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### BRIEF



A child wrapped in woolen clothes to keep him warm during a cold winter day, on the outskirts of Gurugram, Thursday.

### Suicide

**Kanpur:** A 31-year-old M.Tech second year student allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling fan in his hostel room at the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur, police said on Thursday. The motive was not immediately clear but a police official said the student had been "temporarily" removed from the course after he failed three exam papers. However, students are usually allowed to retake these exams.

### Double lifer

**Kochi:** A 44-year-old migrant worker was sentenced to double life imprisonment by a court in nearby North Paravur on Thursday for murdering a female college student in 2018. The Additional Sessions Court, North Paravur, sentenced West Bengal resident Biju Mollah for murdering graduate student Nimisha Thampi by slitting her throat during a burglary attempt at Ambunadu under the Thadiyittaparambu police station limit, the police said in a statement here.

### UPSC member

**New Delhi:** Former CISF chief Sheel Vardhan Singh was on Thursday appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), according to a personnel ministry order. Singh had served as the director general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) from November 2021 to December 2023.

### IED recovered

**Chalabasa:** An improvised explosive device (IED), planted by red rebels, was recovered on Thursday by security personnel during an anti-Maoist operation in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said.

### Skip

**Srinagar:** National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate on Thursday for questioning in a money laundering case, official sources said. The 86-year-old politician was called by the central agency at its Srinagar office in connection with an ED investigation into alleged irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

**Weather**  
High 29 Low 16

**MARKET**  
NIFTY 21,647.20  
SENSEX 71,721.18

**BULLION**  
GOLD 62,091  
SILVER 71,679

### CLEANLINESS SURVEY

## Indore, Surat 'cleanest' city

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

Indore bagged the cleanest city of India title for the seventh time in a row while Surat came out a joint winner for the top rank in the Central government's annual cleanliness survey, the results of which were announced Thursday.

Navi Mumbai retained the third position in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023'. In the 'best-performing states' category, Maharashtra was named the cleanest state in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In the last annual survey, Madhya Pradesh bagged the cleanest state title.

Three cities of West Bengal - Madhyamgram (444th rank), Kalyani (445th rank) and Haora (446th rank) -- occupied the bottom rankings.

Among the bottom three in the state category includes Rajasthan, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. According to the survey results, Maharashtra's Sasvad got the cleanest city award among 3,970 cities with less than one lakh population.

Chhattisgarh's Patan and Lonavala in Maharashtra got the second and third positions re-



CM Vishnu Deo Sai with his deputy Arun Sao receiving the 'All India Clean City (with a population of less than one lakh) - Rank 2' award to Patan from the President Droupadi Murmu, in New Delhi, Thursday.

### Chh'gh third cleanest state, Patan 2nd cleanest city....

In the 'best-performing states' category, Maharashtra was named the cleanest state in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In the last annual survey, Madhya Pradesh bagged the cleanest state title. According to the survey results, Maharashtra's Sasvad got the cleanest city award among 3,970 cities with less than one lakh population. Chhattisgarh's Patan and Lonavala in Maharashtra got the second and third positions respectively while Nagaland's Pungro city is ranked the last in this category.

### Factors taken for survey.....

The Swachh Survekshan 2023 focused on transforming waste into valuable resources and was evaluated by a team of over 3,000 assessors. As many as 110 awards were bestowed during the ceremony. Evaluation parameters gave 51 per cent weightage to service level progress (segregated collection of waste, processing & disposal and safaimitra suraksha), 26 per cent to certification (ODF and other things) and 23 per cent to citizens' voice.

pectively while Nagaland's Pungro city is ranked the last in this category. Varanasi is the cleanest 'Ganga town', followed by Prayagraj, Bijnor, Kannauj,

Rishikesh, Kanpur, Rajmahal and Sahiganj. Among the 88 Ganga towns, Chhapra is ranked the last. In the category of cleanest cantonment boards, Madhya Pradesh's Mhow topped the chart

while Deolali in Nashik and Ahmedabad were on other two spots.

President Droupadi Murmu gave away the awards to the winners at an event held here. Union Housing and Urban

Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri attended the event. According to the data, 4,477 urban local bodies participated in the Swachh Survekshan 2023 and 12 core citizen responses were received. 92,720 municipal wards, 61 cantonment boards, 88 Ganga towns and 18,980 commercial areas participated in the survey. The government claims it to be the world's largest cleanliness survey.

Speaking at the event, Murmu said that the Swachh Survekshan conducted with wide participation is an important step towards raising the level of cleanliness.

The President said that about one-third of India's population live in urban areas, adding that cleanliness of cities and towns is essential for their health and development.

Besides Indore and Surat, the list of top 10 cleanest cities with more than one lakh population includes Navi Mumbai, Greater Visakhapatnam, Bhopal, Vijayawada, New Delhi, Tirupati, Greater Hyderabad and Pune.

In the state category, Odisha is ranked fourth, followed by Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Karnataka, Goa, Haryana and Bihar.

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RECORD HOLDER

## 6-state NIA raids on Babbar Khalsa, Bishnoi gang

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday seized several illegal arms and ammunition, along with incriminating documents, digital devices and cash, in a massive multi-state crackdown in connection with cases relating to conspiracies and activities of the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and the Lawrence Bishnoi crime syndicate. A total of 32 locations in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, as well as the Union Territory of Chandigarh, were raided by NIA teams as part of the mega operation that began early Thursday morning, a spokesperson of the premier investigating agency said. The seizures during the searches carried out in connection with three cases included two pistols, two

magazines and ammunition, along with cash amounting to Rs 4.6 lakh, besides documents and digital devices.

The three cases are related to the terror activities being carried out by the BKI, which was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and the terrorist-gangster networks operating in the country.

Such activities include smuggling and induction of terrorist hardware, such as arms and ammunition, explosives, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) etc., from across the borders, the NIA spokesperson said.

The terror hardware is being used by the operatives of terror outfits and organised criminal syndicates for carrying out bomb blasts, targeted killings, extortions and funding of such outfits in various parts of the country.

### WINGED VISITORS



A flock of migratory birds flies over the Wullar Lake, in Bandipora district, Thursday.

### Parl's Budget session between Jan 31 and Feb 9

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

A brief Budget session of Parliament is likely to be held between January 31 and February 9, sources said on Thursday.

President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of the two houses on January 31, they said.

The government would present a vote-on-account or an 'interim budget' on February 1. The new government will present a full-fledged budget later.

Since the term of the 17th Lok Sabha ends on June 16, it is set to be the last session of Parliament before general elections are announced.

## India's passport ranks 80th in world

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain have world's most powerful passport

New Delhi, Jan 11:

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain start 2024 with the world's most powerful passport, allowing visa-free entry to 194 global destinations, according to the latest Henley Passport Index. The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). For the past five years, Japan and



### Countries allowed to travel without visa..

India's passport ranked 80th spot in the list, with citizens allowed to travel to 62 countries without a visa, including popular tourist destinations like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. India shares its current rank with Uzbekistan.

Singapore have consistently dominated the No. 1 spot. However, this quarter's ranking showcases European nations jumping up the tanks. Finland and Sweden tied with South Korea in second place, offering visa-free access to 193 destinations. Austria, Denmark, Ireland, and the Netherlands secure the third position, providing passport holders access to 192 destinations. India's passport ranked 80th spot

in the list, with citizens allowed to travel to 62 countries without a visa, including popular tourist destinations like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. India shares its current rank with Uzbekistan while neighboring Pakistan is positioned at 101st.

## 'Want to put up first 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2028'

Using existing launcher capability

Gandhinagar, Jan 11 (PTI):

India would like to set up the first 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' or Indian Space Station by 2028 using the existing launcher capability, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath said here on Thursday.

He was speaking at the seminar on International Space Station organised as part of the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. "We would like to put the first of the Bharatiya Antriksh Station by 2028 using the existing launcher capability.

And we would like to convert it into a laboratory for you to come and do experiments," he said.

"And who are the people who will come and do experiments over a period of time? By 2035, when we have human access, we must have laboratories, institutions, scientific establishments doing research, deriving benefits out of it and economic outcomes," the ISRO chief added.

After setting it up, ISRO would like to find out companies and institutions who will be able to make use of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station and create economic activities out of it, Somanath said, adding it was something he believed was possible.



S Somanath

### NATIONAL YOUTH DAY TODAY

## 'Impose ban on point-of-sale tobacco advertising, smoking zones'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

On the eve of National Youth Day, health experts and youth icons converged to stress the critical need for safeguarding India's youth from the clutches of tobacco addiction.

They underscored the importance of implementing tobacco warning rules on over-the-top (OTT) platforms, akin to the regulations previously enforced for film and television.

Additionally, there were calls for the prohibition of surrogate advertisements, point-of-sale tobacco ads, and smoking zones.

Experts emphasized the critical importance of

shielding the young population from the allure of tobacco during the webinar titled 'Viksit Bharat-Tambaku-mukt Bharat,' organized by 'Tobacco Free India,' a citizens' initiative, on Thursday.

International wrestler Sangram Singh, brand ambassador for the Government of India's 'Fit India' programme, said more than 50 per cent of the country's population is aged under 25, while over 65 per cent are below 35 years. "This young population is particularly vulnerable to the hazards of tobacco, making the implementation of tobacco warnings crucial," said

Singh, who plans to return to professional wrestling from next month.

Epidemiologist and public health expert Dr Chandrakant Lahariya referred to findings from the GYTS-India Survey conducted by the Union Health Ministry and said, "Approximately one-fifth of individuals aged 13-15 had used some form of tobacco product, and this proportion was even higher among older age groups." Dr Lahariya emphasized that on-screen tobacco warnings not only have a direct impact on the youth but also result in a reduction of tobacco-related scenes in the media.

### HC OBSERVATION

## 'Adolescents' true love cannot be controlled through rigour of law'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

"True love" between adolescents cannot be controlled through the rigor of the law or state action, the Delhi High Court has observed while quashing a kidnapping and rape case against a man who had eloped with a girl nine years ago when she was a minor.

The high court said that at times, the dilemma faced by courts could be of trying to justify the state or police action against an adolescent couple who married each other and continue to lead a peaceful life and raise a family and obey the law of the land. "This court has time and

again reached a conclusion that true love between two individuals, one or both of whom may be minor or minors on the verge of majority, cannot be controlled through rigors of law or state action. "The cases, as the present one, are those where the dilemma of the judge, which may be rare, has to take into account the delicate balance which the constitutional court or courts of law have to strike between the law and its strict application and the repercussion of its judgments and orders by application of such laws on the society as a whole and the individuals who are before it," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said.

# Choudhary urges businessmen and CAs to contribute in state's development

Finance Minister attends Business Conclave at ICAI, Bhilai

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** State Finance, Commercial Tax, Housing, Environment, Planning and Economic Statistics Minister OP Chaudhary attended the Business Conclave at Kala Mandir as the chief guest on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, Choudhary said that for the proper development of any country, political stability is necessary.

He said that to strengthen the Indian democratic system, qualified, educated and intellectual class should come into politics. He said that to strengthen the economic condition of any country, work should be done as per the global demand. Finance Minister Choudhary said that Prime Minister Modi is taking the country forward by preparing an action plan to strengthen the economic condition of the country.

With the target of making India a developed nation by 2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is



working with a big road map to make a 5 trillion dollar economy. Chhattisgarh can give a better contribution in this journey. Today the GDP is Rs 5 lakh crore. There is a need for immense improvement. With sustained efforts, the state can achieve a GDP of Rs 10 lakh crore.

To fulfill the vision of the Prime Minister, cooperation of all sections of the people of the country is necessary. The

Commercial Tax Minister said that to strengthen the economic condition of Chhattisgarh, we will have to follow the system. He called upon all businessmen and Chartered Accountants to come forward to cooperate in the development of Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce State President Amar Parwani was present as the special guest. CEOs, CFOs and

businessmen from different districts of the state attended the programme organized under the joint aegis of Bhilai Branch and CICASA Bhilai and Bilaspur Branch and CICASA Bilaspur.

Amar Parwani said that through the Chamber, it is their best effort to contribute in taking the country's economy forward. CA Manish Dafriya (Indore), CA Vishal Poddar (Mumbai) and CA Bivora

Kumar (Raipur) were mainly present as speakers in the program. They gave necessary information regarding progress in business and solutions to problems arising during business.

Branch Chairman CA Payal Naveen Jain said that the main objective of this programme was the business meet of CEOs, CFOs and businessmen of various institutions of the state. Where the CA and businessmen were to discuss together how they can contribute to the progress of the country's economy.

Central Council members CA Durgesh Kabra, CA Abhay Chhajed, CA Anuj Goyal were present in the programme.

Coordinator CA Lekhwani, CA Rahul Batra, CA Anshul Sinha, CA Suraj Soni, CA Shiv Chaudhary, CA Pradeep Pal, CA Sanjay Kumar Mishra, CA Rajat Aggarwal, CA Pankaj Jajodiyal, and others were present.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** Police arrested a dismissed police constable on charges of duping lakhs of rupees from retired army men on promise of government job. He had promised the ex-army men to get them appointed to the post of Sub Inspector in the Police Department.

The accused was arrested by Supela Police Station. The accused had taken Rs 10 lakh from each candidate on the promise of a job and had deceived more than 15-20 people. Earlier, an FIR was lodged against him in Kurud (Dhamtari).

The victim Reva Ram, a resident of village Ringni Nardha had lodged a complaint against Vishnu Soren. Reva Ram alleged that Vishnu cheated him in pretext of providing a government job as Sub Inspector.



Supela Police launched an investigation under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg and supervision of ASP (City) Abhishek Jha and

CSP (Bhilai Nagar) Vishwa Deepak Tripathi. Supela police started searching for the accused and succeeded in arresting the accused Vishnu Soren from Raipur. During interrogation, the accused Vishnu Soren confessed to cheating Reva Ram (ex-serviceman) and his friends Hemant Hirwani, Devendra Kumar Sahu and Navdeep Kose on the promise of a job. Vishnu had introduced himself as a cop of the Police Intelligence Wing and had demanded Rs 10 lakh from each candidate for the job as Sub Inspector.

Reva Ram and his friends had paid a total of Rs 12 lakh to Vishnu. Accused Vishnu Soren is a dismissed constable in the police department. Till now, the accused has cheated more than 15-20 people.

Inspector Durgesh Kumar Sharma (SHO, Supela) and Sub Inspector Amit Andani played a vital role in arresting the accused. The accused Vishnu Soren (48) son of Late Savana Soren, a resident of D-2, 302 Gokul Dham Residency, Raipura Police Station, DD Nagar Raipur was booked under Section 420 of IPC.

# Collector inspects the voting material distribution centers

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, preparations have been started by the district administration. Collector Richa Prakash Choudhary along with other officials visited the voting material distribution and material return centers of the assembly elections and took information from the officials regarding the arrangements.

Collector Chaudhary got information about the previous arrangements at Voting Material Distribution Centers at Manas Bhawan Durg, Polytechnic College Durg and Science College Durg and Voting Material Return Center at Shankaracharya



Engineering College Durg. Deputy District Officer Additional Collector BK Dubey said that materials were distributed from Manas Bhawan Durg to the assembly constituencies of Patan, Durg city, Saja and Bemetara (partial), from Polytechnic College to Durg Rural and

Ahiwara and from Science College Durg to the polling parties of Bhilai Nagar and Vaishali Nagar assembly constituencies.

He said that after the second randomization, EVMs were kept safe in the distribution centers along with the voting materials. Voting materials

were returned to Shankaracharya Engineering College, Junwani.

EVMs were kept in the strong room built here till the counting of votes. He also informed about vehicle parking arrangements and strict security arrangements. Collector Chaudhary also visited Ravi Shankar Stadium, the main venue of the Republic Day function, and asked the officials to ensure arrangements like previous years.

On this occasion ADM Arvind Ekka, Additional Collector and Deputy District Election Officer BK Dubey, SDM Mukesh Raote, Municipal Corporation Durg Commissioner Lokesh Chandrakar and other officers were present.

# Legal awareness programme held at NSS Camp

Blood donation camp organised in District Court

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** Under the National Service Scheme, a special camp was organized by Government Dr WW Patankar Girls College, Durg at Government Primary School, Kolihapuri on Wednesday. Civil Judge Ashish Dahriya (Secretary, District Legal Services Authority) was invited as a special guest in the NSS camp. He explained to the girl students and the villagers about the laws, how the law is made and our duties towards the law.

He made them aware about the cyber crime, POC SO Act and other laws. He urged the people to follow traffic rules and avoid driving without a license. He informed the villagers how to get free legal advice through the NALSA



helpline. He informed how the people, who are unable to appoint a lawyer to represent their cases, can get a free panel lawyer with the help of the District Legal Services Authority.

Under the National Service Scheme, the camp was organized in village Kolihapuri. Girls College Principal Dr Sushil Chandra Tiwari, NSS Program Officer Dr Yasheshwari Dhruv, Vandana Banjare, Professor Dr Aarti

Rathore, Kumari Rashmi, Deepak Kashyap, Amit and the head mistress of the local government primary school, Kolihapuri and a large number of students and common villagers were present.

