



BRIEF



A health worker prepares to administer a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a teenager at a government school in Bengaluru, Monday.

Hike
Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Monday announced an increase in the salary of junior teachers, both regular and contractual, engaged in primary schools of the state by 50 per cent. A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the hike will be effective from January 1, 2022. The decision of the salary hike will benefit as many as 33,038 junior teachers, including 13,324 contractual and 19,714 regular ones.

Cultural survey

New Delhi: Government-promoted CSC SPV, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application. The survey, titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar', will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique, CSC SPV said in a statement. "India has a unique cultural identity rooted in its villages. No one can understand it better than the CSC VLEs who are embedded in the community they serve."

Mishap

Nagpur: Four women labourers were killed and seven sustained grievous injuries after a multi-utility vehicle crashed into a tree by the road in Katol in Nagpur district, police said on Monday. The incident took place in the early hours of Sunday and the MUV was at high speed when the driver lost control near a cotton mill, an official said. "The vehicle was going from Mohapa to Isapur carrying nine labourers hailing from Ambada for an orange plucking job."

Eliminated

Srinagar: Two terrorists including a wanted Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) ultra Salim Parry were killed in two encounters with security forces in Harwan area on the outskirts of the city on Monday, police said. "Srinagar police neutralised dreaded terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT Salim Parry," IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar said. He said details of the operation will be shared later.

Weather
 High 27 Low 12

MARKET
 NIFTY 17,625.70
 SENSEX 59,183.22

BULLION
 GOLD 47,843
 SILVER 61,725

'COVID-19 cases rising, lockdown last option'

Raipur, Jan 03 (PTI):

Amid a rise in COVID-19 cases in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday chaired an emergency meeting of ministers, senior officials and asked district level authorities to increase testing and also impose restrictions on major public events to prevent crowding. Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly and it seems a third wave of infections is approaching, the CM said, but added that a lockdown will be the last option after various curbs and measures are implemented. "Districts should remain alert. The number of daily tests must increase and all arrangements must be in place in hospitals," he said.

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel on Monday chaired a high-level emergency meeting of cabinet ministers and senior officials to review Covid-19 situation in the



CM directs officials to enforce measures to control situation

state, at his residence of office here. The meeting was organized in the view of surge in number of Covid-19 cases across the state.

Chief Minister urged all the districts to be on alert besides instructing the officials concerned to increase the number of daily Covid tests conducted per day. Besides, he also directed to make all necessary arrangements in hospitals

38 CRPF jawans test COVID-19 positive

Konta, Jan 03: As many as 38 personnel of the CRPF's jungle warfare unit CoBRA tested positive for coronavirus in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-hit Sukma district on Monday following which they were quarantined in their camp, officials said. The personnel belong to the 202nd battalion of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), an elite wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said. As many as 75 personnel posted in the Temelwada camp of the district were subjected to rapid antigen test. Of them, 38 tested positive for the infection following which they were quarantined in their camp," Sukma Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) CV Bansod said. Swab samples of remaining jawans were sent for RT-PCR tests to Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, he said.

and stressed on ensuring strict adherence to COVID safety precautions at all places. He added that we are keeping an eye on the current situation. Later, talking to reporters after the meeting, Baghel said officials have been told to coordinate with all departments, business sector, industry associations and other organizations before taking further decisions to

deal with the outbreak. The third wave seems to be different from the first and second ones and less dangerous but alertness will have to be maintained as the infection was spreading in Delhi, Mumbai etc, the CM said. "A lockdown will be the last option. As of now, efforts are being made to increase testing at airports, railway stations and bus stands as well as

Delhi logs 4099 new Covid cases, positivity rate jumps to 6.46 %

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The national capital on Monday reported 4,099 new Covid cases, 28 per cent more than on Sunday, and one death due to the disease as the positivity rate rose to 6.46 per cent, according to the data shared by the health department.

If the positivity rate is over five per cent for two consecutive days, it would trigger a 'red alert' under the Delhi Disaster Management Authority-approved Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) leading to a 'total curfew' and halting of most economic activities. Delhi reported 3,194 Covid cases with a positiv-

8,082 new Covid cases in Mumbai

Mumbai: Ninety per cent of Mumbai's fresh coronavirus cases (8,086) are asymptomatic, official data shows today, further highlighting that 574 patients have been hospitalised in the last 24 hours. Monday's spike is marginal as compared to Sunday (8,063) but the number of hospitalisations have increased to 12 per cent as compared to 10 per cent yesterday.

ity rate of 4.59 per cent on Sunday and 2,716 cases with a positivity rate of 3.6 per cent on Saturday. The daily case tally on Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday were 923, 496 and 331, respectively.

Schools in Mumbai to remain shut till Jan 31

Amid a rapid surge in COVID-19 cases in Mumbai, including the Omicron variant, the civic body on Monday decided to shut schools of all mediums for classes 1 to 9 and 11 till January 31, a civic official said. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that students of classes 10 and 12 are excluded from this decision which means they can attend schools in person. Classes for students of 1 to 9 and 11 will continue in online mode, as directed earlier.

EC TO FIVE POLL-BOUND STATES

'Step up Covid vaccination drive'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Days after assessing the COVID-19 situation in the five poll-bound states, the Election Commission (EC) has asked them to step up the inoculation drive against the viral disease and ensure that the personnel to be deployed on election duty are "double vaccinated". In a recent letter to the chief secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab, the EC has also reminded the five states that polling personnel come under the category of frontline workers and are eligible for the "precaution dose" of the Covid

vaccines, sources said. The commission has said the polling personnel to be deployed in these states should be fully vaccinated and those eligible for the second dose of the vaccines should be administered the jobs on a priority basis, the sources said citing the letter. While the tenure of the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly ends in May, the terms of the legislative assemblies of Goa, Manipur and Punjab end on different dates in March. The EC is likely to announce the poll dates for the five states in the first half of this month. The personnel to be deployed on election duty in the five poll-bound states

will be included in the category of frontline workers and will be entitled to the "precaution dose" of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Union health ministry had said a few days ago. In a letter to the states and Union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had said the personnel to be deployed on election duty in the poll-bound states will be included in the category of frontline workers. "As a matter of abundant precaution, for those healthcare workers and frontline workers who have received two doses, another dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be provided from January 10, 2022.

VACCINATION FOR 15-18 AGE GRP

Youngsters eagerly line up for COVID vaccine jab

Parents say it is a big relief

New Delhi /Mumbai /Jammu, Jan 03 (PTI): As lakhs of teenagers got their first COVID-19 vaccine jabs across the country at the start of the inoculation drive for the 15-18 age group on Monday, many of the beneficiaries and their parents said they were eagerly waiting for it and feel a sense of relief, especially in the backdrop of the fresh rise in cases.

