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# CENTRAL Chronicle

PAGE 11

Raipur, Saturday, February 10, 2024 | Pages 12 | Price ₹ 3.00 | City Edition | Fastest growing English Daily of Chhattisgarh



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**Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee**

**Active participation of women in nation's development**

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam gives women the right to 33% reservation in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies

**Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat**

Scan for more information

**'Rs 1.47 lakh crore Budget presented'**

**No new taxes proposed**

**STATE BUDGET TABLED**

Speaking about the 'Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047' document, he said the first mid-term goal for achieving the vision under it shall be doubling the GDP in the next five years from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028, he said. The budget is focused on the economic development of GYAN, gareeb (poor), yuva (youth), annadata (farmers) and naari (woman), stimulating infrastructure growth by increasing capital expenditure, as well as employment and livelihood promotion for youth," he said.

The budget is an important step towards fulfilling (pre poll) promises that were made under 'Modi ki guarantee', he added.

"In the last five years, the previous (Congress) government did injustice to gareeb, yuva, annadata and naari. Not only was the right to a roof snatched away from the poor, black marketing of fertilizers, procurement of cow dung at Rs 2 per kg and forcibly selling poor quality vermicompost (prepared from cow dung) for Rs 10 per kg were also committed," he said. The previous government promised to give women Rs 500 but failed to fulfill it, the minister claimed.

A provision of Rs 500 crore has been made for Deendayal Upadhyay Krishi Majdoor Yojana under which landless labourers will be provided annual assistance of Rs 10,000, up to Rs 7,000 last year, he said. The minister said a provision of Rs 8,369 crore has been made in the budget for the construction of 18 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Rs 10,000 crore under Krishak Unnati Yojana for strengthening small and medium farmers and Rs 4,500 crore for Jal

Jeevan Mission. "A provision of Rs 3,000 crore has been made for Mahtari Vandan Yojana to make women of the state self-reliant (under which Rs 1000 per month will be given to married women). An initiative for citizens for 'Shri Ram Lalla Darshan' (visiting Ayodhya Dham) has been proposed with a budgetary amount of Rs 35 crore," the minister said.

The Chhattisgarh Higher Education Mission Scheme will be implemented to strengthen provisions of the National Education Policy, he added.

"A State Capital Region (SCR) will be established covering Raipur and Bhilai cities. A climate action plan will be prepared for reduction in carbon emission in addition to encouragement to solar rooftop, e-vehicles, adoption of Kusum Yojna, among others," the minister said. A provision of Rs 5 crore has been made in

**Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047**

'Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047' will be dedicated to the people on November 1 this year with the aim to transform the state from a developing to a developed one. Speaking about the 'Amritkaal: Chhattisgarh Vision @2047' document, he said the first mid-term goal for achieving the vision under it shall be doubling the GDP in the next five years from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028, he said.

**Gross Fiscal Deficit is Rs 19,696 cr**

In 2024-25, the Gross Fiscal Deficit of the state is estimated to be Rs 19,696 crore (including Rs 3,400 crore of Special Assistance for Capital Expenditure by Union government), while Net Fiscal Deficit is estimated at Rs 16,296 crore, which is 2.90 per cent of GDP, Choudhary told the House.

This is within the limit of 3 per cent set in the FRBM Act (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act), he added.

**Revenue surplus state....**

"Total revenue surplus estimated in 2023-24 is Rs 1,060 crore. Chhattisgarh is among the progressive states which maintains a revenue surplus status," he said. The capital expenditure for 2024-25 is proposed to be Rs 22,300 crore, which is 15 per cent of the budget outlay, and is 20 per cent higher than that of 2023-24, the minister said. This is up from the average capital expenditure of 12 per cent in the last five years, the minister told the House.

**SCR to be established....**

"A State Capital Region (SCR) will be established covering Raipur and Bhilai cities. A climate action plan will be prepared for reduction in carbon emission in addition to encouragement to solar rooftop, e-vehicles, adoption of Kusum Yojna, among others," the minister said. A provision of Rs 5 crore has been made in the budget to organise 'Invest Chhattisgarh' event, Choudhary said.

**'Glimpses of double engine govt'**

BJP national vice president and Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey said glimpses of the plans of the "double engine government" (same ruling party in state and at Centre) can be seen in the first budget of the Sai dispensation. "A provision of Rs 22,500 crore has been made to encourage infrastructure development, while Rs 30 crore has been allocated for security at airports of the state," she said.

**10 Fundamental Strategical Pillars**

- Focus of our Economic Development: Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata&Naari (GYAN)
- Rapid Economic Growth through Technology driven Reforms in Governance
- Maximum capital expenditure
- Optimum utilization of Natural Resources
- Emphasis on new possibilities of service sector of the economy
- Ensuring private investment
- Focus on Bastar-Surguja
- Decentralized Development Pockets (DDP)
- Promoting Chhattisgarh Culture
- Importance of Implementation

## Bharat Ratna for Rao, Charan Singh, Dr Swaminathan



In this combo of file photos of (L-R) former prime ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh, and agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan.

The decision to award Bharat Ratna to former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh and green revolution pioneer M S Swaminathan will be conferred Bharat Ratna, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday.

The Government of India had instituted two civilian awards - Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan - in 1954. The latter had three classes namely Pehela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg. These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri through a presidential notification on January 8, 1955.

yielding varieties of wheat and rice, which significantly increased food grain production across India during the 1960s and 1970s. He is credited with helping India achieve self-reliance in agriculture during challenging times and made outstanding efforts towards modernising Indian agriculture.

The last Bharat Ratna award was conferred upon Pranab Mukherjee in 2019 and was posthumously awarded to Bhupendra Kumar Hazarika and Nanaji Deshmukh. The award was not given to anyone between 2020 and 2023.

The Government of India had instituted two civilian awards - Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan - in 1954. The latter had three classes namely Pehela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg. These were subsequently renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri through a presidential notification on January 8, 1955.

## 'Railways undertakes feasibility studies for high-speed rail'



On 3 Golden Quadrilateral routes: Govt

The railways undertook feasibility studies on three Golden Quadrilateral routes -- Delhi-Kolkata, Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Chennai -- for the development of high-speed rail corridors. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

In a written response to a question, the minister also said the railways prepared detailed project reports (DPR) for establishing high-speed rail (HSR) corridors on seven routes, including Delhi-Varanasi, Delhi-Ahmedabad and Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar.

"The decision to sanction any HSR corridor/project depends on many factors such as the outcome of DPR, techno-economic feasibility, availability of resources and financing options," Vaishnaw said, respond-

## 'Koi kasar rehti hai?' Jayant Chaudhary signals switch to NDA



New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI): RLD president Jayant Chaudhary on Friday

signalled that he would be switching over to the NDA ahead of the Lok Sabha polls as he hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his government's decision to confer Bharat Ratna on his grandfather and former prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.

"Koi kasar rehti hai? Aaj main kis munh se inkaar karoon aapke sawalon ko? (Is there anything left now? How can I deny your queries today?)" Chaudhary said when asked if he was ready to join hands with the BJP.

Hailing Modi, the Rashtriya Lok Dal chief said a decision which he would be switching over to the NDA ahead of the government. Modi Ji has shown that he understands the thinking and sentiments of the country," he said.

Chaudhary said there was a pain in the hearts of the people in villages that such a "towering people's leader", who occupied such high posts, took im-

# Budget focus to deliver Modi's guarantee

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Chhattisgarh Government through the Annual Budget for the fiscal 2024-25 has laid focus on the Economic Development of GYAN, gareeb (poor), yuva (youth), annadata (farmers) and naari (women), stimulating infrastructure growth by increasing capital expenditure, as well as employment and livelihood promotion for youth.

Finance Minister OP Choudhary while presenting the Annual Budget in Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly on Friday afternoon said that the budget is an important step towards fulfilling the pre-poll promises that were made under 'Modi ki guarantee' to draw the attention of people towards the party.



filling the pre-poll promises that were made under 'Modi ki guarantee' to draw the attention of people towards the party.

## FM explains 'GREATCG'

Finance Minister OP Choudhary presented the first budget of the new government for 2023-24 and for the first time it was digital budget. The briefcase carried by him carried the famous glimpse of tribal art i.e 'Dhokhara Shilp' and at the back GREATCG with seven alphabets was written. Inside the Vidhan Sabha, Choudhary explained the meaning of these words.

### GREATCG

- G - Guarantee
- R - Reform
- E - Economic Growth
- A - Achievement
- T - Technology
- C - Capex
- G - Good Governance



Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai offered sweets to Finance Minister OP Choudhary for presenting 'Amrut Kal ke neev ka Budget' in the Vidhan Sabha and in turn Choudhary expressed gratitude and offered sweets to CM as well.

## In the Budgetary provisions, the state government has dedicated it to "fulfill promises of "Modi ki Gurantee for Chhattisgarh" by making various provisions.

- Provision Rs. 8,369 Crore for construction of 18 lakhs houses under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana and Rs. 3,799 Crore in 2nd Supplementary of FY 2023-24
- Provision to empower women by assistance of Rs. 12,000 per year under Mahtari Vandan Yojana
- Provision of Rs. 10,000 Crores under Krishak Unnati Yojana to benefit more than 24.72 lakh farmer which is an increase of 2.3 Lakh farmers from 22.4 Lakh farmers in the last year
- Provision of Rs. 4,500 Crores under Jal Jeevan Mission to expedite completion of works for ensuring tap water supply for all households.
- Provision for payment of Rs. 5,500 per 'manak boraa' for Tendupatta collectors up from Rs 4,000 per manak boraa in last year
- Provision of Rs. 500 Crores under Deendayal Upadhyay Bhoomiheen Krishi Majdoor Yojana for annual payment of Rs 10,000 to landless labourers up from Rs 7,000 in last year.
- Provision for implementation of Chhattisgarh Uddyam Kranti Yojana for promoting self-employment of youth.
- Provision for making detailed plan for the development of State Capital Region (SCR)
- Provision of Rs. 5 Crores for organizing Invest Chhattisgarh
- Provision of Rs. 5 Crores for making detailed plan for development of 5 Shakti Peeth of the state.
- Provision of Rs. 35 Crores for Shree Ram Lalla Darshan for residents of the state.

## State Government through the Annual Budget has also made an attempt to Decentralize Development Process as several provisions have been made.

- Development of State Capital Region (SCR) around Raipur-Bhilai area for world class IT Sector, Wedding, Education & Health Destination.
- Livelihood Center of Excellence to be formed in Nava Raipur
- Center of Entrepreneurship to be formed in Bhilai
- Start up Incubation center & IT Park to be formed for promoting start up culture & other IT services in the state.
- "Plug & Play Model" for growth of IT industry & generation of IT employment in Nava Raipur
- Focus on development of cities such as Raipur, Nava Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bhilai, Ambikapur, Jagdalpur, Korba & Raigarh, etc. as "Growth Engine"
- Industry Policy to be drafted focusing rich industry areas such as Korba, Janjgir, Raigarh, Urla, Siltara, etc.
- Special focus and encouragement to Agricultural & Rural Development.

## Chhattisgarh Government has also laid focus on IT based Reforms to streamline the governance system with several provisions being made in the Annual Budget.

- Provision of Rs. 266 Crores for focus on digital advanced technologies and IT Enabled Services (ITES) from State Headquarters to Gram Panchayat level for all Administrative Departments to strengthening administrative work and bringing transparency at all levels.
- Provision of Rs. 66 Crores for Bharat Net Project
- Provision of Rs. 37 Crores for P.M. Vaani Project
- Provision of Rs. 15 Crores for Integrated eProcurement Project.
- Provision of Rs 5 Crores for Atal Dashboard
- Development of Business Intelligence Unit by GST Department, NGDRS Software by Land Registration Department, Software by Excise Department, Khanj Online 2.0 by Mining Department, State Water Information Centre by Water Resource Department, IFMIS 2.0 by Finance Department

- Provision of Rs. 10,000 Crores under Krishak Unnati Yojana to benefit farmers for strengthening the small and medium farmers.
- Provision of Rs. 8,369 Crores for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)
- Provision of Rs. 4,500 Crores for Jal Jeevan Mission
- Provision of Rs. 3,952 Crores for development and maintenance of Secondary School
- Provision of Rs. 3,500 Crores for free electricity supply for 5 H.P agriculture pumps
- Provision of Rs. 3,400 Crores for Mukhya Mantri Khadyaan Sahayata Yojana
- Provision of Rs. 3,000 Crores for Mahtari Vandan

### Key Schemes

S. No.	Description	2023-24 (Budget Estimates)	2024-25 (Budget Estimates)	% Growth
1.	Total Income	1,21,501	1,47,500	22%
2.	Total Expenditure	1,21,500	1,47,446	22%
3.	Revenue Expenditure	1,02,501	1,24,840	22%
4.	Capital Expenditure	18,660	22,300	20%
5.	Revenue Surplus	+3,500	+1,060	-
6.	Fiscal Deficit	-15,200	-16,296	-
7.	G.S.D.P.	5,05,887 (A)	5,61,736*	11%
8.	Fiscal Deficit as % of GSDP	-2.99%	-2.90%	-

Yojana to make women of the state self-reliant.

- Provision of Rs. 841 Crores for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
- Provision of Rs. 700 Crores for Amrut Mission Yojana
- Provision of Rs. 300 crores for Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Janman Yojna".
- An initiative for citizen of states to visit Shree Ram Lalla

Darshan (Ayodha Dham) has been proposed with a budgetary amount of Rs. 35 Crores

Chhattisgarh Higher Education Mission Scheme to be implemented in the state for strengthening provisions of National Education Policy of India.

Chhattisgarh Institute of Technology (CIT) & Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical

Science (CIMS) to be set up in every Lok Sabha constituency and Division respectively.

State Capital Region (SCR) to be formed around Raipur-Bhilai.

Formation of Chhattisgarh Center for Smart Governance

Formation of Chhattisgarh Economic Advisory Council

Eco-tourism & Naturo-therapy centers to be developed in

- Bastar & Sarguja area.
- New Industry Policy to be prepared to include new industries in the policy
- Climate Action Plan to be prepared for reduction in carbon emission in addition to encouragement of solar rooftop, eVehicles, adoption of Kusum Yojna, etc.
- Promotion to the state's sports facilities & infrastructure to be prioritized.

## Budget to fulfill dream of developed Chhattisgarh: CM Sai

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that the budget of Chhattisgarh for the financial year 2024-25 will determine the direction and development of Chhattisgarh for years to come. The budget will ensure inclusive development of all sections and realize the dream of developed Chhattisgarh, he said. Chhattisgarh of 'Amritkal' will play a leading role in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of building a developed India by the year 2047, he said while addressing the media representatives in the committee room of Chhattisgarh

Assembly after budget presentation by Finance Minister OP Choudhary. Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma, Finance Minister OP Choudhary, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Secretary to the Chief Minister P Dayanand and Finance Secretary Ankit Anand were also present. This is a revenue increasing budget of the state and no new tax proposal has been included in this, he said, adding that no proposal has been made to increase even the existing tax rates, said the Chief Minister. According to Sai the focus in the budget is on



GYAN i.e. poor, youth, food provider farmers and women empowerment. All sections have been taken care of in the budget which is also the vision document of BJP government and which reflects the vision of all-round development of Chhattisgarh, he said, adding that effort will be to

double the GDP of the state in the coming five years. Highlighting the key points of the budget, the Chief Minister said that special provisions had been made for tribal dominated Bastar and Surguja. For tendu leaf collectors, the tendu leaf collection rate has been increased

from Rs 4000 per standard bag to Rs 5500 per standard bag and a provision for bonus has been made, he said, adding that 'Charan Paduka' scheme will be started for tendupata collectors. Similarly, under Deendayal Upadhyay Bhoomihin Krishi Majdoor Yojana, a provi-

sion of Rs 500 crore has been made in the budget for annual assistance of Rs 10,000 to landless agricultural labourers, he said. To ensure that the future of the youth is no longer played with, the state government has decided to hand over the investigation of PSC irregularities to the CBI, he said. According to him provision has been made in the budget for employment of youth. Sai said that a provision of Rs 10 thousand crore has been made in the budget for Krishak Unnati Yojana. Under this scheme, the difference amount will be paid to more than 24 lakh 72 thousand farmers of the

state who sell paddy at support price. For women empowerment, a provision of Rs 3000 crore has been made in the budget under Mahtari Vandan Yojana. Under this scheme, married women will be given assistance of Rs 12 thousand every year. He said that a provision of Rs 3500 crore had been made for supply of free electricity to five horse power agricultural pumps. Similarly, a provision of Rs 8369 crore has been made in the main budget for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Before this, a provision of Rs 3800 crore has been made in the second supplement. For drinking water, a provision

of Rs 5047 crore has been made by doubling the budget of the PHE department for Jal Jeevan Mission. According to Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma the budget for the financial year 2024-25 is not just an accounting of money, but is the foundation of the future progress of Chhattisgarh. No new tax provision has been made in this budget, nor is there a proposal to increase any tax rate, he said. A provision has been made to promote the use of technology through the budget. This budget touches every dimension of socio-economic development and fulfills Modi ji's guarantee.

