country has been able to score two Test



hundreds at the Supersport Park and Rahul now holds that unique record.

His innings had 14 boundaries and four sixes as he most of the time decided to ride the bounce rather than get on top of it en route his eighth Test ton. Someone, who was dropped earlier this year during the Border-Gavaskar

Trophy in India on account of poor form, this was some comeback where he was literally the lone ranger. Consistency has been the problem for the Bengaluru man but class has never been an issue as his range is as good as a Virat Kohli or a Rohit Sharma.

The ramp shot off Kagiso Rabada (5/59 in 20 overs) was pure class while a quick bye run stolen off Gerald Coetzee to prevent a genuine No. 11 Prasidh Krishna from facing more of the fast bowler was pragmatic.

Rahul got into the 90s with a smashing six as he picked Rabada's length very early and dispatched him into square leg grass embankments.

The hundred came when he slogged Coetzee into the 'Cow Corner' for his fourth and final maximum. There were no overt celebrations and he must have felt more relief than joy after an effort which will certainly rank among his best in recent times.

Credit must go to Siraj (5 off 22 balls) for hanging around and the 47 runs added for the ninth wicket could prove to be invaluable in the final context of the match.

## Australia takes the advantage in 2nd Test against Pakistan

Melbourne, Dec 27 (AP):

Australia's pace-bowling captain Pat Cummins struck twice in four balls to crush Pakistan's comeback attempt on the second day of the second cricket Test on Wednesday.

Pakistan started strongly then collapsed to reach 194 for six at stumps in reply to Australia's first-innings total of 318 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

A total of 13 wickets fell in an eventful second day's play.

Cummins claimed three for 37 and off-spinner Nathan Lyon took two for 48 for Australia. Abdullah Shafique (62) and skipper Shan Masood (54) both made half-centuries, sharing a 90-run partnership for Pakistan's second wicket.

Pakistan's openers had survived the new ball before Lyon made the initial breakthrough in the 16th over, removing Imam-ul-Haq caught at second slip for 10 at 34 for one.

Cummins changed the momentum of the day's



**Australian bowler Pat Cummins (R) sends down a delivery on the second day of the second cricket Test match between Australia and Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in Melbourne.**

play by claiming a diving return catch to dismiss Shafique at 124 for two. Cummins leapt into the air in delight in his next over after bowling Babar Azam for one, finding a gap between bat and pad with a fabulous off-cutter as the crowd of 44,837 roared with delight.

Skipper Shan aimed a mighty swipe down the ground, advancing down the pitch and edging a

catch to point off Lyon's bowling as Pakistan slumped to 147 for four.

Four runs later, pace bowler Josh Hazlewood clipped Saud Shakeel's off stump. When Cummins removed Salman Ali Agha caught behind at 170 for six, Pakistan had endured a middle-order collapse of five for 46.

Mohammad Rizwan was unbeaten on 29 at stumps. Pakistan trails by

124 runs with four first-innings wickets in hand.

Australia had resumed Wednesday on 187 for three, following a rain-interrupted first day of play in which only 66 of the scheduled 90 overs were bowled.

The home side was bowled out for 318 at lunch Wednesday, losing seven wickets for 131 in an extended morning session that lasted more than two

and-a-half hours. Marnus Labuschagne top-scored with a patient 63 off 155 balls and Mitchell Marsh crunched 41 off 60 deliveries including six fours and a six.

David Warner, dropped on two, scored 38 in a 90-run opening stand with Usman Khawaja (42) Tuesday. Australia's second top-scorer was the 51 extras conceded by Pakistan, including 20 byes and 15 wides.

Wicketkeeper Rizwan's one-handed catch to remove Alex Carey for four was a fine example of Pakistan's improved efforts on the field Wednesday as pace quartet Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-85), Mir Hamza (2-51), Hasan Ali (2-61) and Aamir Jamal (3-64) maintained pressure on Australia.

Australia won the opening Test in Perth by 360 runs.

The third and final Test in the three-match series is scheduled to begin January 3 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where Pakistan won its last Test in Australia in 1995.