In another event, a Blood Donation Camp was organised on Wednesday under the auspices of District Bar Association and District Legal Services Authority Durg, at the Library of Bar Association in District

Court Durg. Advocates and other people donated blood at this camp.

District and Sessions Judge Neeta Yadav, judicial officers of the court, office bearers of Bar Association and advocates and judicial staff and other common people present in the court premises participated in large numbers in the blood donation-life donation camp. Donors who voluntarily donated blood in the camp were honored with certificates.

# Smuggler nabbed with marijuana

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** Police arrested a drug smuggler and recovered 4.76 kg marijuana from his possession. Under the guidance of Senior Superintendent of Police (Durg) Ram Gopal Garg and supervision of Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Abhishek Jha and City Superintendent of Police (Durg) Mani Shankar Chandra, the team of Pulgaon Police Station led by ACCU Incharge Inspector Naresh Patel and SHO Pulgaon is conducting a campaign against the people involved in illegal smuggling and trade of narcotics. The cops are maintaining vigil on the activities of suspects and criminal record holders. The network of informers has also been activated. In this sequel on Wednesday, police received a tip off about illegal transportation of



marijuana near D Mart in Potia Durg. Police team swung into action and the suspect Vikrant alias Vicky Chandrakar was caught while smuggling marijuana. 4.769 kg marijuana worth about Rs 50000, Activa scooter (CG 07 AX 3565) worth Rs 20000 and cash Rs 12000 were seized from him. The accused Vikrant Chandrakar alias Vicky (24) son of Late Vasant Chandrakar a resident of Konari,

Police Station Pulgaon, was booked under the provisions mentioned in Section 20 (b) of NDPS Act. Inspector Tapeswar Singh Netam (SHO, Pulgaon), ASI Purna Bahadur Karki, Constable Pannelal, Santosh Kumar Gupta, Jugnu Singh, Anup Sharma, Shiv Mishra, Upendra Yadav, Shahbaz Khan, Constable Vivek Yadav and Harish Sinha played a vital role in arresting the accused.

# CECON celebrates 20th Anniversary

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** CECON Consultants Pvt Ltd, a leading Design, Engineering & Consultancy company for Integrated Steel Plants celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary the other day. The function was graced by P Rajshekhar (President - Projects-JSW), Shakeel Ahmed (Sr Vice President-JSW), S Swain (Executive Director (JNIL Raipur) and other illustrious Industrialist & Educationist of Bhilai - IP Mishra (Chairman - Simplex Casting Ltd), Manish Gupta (MD - BSBK), Amit Shrivastava (Chairman - Metex Engineers), Prashant Vashishta (Principal - Delhi Public School). CECON's employees presented a melo-



dious Swagat Geet to welcome the esteemed guests. The program started with Ganesh Vandana. The welcome address was given by S Lal - Director & CEO of CECON who appraised about the company's achievements of the last 20 years and shared his views on the challenges

that consultants are facing as Process suppliers for technological units in the steel plants. All dignitaries in their words of blessings appreciated CECON's engineering services provided to Steel Plants in these 20 years and mentioned that this company has reached to a level at par with other

national level reputed engineering consultants in India and wished CECON's continuing growth and progress in years to come. On the occasion of CECON's 20 years journey, a documentary film was screened which highly impressed all the members and a Souvenir was released covering 35 good wishes messages received from CECON's clients from India and abroad. Prabhjanjay Chaturvedi, nationally famed artist presented memorable Ghazals and Bhajans which were loved by one and all. The program ended with a vote of thanks by NR Bundelkhandi - Advisor, CECON.

# Career Development Center inaugurated at SRSGL

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** For the all-round development and better career of the students, Dr JK Upadhyaya, Vice Chairman, Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Group of Institutions (SRSGL), inaugurated the Career Development Centre in Shri Rawatpura Sarkar Group of Institutions.

On this occasion, Director Admin Dr Aditya Khare, Deputy Director Training & Placement Om Prakash Tripathi, Campus Director Dr Preeti Gurnani, Principal Mother Teresa College of Nursing, D Chennamma



Bhaskar, Principal Sri Rawatpura

Institute of Pharmacy, Dr Alankar Srivastava, faculty, students and staff were present.

Dr JK Upadhyaya said that all the students should make their career goal and work hard to achieve it and not be limited to just one job.

He further said that pre-final year students have time to prepare themselves whereas final year students should start preparing for their career quickly due to less time.

Deputy Director Training & Placement gave detailed information to everyone about the Career Development Center through a presentation.

# Two robbers including a girl sentenced seven-year jail

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Jan 11:** First Additional Sessions Court in Durg sentenced two robbers including a girl to seven-years of rigorous imprisonment for trespassing into a house, assaulting a lady and robbing cash and gold from her. Another female accused is still at large. Additional Sessions Judge Sanjeev Kumar Tamak sentenced imprisonment to the accused Arun Kumar Suryavanshi (21) son of Rajendra Kumar Suryavanshi a resident of Sarkanda, Bilaspur and Rajni Sonwani (19) daughter of Late Hemlal Sonwani a resident of New Khursipar.

Additional Government Pleader Chhannulal Sahu informed that the incident occurred on September 16, 2019 at Zone 3 in Khursipar. The victim Sangita Tiwari was standing outside her home around 15:40 hrs. Meanwhile, a youth approached her and requested to give some drinking water. Sangita went inside the house to bring water. The youth followed her inside the house and finding her alone, tried to molest her. When Sangita resisted, the youth overpowered her. The lady struggled and managed to get herself free. The accused took a knife and attacked her. The lady suffered an injury on

neck. Hearing her screams, neighbours reached there and got hold of the youth identified as Arun Kumar Suryavanshi. Later the victim disclosed that Rajni Sonwani and Ruby also assisted the youth in attacking her and looting Rs 15000 cash and gold chain. Police arrested the accused Arun Kumar Suryavanshi and Rajni Sonwani while Ruby is still at large. After trial, the court found the accused guilty and awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment under section 452/34 of IPC; five years of rigorous imprisonment under section 326/34 of IPC and seven years of rigorous imprisonment under section 397/34 of IPC.

# OBITUARY

Anil Kumar Rastogi



**Bhilai:** Retired BSP GM, Anil Kumar Rastogi left for heavenly abode at the age of 77 years. Funeral procession was taken out from his residence situated at D-31, Hospital Sector and last rites of the mortal remains were performed at Ramnagar Muktidham. He was the husband of Kamini Rastogi.

## Holiday declared in schools, colleges on 22nd

On auspicious occasion of Shri Ramlala Pran Pratishtha in Ayodhya

### Kite festival in capital Raipur on Makar Sankranti

Raipur, Jan 11:

Religious Trusts and Endowments, Tourism and Culture Minister Brijmohan Agrawal announced holiday in all government and non-government schools and colleges of Chhattisgarh on 22 January on the auspicious occasion of Shri Ramlala Pran Pratishtha in Ayodhya.

Agrawal made this announcement while talking to the reporters here today. He said that devotees from Chhattisgarh will be brought to



Ayodhya under "Shri Ramlala Darshan Yojana" under the guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For this, the Chhattisgarh government will enter into a contract with the Indian Railways and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and book a train which will

### Kite festival on Makar Sankranti

The Tourism and Culture Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, a grand kite festival would be organized in the Purkhauti Mukangan complex of the capital Raipur. For this, kite flyers from the state as well as other states would be invited. To give a grand and attractive look to the Kite Festival, songs and music will also be organized by folk artists for the audience and common citizens.

### Real nature of Shri Ram Vanagaman Path to be kept in mind

Tourism Minister Brijmohan Agrawal said that the state government will work on Shri Ram Vanagaman Path keeping in mind its actual form. He talked about developing Bhuteshwar Mahadev, Jatmai-Ghatarani, Shiv Mahapeeth, Sirkatti Ashram of Gariaband district and Kopeswar Mahadev of Kopra as tribal circuit.

run once a week. The train will accommodate 850 to 1000 devotees in their journey to Ayodhya for 'darshan' of Lord

Shri Ram at one time. Special care will be taken of the elderly and disabled in the train. One assistant will be al-

lowed to accompany such devotee. Besides, a doctor will also be deployed for the health care of the passengers. Arrangements for accommodation and food for the devotees will be made by the government.

Aarti, puja and bhajan will be organized in the major temples at all the districts and block levels of Chhattisgarh in the morning, while in the evening on this day, Ganga Aarti will be performed on the banks of the rivers or ponds and lights will be lit so as to make the the consecration ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla on January 22 in Ayodhya memorable and historical, Agrawal said.

### COURTESY VISIT



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai paid courtesy visit to Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his official residence in Delhi on Thursday.

### Deputy CM Sao to participate in National Youth Day prog today

Raipur, Jan 11: Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao will participate in the National Youth Day program in Raipur and Bilaspur on January 12, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. He will participate in the Swami Vivekananda Jayanti and National Youth Day celebrations at Vivekananda Garden located at Devkinandan Chowk, Bilaspur on January 12 at 8 am. He will attend the Blood Donor Honor Ceremony and Youth Conference at Yash Palace in Bilaspur at 12 noon. Deputy Chief Minister Sao will leave for Raipur by road from Bilaspur at 2 pm. He will attend Swami Vivekananda Jayanti at Hidayatullah National Law University, Nava Raipur at 4 pm.

## Dr Raman invites Vice President Dhankar for Orientation programme



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 11: Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankar in New Delhi. During the meeting, the visiting Assembly Speaker Dr Raman Singh invited him

to Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly for the proposed two-day Orientation Programme for the Members of Legislative Assembly on January 20 and 21.

It is notable that nearly 50 out of the total 90 MLAs of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly are new and it is a customary event to organize an

### Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly to hold MLAs meet on Jan 20-21

Orientation Programme for them to keep them informed about the proceedings and programmes. Apart from Vice President of India Jagdeep Dhankar, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is also invited for the Orientation programme.

Similarly, the Parliamentary experts like former Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey as well as sitting MLA Ajay Chandrakar as well as few others from Congress too would be invited as Speaker for the two-day Orientation programme.

## Electricity tariff unlikely to change for Domestic Consumers

### Electricity Board to submit draft plan to Regulatory Commission soon

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 11: With the Lok Sabha elections round the corner, the people of Chhattisgarh are likely to get the current electricity tariff from the month of April.

According to the information received, the Electricity Distribution Company has drafted the tariff plan for the next financial year. Company would for-

ward the draft annual electricity tariff to the Electricity Regulatory Commission for approval before January 15.

It is learnt that the Domestic Consumer rates are unlikely to be increased. Electricity Board can make certain changes in the Supplementary Plan in future as it had done previously.

Meanwhile, the Board officials are also mum over the 50% off on electricity bills which the state government bears the expenses.

## BJP playing religion politics: Sachin

### Accorded grand welcome by PCC office bearers & workers

Raipur, Jan 11: After becoming Chhattisgarh Congress in-charge, Sachin Pilot reached Chhattisgarh for the first time on Thursday. Talking to the media he took a dig at BJP and said that politics and religion should be kept separate. If politics is being done under the guise of religion then no one will accept it, he said. He said that his party wanted to discuss public issues, development, education, employment, but BJP was not ready to discuss them. It has been the tradition of BJP to take votes under the guise of emotional issues, he said. One can visit the temple anytime, but the way politicization is being done, Congress has considered it wrong, said



Pilot. After the assembly elections, when the newly appointed PCC State in-charge Sachin Pilot reached capital city on maiden visit, there was lot of enthusiasm among the Congress workers, as they have made stages at various places to welcome him. State General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Congress Subodh Haritwal also gave a grand welcome to in-charge Sachin Pilot in front of Jainam Manas Bhawan near the airport along with hundreds of

colleagues. Workers led by Subodh Haritwal turned the road in front of the airport pink with rose petals. Subodh garlanded Sachin with a 40 feet big garland with the help of a crane and wished him good luck for the new charge. Sachin called upon the youth to gear up with the same enthusiasm for the Lok Sabha elections. PCC President Deepak Bajj and Leader of Opposition Charandas Mahant were also present.



**'उत्तिष्ठत, जाग्रत प्राप्य वशन्निबोधत'**  
(कठोपनिषद्)

# राष्ट्रीय युवा दिवस

स्वामी विवेकानंद जी की जयंती (12 जनवरी) पर पावन स्मरण

## ऊर्जावान युवा प्रगतिशील प्रदेश

युवाओं के उज्वल भविष्य के लिए संकल्पित छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार



**रिक्त शासकीय पदों पर नियमित भर्ती**  
आगामी दो वर्षों में प्रदेश के सभी शासकीय विभागों के रिक्त पदों पर नियमित भर्ती का लक्ष्य



**सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में रोजगार अवसर**  
'सरकार तुंहर दुआर' योजना के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के क्षेत्र में डेढ़ लाख युवाओं को रोजगार दिलाने का लक्ष्य



**प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाओं में पारदर्शिता की गारंटी**  
प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाओं में पारदर्शिता की गारंटी, छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग की परीक्षा में अनियमितता की शिकायतों की सीबीआई जांच का निर्णय



श्री नरेंद्र मोदी  
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

हमने बनाया है, हम ही संवारेगे



श्री विष्णु देव साय  
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

सबका साथ- सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास और सबका प्रयास

## Agricultural Panchang is useful for farmers of Ch'garh: Netam



Raipur, Jan 11:

Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam on Wednesday released the Agricultural Almanac - 2024 published by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University at the Seed Corporation office here. Netam congratulated the Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Dr. Girish Chandel and his colleagues for the publication of the Agricultural Panchang. Agriculture Minister Netam said that

the Agricultural Panchang has included the research and extension work being done by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University as well as information about the latest agricultural technology and various schemes run by the Central and State Government for the farmers, which are helpful to the farmers. This will prove to be very useful for farmers. He expressed hope that the Agricultural University will continue to work like this in the interest of the farmers of the

state. Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Dr. Girish Chandel, while giving information to the Agriculture Minister about the Agricultural Panchang 2024 published by the University, said that Indira Gandhi Agricultural University has been publishing Agricultural Panchang and Agricultural Guide for the last 20 years, in which various farmer useful information is included. He told that in the Agricultural Panchang,

along with the calendar and panchang of 12 months of the year, the schemes run by the Central and State Government for the farmers, research, development and extension works being done by Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, new improved varieties of various crops, Agricultural workshops and production techniques of major crops like grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, flowers, vegetables, spices etc., latest agricultural technology, major activities of agricultural colleges and science centers run under the Agricultural University are included. In the release ceremony, Registrar of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Mr. G.K. Nirmam, Director Extension Services, Dr. Ajay Verma, Director Research, Dr. Vivek Kumar Tripathi, Dr. K.L. Nandeha, Dr. Jyoti Bhatt, Dr. Deepthi Jha, Dr. G.P. Ayam and Dr. Dev Prakash Patel were present.

## Akash and Yasmin pair to be seen in Ch'garhi film 'Chahat'

'Chahat' film poster launched, film to be released on March 29

Raipur, Jan 11:

Chhattisgarhi film "Chahat" directed by Raja Khan and produced by Dr. Khushboo Jaiswal is releasing on March 29. Its poster release program was held at Lokayan Hall on Wednesday evening. Yogesh Agarwal presided over the program. Other guests present were filmmaker Anupam Verma and BJP official Mahendra Ikka. Filmmaker Alak Rai, producer Raj Verma, distributor Lucky Rangshahi, actor Kranti Dixit, UFO incharge Rakesh Mishra, director Nitish Lahiri, Yakub Khan and others were present in the program.

Speaking on the occasion of poster launch, Yogesh Agarwal said, the director should be such that he himself becomes an artist. Raja Khan includes this art. Expressed hope that the new government will take initiative for devel-



opment of Chhattisgarhi film industry. Artists have been deceived by all political parties. Our industry is divided into factionalism. He said that first we all should unite. Only then will our industry be able to move forward and get its rights. The good thing is that the new generation is doing better work. Make films in such a way that its success round is heard across the country.

BJP official Mahendra Ikka said, good films are being made in the state. Now its leap has reached

outside the state. He discussed about state achievements from its first film 'Kahi Debe Sandesh' and 'Ghardwar' to till date. Ikka expressed hope that new state government will take far-reaching decisions on film policy and film city. Filmmakers Santosh Jain and Anupam Verma also addressed the program.

Director Raja Khan said, this is a romantic film. But it is completely different from other romantic films. Yasmin, who is debuting with this

film, said, I am very excited about the film. Because I will be seen on screen for the first time. However the journey was not so easy. I had to work hard for acting. Producer Khushboo said, she has been interested in films since childhood. She had dreamed of film making which is now going to be fulfilled. The lead actor in the film is Akash Soni. Other cast includes Sanjay Jain, Ranu Verma, Prabha Jain Rinku Raza, Pawan Manikpuri and Kirti Prakash.