From setting up attractive selfie points to putting up imaginative posters and colourful balloons,



A student takes a selfie as a health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to teenagers in Thane, Monday.

the designated vaccination centres, mostly schools and educational institutes, were decked up

to welcome the youngsters. The students, some of whom were dressed in school uniforms and oth-

ers in casuals, were greeted with flowers and gifted pens at some places after receiving the vaccine.

Over 39.88 lakh youngsters had registered on CoWIN portal till Monday afternoon after the process began on Saturday for this category and over 12.3 lakh children had received the jab by 3 PM. An estimated 7.4 crore children are there in this age group. The vaccination campaign started on January 16 last year in a staggered manner, and many youngsters like Harmanjot Singh said they were keen to get the jab as soon as it was allowed for their age group.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Sikh devotees take out a procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, in Jammu, Monday.

Sameer Wankhede's tenure with Mumbai NCB ends

Sent back to DRI

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): The tenure of controversial NCB Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede with the federal anti-narcotics agency has ended and his services have been put at the disposal of his parent organisation DRI, officials said on Monday.

The charge of the NCB Mumbai zonal unit will be handled in an additional capacity by its Indore zonal director Brijendra Chowdhary. Wankhede, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 2008 batch, was sent to the Narcotics Control Bureau

(NCB) Mumbai zone in August, 2020 "on loan" from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the wake of the drugs probe being conducted by the agency into the death of 34-year-old actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

He had been serving as the head or the zonal director of the NCB Mumbai unit since August 31, 2020 and was given some extensions. Wankhede's extended tenure with the NCB ended on December 31, 2021 and as there has been no order for his extension, he has been sent back to his parent organisation DRI, that functions as an investigation agency under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), they said. Wankhede has been in the limelight following the high-profile October, 2021 raids by the NCB on a Mumbai cruise after which the agency arrested Aryan Khan, the son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and several others and claimed to have seized some narcotics too. Soon after this action, Maharashtra minister and NCP leader levelled multiple charges of alleged misconduct and corruption against the officer. Wankhede has denied the allegations.

Centre suspends biometric attendance for govt employees

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): The Centre on Monday suspended marking of biometric attendance for all its employees till January 31, as a precautionary measure to check the spread of coronavirus. Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the government employees. "Keeping in view the rise in #COVID cases in the last few days, the BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE for govt officials and employees is being suspended with immediate effect, till further orders. Under leadership of PM Sh

@NarendraModi, this decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the govt employees," he tweeted. However, all the employees are required to mark their attendance in attendance registers to be maintained manually, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. "As a precautionary measure, it has been decided to suspend the marking of biometric attendance in the Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system in all ministries/departments of the Government of India, including its attached/subordinate offices, with immediate effect till January 31, 2022," it said.

SC refuses to give protection to GP Singh

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay a probe into a corruption case and grant protection from arrest to Gurjinder Pal Singh, the suspended director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy. "Dismissed," said the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana after senior advocate U R Lalit, appearing for the suspended IPS officer, submitted that the accused has been a victim of "political vindictiveness" of the current government in the state. The bench, also comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Hima Kohli, was hearing an appeal of Singh against the November 26 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court refusing to grant protection from arrest and stay the ongoing investigation being

Case lodged by Chhattisgarh police

conducted by the Economic Offence Wing/Ant-Corruption Branch of the state police. The state government was represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and lawyer Sumeer Sodhi. "Grant the protection against arrest and stay in the further proceedings in respect of impugned preliminary enquiry and FIR in connection to crime no... under Section 13 (1) (b) and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, registered in police station EOW /ACB Raipur on June 29, 2021," the plea stated. Singh, in his plea, claimed that he was "repeatedly forced as Economic Offence Wing/Ant-Corruption bureau chief to proceed against

the previous chief minister and his wife" in one 'Nagrik Aapurti Nigam' scam, popularly known as NAN scam in Chhattisgarh. "When he showed his disability to it since he was of the opinion that the material available was not sufficient enough to present against them, from that point of time vengeance and malicious political vendetta started against the petitioner in the form of multiple frivolous preliminary enquiries and FIRs for not obliging unduly to the current dispensation," the plea alleged. The suspended IPS officer said earlier the apex court had granted him the protection. Singh, the 1994-batch IPS officer who had served as the IG of Raipur, Durg, and Bilaspur during the BJP rule, has been facing the probe in three criminal cases.

'COVID health insurance policies will also cover Omicron infection treatment costs'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Insurance regulator Irdai on Monday said health insurance policies that cover COVID treatment costs will also cover expenses for treating infections due to Omicron. "All health insurance policies issued by all general and health insurance companies that cover treatment costs of COVID-19 also cover the costs of treatment towards Omicron variant of COVID-19 as per terms and conditions of policy contract," the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said in a release. The regulator has issued the directive to general and health

insurers in view of the growing number of cases of the Omicron variant. The regulator has also asked insurance companies to put in place an effective coordination mechanism with all their network providers and hospitals to make available seamless cashless facilities to all policyholders in case of hospitalization and render speedy services to all policyholders. In April 2020 also, Irdai had clarified that all the indemnity based health insurance products that cover the treatment costs of hospitalisation offered by all general and health insurance companies cover the costs of hospitalisation treatment on account of COVID-19.

With support of Independents, INC forms local govt at Bhilai - Charoda

Nirmal Kosre elected Mayor and Krishna Chandrakar becomes Speaker



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Dec 03: Nirmal Kosre of Indian National Congress has been elected as the Mayor of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation. Nirmal is a Corporator from Ganiyari Ward of this civic body and is also the President of District Congress Committee (Durg Rural). Congress leader Krishna Chandrakar has become the Speaker of this civic body. The election for the

post of the Mayor and Speaker was conducted after the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected Corporators on Monday. The citizens elected Corporators for the forty wards of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation during the elections held recently. Congress had won 19 seats, BJP grabbed 16 seats while five seats went to the Independent Candidates. Congress had managed to get support of the independent candidates



Central Chronicle News

to form the local government. Earlier on the day, District Returning Officer Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure administered oath to the newly elected corporators in groups of five persons each. The Congress Corporators along with the Independent Corporators reached the venue directly from Raipur in a private bus. CM's OSD Manish Banchhor was accompanying them. Thereafter the process of electing the

Mayor and Speaker was launched. All the Congress corporators again moved to CM house in Vasundhara Nagar to attend a brief meeting where Ward 40 Corporator Nirmal Kosre was formally announced as the Mayoral Candidate while Sirsabhata Ward Corporator Krishna Chandrakar as the candidate for the post of Speaker. They returned back to the BCMC Office and nominations were filed. On the other hand, all

the BJP Corporators had moved to their party office in Vasundhara Nagar. MP Vijay Baghel, MLA Shiv Ratan Sharma, former MLA Sanwla Ram Dehre and other senior leaders conducted a meeting and it was decided to field Nandini Jangde (Corporator from G Cabin) as Mayoral Candidate and Railway Colony Ward Corporator Chandra Prakash Pandey as candidate for speaker.