## Balanced budget, no new tax imposed: Amar Parwani

### Chamber's suggestions included in the budget

**Raipur, Feb 09:** State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal said that Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary presented the budget in the state assembly on Friday. No new tax was imposed in the budget which is welcome. The focus point of the budget

was economic development, 'GYAN' supported the poor, youth, Annadata (farmers) and women (women development), along with strengthening the rural economy, industry promotion, additional capital investment and education, health and all-round development of the state. State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani said that this is the first time after 20 years that the budget has been presented by the Finance Minister. The foundation stone of economic development of the state has been laid in the presented budget, which is a road map to take the state's GSDP to Rs 10 lakh



crore in the next 5 years. The budget is a balanced budget made keeping in mind industry-trade, rural economy and infrastruc-

ture development as well as farmers, youth, women, destitute and focused social justice. Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary has pro-

pounded 10 pillar ideology for the all-round development of the state in the budget, in which various important decisions were

taken on the demand of the Chamber like - Development of single window system, establishment of food park, small and cottage industries, establishment of new industrial area, smart tourism, smart market, IT sector and to promote small enterprises under Plug and Play in Nava Raipur. Regarding the above demands, on January 17, 2024, Finance Minister O.P. Choudhary arrived at the Chamber, a memorandum regarding suggestions was submitted by the traders of the state and the district, which was included in today's budget, for which the Chamber expresses gratitude on behalf of 12 lakh businessmen of the

state. In the budget, to speed up the economic development of the state, 8369 crores are allocated for housing scheme, 10 thousand crores for agricultural development scheme, 4,500 crores for tap water scheme, 13,438 crores for agriculture, 561 crores for providing employment to women, 70 thousand 539 crores to panchayat under rural development, 2887 crores for employment in rural areas, 841 crores for roads, 400 crores for waste management schemes, 407 crores for making Raipur and Bilaspur smart cities, 206 crores for Nava Raipur Smart City, Rs 200 crore for Unity Mall in Raipur, Rs 148 crore for Central

Library in 22 districts, Rs 200 crore for Food Park which will act as a pillar for the development of trade and industry sector along with rural economy of the state. To create employment for the youth of the state, new posts have been approved in health, education and various sectors, about which there is a lot of enthusiasm among the youth. At the grassroots level, this budget is being seen as a means of development for the last person of the society. Various big announcements have been made in the budget, which will give far reaching results in the development of the state and will give impetus to the business and employment of the state.

## Budget a step towards fulfilling promises of 'Modi-ki-Guarantee': Dy. CM

● Sharma held the budget as one for progress of Ch'garh



**Raipur, Feb 09:** Chief Minister Vijay Sharma while commenting upon the state budget 2023-24 said that it is historic day for people of Chhattisgarh. This budget to fulfill the 'Modi ki Guarantee' declared by CM Vishnu Deo Sai, is not just profit and loss accounts of the budget, but it is the budget for progress and development of Chhattisgarh. Dy. CM Sharma said that in the budget presented by his government, there is no provision for imposing any new taxes and increasing the state's budget without any rise in taxes is like a magic. Our government by stopping the leakages has increased the size of

the budget with more use of technology. Speaking further Dy. CM Sharma said that it is a good budget for the state, as it is touching every section of the society and touching each & every aspects and especially keeping in mind fulfillment of the promises made under 'Modi ki Guarantee'. Budget is not just accounts related to inflow and outflow of money, but it is the foundation for a new future. The state govern-

ment target is to take the State's GSDP to Rs 10 lakh crore by 2028. This budget is the foundation for progress of the state and for which Dy. CM Sharma extended greetings to the Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and entire team of the government.

Citing about the details of the budget, Dy. CM Sharma informed that in this budget the Vishnu Deo Sai government would carry out many important works in the field of Home, Jail, Panchayat and Rural development; Technical Education, Employment, Science & Technology field and it is the citizens of the state who will be benefitted from it. In this budget there is provision of Rs 8,369 cr for PM Awas Yojana; Rs 2,788 cr for MN-REGA, Rs 561 cr for National Rural Livelihood

Mission; Rs 500 cr for subsidy for payment of electricity bill in Gram Panchayat; Rs 94 cr for CM Gram Sadak Yojana, Rs 50 cr for CM Gram Gaurav Path Yojana and Rs 400 cr for Swachh Bharat Yojana and Rs 300 cr for PM Jan-Man Yojana.

Dy. CM Sharma extended greetings to FM OP Choudhary saying that today a budget for foundation of 'Amrut kal' of Chhattisgarh. This budget is for the GYAN i.e 'Gareeb' means poor; Yuwa, 'Anndata', 'Nari Ki Samridhi'. The budget by increasing the capital expenditure, infrastructure development will be promoted and for providing employment to youths and increasing livelihood. This budget is an important step towards fulfilling the promises made under 'Modi-Ki-Guarantee'.

## Cabinet decides to resume Rajim Kumbh (Kalpa)

● Go to bring resolution in the Assembly regarding Water Amendment Bill-2023



Maghi Punni Mela Act 2006. With the resumption of Rajim Kumbh (Kalpa), the glory of Rajim Mela will be re-established at the na-

tional and international level. Moreover, the mega event will also boost cultural and religious tourism in Chhattisgarh.

To prevent and control water pollution and maintain the purity of water in the state, Government of India has decided to bring a resolution in the Assembly regarding the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Bill 2023.

**Raipur, Feb 09:** The Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai chaired a Cabinet Meeting today at the main conference room of the Chhattisgarh Assembly premises and the following important decisions were taken in the meeting.

The Cabinet has decided to resume Rajim Kumbh (Kalpa) to re-establish the glory of Rajim, a city of historical and cultural importance in Chhattisgarh.

Cabinet has decided to organize Rajim Kumbh (Kalpa) Mela in place of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela. At the Cabinet Meeting held today, the draft of "Chhattisgarh Rajim Maghi Punni Mela" (Amendment Bill 2024) was approved to amend the Chhattisgarh Rajim

## This is a deceitful, misleading budget: Dr Mahant

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Describing budget as a deceitful and misleading Opposition Leader in Chhattisgarh Assembly Dr

Charan Das Mahant said that the budget will not make any contribution to the development of agriculture. The vision of the Finance Minister OP Choudhary has disappointed a lot and his thinking is still like that of a bureaucrat, Dr Mahant said. He said that the budget will not provide any assistance to the educated unemployed people of rural areas of Chhattisgarh in getting employment. Women in rural areas have been lured into paying Mahtari Vandan and there is no provision to increase their income, he said, adding that the budget can be beneficial to some extent for businessmen and industrialists. Budget provisions have been made

keeping in mind the schemes that the Congress government promoted in the last 5 years, he said. While provisions have been made in the budget to increase the number of schools and colleges and to construct buildings no promise has been made to fill the vacant posts, he said. No provision has been made to provide relief to citizens troubled by fly ash and other types of pollution, said the Opposition Leader. Moreover no provision has been made to control illegal drugs, he added.

**Ch'garh unable to bear burden of Modi ji's guarantee: Baghel**

Reacting to the budget presented by Finance Minister OP Choudhary in Chhattisgarh Assembly today, former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel wrote in internet media X that "The saying 'Kare koi bhare

koi' applies to today's budget of Chhattisgarh. Modi ji went into the elections giving guarantees. Now Chhattisgarh is not able to bear the burden of

### Budget Reactions

Modi ji's guarantee. The provisions of the budget are testifying that Modi's guarantee is costing the BJP government dearly. Because of this the Finance Minister could not do anything new for the state'.

According to Baghel unfortunate announcements have been made to give new names to the ongoing schemes of the Congress government in the state and present them as new schemes much in the same way as Modi ji had done at the Centre.

Baghel further wrote 'with a lot of hard work we had paved the way for

creating Nava Chhattisgarh. The BJP's budget has derailed it and is set to take the state back to the same misery of the last 15 years. One should not expect more than this from BJP'.

**It's very disappointing budget: Baij**

**Raipur:** Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee President Deepak Baij said that the first budget of Sai Government in Chhattisgarh was a very disappointing. Neither is there any road map visible in terms of youth employment nor is there any concrete strategy to deal with inflation, Baij said in his reaction to the budget presented by Finance Minister OP Choudhary in Chhattisgarh Assembly today.

While it has been promised to provide government jobs to one lakh youth, no provision has

been made in the budget for new jobs, he said. BJP had promised to give traveling allowance to college going students, but no provision has been made in the budget in for this, he said. BJP promised to provide gas cylinder for Rs 500 but it has not been able to make budget provision of even a single rupee for gas subsidy, he said. Today's budget address presented in Chhattisgarh was completely like BJP's election slogans, he said, adding that bundles of lies and rhetorics were read.



Finance Minister OP Choudhary before presenting the state budget 2023-24 visited the city's Ram Temple and sought blessings of Lord Shri Ram and Sita.

## Five women police stations to be set up in border districts

To stop human trafficking 1,889 posts to be recruited in Chhattisgarh Police

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Finance Minister OP Choudhary presented a budget of Rs 1 lakh 47 thousand 500 crore in the Assembly on Friday. Various provisions have been made to ensure women's safety and reduce the crime rate. To stop the ever increasing cyber crime, it has been announced to open cyber police stations in four divisional ranges.

will be opened in four IG ranges of the state. Four new cyber police stations will be established in Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham, Korba and Raigarh. Earlier, apart from the capital Raipur, these were opened in Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Ambikapur and Durg. Recruitment will be done on 1,889 posts in Chhattisgarh Police.

The staff deployed in five divisional headquarters will be imparted cyber knowledge and trained in online technology in the next two to three months in order to provide relief to the people falling victims to cyber fraud. Officers appointed in cyber police stations will be given training at the headquarters in Nava Raipur. Fraudsters committing online fraud can be caught and their sites can be blocked with the use of hi-tech equipment in cyber police station.

The cyber police stations to be opened in the state will be fully equipped with scientific and hi-tech sys-

tems. Due to lack of technology, cyber crimes are continuously increasing, while the police are investigating on the same old pattern. Opening of cyber police station will help in investigation. A provision of Rs 129 crore has been made for the construction of government houses for police officers and employees. A provision of Rs 71 crore has been made for the construction of police post, police station and other buildings.

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कॉल: 9827143060/8871003060

श्रीम. अजय अग्रव.

**S Prakash made Transport Commissioner**

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Senior Indian Administrative Services (IAS) Officer S Prakash working as Secretary Parliamentary Affairs Department with the additional charge of Transport and Social Welfare Department, has been given fresh additional charge of Transport Commissioner.

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## HAMARA SANKALP VIKSIT BHARAT

cbc 17102/13/006/12324

# Cannabis laden pickup recovered in township

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** Police recovered a pickup truck loaded with a huge consignment of cannabis in Bhilai Township. Taking advantage of darkness, the accused driver / smuggler managed to escape. It is suspected that cannabis was smuggled from Orissa. 170.50 kgs of cannabis worth Rs 17.05 lakh and a pickup vehicle worth Rs 05 lakh, were seized.

On the instructions of SP Jitendra Shukla, a special campaign against the narcotic drugs and people involved in illegal trade is being run under the guidance of ASP (City) Abhishek Jha. On the intervening night of February 08 - 09, Police Station Bhilai Nagar re-

number OD14 V 4975. Police team swung into action and spotted the vehicle

up driver left the vehicle and escaped, taking advantage of the darkness.

Police team searched the vehicle and found cannabis packed in seven white coloured plastic bags. The bags were hidden beneath the vegetables. Cannabis and the vehicle were seized on the spot as per rules.

A total of 01 quintal, 70 kilogram, 500 grams of ganja worth Rs 17.50 lakh and vehicle worth Rs 05 lakh, have been seized from the vehicle. The vehicle owner and the accused are being traced. A case has been registered against the unknown accused under Section 20 (b) of Narcotics Act.



ceived a tipoff about cannabis smuggling.

The smugglers had concealed cannabis beneath the vegetables in a pickup truck bearing registration

near Sector-7 in Bhilai Township. Bhilai Nagar Patrolling Staff chased the vehicle and intercepted it in Street 24 of Sector-7.

Sensing trouble, the pick-

up driver left the vehicle and escaped, taking advantage of the darkness.

# AWA of contract workers increased to Rs 3700

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** NJCS Sub-committee meeting on Contract Workers was held on Thursday. The meeting revised the Additional Welfare Amnesty (AWA) of the contract workers. The contract workers of BSP will get Rs 3700 AWA in the coming months. Earlier, they were getting Rs 2300 per month. It was the seventh meeting of the sub-committee.

Management tried to justify by putting the logic of poor financial condition. Then Management increased the offer to 40% of the present AWA which ranges from Rs 700 to max Rs 1000. They referred it as their final proposal for the 66,390 contract workers of SAIL.

When demanded to include the project workers, the management stated that it will be a drain of funds as the Contractor will misuse it simply. All the unions unitedly demanded that the increased amount should be more than whatever was added as AWA in the last NJCS. After that management

ment changed their proposal and increased the AWA to Rs 2500 in lower level to Rs 4000 maximum by adding the same amount i.e. ranging from Rs 750 to Rs 1500 as decided in the last NJCS in 2014.

Workers group met together and decided that the amount of AWA should be increased by Rs 500 for all units. Management was adamant by citing that guidelines will come in the coming wage code. When we demanded that PF should be provided on AWA amount management replied that the central PF Commissioner has objected to including AWA in calculating PF.

Finally management agreed to add Rs 100 to

all the units and stated that more than Rs 123 crore will be added to the cost. The unions demanded to implement a new AWA from February, 2024.

Unions were not satisfied regarding non inclusion of project workers and not adding it to pay. The unions further demanded that in future there should be a pay structure for all the contract workers and management should find a mechanism to include the contract workers engaged in project work.

The unions have demanded another meeting of the sub-committee on contract workers for inclusion of night shift allowance, quarter, job security and safety issues.

# 229 beneficiaries allotted PMAY houses through lottery

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** Allotment of 229 houses of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana constructed in the Bhilai Municipal Corporation limits was done through lottery system on Friday. The beneficiaries were overjoyed after getting their own house and also praised the government. Mayor Neeraj Pal, Commissioner Devesh Kumar Dhruv, Deputy Collector Uttar Dhruv conducted the lottery for allotment of houses constructed under PMAY in Khamhariya area to people living on rent. Houses were allotted to 229 beneficiaries through the lottery system. 218 houses were allotted to 218 beneficiaries in Khamhariya behind Surya Vihar under Mor Makan Mor Aas. Similarly, under Mor Aas Mor Chinhari, houses were allotted to 4 beneficiaries in Surya Vihar and 7 beneficiaries



near Mile Stone school.

To participate in the lottery of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the beneficiaries reached the Bhilai Municipal Corporation headquarters. Only those applicants, who had deposited the contribution amount, were included in the lottery.

The Mayor and the Commissioner have given instructions to the officials to speed up the process of housing allotment. Giving information, the Nodal Officer of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana said that to get a house on the

ground floor, a certificate for disabled applicants and senior citizens is a mandatory document to participate in the lottery. Such applicants were included in the ground floor house lottery on priority basis. During the house allotment, Councillor Hariom Tiwari, Superintending Engineer DK Verma, Executive Engineer BK Verma, Assistant Engineer Ajay Gaur, Officer in-charge of the scheme Vidyadhar Devangan, Deputy Engineer Deepak Devangan and the beneficiaries were present.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** Indian Coffee House, famous for the best coffee along with the most delicious South Indian, North Indian and Chinese dishes, has opened its new branch on Junwani Road. It was inaugurated by Vaishali Nagar MLA Rikesh Sen. He said that the lack of Indian Coffee House in this area has been fulfilled.

Indian Coffee House is very famous across the country for its aromatic coffee and delicious dishes. The main attraction of the coffee house is the delicious South Indian, North Indian and Chinese dishes specially prepared by the expert chefs like Masala Dosa, Idli, Vada Sambar, Chutney, Cutlet, Uppama, Uthappam, Biryani, Chole Bhaturo etc.

From children to elderly people, people are familiar with the food and drinks of coffee houses. Waiters in clean and well-groomed

# Indian Coffee House new branch inaugurated



white uniforms treat customers well. With clean and shining crockery and cutlery and an inviting atmosphere, people from all walks of life can truly enjoy the food and other delicacies.