## Abhishek Kasar passionate plea to save Hasdeo forests

Raipur, Jan 11:

Abhishek Kasar, the State Secretary of Chhattisgarh State Youth Congress, has made a heartfelt appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai to halt the deforestation of the pristine Hasdeo forest region. In a remarkable show of commitment, Kasar wrote this impassioned letter using his own blood, urging the authorities to take immediate action.

Kasar expressed deep concern over the ongoing deforestation of the Hasdeo forests, which has been escalating since the BJP government came into power in the state. The Youth Congress has been actively protesting against this environmental degradation, striving to protect the natural heritage of Chhattisgarh. In his letter



addressed to the Prime Minister, Kasar drew a poignant parallel, asking why the maternal home of Lord Ram is being destroyed when preparations are underway for Pram Lala's visit to Ayodhya. He implored Prime Minister Narendra Modi to safeguard the Hasdeo Aranya, which is believed to be the place where Lord Ram, Sita, and Lakshman spent their exile. Kasar's letter underscores the demand

for a thorough investigation into alleged fraudulent Gram Sabha proceedings, aiming to prevent the destruction of the Parsa region in the name of commercial interests.

Addressing the Chief Minister, Kasar emphasized that as a Tribal Chief Minister, Vishnu Deo Sai must protect the land, forests, and water resources. He raised concerns about tribal homes being taken away, questioning where the indigenous people would live and how they would survive. As a tribal himself, Sai was urged to empathize with their plight. The letter, written in blood, calls for an inquiry into the legitimacy of Gram Sabhas and seeks justice for the tribal communities, aiming to prevent the state from transforming into what Kasar termed "Adanigarh."

## Korba Police launches surprise checking campaign

To take stock of the security of banks

Korba, Jan 11:

Under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla and guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police Abhishek Verma, a campaign of surprise security audit has been conducted in banks.

Police station and out-post in-charges ensure security of the banks operating under their police station area, which includes security alarm system installed in the bank, CCTV, checking of security guards, checking of suspicious persons in the bank premises, giving information about financial fraud to the bank customers.

After discussing the security with the branch managers and staff of the banks, the police



team was asked to install CCTV cameras to focus inside, outside and on the road of the bank and to save the CCTV footage. The police team also took stock of the sirens of the banks and the fire prevention equipment in the banks.

## SECL has implemented projects worth about Rs 250 cr in CG under CSR: Mishra

● SECL CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra paid courtesy call on the Chief Minister

Raipur, Jan 11: SECL CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra had a courtesy meeting with Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai at the State Guest House Pahuna here on Wednesday. He honored the Chief Minister by presenting him a memento and shrefal CMD Mishra informed the Chief Minister about the role of SECL in the all-round development of Chhattisgarh. He also informed about various developmental works being done through CSR, Rail Corridor Projects, FMC Projects etc. During the discussion, he informed Chief Minister Sai that last year SECL had deposited a revenue of about Rs 5000 crore in the treasury, which is expected to increase to about Rs 6000 crore this year. In the last five years, under CSR, SECL has implemented projects worth about Rs 250 crore for the



development of Chhattisgarh which are related to many areas like education, health, basic development etc. SECL's rail corridor projects, being developed at a cost of approximately Rs 10,000 crore, will become the harbingers of development in the remote areas of the state. Through this, more than 300 kilometers of rail network is being developed. Mishra said that under sustainable development, the 40 MW ground mounted grid connected solar

project being developed in Bishrampur and Bhatgaon area of Surajpur district is one of the biggest solar projects in Koylanchal. Three new eco parks are being established in Korba Coalfields while Manikpur Pokhri is being developed as an eco tourism site. Chief Minister Sai appreciated the development work being done by SECL and expressed best wishes for continuous progress on behalf of the state government.

## IIIT Director Dr Sinha recognized as IEEE Life Fellow

Naya Raipur, Jan 11:

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Director, IIIT-Naya Raipur, has been recognized as a Life Fellow of IEEE (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) by the IEEE Board of Directors. IEEE Life Membership is an official recognition bestowed upon an IEEE member for his/her strong and sustained commitment to IEEE.

To be eligible, the member must be at least 65 years of age and a member of IEEE or one of its predecessor societies for such a period that the sum of his/her age and his/her years of membership equals or exceeds 100 years.

Dr. Sinha has been a valued member of IEEE for more than 38 years. IEEE recognizes its Life Members as technology influencers, pioneers, and valuable partners who have contributed significantly to the growth of their profession by sharing their experience with the next generation of

innovators. Dr. Sinha was elevated to the grade of IEEE Fellow in the year 2013 for his leadership in distributed and parallel processing systems. IEEE Fellow is a distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation.

This highest grade of membership is attained through nomination by peers and approval by the IEEE Board of Directors for distinction in the profession. By virtue of having attained the grade of both "IEEE Fellow" and "IEEE Life Member", Dr. Sinha is now an "IEEE Life Fellow", a unique status attained by only a handful of IEEE members globally.

IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community through its highly cited



publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. There are over 427,000 IEEE members in over 190 countries, more than 64 percent of whom are from outside the United States.

As the world's largest technical professional organization, IEEE offers a number of ways to get involved with local and global technical communities. These communities are active participants in research and authorship, conferences, and important

conversations about today's most relevant technical topics locally and globally.

Sharing his experience on this occasion, Dr. Sinha mentioned that realizing the role and importance of professional societies in any profession, he became a member of IEEE almost 40 years ago when he was an engineering student. He said that membership of a relevant professional society helps an individual to remain abreast in his/her profession by being up-to-date with the latest developments in the field. It also helps the individual to be in constant touch with his/her professional communities across the globe. While deciding the right professional society to be associated with at that time, Dr. Sinha chose to become a member of IEEE because IEEE members are engineers, scientists, and allied professionals whose technical interests are rooted in electrical and computer sciences, engineering, and relat-

ed disciplines. To facilitate and motivate the students, research scholars, and faculty members of IIIT-NR to be associated with such professional societies in their profession right from their student days, Dr. Sinha established an IEEE Student Branch at IIIT-NR in 2019, and an IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group in 2022.

He also motivated and recommended many IIIT-NR faculty members to get elevated to IEEE Senior Member grade. Today, almost all IIIT-NR faculty members as well as several research scholars and students of IIIT-NR are IEEE members, benefitting in their research and education from the activities of the local and global IEEE professional communities.

For the benefit of the students and researchers from other academic institutions in this region, IIIT-NR also organizes and hosts several International Conferences in collaboration with IEEE.

## Raipur heroes welcomed home in traditional style

● National Thai Boxing Championship

Raipur, Jan 11: Players from Raipur, who were part of the victorious Chhattisgarh team, returned home to a grand and traditional welcome at the Raipur Railway Station. They had achieved remarkable success at the 10th Federation Cup National Thai Boxing Championship and Pro Night Fight held in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh from January 6th to 8th. Led by the President of the Thai Boxing Association, Anis Memon, and accompanied by star players Annu Kanwar, Mahendra Sahu, Mohd Haider, Poonam Sahu, and Tilka Sahu, the returning athletes were greeted with joy and pride by their fami-



lies and well-wishers who showered them with flower garlands as they disembarked from the Chhattisgarh Express.

The Chhattisgarh team made their mark by clinching an impressive total of 10 medals, including a remarkable 8 gold medals and the coveted 'Best Discipline Team' trophy. Notable individual achievements included two gold medals by Priyanka Sahu of Raipur, while Manju Sahu, Drishti Patel, and Pranav Sahu

each secured a gold medal. Sadanand Prasad Bhanjdev added to the tally with a silver medal, and Yash Rai claimed a well-deserved bronze. Under the guidance of the President of Chhattisgarh Boxing Association and Chief Judge of the competition Anis Memon, Referee Tikeswari Sahu, Pallavi Sahu as the team's dedicated coach, the athletes displayed exceptional skill and sportsmanship, bringing honour to their state and community.

## For country's development, it is necessary for half the population to be educated: Mahadev Kavre

Raipur, Jan 11:

The 193rd birth anniversary of Mata Savitri Bai Phule was celebrated in Vrindavan Hall by the social organization Unity for Social Justice. In this program, chief guest IAS Mahadev Kavre, special guest Labour Court Judge SL Matre, key speaker senior advocate Janmejay Sona, key speaker educationist Jitendra Suna from Odisha

state, senior social worker Mahendra Gajbiye, Indian Cleaning Employees Federation state president Nilesh Langote, youth Advocate Leekesh Singh and Gana and other youths were present. In this program, a speech competition was organized by the participants on the contribution of India's first woman teacher, Mata Savitri Bai Phule, in women empowerment and social awakening, in which



students from the entire state participated. In the competition, Shruti Meshram of Rajnandgaon became the first winner, Aditi Aggarwal working in

All India Radio became the second winner and young woman advocate Gayatri Sahu became the third winner. In this program, the guests highlighted the contribution made by Mata Savitri Phule for women empowerment and education for women. Chief guest of the program, IAS Mahadev Kavre said that the founder of women education is Mata Savitri Bai Phule. The contribution of Mata Savitri

Bai Phule cannot be forgotten for today's empowered educated women in the country. For the development of the country, it is necessary for half the population to be educated. The Labor Court judge and all the guests attending the program also threw light on the life struggle of Mata Savitri Phule. Certificates, study material and prizes were distributed to all the participants.

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Chronicle

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Hindi is our language of expression: Prof. Chakrawal

Various prog organized on Vishwa Hindi Diwas in CU

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 11: On the occasion of Vishwa Hindi Diwas on Jan 10, various offline and online programs were organized by the Rajbhasha Cell and Hindi Department of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya (a Central University). Presiding over the program, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal said that Hindi is our language of expression in which we express our thoughts and feelings. Addressing the audience he said, "Hindi is the language of our hearts". He said that Hindi is actually an ocean



of languages whose expansion cannot be stopped by anyone. The chief guest of the program, organized by the Rajbhasha Cell, was Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, Vice-Chancellor, Thawe Vidyapeeth Gopalganj, Bihar who said that Hindi language is capable of forming words according to the time. He said that the strength of Hindi is its di-

lects. Before this, guests lit the ceremonial lamp and offered flowers before the statues of Goddess Saraswati and Saint Guru Ghasidasji. The guests were welcomed with the gift of books. Hindi Officer, Shri Akhilesh Tiwari delivered the welcome speech. The guests present on the stage were honored by presenting shawls, sh-

riphal, and mementos. At the end of the program, the vote of thanks was given by the Registrar, Prof. Manish Shrivastava, and the program was conducted by Dr. Jyoti Verma, Assistant Professor, Education Department. Hindi language has a bond with the heart: V-C On the occasion of Vishwa Hindi Diwas, a special lecture on the role

of social reform movement and Hindi language was organized by the Hindi Department of the University in blended mode from 3 pm onwards. The main speaker of the program was feminist thinker and former professor of Bhimrao Ambedkar Social Sciences University, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, Prof. Kusum Tripathi. Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal presided over the function. The Keynote speaker, Prof. Kusum Tripathi, who joined through virtual medium, while explaining the social reform movement and folklore of Hindi also threw detailed light on the role of Hindi language. She stressed that Hindi language is the language of sensitivities

of the Indian people. In the program, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, in his presidential address, discussed the utility of Hindi language and the strides being made by Hindi on the global stage. He said that the expansion of Hindi transcends geographical boundaries. On this occasion, he also recited his self-written poems. Before this, the welcome address and finally the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Gauri Tripathi, Head of the Hindi Department. The program was conducted by Dr. Ramesh Gohe, Assistant Professor, Hindi Department. Deans of various Schools, heads of departments, teachers, officers, and a large number of students were present on this occasion.

Demonstration of spraying with drones held

For fertilizer and pesticides

Central Chronicle News

Bijapur, Jan 11: Under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) programme in the district, spraying of fertilizers and pesticides in crops was demonstrated through drones in the block Bhopalpatnam. Farmers were made aware of the benefits of using drones by spraying chilli crops in the field of Madded farmer Chhattapuri Purushottam. Along with the farmers of Madded, about 50 to 60 farmers of village Angampalli were present at the protest site. After the demonstration, discussions were held with the farmers.



In which farmers have expressed interest in this technology. On this occasion, Deputy Director Agriculture Pratap Singh Kusre, Senior Scientist and Head of KVK Arun Sakni, Rao from Horticulture Department, Drone in-charge Markela Srinivas, other officers of Sub-Divisional Agriculture Department and Horticulture Department were present.

Journalist assaulted in front of CM Congress denounces BJP's alleged hooliganism

Central Chronicle News

Surguja, Jan 11: BJP workers allegedly attacked a journalist in the presence of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and state in-charge Om Mathur in Ambikapur. The assault occurred when the Chief Minister was making his way to address the media, with a crowd of BJP leaders and workers already swarming the area in an attempt to be captured on camera. Trouble erupted when a television channel journalist requested some space amidst the crowd. Reportedly infuriated by the request, BJP leader Ajay Agarwal and his associates assaulted the journalist, causing a chaotic scene.

The journalists, angered by the incident, conveyed their disapproval to Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai. However, both the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister remained silent regarding the attack. The assaulted journalist subsequently filed a complaint about the incident at the Gandhinagar police station. As of now, no action has been taken in response to the complaint. The incident has drawn strong condemnation from the Congress party, which accused BJP leaders of initiating hooliganism as soon as they assumed office. Congress District President Rakesh Gupta expressed outrage at the attack on the tribal jour-

nalist and criticized the police officers for being passive observers during the assault. Surguja was left ashamed by such an incident during the Chief Minister's inaugural meeting in Ambikapur within the Surguja division. The incident occurred during a BJP worker's program attended by BJP state in-charge Om Mathur, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, both Deputy Chief Ministers, Ministers, and MLAs. The event was organized to honour workers from the Surguja division, with Om Mathur expressing gratitude to the workers and having most of the cabinet, including the Chief Minister, acknowledge and greet the attendees.

Collector inspected hydropower based irrigation site

In Neelavaram

Konta/Sukma, Jan 11: Sukma District Collector Haris S. on Monday inspected the lift project of Hydropower based site in Neelavaram for irrigation. He gave instructions to complete this work soon. Here, irrigation water will be pumped from Malger River near Anicut through hydropower and supplied for irrigation. In village Neelavaram of the district, water will be supplied to the farmers through small canals by filling it in a tank, which will provide irrigation facility in Rabi season in about 41 hectare area. The Collector instructed the departmental officers to complete the work at the site within the time limit, so that farmers can avail the benefits of this scheme in Rabi crop this year. The concerned officers were directed to



complete the work by March. Under Neelavaram hydropower based irrigation, water will be available to more than 60 farmers for irrigation in 41 hectares in Rabi season. With this, they will be able to double their income by taking additional crops apart from Kharif and the regional farmers will become financially strong. Executive Engineer Viendra Markam and others were present on this occasion.

PUBLIC NOTICE sections containing legal notices regarding property matters, including details of the parties involved and the nature of the dispute.

NAME CHANGE notice for Prerna Pratik Pandya, stating her marriage to Pratik Pandya and her decision to change her name to Prerna Joshi.

GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED notice regarding a demand notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002, detailing the secured assets and the amount due.

Bank of Baroda advertisement for Regional Office, First Floor, Zonal Market, Sector-10, Bhilai (C.G.) - 490006, including contact information and a possession notice.

Canara Bank advertisement for E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, with a table of properties for sale.

Bank of Baroda advertisement for Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash, L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.), PH: 0771 - 4222611, 4222612, including a possession notice and a table of borrowers.

Canara Bank advertisement for E-Auction Date 13.02.2024, including a table of properties for sale and terms and conditions for the auction.

# Intensive tour of remote forests area by Collector

**Instructions issued to Panchayat Secretary and health workers**

Khairagarh, Jan 11:

As soon as the newly appointed Collector of the district, Chandrakant Verma took charge, he visited the remote forest area of the district, with the aim of providing 100 percent benefits to the beneficiaries through important schemes of the government.

During this, he reached the Janman camp of villages Sarodhi and Samundpani, inhabited by Baiga majority, included in the specific tribe of the district. He talked to the beneficiaries and gave necessary instructions to the officials. As per information, under Janman Camp, 70 Baiga families will get housing in Sarodhi and 44 Baiga families in Samundpani.

The Collector instructed the nodal and departmental officers in Vananchal Samundpani and Sarodhi



provide necessary support in this work and the Collector also directed the Panchayat Secretary, health workers and operators to work quickly. Information was given in the camp that 170 Baiga families in Sarodhi and 93 in Samundpani are beneficiaries under the scheme. 307 and 278 members reside here respectively. They have been issued 288

and 243 Aadhar cards respectively and 101 and 89 ration cards respectively. Through the camp, 70 Baiga families will get accommodation in Sarodhi and 44 Baiga families in Samundpani. The Janman Yojana is especially for the development of Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and important activities have to be implemented under this

scheme. Also expressing his displeasure on receiving information that applications for forest rights patta were not taken in the camp, the Collector called the employee related to the forest department and reprimanded him and gave instructions to take the application immediately and process it.