After filing of nominations, voting was conducted for electing the Mayor and Speaker. INC Candidate Nirmal Kosre won the Mayor's seat by securing 24 votes while BJP candidate Nandini Jangde got 16 votes. On the other hand, INC candidate Krishna Chandrakar won the Speaker's position by securing 24 votes while BJP candidate Chandra Prakash Pandey got 16 votes.

Bhilai Steel Plant arranges for Vaccination of School children in 15-18 Age Group

● As many as 1673 children vaccinated on first day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: Responding to Prime Minister's recent call for vaccinating children aged 15 to 18 from January 03, 2022, SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant had made arrangements for vaccination of schoolchildren in the 15 to 18 age group in association with district administration. Vaccination is being carried out at two venues - Senior Secondary School, Sector 10 and at Delhi Public School, Risali.

On January 03, 2022, as many as 676 children in the age groups were administered Covaxin in Sr Secondary School, Sector 10 (SSS X) while 997 children were vaccinated in the age group at Delhi Public School, Risali (DPS, Risali). Out of the 676 children vaccinated at SSS X,



as many as 443 were wards of BSP employees. This included 206 boys and 237 girls. As many as 233 wards of families who are not BSP employees were also vaccinated at SSS X. This included 110 boys and 123 girls. Out of the 997 children vaccinated at

DPS, Risali, as many as 511 were wards of BSP employees. This included 268 boys and 243 girls. As many as 486 wards of families who are not BSP employees were also vaccinated at DPS, Risali. This included 271 boys and 215 girls.

Special NSS Camp of St Thomas College inaugurated at Village Hanoda



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: The NSS Unit of St Thomas College, is organizing Seven Days Special NSS Camp at Village Hanoda which was inaugurated on January 03, 2022. The chief guest of this program was Tejram, Sarpanch of Village, Hanoda. First of all guests presented a floral tribute to Youth Icon Swami Vivekanand. NSS Program

Officer of St Thomas College, Bhilai Mahendra Ikhhar presented a brief report of upcoming 7 days activities. Principal of College Dr MG Roymon motivated the volunteers and said that the NSS unit of St Thomas College is always dedicated for social service. Chief Guest Tejram welcomed all the volunteers and gave his best wishes for the special camp. On this occasion the president of

Nehru Yuva Kendra Hanoda Prakash Patel, member Bhpendra, Assistant Professor of Education Department, Dr Anupama Gangrade, Majju Joy, Santosh Yadav, NSS Volunteers and Local residents were president. Program was conducted by NSS Dal Nayak Ayush Dewangan and Vote of thanks was proposed by NSS PO Mahendra Ikhhar.

50340 children inoculated on the first day of vaccination drive



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: On Monday, under the National Covid Vaccination Campaign, school children of 15 to 18 years age group were vaccinated in 80 schools of the district. Under the first phase, a target has been set to vaccinate 151182 children. On the first day itself,

50340 children were successfully vaccinated. Under this special campaign, all private and government schools at the urban and rural level have been identified. 23732 boys and 26608 girls were vaccinated at the vaccination camps on Monday. For this special vaccination camp, schools are collecting consent letters from

the children as well as their parents. The parents happily agreed to get their kids inoculated. Pragra and Shreyansh Yadav of KPS Nehru Nagar School informed that their parents happily signed the consent letter provided by their school. Being a truly conscientious parent, Shreyansh's father was waiting for the vaccine for the children.

Shreyansh informed that as soon as his father got this news, he did not make any delay in giving his consent. In view of the Covid-19, the Covid guideline is being followed in the schools. Along with doctors, skilled primary health workers have been deployed for vaccination. After vaccination of children, they are kept under

observation for a fixed period. To avoid misconceptions, children are also being made aware of the common symptoms that emerge after vaccination. During a general discussion, children stated that they did not experience any problem after vaccination. The young people are showing great positivity towards the vaccination drive.

DLSA launches consumer awareness campaign 'Sachet'

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: Under the guidance of State Legal Services Authority, Bilaspur and supervision of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Durg, a special awareness campaign "Sachet" was launched to bring awareness among consumers.



This awareness campaign will be conducted by the para-legal volunteers under the leadership of DLSA Secretary and will continue till the month of March this year. District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary Rahul Sharma informed that today every person is a consumer, whether he is buying something or receiving any service. Consumer Protection Act was enacted to

protect the consumer rights and solve the problems of fraud, black marketing, adulteration, selling goods at higher prices, not providing service even after providing warranty card, cheating etc. Some responsibilities and rights have also been given to protect the consumers. The Consumer Protection Act came into force

on December 24, 1986 to protect the interests of the consumers. According to this act a person is called a consumer who buys and consumes goods and services to satisfy his needs. It is important to know here that a person who buys goods and services for commercial purposes is not considered a consumer. This act pro-

vides six rights to consumers. Right to be informed about quantity, quality, purity, capacity, price and standard of goods or services, Right to be protected from dangerous goods and services, Right to be protected from unfair or restrictive trade practice, and availability of the variety of goods and services at competitive prices. In this Act, there is a provision for the establishment of Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at the national, state and district level. The Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission deals with the complaints such as overcharging or charging of unexplained prices, unfair or restrictive trade practices, sale of goods and services dangerous to life and sale of defective goods or services, etc.

Namrata completes adventurous expedition meant to spread awareness about Cervical Cancer

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: Daring difficulties, the team of 6 riders have successfully completed one of the most adventurous winter expedition to Spiti Valley covering 5000Kms in 15 Days.

A high octane nerve wracking ride, covering 8 States with a mission to reach the last mile in spreading the message on Cervical Cancer Awareness and Distributing the Sanitary Pads in the remotest of the villages was carried upon. Dr Namrata Singh led the initiative along with the other professional riders, speaking to the people of "Narkanda

,Nako ,Tabo, Reckong Peo ,Kaza" and making them understand on the severity & how womenfolk needs to take care of themselves as they have a very huge dependency to basic needs.