In his speech, MLA Rikesh Sen extended best wishes for the progress and success of this new branch. OK Rajagopalan, President of Indian Coffee Workers Co-operative Society Limited, Jabalpur

expressed great happiness and said that he is very proud to open this branch in Kohka Bhilai.

He also gave a brief introduction of the Society. Indian Coffee Workers Co-operative Society Limited,

Jabalpur, established in 1958, had a very humble beginning with 16 members, nominal capital and one branch at Jabalpur. Now the Society has 174 branches in 20 states of India with this unit being a shining example in the co-operative movements of our country.

It is the only workers co-operative society which is entirely owned and controlled by its employees. All employees are members of the society. Indian Coffee House has emerged as a brand in hospitality service over these 66 years and has earned the trust of people with its quality food and best-in-class service.

ICH was also honored by the World Books of Records, London, United Kingdom. ICH never compromises on the quality of food, hygiene and customer service. Its motto is Karma Hi Pooja, Aur Atithi Devo Bhava.

# Employees of Non-works Departments feted with Karm Shiromani Awards

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant employees of the Non-works Department were felicitated with 'Karm Shiromani' Awards for their exemplary work performance under the 'Shiromani Puraskar Yojana' by Bhilai Steel Plant. The Award Ceremony was held at Ispat Bhawan on February 09, 2024.

The Karm Shiromani Awardees for the months of October 2023, November 2023, and December 2023, include Prabha Kabir, Sr PS, and Wilson Lamech, Jr Staff Assistant from Finance



and Accounts Department, Radheshyam Yadav, Jr Store Keeper, and Arjun Das Vaishnav, Head Store Keeper, from Material Management Department, Suresh Kumar Goir, and Satish, Charge man - cum - Sr Technicians, Anoop Shivappa, Master Technician, Y Uma Shankar, Draftsman, and

Shankarlal Aggarwal, Sr Technician from the Town Services Department.

Present in the programme were, DN Karan, CGM (F&A), Jitendra Yadav Sapkale, CGM (TA & CSR), Sandeep Mathur, CGM (Personnel), and Suraj Kumar Soni, GM (Pers-NW&Mines), and other Senior Officials of BSP.

Dignitary Guests appreciated the awardees for their achievements and contributions at the workplace and felicitated them with Mementoes and Certificates along with Letters of Appreciation and Gift Voucher of Sweets to their respective Spouses.

N Asha, DGM (F&A), Dr NKJain, DGM (TSD-

Horticulture), DCSingh, DGM (TSD), Kishore Kumar Jha, AGM (Stores), Saroj Jha, AGM (TSD), Narendra Ingle, AGM (Personnel-NW), GMV Padmini Kumar, AGM (Personnel- TSD), Bharti Rathore, Dy Mgr (F&A) were also present on this occasion.

The main objective behind awarding the Plant's employees with Shiromani Awards is to acknowledge and felicitate the sincere efforts and hard work displayed by them at the workplace by meeting the organizational objectives while adhering to the standard parameters of safety.

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** Department of Management Studies and PG Department of Economics, at St Thomas College, Ruabandha, Bhilai visited the ABIS Plant of IB group at Rajnandgaon.

It is worth mentioning that Department of Management Studies organises such industrial visits on regular intervals to present real scenario of industry to the students.

Sangeeta Sarkar, HR head, IB group provided brief overview of IB group of Companies and the fish and poultry products manufactured by them. The company is running its



production units in 22 states across India.

After the induction program students visited the plant in supervision of production experts and observed the complete production process of fishery and Poultry feed products. Administrator FrDr Joshi Varghese congratulated both the departments for successfully organizing the visit.

Principal Dr MG Roymon

said that St Thomas College is always dedicated towards the overall development of students.

During the visit Dr Susan R Abraham, Head Department of Management Studies, Dr Aparna Ghosh, Head PG Department of Economics, Assistant Professor Mahendra Ikhar, Priyanka Ganjir, Aparna Dutta and students from both the departments were present.

# BSP organises workshop on 'Efficient Operation & Maintenance of Boilers'

Central Chronicle News

**Bhilai, Feb 09:** A one-day Workshop on 'Efficient Operation & Maintenance of Boilers' was organized at Bhilai Niwas on February 08, 2024. SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant's PBS Department organised this one-day workshop sponsored by the Central Boiler Board, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India, and conducted by the National Productivity Council (NPC), an autonomous organization under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Gol.

Gunjan Shukla, Chief Inspector of Boilers (CIB), Boiler Inspectorate, Govt of

Chhattisgarh was the Chief Guest of the inaugural session of the Workshop. Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) was present as the Special Guest.

Tapas Dasgupta, CGM I/c (Iron), PK Sarkar, CGM I/c (Services), Avijit Nayak, Regional Director, NPC, and Somnath Chattopadhyay, GM (Business Unit Head, NSPCL, Bhilai) were also present on this occasion, along with CGMs, GMs, other Senior Officials, and Plant personnel.

Engineers, Supervisors, and Operators of boiler operations and maintenance activities at various Power Plants and Steel Plants including BSP, NSPCL, SBPDCL, BPSCL, ISP, RSP, DSP, and several others took part in the one-day workshop as delegates.



Gunjan Shukla, CIB, GoCG, in his address, stated that industrial boilers are one of the most valuable assets at the plants and refineries. As Engineers, Supervisors, and Operators, you all are managing boiler operations in various factories across the State. As such you are experts in

your respective domains.

Collective brainstorming opportunities like this not only result in an exchange of our experiences and insights but also optimize our time and efficiency. This Workshop shall help the participants explore avenues for more efficient, sustainable, and environ-



ment-friendly methods to complement the efficient operation and maintenance of Boilers.

Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) in his address stated that India being a growing economy has a huge energy requirement, which in turn leaves a massive carbon foot-

print on the environment. We need to conserve our resources to minimize our Carbon Footprint and also leave sufficient resources for our future Generations. The Boilers in our industries play a crucial role in energy production and other industrial processes.

Therefore, it is very important to improve efficiency and hold down energy costs, for which the engineering and maintenance managers need to pay close attention to the entire range of factors that affect boiler performance. I hope this workshop shall greatly enrich you in this direction, Anjani Kumar said.

Rajiv Pandey, CGM (Power Facilities-BSP) delivered the welcome address and briefed on the learning objectives and theme of the workshop. Tapas Dasgupta, PK Sarkar, Avijit Nayak, and Somnath Chattopadhyay also addressed the delegates and shared their insights on the theme of the Workshop.

A total of two Technical sessions with two keynote

speakers in each session were held under this workshop, where the expert faculties Avijit Nayak, RD (NPC) presented a Research Paper on 'Energy Scenario & Performance Assessment in Boilers', Padmanabh Samantray, AGM (JSPCL-Angul) on 'Efficient Operation Practices in Boilers', Swaraj Zodey, Mgr (PBS-BSP) on 'Operation Philosophy of MODEX Boilers in Bhilai Steel Plant', and CA Mohanty, Industrial Safety Practitioner, conducted technical session based on 'Boiler Operational Safety Aspects' at the Workshop The Workshop was compered by SN Deshmukh, JO (GBS-BSP), while Sheikh Zakir, GM (PBS) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

## MANDAVIYA TO LS

# 'Doctor-population ratio in country stands at 1:834'

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

The doctor-population ratio in the country stands at 1:834 which is better than the WHO standard of 1:1000, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told Lok Sabha on Friday. As per the information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the state medical councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022, Mandaviya said responding to a question.

"Assuming 80 per cent availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors, the doctor-population ratio in

the country is 1:834 which is better than the WHO standard of 1:1000," he said. Also, there are 34.33 lakh registered nursing personnel and 13 lakh allied and healthcare professionals in the country. The government has increased the number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats, Mandaviya stated.

There is an increase of 82 per cent in medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 706 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 112 per cent in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014 to 1,08,940 as of now, there is also an increase of 127 per cent in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 70,674 as of now, the minister stated. For in-

creasing the number of psychiatrists in the country, PGMEB of the NMC issued the Minimum Standard of Requirements for Post-Graduate Courses - 2023 (PGMSR-2023) on January 15, Mandaviya said responding to a question on whether the government plans to take steps such as training healthcare workers to properly address mental health issues.

"For starting or increase of seats in MD (psychiatry), PGMSR-2023 has brought down the number of OPD to 30 per day, for annual intake of maximum two PG students with 20 per cent increase for each additional seat. Similarly, the minimum beds required per unit for starting MD (psy-

chiatry) course with two seats in a medical college is eight beds and 12 beds for three seats and 20 beds for five seats," he said.

Under the tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialties as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities, the minister stated. Further, the government has also supported 19 government medical colleges/institutions to strengthen 47 PG departments in mental health specialties. Mental health services are also provisioned for 22 AIIMS through the psychiatry departments.

## HOLY DIP



Devotees take a holy dip in the Ganga river on the occasion of 'Mauni Amavasya' during the annual religious 'Magh Mela' festival at Sangam, in Prayagraj, Friday.

# NTPC receives 'First Best Case Study' award



For USSC initiative

New Delhi, Jan 09:

NTPC received "First Best Case Study" Award at Global Procurement Summit organized by AIMA in association with World Bank, MOF and MOE & IT, Govt of India. During the two-day meet held at New Delhi from February 8-9, 2024, Team

USSC (Unified Shared Services Centre) from NTPC presented their case study on "Unified Shared Service Centre: Leveraging Advantages of Centralised Procurement in NTPC". USSC Team comprising Atul Agrawal, GM (P&S); Rohit Prakash, DGM; Subhash Paliwal, DGM; and Saket Srivastava, DGM presented the case study. India Case Research

Centre (ICRC) - AIMA conducted an "All India Level Case Study Competition on Procurement" wherein Eight Case Studies were selected for final round of competition.

C. Sivakumar, RED (WR-2, USSC & Ash NI) received the Trophy and Certificate from Ms Anna Wiegorska, Regional Head South East Asia, World Bank.

# Parl passes bill to curb exam malpractices

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

Parliament on Friday passed a bill that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations, and entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine up to Rs 1 crore for offences. The bill was passed through a voice vote in the Rajya Sabha, after amendments proposed by some opposition members were rejected. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on February 6.

Replying to a question on the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 in the Rajya Sabha, Union minister Jitendra Singh said the youth power of the country is "vital" and asserted that the bill is meant to deter those who are playing with their fu-

ture. He asserted that merit cannot be allowed to be hijacked by non-merit.

"We can't allow vital youth power of this country to be surrendered or sacrificed in the hands of a handful few... Very cautiously, we have kept the bona fide candidate out of purview of the law, be it a job aspirant or a student. So the message does not go that this new legislation is meant to harass the youth of this country.

It is only meant to deter those who are playing with their future, and thereby the future of the nation," Singh, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said. "I am sure the entire House, in one voice, will support this (bill)... It is a dynamic journey we have started," Singh said.

# Covid mutated 223 times, not deadly anymore: Govt

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

The COVID-19 virus got mutated 223 times in the world and its harmful effects have come down substantially over time, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in Lok Sabha on Friday. He also said that COVID-19 will continue to remain like influenza and its present variants are not deadly.

"When a virus gets mutated more than 100 times, its harmful effects get reduced. Covid also got mutated. So far, the Covid virus got mutated 223 times," he said during the Question Hour. He said that like influenza, which hits people once or twice every year, "Covid is with us and it will remain". "Covid sub-variants are not that deadly and there are no negative effects," he said. Mandaviya said health is

such an issue where all stakeholders and countries should come together and work. "We have seen the positive results during the pandemic when we all worked together," he said.

The minister said India has a robust medicine production infrastructure and the world has recognised this. "We are now the producer of 70 per cent of HIV/AIDS medicines of the world. Similarly, we produce many medicines which the world considers as good," he said. Speaker Om Birla also commented that when he was travelling in Africa, he had witnessed the demands of Indian medicines and people's admiration for it due to its effects.

Mandaviya said that due to the Ayushman Bharat scheme, under which free medical treat-

ment up to Rs 5 lakh is provided to the poor, 13 crore people got benefited as they have gone above the poverty level since they did not have to spend money for treatment. Similar, during the tenure of the previous government, 5.5 crore people came under the poverty line as they had to spend a large amount of money for medical care, he said.

# 'Can Preamble of Constitution be amended without altering the date?'

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned whether the Preamble of the Constitution could be amended while keeping the date of adoption, November 26, 1949 intact. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta posed the question to former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy and lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who have sought deletion of the words "Socialist" and "Secular" from the Preamble of the Constitution.

"For the academic purpose, can a Preamble that

has the date mentioned, be changed without altering the date of adoption. Otherwise, yes the Preamble can be amended. There is no problem with that," Justice Datta said. Swamy replied, "That's precisely the question in the matter." Justice Datta further said, "this is perhaps the only Preamble I have seen which comes with a date. We give this Constitution to us on so and so date originally these two words (Socialist and Secular) were not there." Jain said



that the Preamble of India comes with a specific date, therefore it cannot be amended without discussion.

Swamy intervened and said that the 42nd Amendment Act was passed during the Emergency (1975-77). Justice Khanna at the outset told Swamy that the judges had received the case files early in the morning and due to the paucity in time, they had not gone through them. The bench said that the matter re-

quired detailed discussion and posted the hearing on the two petitions to April 29. On September 2, 2022, the top court had tagged Swamy's plea with other pending matter - filed by one Balram Singh and others - for hearing.

Both Swamy and Singh has sought deletion of the words "Socialist" and "Secular" from the Preamble. The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were inserted in the Constitution under the 42nd Constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976.

# 'Rs 5077 cr FDI by companies operating in defence sector'

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth Rs 5077 crore has been reported by companies operating in the defence sector, the defence ministry said in Lok Sabha on Friday. The data was provided by Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt while replying to a question. The defence industry sector was opened up in May 2001 for private sector participation, he said.

"The FDI limit in the defence sector was enhanced in 2020 up to 74 per cent through the automatic route for companies

seeking new defence industrial licence and up to 100 per cent by the government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology," Bhatt said. "So far, Rs 5077 crores worth of FDI has been reported by companies operating in the defence sector," he added. The minister said the government also promotes co-development and co-production of niche defence technologies with foreign original equipment manufacturers to encourage FDI in the defence sector. To a separate question, he said the defence ministry has signed a contract

with the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) on December 20 for procurement of six next generation offshore patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a total cost of Rs 1614 crore.

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Name: **PADMA DORJAI** Service No. JC-559036N, Rank: Sub. aged about 43 years, S/o, **Late Rigin Dorjai** Unit - 4th Bn Ladakh Scouts, C/o 56 APO, Pin, 910354 currently residing at 37 CG BN NCC Ravi Shankar Shilpium Durg (CG) 491001 Permanent residing at Vill- Skurbuchan PO-Khaisi Teh-Khaisi State-UT Ladakh PIN-194106 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:-

- That Kunzes Dolma is my Mother and Singay Rafstan is my Son.
- That in my Army Service record my Mother Kunzes Dolma date of birth is mentioned wrongly as 30.09.1946 but in my mothers Kunzes Dolma adhar card her date of birth is mentioned as 22.08.1946 which is real. Henceforth my Mother's correct DOB is 22.08.1946 for all future purposes.
- That in my Army Service record my Son Singay Rafstan date of birth is mentioned wrongly as 29.08.2006 but in my Son Singay Rafstan adhar card his date of birth is mentioned as 29.08.2008 which is real. Henceforth my Son's correct DOB is 29.08.2008 for all future purposes.
- That this affidavit is required to be produced before the concerned authority for necessary correction purposes, I am enclosing herewith copy of my mother and sons Aadhar Card.
- That above statement is true and correct.

**VERIFICATION**  
Verified that the contents from 1 to 5 of above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.  
Identified by me  
**DEPONENT**

## PUBLICATION

Notice dated 30.01.2024 in Loan Account No. HLPAPR00300348 and HLPAPR00299752 was issued by undersigned on behalf of Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited, secured creditor, to Chawla Road Carrier Alias Chawla Road Carriers, Subject Kaur Hora And Rajinder Kaur Chawla Alias Rajinder Kaur ('Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)') to provide information to the undersigned regarding other legal heir(s) of Late Harinder Singh Hora within 7 (Seven) days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As you the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) have failed to provide the legal heir details it is hereby assumed by the undersigned that there are no other legal heir(s) of Late Harinder Singh Hora apart from the above mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s).

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
**INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

Place: RAIPUR

**STATE BANK OF INDIA** Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Raipur (10009) **SARB, Block B-1, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Ph : 0771-4919730** Mob: 7771012456, 8889375554, 8817876067, 8052611114

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**  
Appendix - IVA (See Provision to rule 8 (6))  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable property hypothecated/mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 11.03.2024 (11:00 A.M. To 4:00 P.M.) for recovery of dues mentioned in Coloum "D" due to State Bank of India, Secured Creditors from below mentioned Borrower and Guarantors.