District President of Baiga Cell Amarsingh Markam, Sarpanch Rajendra Meravi and a large number of beneficiaries and villagers were present in the camp. On behalf of the district administration, Deputy Collector Tankeshwar Sahu, SDM Renuka Ratre, Tehsildar Amardeep Anchal, CEO Chhuikhadan J.S. Rajput, District Food Officer Bhuneshwar Chelak, Deputy Director Agriculture Rajkumar Solanki, District Horticulture Officer Ravindra Mehra, BEO Ramendra Dadsena, PRO Dr. Maqsood along with officers and employees of Health Department, Forest Department etc. were present.

# Illegal raw liquor seized



**From Navagaon and Thakur Tola**

Khairagarh, Jan 11:

Illegal raw liquor has been seized from Villages Navagaon and Thakur Tola, under the direction of Secretary cum Excise Commissioner R. Sangita, Collector Chandrakant Verma, in-charge Assistant Commissioner Excise District-Rajnandgaon A.K. Singh and District KCG Police Station from the banks of Amner Nala in village Navagaon under Khairagarh

District. Taking strict action against illegal liquor, the Excise Department registered two cases of making and selling illegal liquor at two different places. In the first case, 60 liters of raw Mahua liquor was recovered from the banks of Amner drain in village Navagaon. When there was no information regarding the owner of the raw liquor after inquiring with the nearby villagers, the said liquor was seized on the spot and a case under Section 34(2) of Chhattisgarh Excise Act 1915 was registered as unclaimed. In the second case, 3 litres of raw Mahua liquor and 20 kg Mahua Lahan were recovered from the house of Sahdev Yadav in village Thakurtola.

The liquor was confiscated and the starter culture was destroyed and the case was registered and taken up for investigation under Section 34 (1) and 34 (1) F of Chhattisgarh Excise Act 1915. In both these cases, Excise sub-inspector Vijayendra Kumar, excise constable Shivprasad Yadav and driver Mokhan Sinha played a pivotal role.

# Land sold by brokers with fake sale deed

Kurud, Jan 11:

Again a new exploit in the registry office of Kurud region has come to fore, where brokers have allegedly sold a land with fake ownership, and a fake sale deed, whereas the real land owner is unaware of any sale deed. As per information, by changing the name of the agricultural land of Bhagwati Yadav, Shobhit Sahu of Rajpur, fraudulently bought and sold 0.47 hectare agricultural land for Rs 348000 in front of the Kurud Register on 17/11/2022.

Later on the information of which, when the real land owner Bhagwati Yadav lodged an FIR in police station Magarlod on 26/12/2023, the police did not lodge an FIR, where it is a case of fraud and forgery, which comes under section 155, whereas the case under section 420 is made against those who buy and sell. The land is still occupied by Bhagwati Yadav where it is occupied with agricultural work. And the fact is that the land that Chandras Kalar (Deori) has purchased is also considered to be government land, whose khasra number is 10.

Thus the buyer here is Chandras father Roshan Sinha (Deori) and the land owner is Bhagwati Yadav, Kurud Sonewara who is forced to fight for his own

land now, due to the fraud of land mafia and land brokers. In this regard, when an attempt was made to contact Sub-Registrar Kafeel Ahmed on telephone, he did not pick up the phone.

Sub-divisional police officer Mr. Vajpayee said that the matter has come to notice, soon after taking complete information about the matter; the concerned police station officer will be directed to take appropriate action. It should be noted that in the Sub Registrar Office Kurud, the registration work of sale, will, and donation etc. of land of three tehshils Kurud - Bhakhara - Magarlod is done.

# Collector ensures smooth paddy procurement for farmers

Kawardha, Jan 11:

In an effort to facilitate hassle-free paddy procurement for farmers, Collector Janmejy Mahobe convened a crucial meeting at the Collectorate Hall. The gathering focused on meticulous planning and continuous monitoring to ensure a seamless paddy procurement process during the remaining days of the season.

Mahobe emphasized the importance of avoiding any inconvenience to farmers and underscored the need to purchase paddy from all eligible farmers promptly. To



counteract the increased activity of middlemen towards the end of the procurement period, special scrutiny was directed towards their operations. Additionally, stringent measures were implemented to prevent paddy from other states from infiltrating the district's border procurement centers. Strict vigilance was

maintained at check posts to inspect all incoming and outgoing vehicles from other states. Detailed records of all vehicles passing through the check post were diligently maintained. Collector Mahobe emphasized the importance of verification before paddy purchase and instructed officials to take immediate action against

wrongdoers. Furthermore, Collector initiated a campaign for land dedication (Rakba samarpan) after farmers have sold their entire paddy stock. He urged SDMs, Tehsildars, and Naib Tehsildars to take decisive actions against anyone involved in the unauthorized transportation or procurement of paddy. Sensitive paddy procurement centers received heightened surveillance, with market inspectors and food inspectors conducting thorough investigations. Regular surprise inspections of weighing scales and strict actions against

any irregularities were mandated for SDMs, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and Revenue Officers. Committee managers' performance was closely monitored, with immediate actions taken in response to complaints of irregularities. Mahobe prioritized the prompt lifting of paddy from procurement centers to ensure farmers face no inconvenience. Additional Collector Inderjit Burman, along with all SDMs, Tehsildars, and concerned officers, attended the meeting, reaffirming their commitment to a successful paddy procurement season.

# Newly appointed Collector addresses public grievances



Khairagarh, Jan 11:

Newly appointed District Collector Chandrakant Verma addressed public grievances of the rural people through public darshan in the Collectorate here on

Tuesday and instructed the concerned officers to resolve the applications on priority. Collector Verma met a large number of people who attended the Jandarshan organized in the district office and heard

their problems. The common people presented applications including PM accommodation, ration, money payment and other applications, of which the Collector instructed the concerned officers to take the cases received in public darshan seriously and resolve them within the time limit. Common people will now be able to meet Collector Chandrakant Verma four days a week and according to the information received from the Collectorate office, they have fixed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with time slot 3-5 PM, as the days to meet the District Magistrate.

# Fun Fair celebrated at Jupiter Public School



Fingeshwar, Jan 11:

A cultural program and Anand Mela was organized at Higher Secondary School grounds on 6 January at Jupiter Public School in Fingeshwar, in which the chief guest was SDM Rajim, Dhananjay Netam Rahe. The program was presided over by Nagar Panchayat President Jagdish Yadu and District Vice President BJYM Raju Sahu. Special guest were

Tehsildar Fingeshwar Khoman Lal Dhruv, and CMO Pradeep Mishra, apart from Shiv Singh Kanwar and Jitendra Sinha. After the arrival of the guests, the guests lit the lamp and worshiped the image of Maa Saraswati and Bharat Mata. Teachers, students' staff, Chairman of the School Management Committee, Sangeeta Yadu, Vice-Chairman, Megha Sahu and many others were present.

# New Year and Food Festival celebrated

Kharora Jan 11:

Food festival was organized in Geeta Public School in which all the students and parents participated enthusiastically. The program started with the worship of Goddess Saraswati and commencing the program, different types of delicious food were prepared by the students and parents and different types of dishes were also enjoyed. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this program among the students and parents and various games were also organized for the parents which included cricket, musical chair, spoon running etc. in which the parents participated enthusiastically and congratulated the winners.



TI Tiwari sir, Anil Pandey, Dheeraj Jain, Anand Yadav were present as chief guests in the program and all the students and the visiting parents were greeted for the New

Year by the school principal Saurabh Dubey and the program was concluded by giving medals and trophies to the students who participated in the annual game.

# Sinha Samaj celebrates vibrant family reunion

**Gathering spotlights marriageable youth introductions**

Dongargaon, Jan 11:

The annual Tehsil level Maa Bahadurin Jayanti, family reunion, and youth introduction conference of the Dadsena Sinha (Kalar) community in Chhattisgarh came to a vibrant conclusion in the village of Diwanjhitiya. People from various remote areas and Kalar individuals from different Tehsils gathered in large numbers to participate in this colorful event. The program, organized by the Sinha Samaj, kicked off with a grand Kalash Yatra. During the Kalash Yatra,



women dressed in yellow attire paraded through the village carrying Kalash pots on their heads, accompanied by musical instruments. A ceremonial Aarti was performed at the idol of Mata Bahadurin, adding a touch of spirituality to the event. Following the

Kalash Yatra, a social conference took place, where numerous eligible young men and women introduced themselves. Families present at the conference took the opportunity to meet and consider potential life partners for their sons and daughters.

The event featured captivating cultural performances, songs, and dances by boys and girls from various villages, including Girgaon and Diwanjhitiya, who received applause and cash prizes for their talents. Esteemed guests, including State BJP Vice President and former MP Madhusudan Yadav, former District Panchayat President Dinesh Gandhi, and other prominent BJP leaders, addressed the gathering during the program. Representatives from the Tehsil community presented a memorandum to the guests, requesting the construction of a building for their community. The guests assured that their demands would be addressed promptly.

# Collector inspects PPC in Madded

Bijapur, Jan 11:

Collector Anurag Pandey visited Bhopalpatnam area of the district yesterday and inspected the paddy procurement centre, polling booth and took stock of the progress of government schemes and met the beneficiaries and got information about the benefits of the schemes. After reaching Madded, Collector Anurag Pandey inspected the paddy procurement center and inquired about the availability of tokens and gunny bags. Instructions were given to deposit the amount immediately in the accounts of those farmers in whose accounts the bonus amount has not been deposited due to account errors. Inspected the polling station in village Depla, observed the progress of special summary revision and obtained information from BLO regarding receiving claim objection in format 6,7,8. He also met



the affected farmers of Kottur and Tarlaguda in the submergence area of Samakka-Sarakka Barrage and obtained information regarding the land acquisition case survey. Here, Chilli cultivation is done collectively by the farmers, information was obtained from the farmers regarding the economic benefits, in which the farmers told that at present, the new method of farming is yielding more.

During the tour, the Collector visited Maa Bhadrakali temple situated on Kalika Gutta mountain, the place of faith of the area and wished for the development, prosperity and peace of the area. Here the Collector also inspected the confluence point of Godavari and Indravati rivers. Bhopalpatnam area is connected to the border states of Telangana and Maharashtra, in view of which the area is entered from the border states, the Collector directed to build a grand and attractive inter-state entry gate in Bhopalpatnam. Instructions were given to the officials to maintain proper arrangements to keep Bhopalpatnam Nagar Panchayat orderly and clean. During the visit, the Collector took stock of the ongoing construction works in the area and gave instructions to complete them within the time limit.

During this, Tehsildar Bijapur Shri DR Dhruv, Deputy Collector Yashwant Nag and other officers and employees were present.

## 6.0 magnitude earthquake jolts parts of Pakistan

Islamabad, Jan 11 (PTI):

Tremors were felt in multiple cities across Pakistan on Thursday following a 6.0 magnitude earthquake with epicentre in the Hindu Kush region of neighbouring Afghanistan, according to the country's meteorological department.

So far, there have been no reports of loss of life or property.

The 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck at 2:20 pm (local time) in the Hindu Kush region at a depth of 213 kms, the Pakistan Meteorological Department posted on X.

Tremors were felt in Islamabad, Lahore, and its surrounding areas, and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province,



People stand outside their offices building after an earthquake was felt in Islamabad, Pakistan, Thursday, Jan. 11. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake rattled much of Pakistan and part of neighboring Afghanistan on Thursday, sending panicked residents fleeing from homes and offices and especially frightening people in remote villages across the country, Pakistani officials and the U.S. Geological Survey said.

according to DawnNews TV channel. Other cities that rocked after the jolts

include Punjab's Sargodha, Khushab and its surroundings, Mandi

Bahauddin, Bhakkar, and Nowshera. The earthquake was also felt in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Muzaffarabad, Geo News said.

Quoting the US Geological Survey (USGS) data, Dawn reported that the quake's magnitude was 6.4 while its epicentre was 44 kms south-south-east of Jurm in Afghanistan. Jurm is about 500 kms north-east of Kabul.

It also quoted chief meteorologist at PMD, Sardar Sarfaraz, who said aftershocks could definitely be expected as was common after major earthquakes. "The same had also happened in Japan, which was struck by a powerful earthquake on January 1," he said.

### RO-RO VESSEL DELIVERY

**Tugboats pull a newly completed BYD's Ro-Ro Explorer No.1, a vehicles carrier vessel off the shipyard during the delivery in Yantai in east China's Shandong province. China's auto exports surged 63.7% in 2023 while sales at home, boosted by year-end incentives, rose 4.2%, an industry association said Thursday, Jan. 11.**

## Google should pay a multibillion fine in antitrust shopping case: EU court adviser

London, Jan 11 (AP):

A legal adviser to the European Union's top court said on Thursday that Google should pay a whopping fine in a long-running antitrust case in which regulators found the company gave its own shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results.

The European Court of Justice's advocate general, Juliane Kokott, recommended rejecting the US search giant's appeal of the 2017 penalty.

In a legal opinion, Kokott also proposed upholding the 2.4 billion euro (USD 2.6 billion) fine that the European Commission, the 27-nation

club's top competition watchdog, slapped on Google.

The commission had accused the company of unfairly directing visitors to its own Google Shopping service to the detriment of competitors.

It was one of three multibillion-euro fines that the commission imposed on Google in the previous decade as Brussels started ramping up its crackdown on the tech industry.

Google appealed to the top EU tribunal after the lower General Court rejected its challenge. Opinions by the Court of Justice's advocate general aren't legally binding but are often followed by its judges.

## Rajnath Singh concludes UK visit after 'warm meeting' with PM Rishi Sunak

London, Jan 11 (PTI):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh concluded his visit to the UK on Thursday after a "warm meeting" with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and interacting with members of the Indian diaspora at a community reception.

Singh called on Prime Minister Sunak at 10 Downing Street here on Wednesday evening for discussions on a wide range of issues across bilateral defence and economic ties. He also gifted a Ram Darbar statue to Sunak, Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister, during the meeting also attended by UK National Security Adviser



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during an interaction with the Indian community, at India House in London.

(NSA) Sir Tim Barrow. "Had a very warm meeting with the UK Prime Minister, Shri Rishi Sunak in London," Rajnath Singh said in a statement on social media. "I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him. We discussed issues pertaining to defence, economic

cooperation and how India and the UK could work together for strengthening a peaceful and stable global rules-based order," he said. According to the Indian Ministry of Defence read-out of the meeting, Sunak agreed with the minister on the need for the UK and

India to work in tandem and expressed hope that the ongoing free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion soon. India and the UK are currently holding the 14th round of FTA negotiations with the aim of significantly enhancing the annual GBP 36-billion bilateral partnership.

Sunak is said to have also underlined his keenness, and that of his government, to strengthen the defence and security pillar of the bilateral relationship, including through government backing for stronger business and technology partnerships with Indian counterpart entities.

## Cold weather claims life of 36 children in Pak

Lahore, Jan 11 (PTI):

At least 36 children have died due to pneumonia caused by cold weather in the last week in Pakistan's Punjab province, prompting the authorities to impose a ban on holding morning assemblies in schools, an official statement said on Thursday.

The move to impose a ban on morning assemblies till January 31 came as the province also saw a surge in the number of pneumonia cases among school children apart from the 36 deaths caused by it.

"Last week at least 36 children died of pneumonia in the Punjab province due to extreme cold weather. The government has been forced to impose a

ban on holding a morning assembly in schools till Jan 31 due to the extreme cold weather," said the statement issued by the Punjab government.

Vacation has also been announced till January 19 for the classes of nursery, prep and playgroup.

Concerned with the situation, the officials also issued basic health directions for the children to keep them safe from the cold weather.

"The children should wear masks, wash their hands and use warm clothes so that they can be prevented from catching pneumonia," it said, adding that eight out of 10 children are suffering from Pneumonia in Lahore's Children's Hospital.

## US plans an unofficial delegation to Taiwan



Taiwan's Nationalist Party presidential candidate Hou Yu-ih, right, cheers with supporters during his car rally in New Taipei, Taiwan, Thursday, Jan. 11. Taiwan will hold its presidential election on Jan. 13.

Washington, Jan 11 (AP): The Biden administration will send an unofficial delegation comprised of former senior officials to Taiwan shortly after the self-governed island holds an election for a new president this weekend, a move that could upset Beijing in an already-fragile bilateral relationship. A senior administration official confirmed the plan on Wednesday without offering more details but said such a face-to-face meeting was the "most effective way" to engage the new Taiwanese government and convey US policy in the region. The official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive plans, said the administration believed the move

would contribute to peace and stability in the region.

Beijing claims Taiwan to be part of Chinese territory and vows to unify with it eventually. In August 2022, Beijing reacted angrily by firing missiles and blockading the island after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan. Chinese President Xi Jinping, at his most recent meeting with President Joe Biden in November, called Taiwan the "most sensitive issue" in US-Chinese relations.

Washington has a security pact with Taiwan to provide it with sufficient hardware and technology to deter any armed attack from the mainland. The US has stepped up support for Taiwan and its democratically

### To meet its new leader amid tensions with China

elect government in recent years as Beijing ratchets up military and diplomatic pressure on the island.