It's a matter of proud to the City of Bhilai, where Dr Namrata Singh hails from, and our state that she keeps continuing her mission to reach out to every women in the country and speak on the ill effects on Cervical Cancer if ignored.

Self funded and determined on her vision and contributing her part as her responsibility, Namrata has been touching every women's life. In

2019, She has covered 40,000kms on her All India Mission Ride on the Same Cause and aims to cover rest of the states in the coming months. The winter expedition to Spiti ride had 6 members including Namrata, being the only Female to have been there for a Cause. The other riders, Apoorv Nayak, Manthan Patle , Suraj Nakshine, Rishabh Agarwal, Rahul Borele had an excellent support to Namrata to complete this mission who actively joined hands and she has immense respect to her team.

Namrata is already gearing up for her next trip which will be announced soon. A proud citizen of Chhattisgarh, she always takes pride in canvassing about the goodness of Bhilai and it's People during her expedition.

Building permissions now just a click away

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 03: On Monday, Chief Minister Bhopesh Baghel launched the Direct Building Permit System for Municipal Corporations of the state during a virtual programme. Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal, Warehousing Corporation Chairman Arun Vora, DMC Commissioner Haresh Mandavi and other public representatives of Durg city joined the programme from DMC. Bhilai Municipal Corporation Commissioner Prakash Sarwe, Superintending

Engineer UK Dhalendra, Building Permission Officer Himanshu Deshmukh and Public Relations Officer Praveen Sarwa joined the programme virtually from the BMC office. With this online permission system, the residents of the urban areas will be able to get a building permission online without visiting the local body of offices. With the Direct Building Permit System, people will get building permission in a simple and accessible manner for residential plots of under 500 sqm. The application

fee of the permission will be only Rs One. In his address, Chief Minister Bhopesh Baghel said that this system has been simplified in view of the interest of the common people. This will benefit a large population coming under the limits of Municipal Corporations. People can get their house layout approved while sitting at home only.

This will pave the way for regularization of colonies and monitoring of building permissions will be done easily through the software. Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister and said the Chief Minister is exploring new dimensions every day to benefit the people. This permission system will bring great relief to the general public. Now the citizens of the district will be able to get the building permit in a single click by uploading the desired documents while sitting at home.



Under the new system, the building permission for plot size 500 square meters i.e. about 5382 square feet will be issued online. The beneficiaries seeking permission for building construction will have to take assistance of the registered architect for preparing documents. Thereafter, the application will be filed online on the portal "www.bpms.sudacg.in". The filing of documents will be done online. The building layout will be examined through software without human intervention. If the submitted layout

is found correct, the building permission will be issued by the beneficiary immediately after depositing the online fee of Rupees One. After this, the prescribed fee for building permission is required to be deposited within 30 days.

With the introduction of a direct building permit system, the people will get rid of running pillar to post for permission. Earlier, the building permissions used to pass through the offices of Deputy Engineer, Assistant Engineer, Executive Engineer, Zone

Commissioner and Building Permission Officer. The new system will eliminate this lengthy process and the building permit certificate will be available online. The new system will ensure transparency and prove to be very beneficial for poor and middle class families. It is worth mentioning that about 50 to 70 applications are received every month for building permission in Bhilai Municipal Limits. Now the permission will be available online for the applicants.

Covid-19 vaccination for 15-18 age group begins



Across 2,452 centres in Ch'garh

Raipur, Jan 03: Seventeen-year-old Diksha Patel from Raipur in Chhattisgarh required some counseling from her kin as well as the support of two of her friends to overcome hesitancy and get herself vaccinated against COVID-19 as a drive for the 15-18 age

group began nationwide on Monday. Patel, a Class XI student of JR Dani Government High School where the drive was underway, said she was hesitant because of "side effects" she had seen in some of her kin after they got inoculated last year. "On Sunday, our class teacher posted a message on our WhatsApp group about coming to school and getting vaccinated. I was worried as many of

my family members fell ill after taking the vaccine during the second wave in April and May last year," she told PTI. "However, my mother and other kin counseled me about the benefits of vaccination, especially in view of rising cases and a possible third wave. I called my friends Aarti Sahu and Babli Dhruv, who agreed to get vaccinated along with me," she said. Sahu said she had heard

about restrictions on traveling for those who had not been vaccinated and if such a rule was put in place for children in the 15-18 age group as well, then there was the fear of missing out if her family planned a tour. A senior government official said 16,39,811 children in the 15-18 age group are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, for which 2,452 centres have been set up in colleges, schools and hospitals in Chhattisgarh.

Court rejects bail plea of Kalicharan

Raipur, Jan 03 (PTI): A sessions court in Raipur on Monday rejected the bail plea of self-styled religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj, who was arrested in connection with his alleged derogatory remarks against Mahatma Gandhi. The court of XII Additional District and Sessions Judge Raipur Vikram Pratap Chandra rejected Kalicharan Maharaj's bail, said Public Prosecutor K K Shukla. A Raipur police team had apprehended Kalicharan alias Abhijeet Dhananjay Sraag on Thursday from a rented room near Bageshwar Dham, some 25 kilometres from Khajuraho town in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. He was booked by Tikrapara police station on December 26 under sections 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes) and 294 (obscene acts) here for allegedly using derogatory words against Mahatma Gandhi. Later, police added 124 A (sedition) and four other sections of the IPC in the case.

COVID vaccination of children begins in Raipur district

Collector Sourabh Kumar inspects vaccination centres

Enthusiastic children share their experiences by taking selfies



Raipur, Jan 03: COVID-19 vaccination programme for teenagers in the age group of 15 to 18 began on January 3 in Raipur district. Collector Sourabh Kumar inspected various colleges and schools to inquire about the arrangements made under this mega COVID VACCINATION programme. During inspection the Collector was accompanied by Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Mayank Chaturvedi, Additional Managing Director of Raipur Smart City Limited Chandrakant Verma, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Meera Baghel, District Education Officer AN Banjara, District Employment Officer Kedar Patel, District Education

Programme Coordinator KS Patle, District Immunization Officer Ashish Verma. After vaccination, enthusiastic children met the collector and shared their experiences besides taking selfies. Under the guidance of Raipur district administration, a roster based programme has been started for the vaccination of adolescent children in the district, in which vaccination is being done by registering in college and school premises. The facility of registration is also available for this age group on a portal. On January 3 hundreds of children have taken doses of the vaccine under this vaccination programme. Collector Sourabh Kumar inspected J Yoganandam C h h a t t i s g a r h

Mahavidyalaya, Polytechnic College, Binni Bai Sonkar School, JR Dani School, JN Pandey and gave necessary directions. He asked the concerned principals to ensure the targeted number of vaccinations according to the roster and if required, arrange additional doses well in advance in coordination with the Chief Medical Officer. The collector also met the children and got acquainted with their experience related to vaccination and congratulated everyone. District Programme Officer, Health Department, Manish Majorwar, City Programme Manager Anshul Thudgar, and Swatantra Rahangdale, Principals of the schools and colleges were also present.