E-Auction Date and Time 11.03.2024, 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM (10 Minutes Extension with unlimited time)				
Sr. No.	Borrowers and Guarantor Details (A)	Brief Description of Assets Other known Debt Encumbrances, If Any & Title Holder Name (C)	Recovery of Arrears Property Being Sold for EMD (D)	Reserve Price EMD (Earnest Money) Bid Increment
1	<b>Borrower- Shri Gambhir Kumar Sankhi S/o Shri Gopi Kisan Sankhi, Karan Nagar, Near Sahu Atta Chakki, New Changora Bhatta, Ward No.67, Raipur (C.G.)</b>	House property situated at part of Kh. No. 167/3 (online Kh. No. 167/87) Ph. No. 105/59 (new 59), Dr. Khubchand Baghel ward No.67, Karan Nagar, New Changorabhatta, Raipur, Distt-Raipur (C.G.) Area 1000 Sqft. in the name of Shri Gambhir Kumar Sankhi S/o Shri Gopi Kisan Sankhi. Bounded (as per Title Deed): North - Property of Gopichand, South - Road, East - Property of Garima Mishra, Aseem Kumar Dey & others, West - Open Land (Physical Possession)	₹ 31,90,750.00 as on 08.02.2024 + Intt. + Exp. & costs, charges etc. w.e.f. 09.02.2024	₹ 27,40,000.00 ₹ 2,74,000.00 ₹ 25,000.00

Interested bidders/buyers participating in e-Auction process is required to register before the reasonable time of auction through Bank's recognized Service Providers M/s. MSTC Ltd. Auction web page/portal <https://www.mstccomerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>. Bidders/buyers have to transfer the EMD amount to their Global EMD Wallet using online mode by registering with respective e-auction web portal of <https://www.mstccomerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>. If the EMD amount is not available in the Global EMD Wallet, the system will not allow the bidding. The registration, KYC documents verification and EMD deposit in the wallet should be done in advance before the auction. As per the information of the authorized officer, there is no other encumbrance on the properties, yet the interested bidders/buyers should get all requisite information from the concerned office/department any encumbrances related to the property before submitting their bid. The decision regarding properties to be taken at the discretion of the bidder. The payment of all statutory/non-statalutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc., owing to any authority or to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of successful bidder only. The e-auction will be online and sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis. Process of e-auction from Bank's recognized service provider M/s. MSTC Ltd. will be conducted by Web Portal: <https://www.mstccomerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>. For details of terms and conditions of sale, kindly visit the website of State Bank of India Secured Creditor i.e. <https://www.sbi.co.in> and <https://www.ibapi.in> (website details) given.

This publication is also a 30 days notice to the borrower/guarantors/mortgagors under the Securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.  
Inspection of Property Date & Time : Between 12.02.2024 to 07.03.2024 (as per prior appointment)  
Date: 09.02.2024, Place: Raipur Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Raipur

**Chola** Enter a better life **CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C 54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Branch Office: Shop No.- 7th Floor, Currency Tower, VIP Chowk, G.E. Road, Telibandha, Raipur, CG 492001, Contact No: Prakash Verma- 9981343191, Prakhar Sharma- 9826432751

**E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**  
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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s) that the below scribed immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred here in after as Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "What ever there is" basis through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through <https://bankauctions.in>.

Account No. and Name of borrower, co-borrower, Mortgagors	1. Date 2. Demand Notice Amount 3. Total Loan Outstanding 4. Possession Date	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
			Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	
Loan Account - HE01DHT0000030231 1a. Rajkumari Patel (Legal Heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel) W/o Jagdish Ram Patel. 1b. Maya Patel (Legal Heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel), D/o Jagdish Ram Patel. 1c. Leelu Patel (Legal Heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel), D/o Jagdish Ram Patel.	10.08.2023 ₹ 31,10,054/- and as on 10.08.2023 ₹ 32,71,376, as on 06.02.2024 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment. 07.11.2023 Symbolic Possession	All That Part and Parcel Of the Property bearing Part of Khaska No. 7/39/4, P.H.N. 30, Area- 475 Sqft, situated at Dakbangla Ward No. 38, Dhamtari (C.G.). Bounded As: North-Gunderdehi Road, South-Property of Khurubai, East- Property of Amar Chand, West-Property of Gaukaran Patel.	₹ 43,00,000/-	20.03.2024 at 11:00 am to 1:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 5 min each), 18.03.2024 (up to 5.30 P.M.) 08.03.2024 and 09.03.2024 (10.00 A.M to 1.00 P.M.)
			₹ 4,30,000/-	
			₹ 50,000/-	

1d. Ritu Patel (Legal Heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel), D/o Jagdish Ram Patel., 1e. Sagar Patel (Legal Heir of Lt. Jagdish Ram Patel), S/o Jagdish Ram Patel (Represented Through Its Natural Guardian Mother- Rajkumari Patel), All Res. At Ward No. 02, Patel Gali, Shillapara, Dhamtari Shillapara Dhamtari Chattisgarh - 493773., 2. Rajkumari Patel, Ward No. 02, Patel Gali, Shillapara, Dhamtari Shillapara Dhamtari Chattisgarh 493773., 3. Patel Sabji Market, Ward No. 02, Patel Gali, Shillapara, Dhamtari Shillapara Dhamtari Chattisgarh-493773.

- All interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://www.bankauctions.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Muhammad Rahees 8124200030, Ms. A Closure., Mr. Jaya Prakash Reddy, Phone No. 814200064, Email: [info@bankauctions.in](mailto:info@bankauctions.in).
- For further details on terms and conditions please visit: <https://bankauctions.in/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.

**THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**  
Date: 09.02.2024, Place: Dhamtari (C.G.) Authorized Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

# All set for Magh Badi Teras Mahashivratri

Masturi, Feb 09:

On the occasion of Magh Badi Teras Mahashivratri, the weekly fair is organized in village Kirari in the name of Lord Lateshwarnath and it started from Feb 8th. The fair security committee has completed all preparations like cleaning the fair venue and arranging for the upcoming shops to be set up systematically.

The fair security committee is very keen about the one-week fair to be held on the day of Magh Badi Teras in the name of Bhuphod Mahadev Shri Lateshwarnath, who is situated near the giant banyan tree on the ridge of Latiya pond situated in the middle of Masturi.

This committee formed with the aim of giving a grand look to the fair venue and providing security to the visitors, apart from nearby traders, traders from far away places, cinema theatre, aerial swing, well of death, swing, magician, hotel, manihari, clothes, utensils and shoes. Invitations were given to other estab-



ishments including sandal shops which attract the fair and they were requested to set up shop pandals at the fair site. As a result, most of the businessmen are busy reaching the fair venue and setting up their pandals. At the same time, Shri Lateshwarnath Temple Committee is busy in beautifying the place of worship by getting the temple decorated includ-

ing the main gate. It is known that on the auspicious occasion of Magh Badi Teras Mahashivratri, this is the first fair of the state to be organized in the name of the century old Bhufod Mahadev Shri Lateshwarnath. Due to this, there is a huge crowd of devotees in the temple premises on the first day and as soon as 4:00 in the

morning The doors of the temple open and a group of devotees, Kanwariyas, who have come from far away places including villages, rush into the temple premises to offer water to Bholenath with slogans of Jai Ghosh. To control the crowd, the police administration makes its own well-planned arrangements and for the purpose of maintaining peace in the fair, the police administration will temporarily set up a police center with the courtesy of the Village Defense Committee.

**The size of Bhuphod Mahadev is increasing day by day:**

It is worth noting that the size of Bhuphod Mahadev Shri Lateshwarnath, seated on the ridge of Latiya pond, is increasing day by day, due to which in the last few years, there is a lot of faith and belief among the devotees towards Lord Shri Lateshwarnath. Curiosity remains. Its fame has spread far and wide. And this is the reason why devotees worship Shri Lateshwarnath ji with immense faith.

# Persistent disobedience of court decisions raises concerns

**Shivrinarayan, Feb 09:** Dictatorship seems to be prevailing at major religious and historical sites in the state, where Tehsildar is turning a blind eye to court decisions and issuing disobedient orders, as evidenced by recent events.

It's noteworthy that Hari Prasad Sharma (Hemant) had filed an application in Shivrinarayan Tehsil for the implementation of a court decision dated 25/7/2005 by Court First Class 1 Judge Deepak Tiwari Janjgir in Case No. 382 A/2005. However, the decision was deemed invalid by the then Naib Tehsildar. Despite this, the Tehsildar pro-

ceeded to issue an order on 18/4/2007, flouting the court's decision. Upon review by the Court First Class 1 Janjgir, this order was declared null and void. Subsequently, a decision and decree were issued on 26/2/2018 by Court First Class 1 Judge Uday Lakshmi Parmar in Case No. 25 A/2018. Yet again, Tehsildar Shivrinarayan issued an order on 30/1/2019, ignoring the court's directive. Despite instructions from the District Legal Services Authority, the disobedience persisted. In response, the competent authority had instructed the then Tehsildar to act lawfully. However, the then

Naib Tehsildar, Aradhana Pradhan, disregarded the decision and decree dated 22/6/2018 by District and Sessions Court Rajesh Srivastava Janjgir. She took subordinate Patwari Prakash Das Manikpuri along with her, allowing unauthorized individuals to encroach upon the applicant's registered place through illegal sharing.

Despite an order issued by the Honorable High Court Bilaspur in wpc No.2763 of 2019 dated 09/08/2019, which was also brought to the attention of Tehsildar Shivrinarayan, it has not been followed for four years. Such instances of

corruption raise questions about the trustworthiness of officials and their actions. In Shivrinarayan tehsil, brokers often seem to be more active than the parties involved. Many cases involve changes in original maps under the guise of computerization, allowing land mafias to amass significant wealth through collusion with corrupt officials. Despite being a hub of religious and commercial activity, Shivrinarayan faces challenges due to land-related disputes and the influence of corrupt practices. This situation casts doubts on the prospects of progress and prosperity in Chhattisgarh.

# Ram devotees leave for Ayodhya

**Under Ram Darshan scheme**

Khairagarh, Feb 09:

A total of 90 Ram devotees left from Khairagarh district under the Ram Darshan scheme of the state government. State BJP President Kiran Singh Dev, Dayal Das Baghel Chhattisgarh sent the devotees by special train.

In the presence of former Legislative Assembly



Speaker Dharam Lal Kaushik and all the public representatives of the division and officials of the organization, all the 20 Legislative Assembly constituencies of Durg division were seated in separate bogies and left for

Ayodhya from Durg. After reaching Durg Railway Station, District Panchayat Vice President Vikant Singh, District BJP President Ghamman Sahu and District Co-ordinator Vikesh Gupta wished all the Ram devo-

tees a happy journey. A total of ninety devotees including Har Prasad Verma, Keshav Chandel, Paras Thackeray Narottam Sinha, Lalit Soni, Gorelal Verma, Santan Sahu, Mahendra Yadav, Santosh Thakur, Bhuvan Verma, Anand Patel, Manoj Jain, Krishnakant Mahobiya, Umesh Verma, Anuj Sahu, have left for Ayodhya. The next team will leave for Ayodhya on 28th which will include workers from the district.

# BJP leaders give information about central, state govt schemes

**Ambagarh Chowki, Feb 09:** Under BJP's 'Gaon Chalo campaign', the campaign was started from village Jadutola of BJP Mandal Ambagarh chowki, in which mainly District Panchayat member Arun Yadav, BJP Mandal President Gulab Goswami were present. Under the campaign, feedback was taken by meeting from the beneficiaries while explaining the public welfare schemes of the Central Government, all the eligible women of the state government's important scheme Mahtari Vandana Yojana were informed about the scheme and all



the doubts of those present were cleared. The beneficiaries thanked the Modi government at the Center and the state government.

On this occasion, BJP Mandal General Secretary Devnarayan Kumbhkar, Purushottam Thakur, Jeevan Sahu, Puran Sahu, Yogi Yadav, Doomendra,

Laxmikant, Sumitara Bai, Gautarheen Bhai, Bhanbai, Rewa Bai, Ashwani Sahu, Savitri Bai, Neelkanth Sahu, Ramsheela, Jyoti Yadav, BJP workers and rural men and women including Khilleshwari Maina Bai, Bhanwarlal, Bhuri Bai, Dashrath Sahu, Hembai were present.

# Woman held 'captive' in Muscat freed

Oman Embassy was urged to resolve the issue, Dy CM spoke to the woman on phone, assured her of ensuring her return

**On the initiative of Dy CM Vijay Sharma**

Raipur, Feb 09:

Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma has taken the initiative to help the people stranded not only in Chhattisgarh but also in foreign countries. In the case of Jogi Deepika, a resident of Khursipar, who was held 'captive' in Muscat (Oman), Dy CM Sharma contacted the Indian Embassy in Oman and urged them to resolve the matter at the earliest. Prompt action

was taken and Deepika was brought safely to the embassy. Deputy Chief Minister remained in constant touch with the Indian Ambassador in Oman and kept taking updates on this matter from the Assembly. He also spoke to victim Jogi Deepika. Deepika told that she is absolutely safe right now and she is currently at the Embassy of Muscat. Sharma comforted Deepika, saying that all the arrangements will be made for her safe arrival. Sharma gave his number to Jogi Deepika and asked her to contact him after she

reaches Chhattisgarh. Sharma asked Deepika to inform him about everything that happened in Muscat. He assured that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and strict action will be taken against the guilty. It is noteworthy that Mukesh, a resident of Durg district, had reported to the police that in May 2023 last year, a person named Abdullah, a resident of Hyderabad, had sent his wife Jogi Deepika to the house of Hafiza, a resident of Muscat, the capital of Oman. Abdullah had sent Deepika to Oman on

the pretext of getting her the job of house help there. But she was held 'captive' there and her documents including passport and all visa related documents were taken away from her. People who held her captive were demanding money to send her back to India.

As soon as this issue came to the notice of Deputy Chief Minister Sharma, he took the initiative and instructed the police to take necessary action in the case and ensure safe arrival of Jogi Deepika to Chhattisgarh.

# Train route changes due to yard remodelling

**Bilaspur:** The Railway Administration's rapid infrastructure development efforts continue to transform travel experiences for passengers. The non-interlocking work progresses swiftly at Jivanathpur station in the Prayagraj division of North Central Railway, aimed at yard remodelling. As a result, travellers can anticipate enhanced routes for the Durg-Nautanwa-Durg Express. Starting February 9, 2024, passengers aboard train number 18201 Durg-Nautanwa Express will enjoy a new route via Nikpur-Prayagraj-Prayagraj, with a stop at Nautanwa via Rambagh-Varanasi route. Similarly, passengers travelling on February 9 and 11, 2024, aboard train number 18202 Nautanwa-Durg Express will experience an altered journey via Varanasi-Prayagraj, leading to Durg through the captivating Rambagh-Prayagraj-Manikpur route.

# Medical team provides vital services in remote village

Bijapur, Feb 09:

A medical team, led by the Chief Medical and Health Officer Ajay Ramtek and Block Medical Officer Vikas Gavel, under the direction of Collector Anurag Pandey, visited the remote village of Kokra in Sundur, Mankeli under the 'Ayushman Arogya Mandir' initiative. The team organized a health check-up and treatment camp, catering to the healthcare needs of 186 rural patients and beneficiaries from the Kokra-Isulnar area.

During the camp, 6 pregnant women were registered, and 37 individuals underwent NCD screening. Notably, medical interventions were



provided to patients with ailments such as cold, cough, itching, gastrointestinal issues, ear pain, eye diseases, and other medical concerns. In an effort to raise awareness about cancer prevention and treatment, villagers were edu-

cated about the symptoms, diagnosis, and available treatment options at the District Hospital, Bijapur, under the NCD Screening and Cancer Disease Public Awareness Programme.

The successful execution of the health camp was made possible through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, including RHO Roshan Beck, Kailash Manjhi, Deepak Sahni, Smriti Thakur, Sunil Talandi, BC Mitani program Roshni, and Sunita. Block Nodal Officer NCD Neelkanth Joshi (RMA), BPM Deepak Devangan, and ASHA workers Roshni and Sunita played crucial roles in facilitating the camp's operations.