The US government takes no side on the island's statehood but insists the differences must be resolved peacefully. Biden told Xi in November that the US government opposes any unilateral change to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

The Biden administration has endorsed no political party or candidate in Taiwan's upcoming presidential election. Beijing, for its part, has made it clear that it does not want a victory by Lai Ching-te, also known as William Lai, the candidate from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party known for its pro-independence leaning.

Lai is considered the front-runner in the race, but Hou Yu-ih from the opposition Kuomintang party trails closely. Kuomintang opposes independence, but it does not support unification with the mainland, either.

### Pakistan rules out dialogue with TTP

Islamabad, Jan 11 (PTI): Pakistan on Thursday said that it was not interested in a dialogue with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after a leading cleric visited Kabul and talked of dialogue following his meeting with the Afghan Taliban leadership.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in her weekly press briefing said that Pakistan's stance was clear because the TTP had accepted responsibility for numerous terrorist attacks in the country.

The spokesperson said there is no change in Pakistan's policy towards the TTP. "We have no dialogue taking place with the TTP nor do we have the intent to hold talks with it which is responsible for several terror incidents in Pakistan," she said. She once again demanded the Afghan authorities take effective action against terrorist elements including the TTP leadership.

She said the Afghan authorities should ensure the elimination of terrorist hideouts and hand over to Islamabad those responsible for terror incidents in Pakistan.

"Our demand from the Afghan government is that they take action against the terrorists," she said.

## 'Firmly opposes external interference' in Maldives: China

Beijing, Jan 11 (PTI):

China on Thursday said that it "firmly opposes external interference" in the internal affairs of the Maldives and supports the island nation in upholding its sovereignty and independence as Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu concluded his maiden visit here.

"The two sides agree to continue firmly supporting each other in safeguarding their respective core interests," a joint statement issued at the end of Muizzu's talks with Chinese leaders said.

"China firmly supports the Maldives in upholding its national sovereignty,

independence and national dignity, respects and supports the Maldives' exploration of a development path that suits its national conditions, and firmly opposes external interference in the internal affairs of the Maldives," it said.

The statement comes at a time when Maldives headed by Muizzu, who is regarded as a pro-Beijing leader, was involved in a diplomatic row with India over derogatory statements made by three Maldivian ministers against Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading to a spate of cancellation of reservations of Indian tourists to Maldives. Muizzu suspended the ministers with a warning

not to make such remarks. For its part, Maldives said in the joint statement that it is "firmly committed to the one-China principle, recognising that there is but one China in the world, the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory."

It added that the Maldives "opposes any statement or action that undermines China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, opposes all "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, and will not develop any form of official relations with Taiwan."

### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

#### TENDER FOR APPOINTMENT OF PASSENGER HALT AGENT

No. : 2023/C/Chg./PH/1/R.  
Dated: 09.01.2024. Name of work: For Appointment of Passenger Halt Agent at Salhaulla Passenger Halt, Gudum Passenger Halt & Bhainsbodi Passenger Halt on Durg-Dalli Raj Hara - Rowghat Section over South East Central Railway/Raipur Division for issuing unreserved tickets.

(1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Application Forms: Up to 15.00 hours on 16.02.2024.  
(2) Opening of Application Box: At 15.30 hours on 16.02.2024.

Applications are to be dropped in sealed cover addressed to Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ South East Central Railway, Raipur in the Application box kept for this purpose in the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, DRM Office Complex, South East Central Railway, Near Waitair Level Crossing Gate, RVH Colony, Raipur (C.G.).

For further details, eligibility criteria and the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer/download application document which is available on our website: www.secrl.indianrailways.gov.in.

DRM(Commercial)/PRI/RS/DCM/PI/219 Raipur  
f South East Central Railway @secrl

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY				
E-Tender Notice No. NIT/14/24/1, Dated: 02.01.2024				
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing/Opening date & time	Qty.
1	03231985	Kit for Locking Arrangement for centre pivot pin	15.01.2024 At 10:30 hrs	11768 Set
2	03231401	Air Brake hose coupling support for wagon	22.01.2024 At 10:30 hrs	28056 Nos
3	022342248	Converter module CM-M 2801 W50-8	29.01.2024 At 10:30 hrs	04 Nos
4	022342258	Converter module CM-M 2801 W34-8	29.01.2024 At 10:30 hrs	04 Nos
5	03233409	Cross ridge stay for BOBRN wagon to RDSO	01.02.2024 At 10:30 hrs	300 Nos

Railway reserve the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Asst. Material Manager-I  
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
CPR/10/370

### कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, हसदेव नहर जल प्रबंध सभाग, जाजगीर जिला - जाजगीर-चापा (छ.ग.)

#### निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना

आदेश क्रमांक 153/व.ले.लि./2024 जाजगीर, दिनांक 09/01/2024

प्रमुख अभियंता, जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ बवन, चार्थ ब्लाक, सेक्टर-19, अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.) का पत्र क्रमांक 4262882/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2023/10265 (टी.सी.) दिनांक 13.12.2023 के अनुपालन में इस कार्यालय का निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 04/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दिनांक 22.09.2023, सिस्टम नंबर 147890 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) कार्य का नाम-जाजगीर-चापा जिले के चापा एनीकट के अपस्ट्रीम एवं डाऊनस्ट्रीम में प्रोटेक्शन कार्य एवं एनीकट में Wearing Coat एवं सौन्दर्यकरण कार्य (जी. नं. - 05604) की अनुमोदित राशि रु. 277.39 लाख के कार्य के लिये निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी। उक्त निविदा के प्रथम आमंत्रण में प्रतिभागी निविदाकारों की संख्या निरंक है, इसलिये निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता  
हसदेव नहर जल प्रबंध सभाग  
जाजगीर, छत्तीसगढ़  
G-07034/1

### Public Works Department

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

#### E-Procurement Tender Notice

E-mail : [tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in](mailto:tenders-pwd.cg@gov.in)

NIT No. 452/TC/EinC/PWD/2023-24 Dated 05.01.2024

The Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites percentage rate bids on electronic tendering system under RCP LWE RRP-III in the district of Raipur for construction of 01 Bridge with estimated cost amounting Rs 189.11 Lacs including their maintenance for five years from the contractors registered with unified registration system (e-registration) in Chhattisgarh. Non registered bidders may submit bid; however the successful bidder must get registered in appropriate class under "Unified Registration System (e-Registration) of Chhattisgarh before signing the agreement.

The bid document shall be available to bidders online free of cost and should be submitted online e-procurement system of government of Chhattisgarh in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. Bids form will be available on the website from 08.01.2024 and may be submitted up to 17:00 hrs. on 18.01.2024

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

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

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

Chief Engineer  
(Central Tender Cell)  
Office of Engineer-In-Chief  
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar (C.G.)  
G-07018/1

### कार्यालय मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी छत्तीसगढ़

डी. के. एस. भवन, पुराना मंत्रालय परिसर, इन्द्रवती खाण्ड, शास्त्री चौक, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दूरभाष- 0771-2236685

Website: [ceochhattisgarh.nic.in](http://ceochhattisgarh.nic.in), E-mail ID: [ceoraipur.cg@gov.in](mailto:ceoraipur.cg@gov.in)

क्रमांक-02/चार/निर्देश/कार्य/323 रायपुर, दिनांक 11 JAN 2024

// केंद्रीय कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रण //

निविदा क्रमांक 323 दिनांक 11 JAN 2024

कार्यालय मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी छत्तीसगढ़ के माध्यम से आयोजित होने वाले आगामी लोकसभा सामान्य निर्वाचन 2024 से संबंधित 05 दिवसीय आगामी ARO सॉफ्टवेयर कार्यक्रम दिनांक 19-24 फरवरी 2024 (ख्यान - छत्तीसगढ़ प्रशासन अकादमी, निर्माण, रायपुर) एवं समय - समय पर आयोजित होने वाले अन्य कार्यक्रमों में केंद्रीय कार्य के लिए निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की संख्या-संरणी निम्नानुसार है-

क्रमांक	निविदा प्रश्न की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक	कार्यालयीन समय
1	निविदा प्रश्न की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.01.2024 (शुक्रवार)	प्रातः 10.00 से
2	प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 19.01.2024 (शुक्रवार)	दोपहर 12.00 बजे से 01.00 बजे तक स्थान- कार्यालय मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी, रायपुर (छ.ग.) के बैठक कक्ष
3	निविदा प्रश्न की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.02.2024 (सोमवार)	अपरान्ह 03.00 बजे तक
4	निविदा शुल्क (रुपये 500/-) एवं अमानत राशि (रुपये 1,00,000/-) के डिमांड ड्राफ्ट भौतिक रूप से जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.02.2024 (सोमवार)	अपरान्ह 03.30 बजे तक
5	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.02.2024 (सोमवार)	अपरान्ह 04.00 बजे

निविदा प्रश्न कार्यालय मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी छत्तीसगढ़, रायपुर के लेखा शाखा से सम्बंधित कर निर्धारित शुल्क रुपये 500/- जमा कर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। निविदा अभिलेख विभागीय वेब साइट <https://ceochhattisgarh.nic.in/> पर भी देखे जा सकते हैं।

मुख्य निर्वाचन पदाधिकारी,  
छत्तीसगढ़ रायपुर  
G-07070/1



## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 102

### Plastic Peril

#### Hidden Dangers in Bottled Water

Plastic pollution has reached an alarming level, and a recent study conducted in the United States provides valuable insights and lessons for India's bottled water industry. This new study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, reveals that a single litre of bottled water contains approximately 2.4 lakh toxic plastic pieces, a shocking 10-100 times higher than earlier estimates that primarily focused on larger plastic debris. The study was led by scientists from Columbia University and examined three popular US bottled water brands, finding between 1.1 lakh and 3.7 lakh plastic particles in each litre. What's even more concerning is that 90 percent of these plastics were nanoplastics, with the remainder being microplastics. Nanoplastics, tiny and nearly undetectable particles smaller than a micrometre, pose a significantly higher risk compared to microplastics. They can infiltrate the human body, entering the lungs, heart, brain, and bloodstream, potentially causing metabolic disorders, cellular imbalances, and intestinal inflammation. This revelation carries immense significance for Indian consumers, considering that the country experienced the second-fastest growth rate in the mineral water segment over a three-year period (2018-21), following South Korea, according to a UN report. In 2021, India ranked 14th in the world in terms of the volume of bottled water consumed. However, this newfound data highlights the urgent need to address the quality of packaged water in India and the materials used in manufacturing the bottles, primarily polyethylene terephthalate (PET). To tackle this plastic crisis, India requires a robust regulatory framework that ensures the bottled water industry adheres to stringent safety standards. Simultaneously, there is a pressing need to encourage the adoption of alternative packaging materials such as glass or stainless steel containers, cardboard cartons, and even aluminium cans. Emphasizing the recyclability of these containers should be a top priority. The consequences of ignoring this issue are dire, affecting not only human health but the entire planet. Microplastics have already been detected in soil, drinking water, food, and even polar ice, posing significant threats to ecosystems and human well-being. As plastic pollution continues to plague the environment, it is imperative that governments, industries, and consumers take proactive measures to curb its growth. Furthermore, the study's lead author, Naixin Qian, emphasizes that the smaller plastic particles are, the more abundant they become. This underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to mitigate plastic pollution and protect our environment. The study has not only shed light on the alarming prevalence of plastic contamination in bottled water but also uncovered a wide array of plastic types present in these samples, including polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polyamide, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, and polymethyl methacrylate. These findings demonstrate the complex and multifaceted nature of plastic pollution, necessitating thorough research and comprehensive strategies to address this global issue. India must learn from this US study and take proactive measures to regulate its bottled water industry, promote sustainable packaging alternatives, and prioritize environmental conservation. The health of our planet and the well-being of future generations depend on our collective efforts to combat plastic pollution and preserve the integrity of our ecosystems.

### Swami Vivekananda

#### A Beacon of Inspiration

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee



On January 12th, India celebrates National Youth Day, commemorating the birth of one of its most illustrious sons, Swami Vivekananda. Born Narendranath Datta in Kolkata on January 12, 1863, Swami Vivekananda's life and teachings have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our nation. His legacy continues to inspire generations, making National Youth Day a momentous occasion to reflect on his ideals and their relevance in today's world. Swami Vivekananda was not merely a Hindu monk or philosopher; he was a torchbearer of enlightenment, a relentless advocate for education, self-improvement, and social justice. His teachings transcended the boundaries of religion and nationality, touching the hearts and minds of people worldwide. At the heart of Swami Vivekananda's philosophy lay a profound sense of social responsibility. He recognized that the real cause of India's plight during his time was the neglect of its masses. His travels across the country exposed him to the stark realities of poverty and backwardness that afflicted the common people. He became the first religious leader in India to openly declare the urgent need to uplift the masses. Swami Vivekananda's impact extended far beyond India's borders. He introduced the philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world, fostering interfaith dialogue and elevating Hinduism to the status of a major world religion. His historic speech at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893, which began with the words "Sisters and brothers of America...", resonates with the spirit of universal brotherhood and acceptance. Moreover, Swami Vivekananda played a pivotal role in nurturing the concept of Indian nationalism as a means to challenge the British Empire's colonial rule. His vision of a united and awakened India galvanized the masses to strive for independence. One of Swami Vivekananda's famous quotes, "You will be nearer to Heaven through football than through the study of the Gita," has often been misunderstood. He did not advocate discarding the study of the Bhagavad Gita; instead, he emphasized the importance of a balanced life that includes both spiritual and physical pursuits. His point was that the pursuit of physical health and well-being is just as vital as spiritual enlightenment. Today, Swami Vivekananda's teachings continue to resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds. His emphasis on education as a tool for empowerment, self-improvement as a path to personal growth, and social responsibility as a duty to society remains as relevant as ever. National Youth Day is not merely a ritualistic celebration of a birth anniversary; it is a reminder of the principles Swami Vivekananda stood for. It is a call to action for the youth to embody his values, to channel their energy into self-improvement, and to contribute to the betterment of society. Swami Vivekananda's life serves as a beacon of inspiration, guiding us toward a brighter and more enlightened future. As we observe National Youth Day, let us remember the profound impact of this visionary monk and philosopher. Let us embrace his teachings and strive to build a society where education, self-improvement, and social responsibility are cherished virtues. Swami Vivekananda's legacy endures, reminding us that each day offers an opportunity to work towards a better future for all, as he did until his mahasamadhi on July 4, 1902.

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).

### GANGASAGAR MELA PILGRIMS

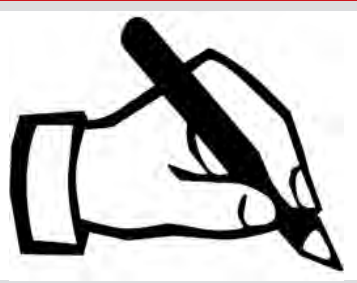


Gangasagar Mela pilgrims gather at the bank of Ganga river on their way to Sagar Island ahead of 'Makar Sankranti', near Babughat transit camp in Kolkata, Thursday, Jan. 11.

## Making India a World-Leader in Quality



PIYUSH GOYAL



India is on a mission to become a world leader in providing top-quality products that meet the highest global standards in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'zero defect, zero effect' in manufacturing. Supply of high-quality products at competitive rates is a key part of the Prime Minister's mission to make India a developed country by 2047. The government is taking determined steps to ensure that the 'Made in India' brand is a stamp of quality that delights Indian and foreign consumers. The Prime Minister has emphasized that a profitable market can be sustained when there is a balance of interests of producers and consumers. A key plank of this strategy is a thrust on Quality Control Orders (QCOs) which mandate that specified products conform to prescribed norms of the Bureau of Indian Standards. This is a boon both for consumers, who are assured reliable, safe and high-quality products, and businesses, which have to deal with increasingly demanding and discerning consumers in the domestic and international markets. Prime Minister Modi's Digital India initiative has helped the family of 140 crore Indians connect with the world and know about the best products and practices. They routinely check customer reviews for performance, durability and dependability before buying a product. They publicly highlight deficiencies if they are dissatisfied with the product. Therefore, striking a balance between product quality, price, and innovation is the need of the hour. The Modi government is focused on developing a robust quality ecosystem to provide safe, reliable and superior-quality goods, and promoting exports of Indian products. Prior to May 2014, only 14 QCOs covering 106 products had been issued. The list has now been expanded to 148 QCOs covering 653 products. These include household products like ACs, toys and footwear. Quality Control on Exports QCOs have accelerated the mission of 'Make in India for the World'. Many products under QCOs are being exported. Cast Iron products, solar DC cables, door fittings, ceiling fans, helmets, smart meters, hinges, air coolers and air filters are quality-controlled products that are exported much more than they are imported. Cast Iron products covered by QCOs had exports of \$535 million last year, while imports were barely \$68 million. About 25 QCOs are on products where exports exceed imports. This clearly demonstrates that

QCOs are focused on building robust quality consciousness in India. This also helps reduce dumping poor-quality goods into the country. Access to the best quality goods is the right of every Indian citizen in our Amrit Kaal QCOs are also critical for the health and safety of people. Sub-standard products can be extremely hazardous for households because of risks such as fires due to cheap electronics, hospitalization of children because of toxic chemicals in toys and electrical short-circuits.