## Mahedi, Shoriful and Litton stun New Zealand in series-opener



**Bangladesh's Litton Das (L) and teammate Mahedi Hasan walk from the field after their team's victory in the first Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and Bangladesh at McLean Park in Napier.**

Napier, Dec 27 (AP):

Litton Das carried his bat for 42 to steer Bangladesh to a five-wicket win in the opening Twenty20 International on Wednesday as it rolled New Zealand out cheaply at McLean Park for the second time in four days.

On Saturday, Bangladesh bowled out New Zealand for 98 on the same pitch to set up a nine-wicket win in the third one-day international, its first limited-overs victory over the Black Caps on their home soil. Four days later, Bangladesh claimed three wickets with the first nine balls of the New Zealand innings and contained the home side to 134 for nine. The Black Caps were one for three after Shoriful Islam dismissed Finn Allen and Glenn Phillips with consecutive balls in the second over, and then 20 for four following the fall of Daryl Mitchell. Jimmy Neesham made 48 and captain Mitchell Santner 23 as New Zealand staged a partial recovery. Das led an unhurried run chase that saw Bangladesh reach its target with eight balls to spare. The opener was given out lbw to Tim Southee when he was 22

but had the decision reversed under review and stayed on to steady the innings later.

He needed medical treatment for a leg injury at the start of the 18th over when he was 29 and Bangladesh needed 24 from 18 balls. On 33, and with 20 needed from 16 balls, his lofted shot found Ish Sodhi at fine-leg but the fielder stepped over the boundary line in completing a simple catch, giving Das another reprieve.

Clearly impeded while running between the wickets, Das was able to look on from the non-striker's end as Mahedi Hasan (19 not out) finished the chase with a six and a four off Adam Milne in the 19th over. Earlier, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto entrusted the first over to off-spinner Mahedi and the decision paid off when he bowled Tim Seifert with the fourth ball. Seifert went back to a delivery from Mahedi that he tried to dab wide of slip. But, the ball kept low, skipped on and hit his middle stump.

Shoriful then followed up his effort in the third one-dayer, where he took three wickets, with a double strike in the second over.

## India women look to resurrect poor ODI record against Aus

Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):

Flying high after two consecutive Test wins, India Women will now shift focus to white-ball cricket as they take on seven-time world champions Australia in a three-match ODI series, looking to resurrect their dismal record in the format, here on Thursday.

India have been in top form winning their last three contests two Tests and one T20I after losing the first two T20Is to England and concede the three-match series in this long home season.

After crushing England by a record 347 runs in



the one-off Test, India carried the momentum to defeat Australia by eight wickets last week here at the Wankhede Stadium, which will also be the venue for the three-match ODI series.

Given their current form, India will eye more success in the fixtures lined up but the

Harmanpreet Kaur-led side would know that it has a huge task cut out against Australia who have historically dominated them in 50-overs cricket.

India have only 10 wins and 40 losses to show from 50 ODIs against Australia overall, while at home, their record has

## CA looking at three-match Test series against India and England in future: CEO Hockley

Melbourne, Dec 27 (PTI):

Cricket Australia is looking to increase "marquee" women's Test series at home against India and England to three matches from the current one-off contest, according to its Chief executive Nick Hockley.

The CA top official said the governing body will "keep advocating for more Test cricket" in the women's game.

Hockley's comments came after captain Alyssa Healy felt a sense of unfinished business following Australia's historic defeat to India in Mumbai last week.

Playing their first Test in India since 1984,



Australia were beaten by eight wickets in the one-off contest at the Wankhede Stadium.

"We'll keep advocating for more Test cricket as part of multi-format series," he told SEN.

"Maybe that's something in the future that we can think about key marquee series going to three

Tests." Marquee series for Australia would be against England and India-only, with New Zealand reluctant to schedule women's Tests, according to cricket.com.au.

The loss in Mumbai was Australia's first against India in 11 Tests, with Healy saying she would love to be involved in more red-ball cricket.

"It would create a real contest over three games. That would be an unbelievable experience for our group, and probably a true test of both sides' abilities," she had said.

"The one-off Test, India playing in their home conditions, you'd expect them to be heavy favourites.

## Look inward to challenge one of the best sides: Muzumdar

Mumbai, Dec 27 (PTI):

Without fretting over opposition's achievements and threats they pose, the need to focus inward was one clear message delivered to the Indian Women cricket team under him, said head coach Amol Muzumdar here on Wednesday.