Three guns and Naxal material recovered

**Jagdalpur, (Narayanpur), Feb 09:** A joint team of DRG and STF from Kohkameta police station of the district had left for Maad area for Naxal operation. Meanwhile, during the search after the encounter in the forest of Bedmameta of Ajuhmad on Wednesday, three Naxalites, Ranu Podium resident of Bedmameta, Sudhram Mandavi resident of Kattakal and Vijay Podium resident of Bedmameta were arrested. Three pieces of loaded gun, detonator, battery, electric wire and

# Three Naxalites arrested after encounter

Three guns and Naxal material recovered

other daily use items have been recovered from their possession. The three arrested Naxalites were active in the Kuttul Area Committee. Kohkameta police is taking action against the arrested Naxalites after the soldiers returned late on Wednesday evening. According to the information received from the police, sections 147, 148, 149, 120 (B), 307 IPC, 25, 27 Arms Act 4, 5 Explosive Substances Act, Section 10, 13, 16, 20, 38, were registered against the arrested Naxalites in Kohkameta police station. 39 Crimes under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act were registered and taken up for investigation.



# Three accused arrested with illegal drugs

**Jagdalpur, Feb 09:** City Kotwali police station of the district received two different information that three persons are secretly selling illegal drugs and pills in the city. Psychotropic drugs and intoxicating cough syrup are being sold near Dalpat Sagar and Mangadu Kachaura respectively. It is based upon the informa-

tion received surveillance was kept near Hanuman Temple, Dalpat Sagar and Mangadu Kachaura Chowki. Accused Prateek Thakur, Vivekdas Manikpuri and Ajay Rajput were arrested from there. Illegal intoxicant tablets containing 2850 nos. in 04 packets, capsules 355 nos., a total of 3,205 nos. intoxicating tablets

were recovered from their possession and 59 nos. of codeine containing syrup were recovered from the incident site, Mangadu Kachora. All these come under the category of illegal and banned drugs. Thus, 3,205 pieces of tablets, 59 pieces of codeine containing syrup, 03 mobiles, one motorcycle, 03 pieces of sharp knives, Rs 525 in cash were recovered from both the places. Section 21 NDPS was filed against the accused in police station. After registering the crime under the Act, the accused have been sent to the court on Thursday. And the involvement of other people associated with the gang is being investigated and traced.

# 1850 Ram devotees from Ch'garh visit Ayodhya Dham



**Kurud, Feb 09:** About 1850 people from all over Chhattisgarh, visited Lord Shri Ramlala in Ayodhya Dham, under the supervision of State, department and district workers of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and others. The devotees from all over Chhattisgarh, had left on 4th February and after returning on 7th February,

were warmly welcomed by the MLA of Mahasamund Yogeshwar Raju Sinha and religion loving brothers of the city on their return from Ayodhya Dham.

On the arrival of Jitendra Chandrakar, Jitendra Nirmalkar, head of Ramnam Prabhat Fairi and volunteers from Mahasamund to Kurud, a large number of devotees including Ram devotees of Kurud, Shashank Krudutt, Dhaneshwar Nirmalkar, Roshan Dhruv, gave them a grand welcome. Describing a pleasant and extremely blissful experience, the devotees asked everyone to go to Ayodhya Dham and have darshan of Lord Shri Ram.

# Two Naxalites surrendered along with a female Naxalite

**Carrying a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh**

Jagdalpur, (Sukma), Feb 09:

Under the Naxal eradication campaign in the district, 'Puna Narkom' ('New Morning New Beginning') is being run. Under which, female Naxalite Podiyami Rajee (KAMS President) and Kawasi Bhola (Militia member), R/o Chintagufa police station, who were active in the Naxalite organization with a reward of Rs 1 lakh, decided to join the mainstream of



the society. He has surrendered before Uttam Pratap Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sukma and Varun Raj, Assistant Commandant 50 Division CRPF at Naxal Operation Office Sukma today on Thursday. Both the surrendered Naxalites will be provided financial assistance and other facilities under the Chhattisgarh Naxalism eradication policy of the government. RFT Kanta Range and 50, 228 Corps of CIAF contributed in encouraging the Naxalites to surrender.

## EV charging stations to be built at 10 places for electric vehicles in Raipur

● Proposal passed unanimously

**Raipur, Feb 09:** The Municipal Corporation will build EV charging stations in 10 places in the city. For this, the proposal has been passed unanimously in the MIC meeting held in the corporation. In this meeting organised under the chairmanship of RMC Mayor Aiyaz Dhebar, the proposal was brought to built charging stations at Subhash Stadium Complex, Raipur Smart City Office Complex, Jawahar Parking Malviya Road, Gandhi Udyan Parking, Mahalaxmi Parking, parking located around Pandari, in the main road in front of Central Library near Amanaka. A proposal was made to construct the station in the space behind the wall of Anupam Garden, Shankar Nagar, near LIC Staff Quarters, Zone-10 Office, which has been passed unanimously. These EV charging sta-



tions will be installed on PPP mode by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, a public undertaking of the corporation and the central government. Meetings of company and corporation officials have also been held. The company's employees have also been sent to visit the site. Only the contract remains to be done. Now that the proposal has been passed in the meeting, the work will be started by signing a contract with the company. City residents will be able to get the facility of EV station

in the next two to four months. In the MIC meeting, 263 families of destitute pension and 51 new cases of assistance scheme were also approved. During this meeting of MIC, a proposal related to the operation of the newly constructed gymnasium and reading room of Zone-6 Public Works Department was also passed. Under the 15th Finance Commission, asphaltting and BT screw repair work has also been approved in various routes of Raipur city to improve the air

quality in the financial year 2020-21.

The proposal for construction of drain in Zone-7 has also been passed unanimously. Zone-6 Departmental proposal put forward by the Public Works Department, CC road and drain construction work in the internal streets of Bhairav Nagar of Chandrashekhar Azad Ward, CC road and drain construction work from Radha Krishna Grocery to Rakesh Sharma's house in Bhairav Nagar. CC road and drain construction work from Nikesh Auto Care to Dev Kirana, CC road and drain construction work from Sahu Kirana to Bhairav Nagar have also been passed unanimously in the MIC meeting. During the meeting, MIC members have given instructions to review and approve the final list of appointment of Anganwadi workers and assistants presented by the Women and Child Development Department as per the rules and procedures.

Instructions given for quick resolution of cases related to PMKSSNY Collector holds meeting of district level consultative and review committee

**Raipur, Feb 09:** The meeting of District Level Consultative Committee and District Level Review Committee was held in the Red Cross meeting room under the chairmanship of Collector Gaurav Kumar Singh.

Data of banking related progress of the district was presented before the committee by the leading district manager Amit Ranjan. The Collector reviewed the minutes of the previous District Level Consultative Committee and District Level Review Committee meetings and reviewed the progress of cases of NRLM, NULM, KCC and PMEGP. He instructed all the banks to take immediate action and resolve the pending loan issues of all government schemes. The Collector asked to resolve the cases of loans of women beneficiaries of various government schemes and priority areas.

## Govt BEd College hosts insightful 6-day workshop



**Raipur, Feb 09:** An enriching 6-day workshop on research techniques has commenced at Government BEd College, Shankar Nagar, Raipur, starting from February 5th. The esteemed presence of renowned educationist Dr. D.N. Sansanwal has illuminated the event, offering profound insights to M.Ed's first and second-year trainees on conducting impactful research.

search problem selection, variable types, and definitions, setting a robust foundation for the trainees. Subsequent days delved into the intricacies of crafting research statements, objectives, and hypothesis generation, fostering a holistic understanding of the research process.

Under the adept guidance of Principal Pushpa Kispotta and the diligent direction of research program in-charge Dr. M. Vijayalakshmi, the work-

shop unfolded seamlessly. Dr. Kispotta emphasized the significance of Dr. Sansanwal's workshops in nurturing aspiring researchers, highlighting their pivotal role in shaping educational excellence.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi lauded Dr. Sansanwal as an encyclopedic figure in educational research, shedding light on his remarkable contributions to the field. The presence of esteemed college professors and academic members from SCERT further enriched the workshop, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

This initiative not only equips budding educators with essential research skills but also underscores the institution's commitment to fostering academic excellence and innovation in education.

## Action to be taken on construction material found on road



Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh said in the review meeting of Raipur Smart City Projects

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur, Feb 09:** Collector Dr. Gaurav Kumar Singh on Thursday held a meeting with Mr. Abinash Mishra, Managing Director of Raipur Smart City Limited and reviewed the ongoing schemes. He has asked the work agencies to complete all the work within the stipulated time. He has asked the Smart City officials to attend the timelimit meeting every week and give a briefing with the updated information about the progress of the work. He has also said that if any work is found lacking in quality, strict action will be taken as per law.

In this meeting held in the Collectorate Hall, Collector Dr. Gaurav

Kumar Singh took information about the progress of all the projects and also wanted to know the reasons for delay from the work agencies. Regarding the work of inter-departmental coordination, he himself removed the hindrances by discussing with the concerned department over phone, and also clearly told the agencies that the duration of any project will not be extended and the projects should be completed on time. He also asked the Smart City officials and engineers to supervise in such a way that any hindrance in the work can be removed immediately with departmental coordination and the common citizens can get the full benefits of the schemes with quality

within the time limit. He has asked the work agencies to keep the construction materials within the project only and not to spread it on the roads and hamper the traffic. He has also asked the Municipal Corporation to confiscate the materials kept on the road or public place, and also take initiative towards management of the debris generated during construction. In the meeting, Chief Operating Officer of Raipur Smart City Limited Mr. Ujjwal Porwal, General Manager (E.&T) Mr. P.K. Panchayati, Deputy Manager Sanjay Aggarwal, Amit Mishra, Shubham Tiwari, Neha Patel, Yogendra Sahu and Smart City officials and all agency heads were present.

## University meeting addresses employee concerns



**Raipur, Feb 09:** A crucial meeting convened on February 8, under the guidance of Dr. R. Prasanna, Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Government of Chhattisgarh, aimed to address the various challenges and suggestions put forth by all university organizations.

In attendance were representatives from each organization, who not only voiced their respective issues but also offered constructive suggestions for resolution. Among the at-

tendees, Hemant Kumar Sahu, President of the Other Backward Class Employees' Union at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, emphasized the plight of employees belonging to the fourth-grade backward class. These individuals have endured prolonged economic and psychological suffering due to systemic corruption in appointment procedures, regularization processes, seniority determinations, fraudulent promotion rosters,

and delays in resolving their grievances by the university.

Additionally, concerns were raised about the delayed promotions, sluggish disbursement of pensions, handling of pension cases, and the need for decisive action against corruption in promotion rosters. A comprehensive memorandum addressing these pressing issues was formally submitted during the meeting.

The presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Honorable Sachchidanand Shukla, Chancellor of Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, alongside Hemant Kumar Sahu, President of the Other Backward Class Employees' Union, and Sunil Namdev, President of the Employee Union, underscored the gravity and importance of these deliberations.

## Special attention has been given to Bastar in the budget: Dev

**Jagdalpur, Feb 09:** BJP state president and MLA Kiran Dev has described the state government's budget as a better budget for developed Chhattisgarh. Every aspect has been given attention in this budget for the overall development of Chhattisgarh. Concern has been given to the last person of the society including education, health, basic and drinking water infrastructure. BJP President Kiran Dev said that special attention has been given to the development of Bastar in the budget. Arrangements for 20 new departments and 33 new undergraduate and postgraduate courses have been made in Mahendra Karma University of Bastar. For this he has expressed gratitude towards Higher Education Minister Brijmohan Aggarwal and Finance Minister OP

Choudhary.

He said that the presentation of the document of complete development from Bastar to Surguja and entire Chhattisgarh has been placed in the table of the Assembly. We assure that through development of every sector will change. Dev said that it is a budget with pro-letariat consensus and Modi's guarantee there.

For which we are all engaged wholeheartedly. Every section of the society has been taken care of in this budget. With this vision we will work towards every possibility of development. This budget will encourage technical resources. With this we will be able to touch new dimensions of development with new resources. With the development of infrastructure there will be no burden of any kind on the public.



## Ch'garh's presentation appreciated by other states

● In Navbharat literacy program 'Ullas Mela'

**Raipur, Feb 09:** A two-day Ullas Mela was organized on February 6 and 7 under the aegis of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India and National Literacy Center Cell, NCERT, New Delhi. In this joyous fair, on behalf of the state of Chhattisgarh, State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and Director of State Literacy Mission Authority, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Katara, Assistant Director and Nodal Officer of State Literacy Mission, Mr. Prashant Kumar Pandey, in-charge of SCERT State Literacy Center, Dekeshwar Prasad Verma represented the state of Chhattisgarh.

On behalf of the state, Nodal Officer Prashant Kumar Pandey gave power about the biggest challenge of the literacy program, how to bring the students to the classroom, how to teach them and how to maintain their continuous attendance and the special strategy and best practices being done



in the state. Chhattisgarh's presentation was appreciated by other states.

Ullas Mela was inaugurated by Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan said that if school students make an illiterate literate then he will get credit. Students must make at least one person around them literate. A mass movement campaign will have to be created for 100 percent literacy rate. Along with literacy, such people are also being made proficient in 21st class skills like online transactions, filling forms and

Kumar, Joint Secretary of DOASEL Ms. Archana Sharma Awasthi, Director National Literacy Mission Dr. Preeti Meena, NCERT Director Prof. Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Professor Usha Sharma, in-charge of National Literacy Center and other dignitaries were present.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that in 76 years of independence, literacy has increased from 20 percent to about 80 percent. He further said that Ullas is spreading colors in the lives of those who can avail the benefits of education. He said that sincere efforts should be made to design the teaching

methodology based on the choice and need of the learners. The goal of complete literacy can be achieved only through a knowledge delivery system based on sports, folk languages and things related to daily work. Union Minister Pradhan appreciated the efforts of the States that have adopted a model that is game-based to make learning simple and fun. He also suggested organizing a seven-day workshop of experts to develop resource material like handbooks, digital capsules etc. and link it to skills.

On this occasion, Union Minister Pradhan said that in 76 years of independence, literacy has increased from 20 percent to about 80 percent. He further said that Ullas is spreading colors in the lives of those who can avail the benefits of education. He said that sincere efforts should be made to design the teaching

## Division level orientation program of teachers completed



**Jagdalpur, Feb 09:** As per the instructions of State Project Office, Holistic Education, Chhattisgarh Raipur, under the Chief Minister School Safety Programme, information about child rights, mental health, fire danger, school disaster management, how to keep a safe distance from wild animals, child sexual abuse, special treatment conditions, environmental pollution control and meas-

ures, first aid is given to children. Various information was given on useful things and first aid, dangers caused by impurity of drinking water and its remedies, correct ways of washing hands etc. Detailed training was provided by State Trainer Dr. Shruvan and State Coordinator of UNICEF Chief Minister School Safety Program Mr. Rahul Vishwakarma. During this training program, District Mission Coordinator Akhilesh Mishra and Assistant Program Coordinator Ashok Pandey and Development Block Resource Coordinators of various blocks were present.