Take up govt's work to people thru organisation: Punia

CM hails combined efforts of all in victory in last urban body polls

Booth committee formation, membership campaign of party reviewed

State working committee meeting of PCC held

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: An important working committee meeting of PCC and detailed discussions were held on membership campaign, formation of booth committees and progress on construction of Rajiv Bhavan in all districts and hosts of other organisational issues. In the beginning PCC Chief Mohan Markam in his presidential speech welcomed the office bearers and guests and said that in today's meeting the party will finalise its future pro-



gramme. We have to take up government's schemes to masses and ensure that the people avail benefits of various important schemes of the government. The strength of an organisation and schemes are two such weapons which can bring party more closer to the people and it is through this that the party won confidence of people in the last urban body elections. In the meeting, all DCC District Presidents, district in-charge submitted report about booth committees membership campaign and about progress in Rajiv Bhavan construction work in their district. Booth Committee formation in-charge Vinod Verma presented the review report of formation

of the committees. Addressing the working committee meeting, CM Bhupesh Baghel said that elections for 15 urban bodies and many by-polls were held and in this the party got massive success and for this he extended greetings to PCC Chief Mohan Markam and PCC state in-charge PL Punia and added that for this all worked hard and with dedication and therefore the party won. In just two places viz Jamul and Khairagarh the party did not get success. In Bilal-Charouda, the party's Speaker and Mayor were formed for the first time and for which he again extended greetings. Speaking further CM said that in Koriya also the party won despite lots of

problems and similarly won from Premnagar, Surajpur district and greeted party's MLA. The hard work done by the party workers in Koriya met with unexpected defeat and on this CM directed to show rule of discipline. In the last elections, Congress formed committees going to booths and in Surguja, Raipur, Rajnandgaon the party launched massive membership campaign and this should continue at present as well. The Ministers, senior party MLAs, office bearers of Nigam, Mandals should be called to 'Bulao prog' and launch campaign and then the programme will pave way for success. This should be publicised and all in-charges should conduct tour and unless the people will get associated and promote the programme, then more and more people would get associated. The meeting of booths, block zone sector should be held and it is through these party workers that the

party has to contest 2023 polls and had to form the next government with everybody's hard work and dedication, Baghel added. PCC State in-Charge PL Punia said that state working committee is the most important committee of the organisation and has the same level of responsibility as well. In the last polls, the party had formed booth committees and by collecting all senior party leaders, we had celebrated booth utsav and it is in the same manner that the booth committees should be formed. The places where the booth committees have not done good work it should be improved and it is PCC which should review works of District Presidents and in-charges and the place where there is need for change, it should be brought, so that the organisation's work gain momentum and it is the office bearers who should take up the responsibility of taking up government's work to public.

Problems of the affected farmers of Naya Raipur to be resolved soon: Dr Dahria

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: State Urban Administration and Labour Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Dahria on Monday met the members of the affected farmers welfare committee of Naya Raipur. Dr. Dahria, while taking urgent action to resolve the various problems of the affected farmers, met Housing and Environment Minister Mohammad Akbar and discussed in detail about the problems of the farmers. In this regard, Housing and Environment Minister Akbar has in-



structed the Chief Executive Officer of NRDA to take necessary action at the earliest. The Urban Administration Minister, during a discussion with the farmers, told them that all necessary action is

being taken by the Chhattisgarh government to solve the problems of the farmers affected at Naya Raipur. According to their various demands and needs, the Chhattisgarh government is working.

Akhil Bharatiya Agrawal Sammelan distributes blankets

Medical camp to be organised in remote areas of Bastar

Raipur, Jan 03: National Senior Vice President of Akhil Bharatiya Agrawal Sammelan, Ishwar Prasad Agarwal, National Vice President, Hanuman Prasad Agarwal, State President, Santosh Agarwal and National Minister Parmanand Jain said that blankets were distributed to poor women, children and men on the streets of Raipur,



shivering from the cold. Blanket and biscuits were provided to more than 100 persons and women on behalf of the Agrawal Sammelan. On this occasion National Secretary, Parmanand Jain, State Senior Vice President, Satpal Jain and Manoj Agrawal were present.

Free eye test and cataract operation for economically weaker women and men of Bhatapara were done at Raipur MGM Hospital in collaboration with Raipur MGM Eye Hospital. After that, blankets and biscuit packets were also provided to them free of cost. State President of Agrawal Sammelan, Santosh Agarwal and National Secretary, Parmanand Jain said that in the coming time, a medical camp will be organised in the backward area of Bastar.

CSCPCR Chairperson takes stock of arrangements



For vaccination of children

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Chairperson of Chhattisgarh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CSCPCR) Mrs Tejkuwar Netam today inspected schools in the capital Raipur to take stock of the arrangements for COVID vaccination of children in the age group of 15-18 years.

Mrs Netam visited JR Dani Government Girls Higher Secondary School at Kalibadi Chowk and Mayaram Surjan Government Girls Higher Secondary School at Chowbey Colony and inquired about well-being of girls who were vaccinated against COVID-19. Mrs Netam has appealed to all eligible teenagers to get COVID vaccine. Mrs Netam also explained to school children about guidelines to be followed for preven-

tion of COVID-19 infection of vaccination. She told the children to wear masks all the time for protection from COVID-19 infection. She also asked the girls to come for vaccination only after taking food. Expressing satisfaction over arrangements for vaccination she asked the school principals to make sure that children do not stand in queues for vaccination for long. She also asked for making adequate sitting arrangements for children.