#### Shining Example

A shining example of how quality-control can dramatically upgrade manufacturing to help consumers and manufacturers is the toys industry. Prior to the implementation of this QCO, the Indian toy market was plagued by cheap, sub-standard products. A survey by the Quality Council of India in 2019 showed that barely one-third of the toys adhered to the relevant BIS Standards, and most of them were hazardous for children. This was completely unacceptable to the Modi government, which responded swiftly with a QCO for the sector from January 1, 2021.

This substantially improved the quality of toys in India. A recent survey showed that 84% of the toys in the Indian market adhered to BIS standards. The QCO has not only provided Indian children safe, high-quality toys, but has also increased their exports by 60% in 2022-23 compared with 2018-19. Several quality norms have been enforced on consumer durables and other products used in households. These include smart meters, bolts, nuts and fasteners, ceiling fans, fire extinguishers, cookware, utensils, water bottles, domestic gas stoves for use with

Piped Natural Gas, wood-based boards, insulated flask, and insulated containers, among others.

The government consults all stakeholders, including industry representatives to make sure their feedback, technical inputs and practical suggestions are considered before implementing QCOs. Special care is taken to make sure that the interest of micro and small units is protected by giving them longer transition period. The government is always ready to help industry become more competitive and support manufacturers who want to upgrade quality.

#### Quality Governance, Quality Products

The drive to upgrade products to global standards is a subset of the Prime Minister's broader vision to improve the quality of life for his family of 140 crore Indians. He has responded to their aspirations with a series of decisive steps to provide basic necessities such as roti, kapda aur makaan along with healthcare, and superior infrastructure. His compassionate, corruption-free governance has accelerated growth, moderated inflation and made India sparkle globally. About 13.5 crore people have moved out of poverty in five years. People have responded to the PM's high-quality governance with their vote in recent assembly elections. This has a strong message for Indian manufacturers. When people make a selection -- with their vote or their wallet -- they choose top quality. As Philip Crosby, author of 'Quality is Free' once said: "If you're out of quality, you're out of business."

(Author is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Commercialization of lunar surface?

A looming clash between science and business on the lunar surface may soon unfold as plans to explore the moon's mineral resources gain momentum. Initiating celestial battles, upcoming missions, like NASA's Presgrine mission under Commercial Lunar Payload Service (funded around \$2.7 billion), aim to survey lunar minerals, waters, and resources while establishing permanent bases for future Mars missions. However, this uncontrolled lunar rush could harm scientific sites, gravitational wave research, black hole observations, and more. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty doesn't address space mining and resource exploration, highlighting the need to balance lunar industrialization with preserving scientifically valuable and irreplaceable sites.

Arka Goswami, Bardhaman

#### Rule of law is upheld

The recent Supreme Court decision overturning the Gujarat government's remission order for 11 convicts emphasizes the need for an independent judiciary to check executive actions. This ruling prevents misuse of power and highlights the importance of upholding justice over political considerations. It restores faith in India's legal system and reinforces the rule of law in the country's democracy.

Karan Singh, Chennai

#### Royal Style

At present the bureaucracy does not have a sensitive attitude towards the general public. Government officials make the mistake of considering themselves self-styled in a royal style instead of considering themselves as public servants. This is inappropriate. Officials should abandon their royal style and adopt a cooperative attitude towards the general public. The government should rein in the bureaucracy, so that punitive action is taken against those bureaucrats who have a negative attitude towards the general public.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

#### Commodity Crisis

Water is a prized commodity in the Thar Desert, where women have to walk miles to fetch it from sources or spend considerable amounts on booking tankers, which are, however, never enough to meet daily requirements. The main livelihood for people here is farming and rearing of animals but water is not enough for both. Cooking gas is also much sought-after in the arid region, where it is difficult to find firewood. In fact it is very difficult to find all facilities in such areas without govt's support. Therefore, government should provide them with these pressing necessities.

Tauqueer Rahmani, Mumbai

## The 'Drone Moment' of Indian Agriculture



Dr Mansukhh Mandaviya

Travelling through the verdant serenity of the lush green fields of Punjab, my attention was drawn towards a distant buzzing sound. Curious to know the source, I got down from my vehicle, to be greeted by two rustic farmers operating a drone for spraying liquid Nano Urea. I was pleasantly surprised to see such an enthusiastic acceptance of a new concept by the farmers in a rural corner of the country. This, I felt, was the 'drone moment' for the agricultural sector of India, heralding a 'drone movement' in our country. The farmers told me that they got the informa-

tion about the agri-drones during their visit to 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' in their village. The new technology was extremely useful for spraying of liquid fertilizers and pesticides in their fields in the most efficient manner, they narrated.

Indian agriculture has already travelled a distance by transitioning itself from being traditionally a bullock-cart based towards tractor-based agriculture. I am now seeing a genesis of third wave of agricultural revolution emerging in the form of usage of drones in the agricultural operations. The agri-drone technology is proving to be a real breakthrough in modernizing and transforming our farming practices. Gone are the days of tedious and time-consuming manual spraying of pesticides and liquid fertilisers through hand pumps; it is gradually getting replaced by a much more efficient and productive technique of spraying by means of drones. Modernisation of agricultural practices is essential and indispensable for improving efficiency and productivity of the farming sector so as to ensure food security, which is an important element of Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The green revolution of the 1960s witnessed introduction of new farm

tools, HYV seeds, pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Over the years, an urgent need was felt to ensure more balanced use of fertilizers, in order to maintain long term sustainability of our environment, soil health and soil fertility. In response, the Government has embarked upon several initiatives like PM PRANAM and GOBARDHAN to promote alternate fertilizers such as Bio, Nano and Organic fertilizers. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendra (PMKSK) are set up to enhance awareness about these new initiatives and provide integrated solutions to the farmers under one roof.

The indigenously developed nano fertilizers are path breaking as they provide an eco-friendly and effective alternative to the conventional chemical fertilizers. Now, a 45 kg bag of conventional urea can be replaced by half a litre bottle of Nano Urea with multifold advantages like better nutrient use efficiency and easier handling, apart from being helpful in maintaining soil quality and improving crop yield. The next challenge in ensuring its wider acceptability was to develop a method of efficient application system, creation of an eco-system for easier adoption and effectively communicating the benefits to the

farming community. The development of Kisan Drones by India's young and dynamic startups offers an effective and efficient technique for application of liquid fertilizers. Having a capacity to cover an acre of farm land within minutes proved to be a blessing to the farmers toiling hard for hours together in their fields. With more free time at their disposal, farmers can engage in more productive work to increase their earnings and improve their quality of life.

One of the focus of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modiji is to empower the women and increase the share of women led development within the country. He launched the Namu Drone Didi on November 30, during the interaction with beneficiaries in the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which aims to provide drones to 15,000 select women SHGs for providing rental services to the farmers for agricultural purpose by providing easy financial solutions. This innovative initiative will not only make drones easily available to farmers for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides, but also contribute to women empowerment and rural prosperity. It will give a boost to India's drone aeronautics and help drone manu-

facturing startups to setup manufacturing facilities. It will augment job opportunities for women and youth by means of creating employment ventures for drone pilots and drone mechanics in the remote corners of the country and will give a fillip to the rural and urban economies at the same time.

Effective communication is the backbone of successful implementation of any novel initiative. Drones have become a start attraction as part of the countrywide Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra started from 15th November 2023. There have been more than 50,000 drone demonstrations across all the States during the Yatra. These demonstrations have ignited high level of interest within the farmers for adoption of this new technology in their farming operations. The 'Drone Moment' has given wings to the flight of India's farming sector. It gives me a great sense of pride, satisfaction and fulfilment to be part of India's new trajectory of growth and wholesome development. Yes, I believe, we are poised to become the fastest growing economy in the world.

(Author is Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India)



**BRIEF**

**Settlement policy**



**■ Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu on Thursday directed the State Cooperative Bank to formulate a One-Time Settlement (OTS) policy to facilitate its customers. In a meeting with the bank's Chairman Devender Shyam and Managing Director Shrawan Manta, the Chief Minister instructed the Bank to work together with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Reserve Bank of India for developing a comprehensive OTS policy.

**Chartered flights**



**■ New Delhi:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday said 100 chartered flights are expected to land at the Ayodhya airport for the Ram temple consecration ceremony on January 22. The Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 30. Adityanath said he estimates that around 100 chartered flights are expected to land at the Ayodhya airport on January 22.

**Record sales**

**■ New Delhi:** German automotive group BMW on Thursday reported record sales of its luxury cars and motorcycles in India at 22,940 units in 2023. The automaker sold a total of 14,172 units across BMW and MINI brands last year. It also retained 8,768 units of motorcycle (BMW Motorrad) in 2023. The company's sales rose by 19 per cent last year as compared to 19,263 units in 2022. "2023 has been a record-breaking milestone year for BMW Group India.

## Govt plans to sell 'enemy property' shares in 84 cos

**■ Scrips of 20 firms put on block in 1st tranche**

New Delhi, Jan 11:

The government on Thursday said it is planning to sell over 2.91 lakh 'enemy property' shares in 84 companies to individuals and corporates in tranches as it looks to dispose of assets of individuals who had migrated to Pakistan and China. In the first tranche, the government is looking to sell about 1.88 lakh shares in 20 companies and has invited bids from 10 categories of buyers, including individuals, NRIs, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), trusts and companies by February 8, accord-

ing to a public notice. Assets left behind by people who have taken citizenship of Pakistan and China - mostly between 1947 and 1962 - are called 'enemy property'. The proposed share sale is part of the government's initiative to dispose of "enemy property" in the country. Buyers will have to place bids for shares they wish to buy and any price quoted below the reserve price set by the government will be rejected. The reserve price will be kept confidential from prospective bidders. As many as 2,91,536 shares of 84 companies are held by the Custodian of Enemy Properties for India (CEPI). In a public notice, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said "GoI propos-

es to sell 2,91,536 shares of 84 companies". It also listed the names of select 20 companies and 1,87,887 shares it proposes to divest. DIPAM said interested buyers will be required to submit their bids, indicating the number of shares of companies they intend to bid for and the bid price for the respective shares in a specified form. The government shall fix a reserve price for shares of each of these companies, which shall not be disclosed, it said, adding that price bids submitted at a value lower than the reserve price shall be rejected. "Shares will be allotted to eligible bidders who have submitted a valid price bid, on a price priority basis subject to the approval of government of India," the DIPAM said. The procedure and

mechanism for disposal of enemy shares, under the custody of CEPI was approved by the Cabinet on November 8, 2018. SBI Capital Markets was appointed as a merchant banker and selling broker for sale of shares held by CEPI. Last month, Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra had informed Parliament that shares worth more than Rs 2,709 crore were sold by the government as part of its initiative to dispose of enemy properties in the country. The sale of such shares is done on the recommendation of a high-level committee which suggests the quantum and price level. The proceeds of sale or disposal of the enemy property are deposited into the consolidated fund of India.

## UPI best payments system in world, RBI not averse to having rival of NPCI: Das

Mumbai, Jan 11:

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday dismissed criticism from certain quarters that after the huge success of UPI, its creator NPCI has become a monopoly and asserted that there is more room for the payment app to grow and it can become the world leader in payments. Unified Payments Interface or UPI, developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has been a runaway success and is already operational in some countries, including Singapore and the UAE. Its monthly volume in the country crossed the 100-billion mark many months ago. RBI is in discussion with more central banks in other countries. Dismissing the criticism that NPCI, set up by RBI and other financial institutions, has become a monopoly, he said, it is the best cre-



ation. Das was speaking at a BFSI seminar organized by business daily Mint. "UPI has already become a digital public infrastructure. In fact it has to grow even further. I would say this is the best payments system in the world as of now and I wish it becomes the world leader in it," he said. However, he said, RBI is not averse to having a rival to NPCI, and in fact it had sought applications for the same. But, none of the proposals that have come to

them so far have had anything new to offer. "If fact, all the proposals looked almost a copy of what NPCI is already doing with some minor modifications...So we haven't taken an official view and as when we do that we will clear our stand on the idea of creating a rival to NPCI," Das said. To a query on the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which is RBI's answer to the private digital currencies, Das said, RBI is working on the programmability of the digital rupee so that it can be used for specific payments like government subsidies or cash payouts. "Currently, we are moving towards money market operations (in the wholesale CBDC area) and slowly we will be adding new segments and areas where CBDC operations will do. It's a pilot project. We are in no great hurry because after all we are creating a new currency system," he said.

## Premium economy class is here to stay; more passengers are choosing it: Vistara

New Delhi, Jan 11:

As it looks to consolidate its position in the full service carrier space, merger-bound Vistara has said the premium economy class is here to stay and there has been a surge in the number of passengers opting for these seats. Vistara, a joint venture between Tata and Singapore Airlines, was the first to introduce premium economy class in India. It operates around 320 flights daily on domestic and international routes with a fleet of 67 planes, and three more aircraft will be inducted by April this year. Currently, the airline offers premium economy class in the three aircraft models operated by it - Airbus 320 neo, Airbus 321 and Boeing 787-



9 Dreamliner. Vistara's Chief Commercial Officer Deepak Rajawat told PTI that the premium economy class is here to stay. "We have seen a surge in passengers picking up tickets on the premium economy (class). There is an uptick year-over-year," he said and added that premium economy is the differentiation that the airline has created in India.

## Tatas's investment in Gujarat fab will be big: Vaishnav

**■ Project to move for Cabinet approval soon**

Gandhinagar, Jan 11:

The Tata Group's investment for the fab manufacturing in Gujarat will be "very big" and a Cabinet note seeking approvals for the project will be moved "very soon", Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav said on Thursday. Speaking at the biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here, Vaishnav said the Tata's proposed investment is important because it will be serving a wider spectrum of opportunities, right from fab to OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly



and Test). Vaishnav said the fab proposed in Dholera will be a semiconductor chips manufacturing factory, which will be a "very big investment". "Already there is a lot of good progress on it. Very soon, we will take it to the Cabinet and construction will begin after that," Vaishnav told reporters. The Union Cabinet will have to grant approval for the project, he added. The

Union minister also said the Tata Group will tie up with a technical partner to set up the project, but declined to share the name of partner or details of the investment such a bet entails. Speaking at the tenth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran had announced that the group intends to build a "huge semiconductor fab" at Dholera, and the salt to software group is in the final stages of negotiations before the project gets started in 2024. "The Tata Group has also made a commitment, and is on the verge of concluding and announcing a huge semiconductor fab in Dholera, and we are about to complete these negotiations and start in 2024," Chandrasekaran had said.

## Markets settle marginally higher; TCS, Infosys quarterly results eyed

Mumbai, Jan 11:



Benchmark equity indices ended marginally higher on Thursday, trimming most of their intraday gains, as investors turned cautious ahead of the quarterly results of IT behemoths TCS and Infosys later in the day. Announcement of the US inflation data and domestic macroeconomic numbers also forced investors to remain on the sidelines. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 63.47 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 71,721.18. During the day, it jumped 341.76 points or 0.47 per cent to 71,999.47. The Nifty gained 28.50 points or 0.13 per cent to 21,647.20. Among the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra and Tata

Consultancy Services were the major gainers. Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Wipro, Larsen & Toubro and Nestle were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains while Seoul ended lower. European markets were trading higher. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Wednesday. "In anticipation of inflation data from the US, the Indian market exhibited range-bound trade.

## Infosys net profit declines 7.3 pc to Rs 6,106 crore in Q3

New Delhi, Jan 11:

IT company Infosys on Thursday posted a 7.3 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 6,106 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year. The company had posted a net profit (attributable to shareholders) of Rs 6,586 crore during the same period a year ago, Infosys said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations of the company increased marginally by 1.3 per cent to Rs 38,821 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 38,318 crore in the year-ago period. Infosys revised its revenue growth guidance for the ongoing financial year to 1.5-2 pc from 1-2.5 per cent estimated earlier. The company also said



Infosys CEO Salil Parekh and CFO Nilanjan Roy during a press conference organised to announce the Q3 financial results of the company, in Bengaluru, Thursday, Jan 11.

that its board has approved a proposal to acquire a Bengaluru-based semiconductor design service provider InSemi for about Rs 280 crore. The

acquisition of InSemi is expected to close during the fourth quarter of FY24, subject to customary closing conditions, the filing said.