No. A-12034/2024-PMSSY-IV  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(PMSSY Division)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Room No. 201-D, Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110011  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EACH IN AIIMS AT (I) GORAKHPUR (UTTAR PRADESH) AND (II) MANETHI (HARYANA).  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (PMSSY Division) invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up the post of Executive Director on deputation/short term contract/contract basis in the Level 15, Rs. 182200-224100/- in the Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC) each in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at (i) Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) and (ii) Manethi (Haryana). For further details, please visit Ministry's Website and Division's Website at <https://main.mohfw.gov.in> and <https://pmssy.mohfw.gov.in>. Detailed advertisement will be published in the Employment News. The closing date of receipt of application will be the 45th day from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.  
(Dinesh Kumar)  
Joint Director  
Tel: 011-23061730  
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कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे पत्रकारिता एवं  
जनसंचार विश्वविद्यालय,  
रायपुर (छत्तीसगढ़)  
क्र.-1821/स्था./सुरक्षा-व्यवस्था/24 रायपुर, दिनांक 09/02/2024  
सुरक्षा व्यवस्था निविदा  
सुरक्षा व्यवस्था 2024-25 हेतु पंजीकृत सुरक्षा एजेंसी से पंजीकृत डॉक/स्पीड पोस्ट से मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र राशि 5,000/- रु.। शर्तें एवं विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट [www.ktujm.ac.in](http://www.ktujm.ac.in) से डाउनलोड करें।  
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## CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 49 No. 130

### Vulnerable Abroad

#### The Plight of Indian Students in the US

Dreams are morphing into nightmares for countless Indian students in US. The recent spate of tragedies paints a grim picture of safety and security concerns haunting these young minds pursuing education in the United States. Syed Mazahir Ali's harrowing encounter, where he was chased and assaulted by unidentified assailants near his residence in Chicago, stands as a stark reminder of the perils lurking in American streets. Having migrated from Hyderabad just six months ago, Ali finds himself grappling with the trauma inflicted by this appalling incident. Tragically, his ordeal is not an isolated one. Barely three weeks prior, Vivek Saini, a recent MBA graduate, fell victim to a brutal attack by a homeless drug addict in Lithonia, Georgia, succumbing to the viciousness of random violence. The distressing narrative continues with the untimely demise of Sameer Kamath from Purdue University, whose life ended tragically due to what authorities claim was a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Neel Acharya, another Purdue student, met a similarly tragic fate, his disappearance culminating in a devastating confirmation of his death. Meanwhile, the loss of Akul Dhawan, a promising 18-year-old studying at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and the reported demise of Shreyas Reddy at just 19, further darken the shadow of despair cast over the Indian student community in the US. These successive episodes of anguish have sparked legitimate concerns regarding the safety and well-being of Indian students abroad. These bright minds, the pride of their families who have invested significant resources for their American sojourn, now find themselves disproportionately targeted by petty criminals and drug traffickers. Moreover, reports indicate that the strain induced by dwindling employment prospects is driving some of them perilously close to the edge, seeking solace in substance abuse or contemplating drastic measures to escape their mounting despair. Amidst this troubling backdrop, it becomes imperative for the Indian diaspora and diplomatic corps in the US to extend a supportive hand to these vulnerable students, offering them the necessary assistance to navigate through their myriad challenges. Simultaneously, concerted efforts must be made to exert pressure on law enforcement agencies, urging them to conduct thorough and expeditious investigations into these cases. Only through swift and decisive action against the perpetrators, regardless of their standing, can a resounding message of zero tolerance towards crime be effectively communicated. The glaring inadequacies within the system were laid bare by last year's shocking Seattle incident, where a police officer callously dismissed the tragic death of university student Jaahnavi Kandula with insensitive remarks. Such instances underscore the urgent need for systemic reforms and greater accountability within law enforcement agencies across the nation. Additionally, the American media, often quick to sensationalize any semblance of hate crime in other parts of the world, must accord due attention to the plight of Indian students facing adversity on American soil.

### Preserving Pluralism

#### Upholding India's Democratic Fabric

Sujit De

The federal and democratic nation like India, the notion of imposing singular identities—be it language, religion, or electoral systems—is as precarious as a tree with only one branch. Such a proposition, akin to pruning a tree into a precarious one-branch configuration, threatens the very essence of our unity in diversity and the foundational principles of our parliamentary democracy, secularism, and federalism, as meticulously enshrined in the Constitution of India. Just as a tree, when pruned improperly, loses its balance and risks catastrophic collapse, so too does a democratic nation falter when subjected to narrow, homogenizing ideologies. The strength of our democracy lies in nurturing a robust ecosystem where the branches of governance—legislature, executive, judiciary, and other vital institutions—flourish under the nourishing waters of debate, dialogue, and transparency. A democracy, akin to a thriving tree, thrives when its branches receive the sunlight of freedom and the air of transparency. It is imperative that our institutions remain fortified against any encroachment or dilution of their integrity, for democracy's vitality hinges upon their collective strength. The Constitution, the bedrock upon which our democracy stands, must remain inviolate, free from any contaminating influences that could undermine its sanctity. As stewards of this great democratic experiment, it falls upon us, the citizens, to stand as vigilant custodians, safeguarding the delicate balance that sustains our democratic canopy. Any erosion of this equilibrium threatens to unravel the very fabric of our nationhood and imperils the democratic ideals we hold dear. In embracing our diversity and cherishing our democratic ethos, let us reaffirm our commitment to preserving the pluralistic tapestry that defines India. For it is in this rich mosaic of cultures, languages, and beliefs that the true essence of our nationhood resides—a testament to the enduring spirit of democracy that courses through our collective veins.

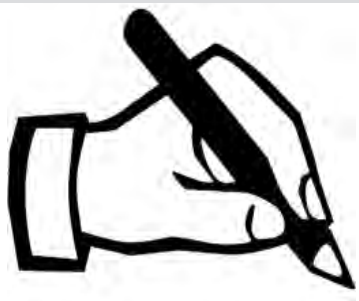
### MAUNI AMAVASYA



Devotees arrive to attend the annual religious 'Magh Mela' festival on the occasion of 'Mauni Amavasya', at Sangam, in Prayagraj, Friday, Feb. 9.

## Mauni Amavasya: A Day of Spiritual Devotion

RAJENDER KUMAR SHARMA



It is mentioned in the scriptures that the virtue one gets by chanting the name of God with the lips is much more than the virtue one gets by turning the beads of the mind and reciting the name of Hari. Hari devotion done from the heart is the real devotion. The new moon day of Magh month is called Mauni Amavasya. According to beliefs, on this day gods reside in holy rivers, hence bathing in Ganga and Sangam on this day has special significance. This month is also a virtuous month like Kartik. For this reason, devotees build huts on the banks of Ganga and bathe and meditate in the Ganga for a month.

#### Importance of Sangam bath on Mauni Amavasya

Another story is also mentioned in the context of bathing in the Sangam, when Lord Dhanvantari appeared from the churning of the ocean with the nectar pot, at that time gods and demons started jostling for the pot of nectar, due to which some drops of nectar spilled out, fell in Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. This is the reason that bathing in the

rivers here gives the virtue of bathing in nectar.

#### How Monday and Mahakumbh increase the virtue of Mauni Amavasya

It is believed that if Mauni Amavasya falls on a Monday, then its importance increases manifold. And if Mahakumbh is also organized along with Monday, then its importance becomes infinite. It is said in the scriptures that the virtue that is obtained by penance in Satya Yuga, by knowledge in Treta, by devotion to Hari Naam in Dwapar and by charity in Kaliyuga, the same virtue is obtained in every era by bathing in Sangam in the month of Magh. On this day, after bathing in holy rivers, one should donate food, clothes, money, cow, land and gold as per one's capacity. Donating sesame seeds on this day is also considered best.

#### Why is Magh Amavasya called Mauni Amavasya

This date is also known as Mauni Amavasya i.e. Silent Amavasya. Since the person observing this fast has to observe the fast of silence throughout the day, hence it is

called a fast based on yoga. It is better to remain silent like saints on this date. Hari chanting should continue continuously within the heart. This is the basic mantra of purity of soul. If it is not possible, do not utter any harsh word from your mouth.

#### To whom is Mauni Amavasya dedicated

On this date, there is a tradition of worshipping both Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva. In fact, both Shiva and Vishnu are one and the same, who take two forms for the welfare of the devotees, this has been mentioned by the Lord himself. On this day, one circumambulates the Peepal tree by offering Arghya and lamps are donated. This is the only Amavasya in the year in which one gets relief from the Pitra dosh and Shani dosh by observing a fast of silence, doing chanting, penance and worship.

#### What to do on Mauni Amavasya?

On this day, wake up early in the morning and take a bath in the Ganga. If you cannot take bath in Ganga, then mix Ganga water (Ganga Jal) in water and take bath. After bathing, definitely offer Arghya to the Sun God. Be careful not to say anything until you take bath. On the day of Mauni Amavasya, do as much meditation, prayer and other religious activities as possible. Do donate on this day. Help needy people. Doing selfless work bears auspicious results on this day. Take a dip in holy rivers on the day of Mauni Amavasya so that both body and soul get purified.

#### What is prohibited on Mauni Amavasya?

The person fasting on Mauni Amavasya should not wear makeup and should follow complete celibacy. Avoid Tamasic food, do not sleep till late, eat food only after bathing etc. Do not go near deserted places like cremation grounds, cemeteries on Amavasya.

#### Auspicious time on Mauni Amavasya

According to the Panchang, Mauni Amavasya Tithi will start on 9 February 2024 at 8.02 am. It will end the next day on 10 February 2024 at 4:28 am. In Hindu religion, fasts and festivals are valid from the date of sunrise. The date of Mauni Amavasya is starting after sunrise on 9th February but Amavasya Tithi will remain there for the entire day. In such a situation, it would be best to take bath, worship and recite Mauni Amavasya on 9 February 2024. The time for bathing and donation will be from 08.02 am to 11.15 am and the time for Shradha ritual will be from 11.00 am to 03.21 pm.

#### Mauni Amavasya itself is Amrit Yoga day

Ganga is considered the most sacred river in Hindu religion, it is believed that on this day the water of Ganga becomes nectar. Due to this belief, the day of Mauni Amavasya in the Hindu calendar is the most suitable day for bathing in the Ganga. In Prayagraj, Mauni Amavasya is known as Ganga bathing day, Amrit Yoga day and Kumbh festival day. The devotees observe fast throughout the day, not uttering a single word. It is believed that this provides relief from Pitradosh and Shani Dosh.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Global Crisis

Democracy worldwide faces defensive challenges due to widening inequality and deep political divisions. Freedom House's survey reveals a 15-year decline in major democracies, worsened by social media and cultural rifts. Urgent reevaluation of democratic mechanisms is imperative to counter autocratic exploitation. Stabilizing democracy demands a united front of global democratic forces, advocating for multi-party systems and combating digital misinformation. The call to action underscores the need to safeguard democratic values against erosion.

Arka Goswami, West Bengal

#### Surveillance Support

With over 2 million CCTV cameras nationwide, including public installations, maintenance is paramount for effective surveillance and security. Governed by the IT Rules 2011, stakeholders must ensure camera functionality. Geotagging aids police in camera location awareness. Leveraging AI enhances tracking capabilities, enabling suspect identification. Maintaining CCTV networks optimizes their role in law enforcement and public safety, underscoring the need for ongoing upkeep and technological advancement.

Dr Ganapathi Bhat, Akola

#### Solar Solution

Solar energy emerges as a vital solution amid soaring power demands and escalating electricity costs. With its promise of reducing utility expenses and promoting eco-friendliness, it heralds a new era. India's impressive solar capacity growth to 73 GW signifies a monumental achievement. Despite surging electricity needs, solar power remains a cost-efficient alternative. Its adoption, facilitated by government backing and individual participation, can revolutionize energy consumption, providing round-the-clock illumination. By embracing solar energy, both urban and rural areas can usher in a sustainable energy revolution.

N Mateeni, Mumbai

#### PM Suryodaya Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' under which one crore households will get rooftop solar across the nation. This is a good step because the scheme would not only reduce the electricity bills of the poor and middle class but would also make India self-reliant in the energy sector; reduce carbon emissions, and promote clean energy as well. But apart from this, the things that are required a bit much are its maintenance and care.

Jahangir Shaikh, Mumbai

### Chhattisgarh Budget 2024-25

## Accepting the challenges of development

Umesh Babu, Sr. Economist

Firstly, the budget 2024-25 of the newly elected government in Chhattisgarh is very attractive and at the same time it is facing many challenges. On the basis of constant prices of the year 2011-12, the index in agriculture sector (GDP 15.32%) and industry (GDP 53.50%) is much better than the national level index (agriculture sector 14.41% and industry 30.97%). On the basis of prevailing prices, the agriculture sector will increase from Rs. 89,530 crore in the year 202-23 to Rs. 97,628 crore in the year 2023-24, the industry sector will increase from Rs. 1,96,817 crore to Rs. 2,12,903 crore in the year 2023-24. The service sector is expected to increase from Rs 1,53,006 crore to Rs 1,65,891 crore in the year 2023-24. At the prevailing price, the state's GDP is estimated to be Rs 4,64,399 crore in the year 2022-23, Rs 5,05,887 crore in the

year 2023-24 and Rs 5,61,736 in the year 2024-25. The development indices of the state are quite attractive.

The budget for the year 2024-25 is an excellent attempt to balance various sectors according to the needs of the state and people. Out of the total budget of Rs. 1,60,568 crore, Rs. 20,720 crore is allocated for agriculture sector which is 15.05% of the total budget. Rs 23,512 crore is allocated for education which is 15.95% of the total budget. Compared to last year, the budget of the agriculture sector has increased by about 33%. For women and child welfare, it has increased more than two times - from Rs 2,675 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 5,683 crore in 2024-25. This year, Rs 27,626 is allocated for Scheduled Tribes, which is more than the budget allocated Rs 26,169 in the year 2023-24. Similarly, Rs 8,447 crore is allocated for Scheduled Castes this year, which is

more than Rs 8,276 crore allocated in the year 2023-24. In the Economic Survey, all the schemes are very important from the point of view of state development, be it any sector - agriculture, industry, services, Scheduled Caste/Tribe welfare, women development, education, health etc. Additionally, where 70% of the state's population is dependent on agriculture related work, the government has a budget and plans to deal with the unemployment situation.

But if we take a look at the implementation of these schemes by the previous governments, there are serious challenges before the government. In Mahasamund district, if we look at the number of unemployed and marginally employed people together, then the number of women in this category is 4,10,594, which is 79% of women in the district of 5,20,787 (year 2011 census). Similarly, men in

this category are 55%. More or less the situation is the same in most of the districts of the state. The previous government has been quite ignorant towards the schemes made for the deprived communities, the proof of which is the details of budget expenditure for these communities. Out of the Rs 460 crore allocated for the Youth Capacity Development Scheme in the year 2022-23, only Rs 17.84 crore (3.88%) was spent. Similarly, out of the Rs 100 crore allocated for the Employment Fair Placement Camp, only Rs 35.89 crore (35.89%) was spent. In the past years, ignorance in the district-wise implementation of schemes related to Scheduled Castes / Tribes have been observed - in Raigarh district, only Rs 16.13 crores were spent out of the allocated funds of Rs 35.84 crores in the year 2022-23 to the SC / ST Department and

Rs 19.71 crore lapsed. These are the challenges before the present government.

There are much better budget provisions to eliminate the state's fiscal deficit and better policy promises are visible for agriculture, education, health, employment etc. These promises are full of challenges of implementation. The use of Artificial Intelligence in technology was presented in the budget speech by emphasizing not only in education but also in other areas. The implementation of budget, achievement of targeted results, people's satisfaction and evaluation of development index are yet to be done through online and digital system. Nevertheless, this is a commendable budget for the marginalized deprived communities too. Now it is yet to be seen - how the government implements these schemes for those for whom the budget is allocated, especially marginalized sections.



**BRIEF**

**Interim budget**



**■ Itanagar:** Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein presented the state's interim budget on Thursday. The House later passed the vote on account by voice vote without initiating any discussion. A full budget for 2024-25 will be presented after the assembly elections in the state. Mein, who also holds the Finance, Planning and Investment portfolios, will make a statement on the interim budget on Friday during the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address.

**Invites bids**

**■ New Delhi:** Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn has invited bids to construct a plant in Karnataka with an outlay of Rs 1,200 crore, according to sources. The project will be executed through Foxconn Hon Hai Technology India Mega Development Pvt. The Karnataka government has approved an investment proposal of around Rs 22,000 crore from Foxconn. "Foxconn's recent bid for plant construction is for an iPhone factory which it is setting up in Karnataka," a source aware of the development said.

**Power plant**



**■ Chandigarh:** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann will dedicate the 540-MW thermal power plant at Goindwal Sahib in Tarn Taran district on February 11, state power minister Harbhajan Singh said on Thursday. The state government bought this plant, which was earlier owned by GVK Power, at an outlay of Rs 1,080 crore last month, claiming that it was the first private power plant bought by the government.

**Cooperative data**

**■ Una (HP):** The Himachal Pradesh government is keen to make data of all cooperative institutions in the state online to bring transparency, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri said on Thursday. Agnihotri who also holds the portfolio of Cooperatives laid the foundation stone of Mian Hira Singh State Cooperative Training Centre and Community Centre in Panjwar village of Haroli in Una district.

## Centre released Rs 15,948 crore to sugar mills in last 5 years

New Delhi, Feb 09:

The centre has released about Rs 15,948 crore under different schemes in the last five years till January 31 to various sugar mills to improve their liquidity for clearing cane price dues of farmers, Parliament was informed on Friday. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said the central government, with a view to improve liquidity of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price dues of farmers, has announced these schemes in the last five years. These schemes include the creation and maintenance of a buffer stock of 30 lakh tonne of sugar with effect from July 2018 to June 30, 2019; scheme for defraying expenditure towards internal transport, freight, handling, and other charges on the export of sugar sea-



son 2018-19; and assistance to sugar mills season 2019-20 to facilitate the export of sugar.

A scheme for providing assistance to sugar mills for expenses on marketing costs including, handling, upgrading and other processing costs, and internal transport and freight charges for sugar season 2020-21, 2019-20 and 2018-19 was also announced. "Under these schemes, a sum of about Rs 15,948 crore has been released to various sugar mills of the

country in last five financial years including the current financial year till January 31, 2024," Patel said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. She said that the export of sugar (raw, refined and white sugar) has been placed under a restricted category. In 2022-23, sugar exports stood at 63 lakh tonne.