Incident commander appointed for prevention and control of COVID-19

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Collector, Sourabh Kumar has been appointed incident commanders under the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and Disaster Management Act, 2005 for the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines issued by the Government of India and the Government of Chhattisgarh. The newly appointed incident commanders are Deputy Collector Punam Sharma for Zone-1, Divisional Commissioner Land Record Geeta Diwan for Zone-2 of Raipur Municipal Corporation,

Deputy Collector Hemant Matsyapal for RMC Zone-3, Joint Collector Subhash Raj for Zone-4, Deputy Collector Rakesh Dhruv for Zone-5, Joint Collector Navin Kumar Thakur for Zone-6, Joint Collector Vinay Agrawal for Zone-7, Deputy Collector Bupendra Sahu for Zone-8, Joint Collector Anupriya Mishra for Zone-9 and Deputy Collector Sangeeta Agrawal for Zone-10. Similarly Sub Divisional Magistrate Devendra Patel has been appointed as incident commander for Raipur section whereas Tehsildar Ajay Chandravanshi has been appointed as incident commander for Dharseva

Tehsil and Sub Divisional Officer. Prakash Tandan has been appointed as incident Commander for entire Tilda section. Krishna Kumar Sahu has been appointed as incident commander for Kharora Tehsil whereas Sub Divisional Officer Atul Vishwakarma and Nayab Tehsildar Meena Sahu have been appointed as incident commanders for entire Arang section. Sub-divisional officer Nirbhay Kumar Sahu has been appointed as incident commander for entire Abhanpur section while Reema Markam has been appointed as incident commander for Gowra-Nawapara tehsil.

Nine SP's issued fresh posting orders

Raipur, Jan 03: The police headquarters has issued fresh posting to 9 IPS officers and in this officers in CM's security to SP's of Koriya, Dantewada, Rajnandgaon, Janjgir-Champa, Dhamtari, Mahasamund have been issued fresh posting. As per the orders issued, D Shrivani (IPS-2008) has been transferred as Commandant - 6th Battalion CAF, Raigarh; Prakar Pandey (IPS-2009) working as Commandant 6th Battalion CAF Raigarh has been posted as SP in Chief Minister's Security, Raipur. Similarly Santosh Singh (IPS- 2011) working as SP District Koriya has been appointed as SP

Rajnandgaon district. Vivek Shukla (IPS-2012) and working as SP CM's security Raipur has been posted as SP- Mahasamund district; Abhishek Pallava (IPS- 2013), working as SP Dantewada has been posted as SP Janjgir-Champa district; Divyang Patel (IPS- 2014) working as SP District Mahasamund has been posted as SP Kondagaon. Siddharth Tiwari (IPS- 2015), working as SP Kondagaon has been posted as SP Dantewada and Prashant Thakur (IPS) working as SP Janjgir-Champa has been posted as SP District Dhamtari and Prafulla Thakur (IPS-1998) working as SP District Dhamtari has been posted as SP Koriya district.

Nodal officers appointed for prevention and control of Omicron infection

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: Collector Sourabh Kumar has appointed nodal officers for prevention and control of the infection of 'Omicron' the new variant of Coronavirus. Additional District Magistrate NR Sahu has been appointed as nodal officer for creation of micro containment zone. For progress and control of oxygen plant in government hospitals the concerned sub divisional magistrate has been ap-

pointed as nodal officer. Additional Commissioner in Raipur Municipal Corporation Sunil Chandravanshi has been appointed as nodal officer for COVID testing of people coming from abroad and their home isolation. Deputy Collector Dipti Verma has been appointed as nodal officer for media briefing over COVID-19. Deputy Collector Mukesh Kothari has been appointed as Nodal Officer for necessary coordination with the people coming in contact

with those infected by Coronavirus. Chief Medical and Health Officer Meera Baghel has been appointed as nodal officer for evaluation of availability of beds, medicines, medical equipment and other resources in government hospitals. To ensure availability of COVID beds Dr Avinash Chaturvedi has been appointed as nodal officer whereas Swatantra Rahangdale has been appointed as Nodal Officer for COVID testing and reporting. Dr Ashish

Verma has been appointed as Nodal Officer for availability COVID vaccine and progress of COVID vaccination. Additional Tehsildar Dr Anjali Sharma has been appointed as Nodal Officer for tracking of persons in home isolation. Raipur District Education Officer has been appointed as Nodal Officer for vaccination of children in the age group of 15-18 years in schools whereas District Employment Officer Kedar Patel has been appointed as Nodal Officer

for vaccination of students in colleges. Assistant Commissioner Tribal Development has been appointed as Nodal Officer for vaccination of students residing in scheduled caste and scheduled tribe hostels whereas Chief General Manager of Zone Udyog Evam Vyapar Kendra and Assistant Labour Commissioner have been appointed as Nodal Officers for COVID testing and vaccination of officers-staff working in industries.

Ch'garh will become an organic state: Baghel

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: First meeting of Chhattisgarh Green Council was held today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residence. Chhattisgarh Green Council has been constituted with the objective to give impetus to the regenerative development in the state. This council will work towards making Chhattisgarh's economy green, strong and sustainable. Regenerative Development is a more progressive concept than Sustainable Development. The concept of Regenerative Development includes optimal utilization of available resources, quality enhancement of the resources, and boosting income of localities through livelihood activities under New Age Green Economy. At the meeting, Chief Minister emphasized on the branding of Chhattisgarh as a Green State on national and international platforms, market linkage of organic products, capacity building of self-help groups through training, development of districts as per their specific requirements and ensuring participation of local resi-



dents in the income-oriented activities. He added that Chhattisgarh is the first state of the country where Green Council has been constituted.

In the meeting, vision and mission of the Green Council to address the environmental issues were finalized. This initiative of Chhattisgarh Government will include capacity building of women self-help groups to market the sustainable forest, medicinal, herbal and other products. Specialist companies will be invited to Chhattisgarh, and a carbon credit program will be launched soon in the state.

In his address to the meeting, Chief Minister said that in last three years, Chhattisgarh Government has launched many eco-friendly schemes to strengthen the rural economy, such as Narva, Garua, Gurva, Bari Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojna under Suraji Gaon

Joyna, production of vermi compost from cow dung in Gauthans, encouraging the use of the left over hay as fodder for cattle after harvesting, expansion of forest areas under Chief Minister's Tree Plantation Promotion Scheme, boosting the income of local forest dwellers through minor forest produce procurement and value addition, which are promoting the cause of environmental protection and economic empowerment. These schemes are being appreciated across the country and abroad.

While discussing the topic of carbon emissions in the meeting, Chief Minister said that in Chhattisgarh, we are moving towards organic farming with the use of vermi compost and we have significantly reduced the carbon emissions (pollution) by not burning stubble and using it as fodder. He added

that Chhattisgarh is on its way to become the second organic state after Sikkim. Mr. Baghel said in the meeting that services of specialist companies in Chhattisgarh should be taken for marketing the products being prepared by self-help groups and also for promoting tourism in the state. He also talked about the capacity building of self-help groups underway in the state. In the context, Chief Minister said that with the help of self-help groups, solar panels and herbs can be used to prepare forest medicines. He praised the self-help groups of Korba for their commendable work in the field of forest medicines. There is a good market for herbal medicines internationally. Chief Minister said that a nodal officer should be appointed in every district to promote regenerative development. After identifying the specialties of the districts,

- CM emphasized on making Ch'garh's economy green strong and sustainable
- Ch'garh is the first state in the country to constitute Green Council
- First meeting of CGC held under the chairmanship of CM
- Re-generative development is a more progressive concept: CM
- Market linkage of organic products, capacity building of self-help groups, promotion of economic oriented activities with participation of localities and other topics discussed in the meeting*

development works should be done there with the help of experts. He also directed to make efforts towards branding of Chhattisgarh as an organic state. Chhattisgarh will be the first state to take such a progressive step towards the economic empowerment of the local people besides addressing the challenges of climate change.