## First Solar invests USD 700 mn for solar manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu

New Delhi, Jan 11:

US-based First Solar said it has invested USD 700 million in setting up India's first integrated solar manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu that was inaugurated on Thursday. The facility, which has an annual capacity of 3.3 gigawatts (GW), is located in Tamil Nadu. It will produce the company's series 7 Photovoltaic (PV) solar modules for the Indian market. The facility has provided a direct employment opportunity to around 1,000 people, according to a statement. Tamil Nadu's Minister for Industries, Promotions and Commerce TRB Rajaa was the chief guest at the plant's inaugural ceremony that was also attended



Tamil Nadu Minister for Industries T.R.B. Rajaa with United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti during the inauguration of a manufacturing unit of First Solar, at Pillaipakkam, Sriperumbudur in Kanchipuram district, Thursday, Jan. 11.

by the United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti and Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) Scott Nathan. The

factory sets a high bar for sustainability and advanced manufacturing and has created high-value jobs in the state. It will support India's ambition to become self-sufficient in solar tech-

nology, Rajaa said. Garcetti said the production facility will help advance the global transition to cleaner, greener energy and stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when the United States and India work together across the government and private sectors to achieve lasting climate action. "Representing an investment of approximately USD 700 million, the facility is First Solar's sixth operational factory and expands the company's global manufacturing footprint to four countries, including the US, Malaysia, and Vietnam," the statement said. Series 7 modules use 50 per cent less energy and only a third of water than polysilicon modules that are produced in China.

## IFSC needs to ready platform where green credits can be traded: Sitharaman

Gandhinagar, Jan 11:

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said India has a USD 10.1 trillion funding gap to meet its net zero commitment and asked IFSC to set up a platform where green credits can be traded. Speaking at a session 'An aspiration of modern India' at the GIFT City, the minister said companies in India will be able to access global funds soon with direct listing on IFSC exchanges. "The much awaited direct listing of stock in GIFT City was announced earlier. We are going through the process in a systematic



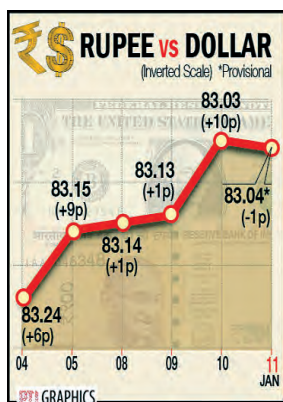
manner and I'm confident that it will happen at the earliest. With that Indian companies should be able to access global funds easily being listed in India," she said. Last year the government had decided to allow listed and unlisted

companies to directly list themselves on the IFSC (International Financial Services Centre) exchanges at GIFT City. Currently, Indian companies can access foreign equity markets only through issuing depository receipts or by listing their debt securities on foreign markets. The finance minister suggested that there should be a platform located at the IFSC where green credits can be traded. The minister further said India has a funding gap of USD 10.1 trillion to meet its net zero commitment which has to be fulfilled by 2070 and GIFT City could help in bridging that gap.

## Rupee falls 1 paisa to close at 83.04 against dollar

Mumbai, Jan 11:

The rupee settled on a flat note with a loss of just 1 paisa at 83.04 (provisional) against the dollar on Thursday on the back of strengthening American currency and sharp rise in crude oil prices. The domestic currency broke its six-day gaining streak despite positive equity market sentiment, as foreign funds outflow dented sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.05 and traded between the peak of 82.93 and the lowest level of 83.08 against the greenback during the intra-day deals. It finally settled at 83.04



(provisional) against the dollar, down by just 1 paisa over its previous closing level. "The Indian rupee is trading flat. It opened on a positive note on weak Dollar and positive domestic markets.

## Gold ETFs shine bright in 2023; log Rs 2,920 crore inflow

New Delhi, Jan 11:

Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) witnessed a significant inflow of Rs 2,920 crore in 2023, marking a six-fold surge compared to the previous year, as investors sought the safety of this traditional safe haven amid higher inflation, subsequent hike in interest rates and geopolitical events. Additionally, the asset base of gold ETFs and investors' accounts experienced growth in the year, latest data from the Association

of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. According to the data, Gold ETFs witnessed an inflow of Rs 2,920 crore in the entire 2023, which was way higher than the Rs 459 crore inflow seen in 2022. Notably, the segment attracted Rs 1,028 crore in August 2023, which was the highest inflow in 16 months. The attractiveness of gold as a safe haven and a hedge against inflation enhanced significantly during the year. Investors turned to this traditional safe haven amid rising inflation, subsequent interest rate hikes, and geopolitical events, seeking a secure investment option. "Higher infla-

tion and subsequent hike in interest rates augured well for gold. Moreover, heightened geopolitical tension triggered due to the war between Israel and Hamas made it an attractive and safe investment destination for investors," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India, said. Vishal Jain, CEO at Zerodha Fund House, said that Indians have had a centuries-long affinity with physical gold while investment products such as Gold ETFs have been slower in terms of adoption.

# Collector asks to ensure smooth operations in PPCs

**Bilaspur District nears target with 68% paddy procured**

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Jan 11:** Bilaspur's paddy procurement campaign is in full swing, with Collector Avnish Sharan taking proactive measures to ensure that traffic jams do not disrupt operations at any procurement center.

With only 12 working days left for procurement, the district has already achieved 68% of its target, purchasing a total of 4 lakh 21 thousand metric tons of paddy. This remarkable progress is a testament to the dedication of the officers and their commitment to serving the genuine



farmers of the region.

Collector Sharan, during a recent meeting with district officials, emphasized the importance of expediting the paddy lifting process at centers susceptible to traffic con-

gestion. He instructed the authorities to allocate more rice millers in such locations, thereby increasing the capacity for paddy purchase.

This strategic approach aims to ensure that every procurement center remains operational, adhering to the state government's instructions to complete the procurement by January 31.

The Food Controller, Anurag Bhadauria, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Manju Pandey, and CEO of District Cooperative Bank Prabhat Mishra, along with officials from Markfed and NAN, were present at the meeting.

The district's collective efforts continue to make a positive impact on the lives of local farmers, ensuring a seamless paddy procurement campaign.

# Khairagarh Civil Hospital grapples with staff shortage

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Jan 11:** In a poignant reflection of the healthcare challenges facing the region, the largest government civil hospital in the district found itself grappling with a shortage of staff during Wednesday evening's OPD session. Patients, seeking treatment and essential medicines, were left to wander in search of solace as the medicine distribution process faced disruptions.

As patients consulted with doctors and received prescriptions, they ventured to the medicine distribution room, only to encounter chaos due to inadequate staff presence. It was revealed that the hospital's



medicine distribution staff had been dispatched to Rajnandgaon to replenish the medicine stock. Meanwhile, the system for dispensing medicines through OPD slips remained entirely paralyzed.

Desperate for a solution, hospital authorities hastily dispatched ward nurses to manage the situation.

However, confusion prevailed as the location of the medicines remained uncertain. Some patients received partial assistance, while others were advised to return the following morning for essential medications. This unfortunate situation left many underserved, forcing them to leave the district's premier government

hospital without the care they had sought. It is crucial to note that Khairagarh has attained district status, but its healthcare infrastructure has yet to meet the demands of its growing population. Local authorities face the pressing need to revamp the healthcare system for the welfare of the community.

# Collector conducts surprise inspection at PPC

**Strict measures taken to uphold procurement integrity**

Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Jan 11:** Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh conducted a surprise inspection at the remote paddy procurement center in Ramgarh, located within the Sonhat development block of the district to safeguard the integrity of the paddy procurement process.

During his visit, Collector Langeh engaged directly with registered farmers, attentively listening to their concerns and difficulties. He left no room for complacency, issuing clear directives to nodal officers that any negligence in duty would result in immediate, stringent action.

The inspection revealed a discrepancy of 1,228 old jute gunny bags, which



were in violation of regulations. Collector Langeh promptly confiscated the bags and instructed the issuance of show-cause notices to key committee members, including com-

mittee manager Govind Dubey, food in-charge Ramchandra, gunny bag in-charge Shaileshwar Singh, and assistant nodal officer Sukhram Lakra. Immediate removal of the

gunny-bag in-charge was also ordered.

Furthermore, Collector Langeh emphatically stated that any complaints from farmers regarding financial demands would not

be tolerated. He emphasized the importance of proper arrangements to protect the paddy from adverse weather conditions, especially rainfall.

The district administration's commitment to paddy procurement, as directed by the state government, is evident through its relentless efforts to crack down on illegal activities related to procurement, transportation, storage, and middlemen. Paddy procurement, which began on November 1, 2023, will continue until January 31, 2024. This year, there are 22,274 registered farmers in the district, cultivating paddy across 29,771 hectares of land, with 22 designated procurement centers to facilitate the process.

# Patients flock district hospital as weather unpredictable

Central Chronicle News

**Mungeli, Jan 11:** There is a sudden surge in patients in the district hospital as the weather is both humid cold and dry at the same time, thereby increasing the number of patients especially children. The same is applicable to doctors too as many are reportedly down with weather related ailments.

January usually cold is warm; this year and the immunity power of people has been effected due to this change, leading to spells of cold and fever which is relatively taking more than a week to heal, instead of the normal three to four day fever.



The doctors treating the patients have opined that this season apart from the normal medicines antibiotics also have been prescribed to major of the patients, as a result of which the incubation and healing period both has increased.

**What doctor says**  
Number of patients with cough cold and inflammation has drastically increased since the past few days, and many of the patients have been prescribed antibiotics apart from routine medicines  
- Dr. MK Rai, Civil Surgeon, Mungeli

# VBSY Rath reaching last person of the village

- Camp organized in Malakdol, Mannaudh, Kuwarpur and Koilra villages

Central Chronicle News

**Manendragarh, Jan 11:** Under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY), developed under the direction of Collector Rahul Vekant, the promotional chariot of the Prime Minister's government schemes here reached Malakdol, Mannaudh Kuwarpur and Koilra Panchayats of Bharatpur development block of the district.

At the camp site, under 'My Story in My Words', Sarita, a resident of Malakdol Gram Panchayat, told about the card she received from Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Phulsai told about the house received from Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Lalita Kumari and Rahelal



about the house received from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Through the demonstration of soil testing by Agriculture Department official Hirasdas Paikra at the camp site, it was told that rural farmers can get a good crop by testing the soil of their fields, using appropriate amount of fertilizers and seeds. Information related to Swachh Bharat Mission, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Suraksha Bima Yojana, Ayushman Yojana, Kisan Credit

Card, Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Poshan Abhiyan, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Livelihood Mission, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana etc. was given and applications were taken from the beneficiaries deprived of the benefits of the scheme. The health team tested for TB and sickle cell and provided necessary consultation and free medicines. A cultural program was presented by school children. On this occasion, officers and employees related to Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra were present.

# SECR successfully established 50th 'Self-Reliance' stall

- Meaningful and innovative effort to encourage local products as well as local artisans

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur/Bilaspur, Jan 11:** In a significant move to support the 'Vocal for Local' initiative, create markets for local products, and generate additional income for local producers, South East Central Railway has introduced the 'One Station One Product' scheme.

This visionary program aims to promote a wide range of local products, including textiles, handicrafts, clay items, handloom, bamboo products, and forest produce, at various railway stations.

Local producers can showcase their products at these stalls for 15 days at a

nominal fee, with the option to extend the duration to three months at smaller stations.

Under the 'One Station One Product' scheme, approximately 50 stalls have been set up in 46 stations across South East Central Railway. These stalls offer locally manufactured and renowned products for sale. Notable stations featuring these stalls include Bilaspur, Anuppur, Champa, Korba, Pendra Road, Raigarh, Shahdol, Sakti, Naila, Uslapur, Ambikapur, Burhar, Bistrampur, Raipur, Durg, Bhilai Power House, Maroda, Dallirajhara, Bhatapara, and many more.

The 'One Station One Product' scheme introduces travelers to unique



artworks created by local artisans, encouraging them to purchase these distinctive items. These stalls feature a wide array of products, from Herbal Medicine and Handicrafts in Bilaspur to Para Art in Korba, Herbal Products in Raigarh, Tribal Art in Anuppur, and Honey in Shahdol.

The initiative also in-

cludes Home Made Bari, Papad, Pickles in Durg, Home Made Decorative Items in Raipur, Millets in Rajnandgaon, and Bamboo Art in Gondia, among others.

This initiative not only supports local artisans but also improves the supply chain of local produce by utilizing the efficient logistics of the railway system. Each railway station now serves as a promotional hub for a unique local product, benefiting farmers and agriculture-related enterprises. It also ensures that regional products are showcased to a wider audience, including railway passengers. The stalls are constructed by the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, and the Railways will bear the installation costs. Producers are allotted kiosks for fifteen days, with a focus on direct engagement with primary producers. The 'One Station One Product' scheme has garnered significant interest, with applications pouring in for setting up kiosks. To further promote small stations, stalls can be reserved for up to three months, and self-help groups are encouraged to participate.

# Collector-SP hold meeting with vehicle drivers



Central Chronicle News

**Korea, Jan 11:** District Collector Vinay Kumar Langeh and Superintendent of Police Trilok Bansal met the vehicle drivers of the district at the Collectorate office here and while discussing said that the vehicle drivers make an important contribution in

the development of the country, state and district.

They have appealed to the drivers not to pay attention to misleading news and rumours and before implementing any law, the Central Government will implement it only after needful discussions.

Superintendent of Police Trilok Bansal said



that the cooperation of the drivers in Korea district has been very positive and will continue to be so and he expressed hope that in case of any kind of problems, they can contact the Collector and SP directly.

While giving information to the Collector-SP, the drivers present in the meeting said that the

Korean drivers have postponed the strike against the Hit and Run law, all of them will cooperate with the administration and will also drive in the public interest.

In this meeting, a large number of drivers including District Officer, Nilesh Gupta of Bus Association, Transporter Sunny Gupta were present.

# Empowering early education through 'Angana Ma Shiksha'-4.0

- Holistic education takes center stage at Pandariya workshop
- Govt's important initiative enhances home-based learning

Central Chronicle News

**Pandariya, Jan 11:** A significant step toward enhancing early education, the 'Angana Ma Shiksha 4.0' workshop was conducted at the Atmanand School in Pandariya's development block. The event commenced with the worship of Mother Saraswati, drawing active participation from Sankul coordinators and female teachers.

This program aims to provide education to young children at the local level, fostering learning opportunities within the comfort of their



homes. Sub-Divisional Revenue Officer Sandeep Thakur, the chief guest, highlighted the scheme's importance, emphasizing the collaborative role of village mothers and Anganwadi assistants in imparting essential teaching training to children. This initiative empowers children to engage in educational activities even while at home, with society playing a crucial role.

Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Tarun Baghel, emphasized the critical development phase be-

tween 3 to 6 years, likening young minds to raw clay pots that require careful molding. Block Education Officer GP Banerjee, APC Santosh Sahu, Block Resource Coordinator Arjun Chandravanshi, and BRP Vinod Goswami provided valuable guidance to teachers during the event.

The training, led by master trainers Renuka Parihar and Gayatri Chandravanshi, covered linguistic and mathematical activities in January, February, and March, followed by "Padhai Tihar" in April. The

workshop also delved into topics like children's fairs, support cards, alphabets, counting, and reading simple words, providing comprehensive insights to educators.

The workshop saw active participation from coordinators and teachers-in-charge of Angana Ma education from 38 Sankuls within the Pandariya development block, with the Naib Tehsildar adding his special contributions. Key contributors to the program included Dujram Nirmalkar and Ugesh.

## MALAYSIA OPEN

# Satwik-Chirag enters men's doubles quarterfinals

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11 (PTI):

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty continued their impressive run to advance to the men's doubles quarterfinals but Kidambi Srikanth failed to cross the second round at Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

World No. 2 Satwik and Chirag, who had a stellar run in 2023 with six titles, beat France's world No. 36 Lucas Corvee and Ronan Labar 21-11 21-18 to set up a clash with China's world No. 32 He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu.

The Indian women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, who claimed the Guwahati Masters super 100 title last month, shocked seventh seeded Japanese pair of Wakana Nagahara and Mayu Matsumoto 21-19, 13-21, 21-15 to inch closer in their effort to qualify for



the Paris Olympics. Srikanth, however, failed to rein in his errors and went down 13-21 17-21 to Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus in the second

round. Satwik and Chirag, the Asian Games gold medalists, dished out an aggressive game to gallop to 11-2 lead at the break in

the opening game. A seven-point burst after re-suspension gave the French pair hope as they made it 12-14. But the Indian combination soon found their bearing to run away with the opening game after gathering the remaining seven points on the trot.

The Indians, however, wouldn't have been prepared for what came next as Corvee and Labar came out blazing on all cylinders to take an 11-4 cushion in the interval.

From 4-11, Satwik and Chirag, however, made it 16-16 with Chirag and Satwik once again scripting a remarkable recovery.

Once the French went long, the Indians had the advantage. Labar pounced on a weak return to keep themselves in the hunt. A deception from Chirag, followed by a flat exchange, gave India three match points. They squandered one before Labar served into the net.

## Sumit Nagal one match away from making Australian Open main draw



Melbourne, Jan 11 (PTI):

India's Sumit Nagal is just one match away from making the main draw of the Australian Open tennis tournament as he reached the final round of the

qualifying tournament here on Thursday.