This fiscal, no export has happened. In a separate reply, she said that the government has initiated an exercise to create a new online platform to connect exporters with various stakeholders, including Indian Missions abroad, export promotion councils, and other partner government agencies.

It would help provide information such as the details of various trade events being organised and provide information on various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

## Govt, exporters, shippers discuss Red Sea crisis

**● Commerce ministry asks FIEO to share specific issues**

**New Delhi, Feb 09:** Officials from ministries of finance, shipping as well as commerce and industry on February 7 discussed problems being faced by exporters due to the Red Sea crisis and the commerce ministry suggested sharing specific matters for their resolution, an official said.

The official also said that so far there is no adverse impact on the country's exports due to the crisis so far. However, according to exporters, the impact is likely to figure in the numbers of March-April. At present, exporters are executing their old orders and the

impact could be visible when they would start getting new export orders, they said. All the stakeholders, including export promotion councils, federation of Indian export organisations (FIEO), shippers, and freight forwarders attended the deliberations.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal chaired the meeting. The commerce ministry asked FIEO to coordinate with all the councils and share the problems "with us and those issues can be discussed in weekly meetings with commerce, and finance," the official added.

When asked about the meeting, FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai said that freight rates have jumped multiple times.

## No proposal to create separate IPRs for AI-generated content: Som Parkash

New Delhi, Feb 09:

There is no proposal to create separate IPRs or amend the law pertaining to copyright or patent in the context of AI-generated contents, Parliament was informed on Friday. In a written reply to Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said the current legal framework under the patent and copyright act is well-equipped to protect Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated works and related innovations. Congress MPs Rajani Ashokrao Patil and Ranjeet Ranjan had asked whether the government intends to amend Copyright Act, 1957 to update copyright laws to encompass AI-generated content. They also sought views on whether the government has taken any measures to address issues raised by cre-

## SHOWROOM INAUGURATION



Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan during the inauguration of a showroom of Kalyan Jewellers, in Ayodhya, Friday, Feb. 9.



ative writers and artists in their lawsuits against AI-powered large language models, particularly those related to source of training, systematic theft, moral rights violation, endangering livelihoods and royalty payment. "Presently, there is no proposal to create any separate rights or amend the law in the context of AI-generated content," Parkash said.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), including copyright provide exclusive rights to the right owner who are legal persons for a set duration.

These rights allow for the work or creation or innovation to be protected and enable collection of royalties through licensing. For a right to be granted, the owner is required to meet the criteria specified under the law. He said that India being a member of all major international conventions and agreements for the protection of IPRs grants adequate protection of rights for works created by legal persons through copyright law and protects inventions through the patent system. "Therefore, there is no requirement to create a separate category of rights for AI and related innovations in the Indian IPR regime.

## HPCL to commission Barmer refinery by January 2025

Betul (Goa), Feb 09:

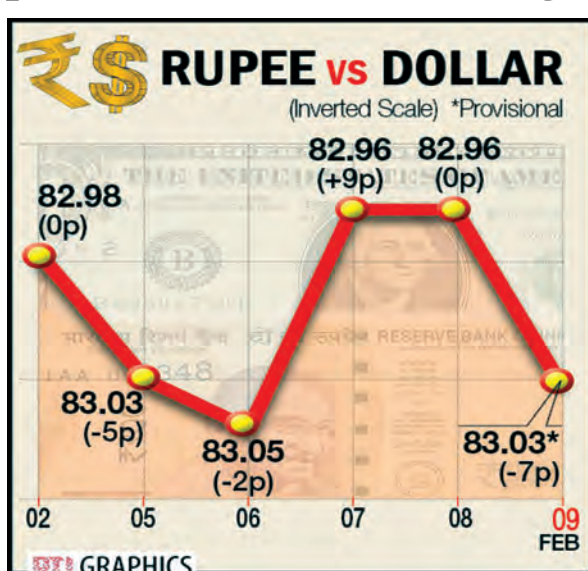
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will commission the country's newest oil refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan by January next year that will help meet rising fuel demand in the north India, a senior company executive said. "The 9 million tonnes a year refinery is 76 per cent mechanically complete and will be completed by year end or so. First product from the refinery will flow in December or January next year," HPCL director for refineries S Bharathan told reporters on the sidelines of India Energy Week here. The project is part of India's target of having an installed capacity to turn 450 million tonnes of crude oil into fuels such as petrol and diesel to meet the energy needs of the world's fastest growing major economy. India's current

refining capacity is a shade under 254 million tonnes. He said the Barmer refinery will operate at 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the capacity in the first year as various units get commissioned. "The full capacity will be reached by 2027." HPCL currently operates two refineries at Mumbai and Vizag in Andhra Pradesh. It also has a joint venture refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab. The Vizag facility has just been expanded to 15 million tonnes from 8.33 million tonnes previously. The company sells more fuel than it currently produces and the Vizag expansion as well as Barmer refinery will bridge the gap. It controls roughly a fourth of petrol pumps in the country but just 13 per cent of the refining capacity. The Barmer refinery will also have a petrochemical complex, which will be commissioned a little later, he said.

## Rupee falls 7 paise to close at 83.03 against US dollar

**Mumbai, Feb 09:** The rupee depreciated by 7 paise to 83.03 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, tracking a strong American currency and elevated crude oil prices in the international market. Forex traders said the Indian rupee depreciated as foreign fund outflows weighed on the rupee. However, positive domestic markets cushioned the downside. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.96 and finally settled at 83.03 (provisional) against the dollar, down by 7 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee settled on a flat note at 82.96 against the US dollar, after the Reserve Bank decided to keep the key policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row to maintain a tight vigil on



inflation. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on underlying strength in the US dollar and concerns over rising crude oil prices amid escalating geopolitical ten-

sions in the Middle East," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Choudhary further added that a positive tone in domestic markets

and mixed to positive global equities may support rupee at lower levels. There are no major economic data over the next couple of days, which may lead to low volatility. "Investors may now wait for US inflation data on Tuesday. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.80 to Rs 83.30," he said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was 0.01 per cent down at 104.15. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.22 per cent to USD 81.81 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 167.06 points, or 0.23 per cent, to settle at 71,595.49 points.

The Nifty fell 64.55 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 21,782.50 points.

## Govt's focus on capex, says FM as Parliament passes Rs 47.6 lakh crore budget

New Delhi, Feb 09:

The government did not reduce allocations for any social welfare programmes and increased its focus on capital expenditure without compromising on fiscal prudence, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman asserted that "capital expenditure is not expenditure on capitalists" as she took a swipe at the Opposition, which has been criticising the government, saying it is favouring industrialists and neglecting common people. The minister was replying to the general discussion on the Interim Union Budget 2024-25, Finance Bill 2024 and the Interim Budget of Union



Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 2024 25 in Rajya Sabha. Later, the Upper House returned the 5 bills with voice vote, thus completing the process of passage of interim Budget of the Union government as well as for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Sitharaman stressed that the highlight of the interim budget is the emphasis given by the government

on capital expenditure and sustaining pace of economic growth. The size of interim budget is Rs 47.6 lakh crore, with Rs 11.11 lakh crore earmarked for infrastructure development. "With the capital expenditure being in the focus, in the last 3-4 years, we have made sure that our debt management is done in such a way that we honour the glide path for fiscal deficit that we had given in 2021," Sitharaman said.

The government has pegged the fiscal deficit, or gap between expenditure and revenue, at 5.1 per cent of the GDP for the fiscal year starting April 1, 2024. The government intends to eventually bring it down to 4.5 per cent of the GDP in the fiscal 2025-26.

## Experts cautiously optimistic on RBI monetary policy

Kolkata, Feb 09:

Experts are cautiously optimistic about the Reserve Bank of India's decision to maintain the REPO rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the sixth consecutive time. Siddhartha Sanyal, Chief Economist and Head of Research at Bandhan Bank, provided insights into the potential future trajectory of monetary policy.

"Status quo in the repo rate in today's MPC meeting was no surprise. Legroom for the repo rate from the current 6.50 per cent is limited," Sanyal remarked, highlighting the cautious approach likely to be adopted by the RBI in light of global economic conditions and political

events. Sachin Marani, Director of Square Feet Group and Secretary of CREDAI MCHI - Thane, expressed satisfaction with the decision, highlighting the stability it brings to the market.

"We are pleased that the RBI has decided to maintain the REPO rates unchanged, considering that inflation remains above the 4 per cent target," Marani stated.

He emphasised the need for potential relief for homebuyers and developers. Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO of CBRE India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, pointed out the minimal impact on home loan interest rates due to the unchanged repo rate.

## Developing countries need more carbon space for growth: R K Singh

New Delhi, Feb 09:

Developing countries need more carbon space for economic growth, Union Minister R K Singh said on Friday as he emphasised that 77 per cent of the legacy carbon dioxide load has been caused directly by the developed countries. India aims to reduce its carbon emission intensity by 45 per cent by 2030. "Now, what is the present status on our planet? You have some countries that are developed and their average per capita income as per IMF figures is about USD 58,700 per year," Singh said at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2024 in the national capital. Singh, who is in charge of



the power as well as new and renewable energy ministries, said there are developing countries where the average per capita income is USD 6,770 per year. "Just imagine the disparity. Now these developed countries (became) developed using fossil fuels and you know 77 per

cent of the legacy carbon dioxide load on our planet earth was caused directly by them... that has led to this global rise in temperature by 1.1 per cent," he said. "The developing countries need to develop that requires carbon space. No country in the world is going to compromise on their development."

No matter how many speeches you give. You have to vacate carbon space so that the developing countries can develop. Because we need that space," he said. Singh said India has been at the forefront of reducing its carbon emissions and meeting the NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) goals.

## Stock markets settle in positive territory on buying in bank shares, Reliance

Mumbai, Feb 09:

Benchmark Sensex rebounded by 167 points in a volatile trade on Friday amid buying in ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and Reliance Industries. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 167.06 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 71,595.49. During the day, it hit a high of 71,676.49 and a low of 71,200.31. The Nifty rose by 64.55 points or 0.30 per cent to 21,782.50. Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of India, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Asian Paints, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank and Wipro were the major gainers. Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Tata Steel, Infosys, JSW Steel, Power Grid and Tata Motors were among the laggards. "After a volatile session, the



market ended on a positive note, aided by a rebound in banking stocks after yesterday's sell-off. Mid and small-cap indices bled the most as the sentiment on the broader indices remains vigilant due to their rich valuation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower.

## Random investigation of private hospital and pathology lab

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 09:** On the instructions of Collector, Avnish Sharan, the Health Department team here conducted a surprise inspection of Samarth Nursing Hospital and Arihant Pathology Lab operated in the private sector of the city.

Due to serious flaws found in the investigation, Arihant Pathology was immediately closed and the lab sealed and a notice has been issued to the operator of Samarth Nursing Hospital and a reply has been sought within three days.

New Bandana Hospital has been fined Rs 20,000 and the team inspected the hospital on the 5th and issued a notice to the hospital management for the deficiencies. If the



reply to the notice was not found satisfactory, he was given a warning and a fine of Rs 20,000.

Also during inspection of Samarth Nursing Home, no duty doctor was found on duty and Dr. Neeru V Patel ap-

peared when called by the staff and only ANM Anima Lakra and GDA Reena

Tigga were present, whereas it is necessary to have a staff nurse trained and registered with the Nursing

Council in the institute. Six beds are operated in the general ward, although space for it is not available in the standard form.

The investigation team also found many flaws in the inspection of

Arihant Pathology Lab located at Baima Nagai Chowk Sipat Road under the Nursing Home Act. Pathologist's chamber was not found in the institute.

The name and qualifications of the pathologist were not displayed. Miss Lata Maravi was found working in the lab who is currently studying DMLT.

Lab technician Prafulla Kurre was not found to be registered with the Paramedical Council and Laboratory equipment was not found to be up to standard.

The deficiencies thus found are a serious violation of the Chhattisgarh State Medical Establishments Licensing Rules 2013, due to which the operation of the pathology lab was stopped and the lab was sealed.

## Construction of fertilizer warehouse of committees stuck

Central Chronicle News

**Khairagarh, Feb 09:** The problem of construction of fertilizer warehouse cum office under construction in various committees of the district is now getting stuck. As per information, the work of warehouse plus fertilizer warehouse in Kamtha Society has been stopped for two years and due to this, the committee is facing loss.

According to the information received from the department, for the building being constructed at a cost of Rs 25.56 thousand, Rs 19.43 lakh was taken from NABARD and Apex Bank and Rs 5.11 lakh and Rs 1.02 lakh were given to the committee for the construction of the building. Also the committee is not able to give payment to its employees and after the



order, the building is being constructed by taking a loan of Rs 6.11 lakh and the committees are incurring losses in paying the interest.

Apart from Kamtha Society of the district, warehouse plus offices are also being constructed in Tolagaon, Madoda, Baihatola, Gadadih and the manager of Kamath committee said that till now more than Rs 60 thousand has been given as interest

amount, which has now become a noose around the neck.

**What officer says:**

District Cooperative Bank Rajnandgaon has been made the agency for the construction of the building and the tender has been made from Collector Office Rajnandgaon. More information can be obtained from District Cooperative Bank Rajnandgaon. - Raghuraj Singh, District Nodal Cooperative Department

## Torture of women due to superstition is shameful, says Dr Mishra

Central Chronicle News

**Raipur/Masturi, Feb 09:** Dr. Dinesh Mishra, Chairman of A n d h a s h r a d d h a Nirmoolan Samiti, stood firm against the tragic incident of a woman's torture and death in Bhadaura village, Masturi, Bilaspur district, decrying the superstition-driven violence that claimed her life.

Addressing a gathering in the village, Dr. Mishra vehemently rejected the notion of witchcraft, urging villagers to refrain from taking the law into their own hands due to unfounded beliefs.

The meeting, held with the aggrieved family, saw heartfelt discussions on the brutal ordeal faced by the victim, Bhuri Bai, and her family.

Amrit, Bhuri Bai's son, recounted the harrowing



events of his mother being forcibly taken from her home, subjected to barbaric treatment, and ultimately losing her life. The committee members extended their deepest sympathies to the grieving family.

Dr. Mishra emphasized that recent incidents of violence rooted in superstition are unacceptable. He highlighted the impor-

tance of rationality and medical treatment in addressing diseases and problems, debunking the myths surrounding witchcraft.

Stressing that every individual's ailments have scientific explanations, Dr. Mishra underscored the need for severe punishment for those perpetrating such heinous acts.

He called upon authorities to ensure justice is served swiftly, sending a clear message that such acts of cruelty will not be tolerated in society. Dr. Mishra's unwavering stance against superstition-driven violence signals a step forward in the fight for justice and the eradication of archaic beliefs that endanger lives.

## District Red Cross Committee meeting solemnised

Central Chronicle News

**Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, Feb 09:** In the meeting of the District Red Cross Committee, a large number of social workers and distinguished citizens of the district donated money to serve humanity and became lifelong patrons.

In the meeting held in the Arpasabha room of the Collectorate, Collector Priyanka Rishi Mahobia informed about the role, objective and background of the Red Cross Society and said that through this committee, financial help is provided for the service of humanity including emergencies, natural disasters, and treatment of the injured.

She said that the amount deposited in the committee is used for the needy with the approval of



the committee and accounts of income and expenditure are maintained. The Collector also appealed to all the people to contribute financially towards the spirit of service and become lifelong members and patrons of the committee.

The social workers and distinguished citizens present in the meeting, on the appeal of the Collector, showed compassion for humanity and got receipts

for donations of Rs 25,000 each and became lifelong patrons.

All the donors expressed their goodwill for creating a new record in the district for the spirit of service. Along with this, it was agreed to extend every possible support to the district administration in making the district a TV disease free district and a malnutrition free district.

In the meeting, Chief Medical and Health

Officer Dr I Nageshwar Rao, Project Director DRDA KP Tendulkar, SDM Pendraarod Amit Beck, District Women and Child Development Officer Atul Parihar, social workers and distinguished citizens Pawan Sultania, Dharmesh Jain, Satya Prakash Farmania, Sachin Kumar Jain, Gopal Agarwal, Ashish Agarwal, Sanjay Gupta, Mukesh Dubey, Ved Chand Jain were present.

## Collector holds review meeting of health dept employees

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 09:** The District Collector took a review meeting of the work of the officers and employees of the Health Department, in which, after taking stock of the development works, necessary guidelines were given to the employees for better implementation of various schemes of the government.

In the meeting, the Collector took information about the sanctioned, working and vacant posts of various service cadres of the Health Department and instructed to conduct regular health checkups of school



children in hostels and ashrams and create awareness among the people about taking iron folic acid tablets for anaemic and pregnant women.