VIOLATING NORMS



A two-wheeler riders being stopped by authorities on charges of not wearing mask and fined him.

Placement camp on Jan 5

Jagdalpur, Jan 03:

The District Employment and self-employment Guidance Centre Jagdalpur will be holding Placement camp on Jan 5 at 11:00 am. Through this placement camp a total of 50 recruit-

ments will be done for 'Swatantra Microfine Pvt Ltd.' (SMPL). The educational qualification for SMPL is Class 12th passed and 10th passed for retail and for post of Mason in Kissan Mineral Pvt. Ltd is 8th passed and for Actomotive it is 10th passed.

Shaswat scores 99.79% percentile in CAT

Raipur, Jan 03: Shaswat Singh of Raipur scored 99.79% percentile in CAT 2021 conducted by IIM A h m e d a b a d .

Resident of Romansque Villa Labhandi, Shaswat did his BE from IIT Delhi and is presently working in Mumbai. His father Sanjeev Singh in SE in CSPDCL and mother Mahima Singh is lecturer in Government School.

Mah Police reach Raipur to pick up Kalicharan Maharaj

Case registered in Pune

Thane Police applied for protection warrant in court

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 03: A five-member police team of Thane Maharashtra has reached Tikrapara Police Station in Raipur to pick up Kalicharan Maharaj who is lodged in Raipur Jail after he allegedly made indecent remarks against Mahatma Gandhi in Raipur Dharma Sansad. A case has also been registered against Kalicharan in Khadak Police Station Pune on December 19 for his indecent remarks. On the other hand Akola Police after registering case against Kalicharan transferred it to Raipur Police. Maharashtra

Police have not got the protection warrant of Kalicharan Maharaj because of the remand court. The application will be taken up in the regular court on Monday. According to Thane Police, the accused had given hate speeches which could incite people and hurt religious sentiments at an event at Natubagh ground in Pune on December 19.

Thane Police has applied for protection warrant in the court. Significantly, after his arrest from Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh, Kalicharan was produced before the Raipur Court on Wednesday. The court had sent him on one-day police remand. On Friday, the police again produced Kalicharan in the court. On the order of the court, he was sent to Raipur jail on judicial custody for 14 days. The trial of Kalicharan, who was

taken into judicial custody for his remarks on Mahatma Gandhi, will be held in the Raipur Sessions Court on January 3. A lawyer had filed a bail petition in the district court but no relief was granted yet. Neelkanth Tripathi, the organizer of Dharma Sansad, left the Nationalist Congress Party on Saturday. Religion remained in controversy after derogatory remarks made against Mahatma Gandhi in Dharma Sansad. It is said that the high command of the Nationalist Congress Party was accusing him of organizing such a religious event in connivance.

However, organizer Neelkanth Tripathi has vehemently denied such allegations and after pressure from the party, he resigned from all posts along with the post of National Secretary from the Youth Congress Party.

AMU Ch'garh ranked among Top-30 varsities



Only state university to be included in Band-Performer in ARIIA-2021

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: In the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements 2021, Amity University (AMU) Chhattisgarh participated for the first time and secured placed in Top-30 Universities/Colleges

and Band-Performer under the category University & Deemed to be University (Private/Self-Financed) (Technical). Amity, Raipur is the only state private university to be listed in ARIIA 2021. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on parameters related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties. Prof. Rajendra Pandey, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Chhattisgarh congratulated all the stakeholders of the university on this achievement. Amity University Chhattisgarh perceives to continue the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Ch'garh Air NCC Cadet selected to become Flying Officer in IAF



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 04: A cadet of 3 CG Air NCC, Nivedita Sharma, has been selected in the final merit list to join the Air Force Academy, Hyderabad. Group Commander NCC Group Raipur, Brig AK Das VSM, congratulated Miss Sharma for her selection and felicitated her along with her parents on 03 Jan 22. He added that her selection into the elite Indian Air Force will motivate the youth and other

cadets of Chhattisgarh region. Col M Shikharwar, Wing Commander Rajat Gupta and Associate NCC Officer, Dr VK Choubey were also present for the ceremony along with some cadets of Air NCC.

Nivedita Sharma passed her 12th from Durg, won the first prize in an international drawing competition in Thailand in 2016 and did well in all camps and exams held during her

stint in Air NCC. Owing to her interest in the Defence, she gave up her CA exams to take part in a parajumping camp held in Agra. Her enthusiasm and zeal to keep herself fit and motivated greatly assisted her towards the selection into the IAF. She excelled in AFCAT exam and SSB interview and got selected to undergo training to become an officer in the Accounts Branch of IAF. She will be reporting to Air Force Academy on 15 Jan 22.

Nine Archery players bring laurels to city

Wins 3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 03: In the state-level Junior and Senior competition for Archery held in divisional hq's Jagdalpur from Dec 28-30, 9 Archery players from Govt Gundudhar PG College secured 3 gold medals; 2 silver and 3 bronze medals. In the Judo-Karate competition, Nisha in girl's section- 50 kg category; Muskan Sharma of Kondagaon in 78 Kg; Anil Kumar Gota of boy's category in 55 kg category obtained gold medal. In the 60 kg category- Pradeep Baghel; Dishant Husait in 73 kg category won the silver medal and Abhishek Shekhani in 55 kg category and Heerman Koram in 60 kg and Sajan Sori in 66 kg category won bronze medal. Those winning the gold and silver medal will take part in the National Games to be held in Bellari in Karnataka from Jan 20-25.



Reduction in Malnutrition: Sukma district secures second position in entire state

Konta, Jan 03: It is a matter of great pride for Sukma district that under the guidance of Collector Vineet Nandanwar, Supervisor of Women and Child Development Department and field staff have succeeded in reducing the rate of malnutrition by 14.2 percent.

According to the National Family Health Survey NFHS-4, 2016, the

malnutrition rate of the combined Dantewada district was 51.6 percent. At the same time, according to the data released in NFHS-5, 2021 released at present, the malnutrition rate of Sukma district is 37.4 percent. Thus, there has been a reduction in malnutrition in the district by 14.2 percent. According to the data of NFHS-5, 2021, Sukma

district has secured the second position in the entire state after Gariaband district in terms of reducing malnutrition rate.