Nagal beat Australian Edward Winter, a wild card, in the second qualifying match 6-3, 6-2 that lasted one hour and four minutes at the KIA Arena.

The 26-year-old Indian will face Alex Molcan of Slovakia in the final round on Friday for a place in the season-opening Grand Slam proper.

If Nagal, currently 139th in the singles world ranking, wins on Friday, he will enter the main round of a Grand Slam event for the first time since 2021 and fourth overall.

## England have taken a bit of punt but I'm ready: Hartley

London, Jan 11 (PTI):

Uncapped young spinner Tom Hartley feels England have taken a "bit of a punt" by picking him for the Test tour of India but says the conditions will actually suit his bowling and he will look to live up to the expectations.

The 24-year-old left-arm spinner is part of the 16-member squad picked by the England board last month for the five-Test series against India, beginning in Hyderabad on January 25. "With the conditions being completely



different to English conditions, they've really analysed what has done well in India and what will do well," Hartley told the PA news agency. "It's nice to

## BFI to organise talent hunt programmes

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI), in association with power company REC Limited, will organise the Western Open Talent Hunt Programme at the Army Sports Institute in Pune. The competition for the elite and youth categories will take place from January 12 to 19. The event is part of the four open preliminary tournaments that the BFI has planned to organise across the country for elite, youth, junior and sub-junior categories for both men and women boxers.

These are open tournaments and anyone can participate and get themselves enrolled to showcase their skills. "Boxing Federation of India and REC are committed to the growth of Indian boxing and this REC Open Talent Hunt Programme is a significant step to identify and nurture budding boxers from across the country," BFI Secretary general Hemanta Kumar Kalita said.

"The programme is open to any boxers who possess the skills and have potential. It is a big opportunity for boxers to make an impact in the national scene. Through this programme, BFI and REC also aim to promote the sport in every corner of the country and increase the participation and exposure for the game."

## Rhythm Sangwan bags India's 16th quota place in shooting for Paris Olympics

Jakarta, Jan 11 (PTI):

Rhythm Sangwan on Thursday became the 16th Indian shooter to secure a 2024 Paris quota place with a bronze medal in 25m sports pistol at the Asia Olympic Qualifiers, ensuring India will send its largest-ever shooting contingent to the global showpiece in July-August this year.

India's previous largest squad contained 15 shooters at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Jakarta is turning out to be a happy hunting ground with three shooters - Esha Singh, Varun Tomar (both 10m air pistol) and now Rhythm - securing quota slots for the country so far. The 20-year-old Rhythm, who hails from Haryana and was a part of the team that won the 25m sports pistol gold at the Hangzhou Asian Games last year along with Esha and Manu Bhaker, shot 28 in the final to settle for bronze. But her third-position finish was enough to fetch a Paris quota for the country as the two Koreans, Yang Jiin (41) and Kim Yeji (32), who won gold and silver respectively were ineligible for Olympic quota spots.

This is Rhythm's third medal in the ongoing Asian Olympic Qualifiers after she



finished third in 10m air pistol on Monday with Esha clinching gold. She also won the 10m air pistol mixed team silver with Arjun Singh Cheema on Tuesday.

An Olympic quota place had eluded Rhythm on Monday after Pakistan's Kishmala Talat had won the silver in 10m air pistol. But, on Thursday, Rhythm was happy she could get the monkey off her back.

Rhythm credited her personal coach Vineet Kumar for the success in the Qualifiers. "I am really happy that I won the bronze medal and could win the quota for my country," Rhythm said after the match. "I would like to thank my personal coach Vineet

Kumar. It's all because of him I'm here today. I would also like to thank all my supporters out there," said the affable shooter. Asked which of the three medals she prized the most, Rhythm said all the medals here were close to her heart but the fact that the bronze on Thursday also earned India an Olympic quota made it special.

"I think all of them (three medals here) hold a special place in my heart. But, yes, I mean I could do this for my country... I could win the quota for my country, so, yes, it holds a special place. Thank you Vineet sir, keep your blessings," she said.

Rhythm shot two rapid-fire series of 100 on Monday to qualify for the final with a top score of 588. She then had 28 hits out of her first 35 targets, finishing behind the Korean pair, who were ineligible for quotas in the event.

That released two quota slots for other shooters and Rhythm earned one.

Rhythm began the day placed fifth after the first precision round on Wednesday, coming up with a near-perfect second rapid-fire round. Her 288 out of 300 propelled her to 588, three clear of Yeji Kim, the first of three Koreans to enter the top eight.

## 'We're focussing on making a potent attacking force'

Ranchi, Jan 11 (PTI):

The Indian women's hockey team is focussing on sharpening skills and synchronizing movements of its forwards to form a potent attacking force in its bid to clinch an Olympic berth in the qualifying tournament beginning here Saturday, striker Lalremsiami Hmarzote said on Thursday.

The top three teams in the eight-country tournament, to be played between January 13 and 19, will qualify for the Paris Olympics this year.

Lalremsiami highlighted the team's meticulous approach towards fine-tuning the forward line dynamics. "Our preparations have centred on fortifying our forward line. We've dedicated ourselves to enhancing our coordination, sharpening our skills, and synchronizing our movements to create a potent attacking force," she said. "We're entering the tournament with a sense of preparedness and eagerness to execute our plans effectively. Our focus remains on optimizing our forward line



Lalremsiami

capabilities to secure our place at the Paris Olympics." With a focus on precision, timing and adaptability, Lalremsiami emphasized them as the common goal within the forward line. "Each member brings a unique skill set to the turf, and our collective goal is to seamlessly blend our strengths to create impactful opportunities during the tournament," said Lalremsiami who was part of the Indian team that won a bronze medal in the Hangzhou Asian Games last year.

## Understand criticism but not surprised at Virat's inclusion in T20I squad: De Villiers

Gqeberha, Jan 11 (PTI):

Virat Kohli is managing the backend of his international career quite niftily, hence AB de Villiers isn't one bit surprised at the possibility of his good mate playing another T20 World Cup in some months' time.

Kohli, who last played a T20 during the showpiece's semi-final against England in Adelaide in November, 2022, is back in the national squad for the



Afghanistan T20Is and will play the last two games. "I am not surprised at all. I am very happy for Virat and Rohit. You want to get your best team out

there to win the T20 World Cup. Yes, I understand the criticism out there that youngsters have been missing out and guys who have been playing all the time," De Villiers, who is a commentator in SA20, told PTI during an interaction with select media.

De Villiers feels that both skipper Rohit Sharma and Kohli are still part of the best Indian T20 side and the move to consider them for the global meet is a prudent one.

## Swiatek faces 2 past champions early at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 11 (AP):

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek will face 2020 champion Sofia Kenin in the first round and potentially 2016 winner Angelique Kerber or Danielle Collins in the second in a tough start to her bid for a first Australian Open title. Defending champion Novak Djokovic's bid for a record-extending 11th Australian Open title could include a third-round match against Andy Murray and a quarterfinal against No. 7



Stefanos Tsitsipas, the runner-up last year. The draws to determine singles brackets were held Thursday, with the return of former champions Naomi Osaka, Kerber and Caroline Wozniacki to Melbourne

Park after maternity breaks resulting in some high-pressure opening rounds.

Osaka, who has won the Australian Open and U.S. Open titles twice, opens against No. 16 Caroline Garcia and is in the same quarter of the draw as U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff.

Three-time major winner Kerber will open against Collins, who beat Swiatek in the semifinals here in 2022 on her way to the final. That was Swiatek's best run at the Australian Open so far.

# Ishan Kishan Saga: The Mess that could have been avoided

Gqeberha, Jan 11 (PTI):

Ishan Kishan will be tad too naive not to understand that he currently stands on the lowest pedal in the ladder of players who are in contention for a slot in India's squad for the T20 World Cup.

The dashing wicket-keeper batsman's chances of entering the team also hit the cold point once batting maestro Virat Kohli expressed his intentions of playing the marquee event in June. To add to his dilemma, head coach Rahul Dravid on Wednesday had made a loaded statement that Kishan has to play domestic cricket to make his return to India fold.

It means that having not played any cricket for seven weeks, the left-hander can't be selected for England Tests later this month, where Kona Bharat is seen as the first keeper. When PTI contacted Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) secretary Debasish Chakraborty to enquire if Kishan had made himself



available for the on-going Ranji Trophy, he answered in negative. "No, Ishan hasn't contacted us or told us anything about his availability. Whenever he tells us, he will walk into the playing XI," Chakraborty told PTI. So,

did Ishan do the right thing listening to his heart and seeking a break due to mental fatigue? He did absolutely the correct thing. But was the timing of his decision wrong where he could have stayed back for some time till the end

of the Test series against South Africa?

It was, perhaps, that he could have had read the riot act. If Kohli vs Kishan comparison is done with weightage on experience and big match temperament, the Jharkhand man stood no chance against the Big Man.

This despite the fact that after Shubman Gill, until the ODI World Cup, Kishan was one of the most consistent white ball batters. Did he have reasons to feel aggrieved that he didn't play a single T20 in South Africa after scoring two half-centuries under pressure in the preceding series against Australia at home?

And Kishan is not someone who lacks that passion quotient not to feel hurt at that sidelining. If one had to accommodate both Kohli and skipper Rohit Sharma, who also returned to the T20 establishment, the scapegoat had to be Kishan as he is a top-order player.

Then we have another left-handed top-order batter Yashasvi Jaiswal, who

might just be a yard ahead of Kishan in terms of range and quality.

A flowering cricketer often learns a lot while sharing the dressing room with legends. But ask any young player off the record, they would emphatically tell you that "no one learns cricket by carrying drinks and towel. Learning by doing is the only process." Did Kishan miss a beat in South Africa? Of course, he did.

He was frustrated that KL Rahul would be donning the big gloves but what he didn't realize was that rug would be pulled off his feet as far as his immediate T20 future is concerned.

"Jaana apka marzi thaa, aana humara hoga" is what one could read between the lines of Dravid's pre-match conference.

Possibly, it was a decision made by an emotional young man who walked up to Dravid and asked for a break. But was he requested to stay back? We won't know unless Dravid confirms.

What Kishan failed to

read was Jitesh Sharma's entry as a finisher and the Jharkhandi voluntarily vacated his place once he walked away.

"He could have perhaps waited and stayed back for Test series. In Indian cricket, if you leave your seat at your own will, you might not get it back. There are that many talents," a former BCCI office bearer told PTI.

"And no coach or captain will tell you this on face but when you go and tell them that I am going since I am not playing, a subtle ego works. Basically, you are questioning the team management's call." However, the official was clear that how Kishan spends his downtime is nobody's business.

"Once BCCI granted him leave, it's no one's botheration how he spends his time," the official said. So, can Ishan do the India jersey in near future? Of course, he can and he will but only after a spot is vacated in top three. He will have to play the waiting game until then.

**अश्रुपूरित श्रद्धांजलि**

**जन्म:**  
28.10.1961

**निर्वाण:**  
12.01.2009

**स्व. राजेश जैन**

आपकी प्रेरणा, स्नेह,  
यादें हमारे जीवन की अमूल्य धरोहर हैं.

सहज कर्मठ, सौम्य स्वभाव के धनी  
सबके हृदय सम्राट जो अकस्मात  
हम सबको छोड़कर दिव्य ज्योति में विलीन हो गये  
ऐसे महान व्यक्तित्व को हमारी अश्रुपूरित श्रद्धांजलि...

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## ELEPHANT RIDE



Tourists take elephant ride at Amer Fort, in Jaipur, Thursday.

## Hungary Parliament Committee Chairman meets Maha Guv

Hopes Hungary will have first Indian University soon

Mumbai, Jan 11:

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Nemeth MP and Vice Chairman Dr Attila Tilki met Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais at Raj Bhavan Mumbai on Thu (11 Jan).

Speaking on the occasion Committee Chairman Zsolt Nemeth expressed the need to establish cooperation between universities in Maharashtra and Hungary. Stating that higher education, especially medical science is an important area of cooperation, he expressed the hope that Hungary will have an Indian University.

Matters of strengthening parliamentary cooperation between Hungary and India



and enhancing cooperation in Education, Agriculture and Culture were discussed.

Consul General of Hungary in Mumbai Ferenc Jary, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee Dr Robert Furjes and PA to the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Anna Loffler were present.

## 'Jail construction not solution to decongest prisons'

New Delhi, Jan 11 (PTI):

Delhi Director General (Prisons) Sanjay Baniwal has said construction of more jails will not decongest the prisons but the solution lies in thinking out of the box such as giving bail and adopting a pre-arrest concept.

In an interview with PTI, Baniwal said the government and the courts are seriously considering ways to reduce overcrowding.

He said the government has started thinking of making some amendments in that direction. For instance, those who have already served as undertrial after charges have been framed can be given bail or those who have served at least half of their sentence and their behaviour has been convenient need to be given parole.

"Secondly, probably, we will have to think of some out-of-the-box solutions. For example, instead of having semi-open or open jails, we can even think of making pre-arrests. In foreign countries, there is a concept of binding someone within an area before arrest. However, the convicts can be jailed," Baniwal said.

Delhi has three prison complexes -- Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini, where 19,967 inmates are lodged at present. This is almost double the capacity of 10,026 inmates. There are 16 separate jails, including two for women inmates, in these three prison complexes. Baniwal said every system is strained due to overcrowding, resulting in



DG (Prisons) Sanjay Baniwal

continuous pressure on the system. This, in turn, affects safety and security within the jail.

About the jail being built for high-risk prisoners in Narela, Baniwal said it is being constructed in a very specific manner to ensure that the least amount of manpower can control a majority of the inmates.

He said there will be in-house court, in-house hospital and video-conferencing in each ward so that the movement of inmates is restricted as much as possible.

Baniwal, an AGMUT cadre IPS officer of the 1989 batch, who has served as joint commissioner and special commissioner in Delhi Police besides having headed the Chandigarh Police, said the Delhi police commissioner has submitted a report to the Supreme Court, addressing necessary changes related to the number of administrative staff, organisational haul up, heightened security measures and procedural adjustments.

## Close shave for Mehbooba as car meets with accident

Srinagar, Jan 11 (PTI): PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti had a narrow escape on Thursday as her car met with an accident at Sangam in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said. The vehicle of the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister collided with a civilian car at Sangam, a police official said. Mufti, who was on her way to Khanabal to meet the victims

of a fire incident, did not suffer any injuries. However, a police officer in her personal security sustained minor injuries, the official said.

Mufti's vehicle was badly damaged in the accident, but she went ahead with her scheduled visit in another car.

A spokesperson of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) said Mufti was safe and did not suffer any injuries.

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## Papers with 'Lord Ram' written 4.31 cr times to be sent to Ayodhya

From Chhindwara

Bhopal, Jan 11 (PTI): To celebrate the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya, papers with 'Ram' written on them collectively 4.31 crore times will be sent to the Uttar Pradesh town in two buses from Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh on January 22, Congress MP Nakul Nath has said.

This initiative of writing Lord Ram's names on blank papers is part of 'Shri Ram Mahotsav' underway at Simaria Dham and organised by Maruti Nandan Sewa Samiti that looks after the management of the Hanuman temple. On Wednesday, former Madhya Pradesh

chief minister and senior Congress leader Kamal Nath along with his son Nakul Nath wrote the name of Lord Ram 108 times each on papers after offering prayers at Hanuman temple in Simaria.

"This will be a historic programme for Chhindwara. We will distribute papers among people on which each person will write the name of Bhagwan Ram 108 times. The papers with the name collectively written 4.31 crore times will be collected and they will then be sent to Ayodhya in two buses on January 22," Nakul Nath, who represents the Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency, told reporters on Wednesday.

Gandhinagar, Jan 11:

ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel and mining company, is set to achieve a historic milestone with the announcement of the construction of the world's single biggest steel manufacturing factory at Hazira in Gujarat. This was announced by Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal, during his keynote address at the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

The company is presently engaged in an ongoing expansion project of its Hazira facility, when completed in 2029, will boast an unprecedented

## ArcelorMittal to build world's largest steel plant

### About the plant

The company is presently engaged in an ongoing expansion project of its Hazira facility, when completed in 2029, will boast an unprecedented capacity of 24 million tonnes per annum, solidifying ArcelorMittal's position as one of the largest single-location integrated steel plants globally. The announcement comes as part of the company's commitment to contributing significantly to India's Atmanirbhar Bharat journey.

capacity of 24 million tonnes per annum, solidifying ArcelorMittal's position as one of the largest single-location integrated steel plants globally. The announcement comes as part of the company's

commitment to contributing significantly to India's Atmanirbhar Bharat journey. During the event Lakshmi Mittal, Chairman, ArcelorMittal said, "Steel is one of the primary contributors to any nation's journey towards self-reliance. At the heart of Atmanirbharta, is steel which supports a range of applications across sectors such as infrastructure, urbanisation, renewables, automotive including electric vehicles, defence, and railways. By bringing the best of global technology, we are developing high end products which helps steel consumers across MSMEs to start-ups to become competitive."

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