Having beaten both their fancied opponents England and Australia in consecutive one-off Tests here, in-form India has now set sights on extracting maximum result from the limited-overs series against Alyssa Healy's side, beginning Thursday. The three-match ODI se-



ries will be followed by a T20I series for as many games.

With the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup scheduled for September-October 2024 in Bangladesh to be followed by the 50-over World Cup

to be held in India, Muzumdar said focus has been on the bigger picture given his side's trait of failing at crucial moments.

"I will now shy away from saying that we have not had a look at the bigger picture. But at the same time, do not lose focus on the current happenings," Muzumdar told the media ahead of India's training session at the Wankhede Stadium.

"Yes, they (Australia) are a good team. They have been doing well in the past, but the message is very clear to the team we would look inwards," he said.

## IOA forms 3-member ad hoc committee to run affairs of suspended WFI

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday constituted a three-member ad hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI after the sports ministry suspended the wrestling national body for not following the provisions of its own constitution while taking decisions. Wushu Association of India president Bhopinder Singh Bajwa will be the chairman of the panel with hockey Olympian M M Somaya and former international shuttler Manjusha Kanwar being the other two members. The Sports Ministry on Sunday suspended the WFI, three days after it elected new office bearers with Brij Bhushan Singh loyalist Sanjay Singh as president, and

also asked IOA to constitute an ad-hoc panel to manage the affairs of the sports body. The IOA said in a release that the newly-elected president and officials of WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions and also flouted principles of good governance. "The IOA has recently become aware that the recently appointed President and officials of WFI have made arbitrary decisions in violation of their own constitutional provisions and against the principles of good governance espoused by IOC and further without following due process overturned the rulings of the IOA-appointed Ad hoc Committee," IOA president PT Usha said in the release.

**प्रदेश के युवा आईकॉन**  
सत्यमेव जयते माता पृथ्वी विद्यायक

**श्री ओपी चौधरी जी**  
को उत्तीर्ण मंत्रिमंडल में कैबिनेट मंत्री बनाए जाने पर

**गोमती साव**  
विद्यायक, पत्यलगांव

**हार्दिक शर्मा**

**एवं ढेर सारी शुभकामनाएं...**

**इन्द्रपाल सिंह भाटिया**  
रायपुर, बिलासपुर, रायगढ़, पत्यलगांव (छ.ग.)

## Rahul-led 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' from Manipur to Mumbai

● To start on Jan 14

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

The Congress on Wednesday announced it will hold 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi from Manipur to Mumbai, passing through 14 states and 85 districts from east to west of India in 67 days, beginning January 14, an exercise seen as party's attempt to rally support ahead of the crucial 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The Nyay Yatra, which will cover around 6,200 km - mostly on buses with stretches of walking - and conclude on March 20, comes nearly a year after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi completed Bharat Jodo Yatra on foot from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, traversing over 4,000 km in 136 days.

While Gandhi raised the issues of "economic dis-



parities, polarisation and dictatorship" during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Nyay Yatra will focus on social, economic and political justice for the people of the country, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said at a press conference.

The yatra will be flagged off by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge from Imphal on January 14 and will pass through Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttar

Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The march is being seen as politically

significant in the wake of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, which are likely to be held in April-May.

### 'Those who failed to do justice to '84 victims talking about nyay

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday took a swipe at the Congress' decision to take out 'Bharat Nyay Yatra', accusing the party of failing to bring justice to the 1984-Sikh riots victims for several years and standing with the "tukde-tukde" gang.



Anurag Thakur

Congress earlier in the day announced it will hold 'Bharat Nyay Yatra' which will be led by Rahul Gandhi from Manipur to Mumbai, passing through 14 states and 85 districts from east to west of India in 67

days, beginning January 14. "How can those who could not provide justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which took place during their regime, for several years, do justice to anyone," Thakur told reporters when asked for comment on the Congress' Bharat Nyay Yatra.

"How will those who induct members of the tukde-tukde gang and create division on the lines of caste and region will provide justice," the minister said.