The health officer gave information about the innovative and community activities conducted in the district, which included special yoga practice for pregnant women, safe child health campaign, Sirha Gunia conference, motor bike ambulance in interior

areas, and distribution of kitbags to ANMs.

The Collector instructed all the officers and employees to do better work and to regularly check pregnant women under the Prime Minister's Safe Motherhood Campaign. During this, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Ajay Ram Teke, Civil Surgeon Dr. Yashwant Kumar Dhruv, BMO, BPM and Sector Incharges were present.

## CEO's compassionate leadership inspires community

Central Chronicle News

**Bijapur, Feb 09:** District Panchayat Chief Executive Officer, Hemant Ramesh Nandanwar, embarked on a significant visit to Bhopalpatnam on Thursday, demonstrating his commitment to community welfare and administrative excellence.

His hands-on approach included an in-depth assessment of various governmental schemes, notably the PM Awas and Mahtari Vandan Yojana, with a keen focus on identifying areas for improvement.

Upon his arrival, Nandanwar prioritized transparency and efficiency by scrutinizing the Gram Panchayat's cash



book in Madded. Immediate instructions were issued to rectify any discrepancies and enhance financial management practices. Additionally, discussions

centered on optimizing the implementation of the Mahtari Vandan Yojana to maximizing the benefits of government initiatives for the local populace.

With a sincere concern

for the well-being of every member of the community, Nandanwar took steps to address the medical needs of Hrithik Kumar, a disabled student at the Children's Ashram

in Bhopalpatnam. Urgent arrangements were made for his medical examination and treatment.

Furthermore, Nandanwar directed teachers to incorporate local colloquial languages like Telugu, Gondi, and Halbi into the curriculum for students from class 1st to 3rd. This initiative aims to nurture a sense of belonging and pride among students, fostering cultural inclusivity and appreciation.

Amidst his official duties, Nandanwar celebrated his birthday by sharing moments of joy with the children, underscoring his personal connection to the community and dedication to their well-being.

## District authorities initiate comprehensive firecracker inspection

Four-member team deployed to ensure safety compliance

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 09:** Taking proactive steps to ensure public safety, all firecracker shops and warehouse facilities to avert potential fire accidents and safeguard lives and properties. A four-member team, led by the SDM, has been tasked with conducting thorough investigations and submitting a detailed report within three days.

District Magistrate issued a directive today, outlining the necessity to inspect firecracker manufacturing units, permanent shops, and warehouse facilities to avert potential fire accidents and safeguard lives and properties.

The order, issued by the Collector and District Magistrate, underscores the critical importance of preventing potential fire accidents and safeguard-

ing lives and properties from explosives hazards.

The designated team is tasked with halting firecracker manufacturing activities, scrutinizing permanent firecracker shops, and monitoring fireworks storage facilities to ensure strict adherence to safety regulations.

With meticulous attention to detail, the inspection will encompass various checkpoints, includ-

ing the proper storage of fireworks, assessment of potential hazards in residential areas, and the availability of emergency access for firefighting services.

Additionally, measures to prevent fire accidents, such as avoiding the storage of inflammable materials alongside fireworks and ensuring proper electrical safety standards, will be closely evaluated. Furthermore, the in-

spection will ascertain compliance with licensing conditions, employee training in safety procedures, and adherence to explosive rules outlined in the Explosives Rules 2008.

Specific emphasis will be placed on maintaining accurate purchase and sales records, limiting gunpowder quantities, and implementing necessary safety measures within the premises.

## Anand fair organized in new govt college

Central Chronicle News

**Bilaspur, Feb 09:** Anand Mela was organized at Naveen Government College, Pachpedi and students participated enthusiastically in the fair based on Chhattisgarhi cuisine. A total of 20 stalls were set up in the Anand Mela and student Sanjay Kumar was given the best seller award for Chhattisgarhi cuisine (Angakar Roti and Doodh Khawa).

Principal in-charge of the college, Mangal Nirala said that the objective of the fair is to awaken interest in the minds of chil-

dren towards business. Expressing happiness over the organization of Anand Mela, the students said that they get to learn a lot from such events and also enjoyed the taste of various Chhattisgarhi dishes.

The program was conducted under the supervision of assistant professors of the college, Dhaneshwari Bhaskar, Saya Haq, Abhinav Dahriya, Narendra Chandra, Bhikham Verma, Nisha Tiwari, Kastub Pandey, Sharda Markandey, Anand Bhargava and Mukesh

Patel, in which the Principal of Government Pataleshwar College Masturi, B.R. Khunte had special guidance.

Principal of Government Girls School Pachpedi Dinesh Kuren, teacher Shiv Soni and staff were also present in the Anand Mela. College Sangharsh Committee members Pritam Marshall, Someshwar Lahare, Traders Association members Suresh Khatkar, Ramesh Suryakant, Ranjit Rai, Rajesh Gupta parents and villagers were present in large numbers.

## Prithvi Shah slams century in his second comeback innings

Mumbai in command VS Chhattisgarh

Raipur, Feb 09 (PTI):

Prithvi Shaw marked a spectacular return to competitive cricket by smashing a century in his second innings for Mumbai to put them on top against Chhattisgarh in their Ranji Trophy Group B fixture here on Friday.

The 24-year-old, who captained the 2018 U-19 World Cup-winning team, struck 18 boundaries and three sixes in his knock of 159 off 185 deliveries.

The opener reached the three-figure before lunch and in the process became the first Indian to score two centuries in the opening session on day one of a first-class cricket match.

He had achieved a similar feat against Assam en route to his 383-ball 379, which was the second-highest Ranji Trophy score of all time.



Shaw's partnership with Bhupen Lalwani produced a massive opening stand of 244 runs, with the latter contributing 102 runs off 238 balls as the 41-times Ranji champions ended the day at 310/4.

With four wins and one loss from five matches,

Mumbai lead the Group B standings, five points clear of Andhra.

Shaw made a comeback to competitive cricket after a six-month injury layoff in Mumbai's last round Ranji fixture against Bengal at Eden Gardens. He scored 35 in his return

in a match Mumbai won by an innings and four runs.

It marked his return to the game after August 13 last year when he played for Northants in the English County Championships. His last appearance for India was in July 2021.

Shaw suffered a knee injury during a county stint in August, underwent surgery in London, and completed three months of rehab.

He was recently cleared by the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru after a fitness test.

He had a successful previous Ranji Trophy season when he amassed 595 runs from 10 innings.

But he had a woeful IPL season with 106 runs from eight innings and lost his spot in the Delhi Capitals XI.

## 'Fantastic' Bumrah has taken pitch out of equation: Steyn

Cape Town, Feb 09 (PTI):

With his unconventional action, toe-crushing yorkers and disconcerting pace, India's Jasprit Bumrah has taken the pitch out of equation on his way to acquiring legendary status, says fast-bowling great Dale Steyn.

Bumrah bowled India to a magnificent win in the second Test against England in Visakhapatnam, helping the hosts level the five-match rubber at 1-1.

Steyn was all praise for the premier pacer for his ability to consistently bowl wicket-taking yorkers even on docile Indian pitches, a skill that he believes only a handful of bowlers possess.

"I don't think there's any Test bowlers right now who are able to run in and bowl essentially wicket-taking yorkers.

"To take wickets in



Test matches, there are probably a handful of guys who could do that.

Trent Boult was one of that, Mitchell Starc maybe. And obviously, Bumrah," Steyn said on Friday. The Sunrisers Eastern Cape bowling coach was interacting with the Indian media on the eve of their SA20 title clash in Cape Town.

Reflecting on Bumrah's effectiveness across conditions, Steyn stressed on

his unorthodox but effective bowling style. "I remember saying ages back that a good yorker bowled in India or South Africa or Australia remains a good yorker because you take the surface out of it, doesn't matter where you bowled it.

"You take the pitch away and I think that's one thing that he's done really well. "All round he's a fantastic bowler. And it's no surprise with

his skiddy kind of action that he's got that. He takes wickets on those docile pitches, so he's fantastic," Steyn added.

The South African speed merchant further lauded the depth of India's fast-bowling talent, expressing confidence in the team's ability to manage the workload of key players, including Bumrah.

"Being an Indian player, there's going to be a lot of workload. There's a lot of cricket that India plays, they're one of the highly-sought after teams in the world.

"It seems like India don't really miss him because the step-in bowlers are up to the standard, and it's a great credit to the Indian cricket."

Steyn also said the fundamentals of bowling, honed in Test matches and four-day cricket, form the foundation for success in T20s.

## I worry England may become a team who do all the great work only to not win much: Vaughan

London, Feb 09 (PTI):

Former skipper Michael Vaughan is worried England will become a side that doesn't win much despite putting in the hard yards, adding that the team's batting unit needs to strike a balance between playing aggressive and traditional cricket to succeed in India.

Since adopting the 'Bazball' approach, England have enjoyed a good run but the same no-holds-barred approach has also cost them several matches and series, including the Ashes last year. "England have become a difficult team to criticise too much because they are so good to watch.

Every game they play has us all absolutely gripped, and they have improved massively under Ben Stokes," Vaughan wrote in his column for 'The Telegraph'.

"However, I do worry that they might become a team who do all this great work only to not actually win very much. They didn't win the Ashes when they should have done and now they have let India back into a series when they still have a load of big names, including Virat Kohli, to come back."

England had taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series in India but Ben Stokes and his men let the hosts draw parity in the second Test as all their bat-



ters, barring Zak Crawley, were unable to get big scores. "England will not win the series if they bat the way they did in Visakhapatnam. I actually think the batsmen need to take a leaf out of the

bowlers' book. With ball in hand, they have been quite traditional at times, aggressive at others, and they have gone up and down the gears in terms of how attacking their fields have been."

England had pulled off a dramatic 28-run win in the series opener on the back of vice-captain Ollie Pope's epic second-innings knock of 196 and left-arm spinner Tom Hartley's seven-wicket haul in the second innings.

"The young spinners have been fantastic but, for me, James Anderson's brilliant performance shows that they have to get another seamer, probably Ollie Robinson, in the side with him. "The batsmen,

meanwhile, look like they only have one way to play. They are in fifth gear from ball one. I don't mind some of them playing like that because they are better for it. "But Joe Root should forget it. He has 10,000 Test runs playing like Joe Root. He doesn't need to be a 'Bazballer'. It is time for someone in the management to put an arm around Joe and say "please just be yourself". I think it's as simple as the fact that he is too wrapped up in 'Bazball', the whole ethos of excitement and entertainment."

One of England's best batters in the format, Root has collected over 10,000 runs (11,468) against his name.

## Fair play necessary to ensure integrity in sports: Thakur



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur at the 'Road to Paris 2024' function, in New Delhi, Friday, Feb. 9.

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday stressed upon the principles of fair play, saying integrity is as much as the Paris Olympic Games are approaching fast.

Thakur, while inaugurating the 'Road to Paris 2024: Championing Clean Sports and Uniting for Anti-Doping' conference, emphasised on the need to create awareness among athletes regarding the ill-effects of doping.

The minister also virtually inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Nutritional Supplements

(CoE-NSTS) at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

CoE-NSTS will test the supplements for sports persons to ensure only the best products are consumed by athletes preparing for mega events.

"When we talk about the Road to Paris, all we have to say is play safe, play clean and play fair. For that, awareness is very important. Apart from awareness, you need to have the right facilities for the athletes," said Thakur.

CoE-NSTS, he said, was

a step in creating those facilities.

"CoE-NSTS will do research on nutritional supplements and sports persons can get more information on the nutrients. It is very important for Road to Paris 2024 that we create awareness among athletes with regard to anti-doping activities and keep them away from doping.

"Till now, there was no facility for testing nutritional supplements. Now we have it in place. So, if there are contaminated supplements in gyms, power enhancers, they too can be checked through this now.

## Nice to have Shaheen in our team : Munro

Dubai, Feb 09 (PTI): Delighted to have pacer Shaheen Afridi in the same team in the ILT20 instead of facing him, Desert Vipers captain Colin Munro said the Pakistan pace spearhead brings invaluable experience to the side.

Shaheen, who leads Pakistan in T20 cricket, shares the new ball duties with compatriot Mohammed Amir for the Desert Vipers. "It's always nice to have experienced players come in and share their experience with us," Munro was quoted as saying in a media release.

Munro also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have Afridi in their side, emphasizing his impact on and off the field.

"He is great around the bowling group and he and



Mohammed Amir have worked really well with the new ball for us. So he is an outstanding bowler and it's nice to have him in our team for a change instead of facing him," he added.

Apart from Munro and Shaheen, the Desert Vipers also have newly-appointed Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga, England's Alex Hales and Sam Billings in the side.

## Neser recalled to Australia test squad for New Zealand series

Melbourne, Feb 09 (AP):

Bowling allrounder Michael Neser has been recalled to Australia's test squad for the team's first test series in New Zealand in eight years. Neser played the last of his two tests in December 2022.

"It's great to see Michael Neser get another opportunity in the squad following his ever-consistent performances over a long period of time and the conditions we expect," Australia's chairman of selectors George Bailey said in a statement Friday.

Fast bowler Scott Boland will also feature in the squad despite suffering a knee injury. Neser and Boland are un-



likely to play against the Black Caps unless there are injuries to Australia's star pace trio of Pat

Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

The three played in all five of Australia's test matches against Pakistan and West Indies. Australia won all three tests against Pakistan and split its two-test series with West Indies.

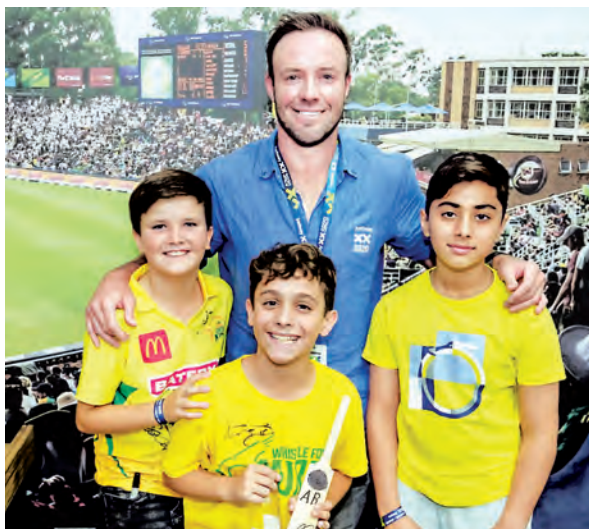
The two-test series in New Zealand will begin Feb. 29 at Wellington and the second is scheduled for March 8-12 in Christchurch.

Australia test squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser, Matthew Renshaw, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc.

## I made a terrible mistake, shared false info on Virat Kohli: A B de Villiers

Johannesburg, Feb 09 (PTI):

Former South Africa captain A B de Villiers has said that he "made a terrible mistake" by sharing "false information" about the personal reasons that have forced star India batter Virat Kohli to take a break from international cricket, insisting that he has no idea "what's happening there". On his Youtube channel a few days ago, de Villiers had claimed that Kohli opted out of the first two Tests of the ongoing home series against England due to the impending arrival of his second child with actor wife Anushka Sharma. On Thursday night, he backtracked on that statement in



AB de Villiers poses for a picture with young fans.

an interaction with select media on the sidelines of the ongoing SA T20 here. "Family comes first, it's priority as I said on my Youtube channel. I also made a terrible mistake at the same time, sharing false information that was not true at all," de Villiers, who is the brand ambassador of the event, said. "I just think that whatever is best for Virat and his family comes first, no one knows what's happening there. All I can do is wish him well. Whatever the reason is for this break, I really hope he comes back stronger and better, healthy and fresh and ready to take on the world," he added. Kohli is unlikely to play any part in the ongoing series.

## Iyer unlikely to be picked for last three Tests

After complaining of groin and back stiffness

New Delhi, Feb 09 (PTI):

Shreyas Iyer is unlikely to be picked in the India squad for the remainder of the Test series against England after complaining of stiffness in his back and groin.

Iyer has had recurring troubles with his back and had also undergone a surgery last year.

The 29-year-old made 35, 13, 27, 29 in the opening two Tests and was guilty of not capitalising on starts.

"He has complained of stiffness and back issue," a BCCI source told PTI. India are already reeling with injuries to key play-



ers K L Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja. Star bat-

ter Virat Kohli had missed the first two Tests

due to personal reasons and is unlikely to be available for the games in Rajkot and Ranchi as well. The selectors are yet to announce the squad for the last three Tests but they could do that on Friday.

On Monday, India bounced back to level the five-match series with a 106-run victory in Visakhapatnam. England, who have flown back to Abu Dhabi before the third Test in Rajkot beginning February 15, won the series opener by 28 runs. India will be assembled in Rajkot on February 11 and England are expected to reach there a day after.