"I feel proud that a flag stitched by me will adorn the historic Ram temple, which over 100 crore people have been dreaming about. If I get a chance, I will definitely go to Ayodhya to participate in the inauguration ceremony," Jilani told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the "pran pratishtha" or consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla idol in Ram temple on January 22.

The 70-acre temple complex has 392 pillars

## J'khand's Muslim tailor ready with Lord Hanuman flag

● For Ayodhya's Ram Mandir

Hazaribag, Dec 27 (PTI):

Gulam Jilani (55) is all smiles as he stands beside a 40-foot-long and 42-foot-wide flag that he stitched. This magnificent flag is ready to be hoisted atop the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22.

Jilani is a third generation tailor who specialises in making religious 'Mahaviri' flags in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district.

"I feel proud that a flag stitched by me will adorn the historic Ram temple, which over 100 crore people have been dreaming about. If I get a chance, I will definitely go to Ayodhya to participate in the inauguration ceremony," Jilani told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the "pran pratishtha" or consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla idol in Ram temple on January 22.

The 70-acre temple complex has 392 pillars

and a 14-foot-wide 'percha' periphery spanning 732 metre.

Jilani said he learnt stitching from his father Abdul Shakur who died around 40 years ago at age 80.

"I used to work with my father at Bhola Vastralaya owned by one Fateh Lal Agarwal, located in front of Veer Vastralaya, where I am currently employed," he said.

"The 40-foot flag bears the images of Lord Hanuman on one side and Lord Ram and Lakshman on the shoulders of Lord Hanuman on the other," said Veer Vastralaya owner Devendra Jain.

Jain said Jilani has made thousands of Ram Navami and Mahaviri flags strengthening Hindu-Muslim unity in the region.

He said the flag was ordered by a prominent RSS leader Naval Kishore Khandelwal of Barabazar Hazaribag.

He claimed that Khandelwal (81) was part of the group led by

veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani who participated in the demolition of Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992.

Jain said the flag was completed in about 10 days and was ready on December 26.

"Khandelwal and his group will take the flag to Ayodhya before the temple's inauguration by Modi," he said.

Jain said 150 metre of

cloth was used to make the flag which will be fitted on a 100-foot-long pole at the temple. The cost of flag is Rs 21,000, he said.

Veer Vastralaya was established in 1977 and makes more than 2 lakh flags every year for all religions, he added.

Jain said they even receive orders for flags from foreign countries during Ram Navami and Shivratri.

## Thousands witness Mandala pooja in Sabarimala

Sabarimala (Ker), Dec 27 (PTI):

Thousands of pilgrims on Wednesday offered prayers at the famed Lord Ayyappa temple here as the auspicious Mandala pooja was performed at the hill shrine in the afternoon, marking the culmination of the 41-day-long first leg of the annual pilgrimage season. The pooja was performed after adorning the idol of the Lord Ayyappa, the principal deity with "thanka anki", the sacred golden attire brought to the

Sannidhanam (temple complex) in a ceremonial procession on Tuesday evening. The rituals were performed under the aegis of temple tantri (head priest), Kandamaru Mahesh Mohanaru who adorned the idol with the sacred attire. Special rituals including "kalabhanhishekam" and "kalashabhishekam" were performed during the occasion, temple authorities said. Besides thousands of pilgrims from and outside Kerala, who queued up for hours in and around the

Sannidhanam, prominent officials of Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) were also present before sanctum sanctorum when the ceremonies were held.

According to an official statement, Nagaland Governor L Ganesh, Kerala Devaswom Minister K Radhakrishnan, K U Jenish Kumar MLA, Travancore Devaswom Board President P S Prashanth and various higher officials were among those who were present during the occasion.

## Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 72% rural tap water coverage

● Eyes 100% in 2024

New Delhi, Dec 27 (PTI):

Making substantial progress towards the government's ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission, approximately 72 per cent of rural households now have access to tap water connections, according to official data. In 2024, the Jal Shakti ministry faces the crucial target of achieving the 100 per cent coverage of tap

water connection to every rural household — a commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019. A senior official expressed confidence that the government will reach the 100 per cent coverage goal by the end of the coming year. However, challenges persist in states like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and West Bengal, where tap water connection coverage in rural households remains below 50 per cent, the data says.