Malnutrition has reduced by 15.3 percent in Gariaband district. It is noteworthy that this data has been released on the basis of malnourishment status in children of 0 to 5 years according to age, weight criteria.

Mausam Jaya elected president, Zakir Hussain vice-president

● Konta Nagar Panchayat

Konta, Jan 03: The election process of Vice President of Nagar Panchayat Konta was completed by Returning Officer Konta SDM Bansingh Netam. As the first conference in the meeting room of Konta Nagar Panchayat, the election process was elected unopposed on Monday.

It may be noted that in the trends of December 23, in the election of 15 wards here, Congress councilors had won from 14 wards. After which today on January 3, the President's Vice-President's convention, the swearing-in was conducted in which Congress councilors re-elected the President and Vice President, Mrs. Mausam Jaya was elected as the President, Vice-President Zakir Hussain was elected as their leader. After taking oath, Returning Officer



Netam congratulated Mrs. Mausam Jaya in the nomination, declaring Zakir Hussain unopposed as the President and Vice-President.

On this occasion supervisor Vimal Surana, District Panchayat Vice President Boddur Raja, Congress Committee President Maheshwari Baghel, Block Congress Committee President Sudhir Pandey, Nagar Panchayat Konta Chief Executive Officer N

Sori and all councilors Congress workers were present.

Will live up to the trust of the public

After the election of the President and Vice President, District Congress Committee, President Maheshwari Baghel said that the election process was completed in the presence of the observer as per the instructions of the State Committee. On the instruc-

tions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, State President Mohan Markam, Minister Kawasi Lakhma, Harish Kawasi, the President-Vice President election has been elected by consensus today. On my behalf, I congratulate and wish everyone the best. President Mrs. Mausam Jaya, Vice-President Zakir Hussain also thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, State President Mohan Markam, Regional MLA, Minister Kawasi Lakhma and said that due to the development Congress has won. That growth will continue unabated. We will complete the unfinished work as soon as possible. We will work to fulfill the expectations of the people and every effort will be made to fulfill them. There is a Congress government in Chhattisgarh, due to which we can develop and will develop further.

DCH student complete 2nd week of RHWE prog

● In village Dhaneli

Raipur, Jan 03: The students of Danteshwari College of Horticulture (DCH) have completed their second week of RHWE programme in village Dhaneli.

During their programme the students collected soil samples for test-



ing various soil parameters and identified differ-

ent diseases of crops prevailing in the village.

Information has also been gathered regarding flower production in the village and made the farmer aware regarding importance of Floriculture. The students performed contact farmer survey and collected information on general occupation, age, education, land holdings, irrigation sources of farmers in the village.

Illicit sale of liquor causing disturbances to residents

Near Bazar chowk on daily basis

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 03: There are incidents of physical fighting between people and those selling illicit liquor in Bazar Chowk daily and it is located in the heart of the city. In this context, on Dec 27 in the night at around 10:00 pm, one Ganesh Ram Dhruv working as Asst. Teacher informed that he is MA in Hindi and is teaching in Govt Primary School in Singhdehi. It was on the night of Dec 27, there was lot of noise and ruckus outside his house and he

found that people were scolding each other. He informed that near his house there is Fancy Store of Jagesh Nirmalkar and in the front lane, Pramod Patela and others are using foul language and scolding each other.

On this when I reached the site and urge the people not to scold and use foul language, the protesting people entered into verbal dialogue with me and my uncle Bhisam Dhruv and becoming physical caused injuries on the forehead, right shoulder and behind the head and in this Bhisam Dhruv also received some injuries.

Lalita, Urvasi, Sumita, Bhagat Nirmalkar, Laxmi



Women protesting against sale of illicit liquor.

Nirmalkar, Bhagmati, Kumari, Jagesh Nirmalkar, Lata Sahu, Ganesh, Bundhatin Dhruv informed that daily they witness such quarrelling and scolding in the lane and people come from Bazar Chowk scolding

each other and this causes lot of mental tension and disturbances in their sleep. They questioned that if all this goes on, how they are going to handle their children and what type of education are they being passed on. If at all this is

protested, then these people started scolding women and seeing all this the government should stop illicit sale of liquor in this region and this will help reduce crime as well.

Urvasi Dhruv informed that on the night of Dec 27, it was around 10:00 in the night she was cleaning the utensils in her house at the back and her husband, mother-in-law and children were asleep and door was locked. But the latch of the chain in the door was not locked and all of sudden Parmod Patela and other person of the village entered their house and started scolding, using foul language and threatened to kill them as well.

Urvasi said that she failed to understand as to whom she must call and since she was unaware of any incident related to it, she became fearful and went inside her room and locked it from inside. By this time, her husband Mahavir, mother-in-law Brijbai Dhruv was awake and was aware of entire incident.

A complaint in this regard has been lodged in Birejhar check-post and a case under section 294, 323, 506, 34 of IPC has been filed and taken into investigation. The women of the ward said that this illicit sale of liquor in the region should be stopped without any further delay.

Villagers perform rituals to establish village



Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 03: In the village Bhaishod still a unique ritual of establishing village continues after the crop is harvested. The farmers express gratitude towards almighty for a

good crop. The village priest Ramprasad Dhruv said, the rituals start from the morning and from every house a portion of the crop is dedicated to 'Thakur Dev' for the peace and tranquillity of the village.

Mitali Meshram awarded Ph.D

Dongargaon, Jan 03:



Mitali Meshram of region has been awarded Ph.D in Political Science subject by Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (RSU). The subject of her research was 'India-Russia relations & the Changing Scenario'. She carried out her research work under guidance of Dr Ajay Chandrakar of Durga College, Raipur. Mitali Meshram is D/o Principal Dongargaon College-Dr (Mrs.) BN Meshram and Jitendra Meshram (Advocate).

Students of SSM take out awareness rally



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 03: The 'Bhaiyya and Behans' (students) of local Sarswati Shishu Mandir (SSM), Dongargaon took out a rally to create awareness among general public

and parents about prevention of likely third wave of Corona and this rally was taken out under leadership of Principal in-Charge Jitendra Kumar Sharma.

Through this rally the students of SSM raised

slogan and made a small de-tours of entire city. During this students passed on the message about washing of hands daily, using sanitizer frequently as & when going out and avoid going to public places with lot of rush, using masks going out and others. On this occasion Principal in-Charge JK Sharma, YK Singh Thakur, Jitendra Vaishnav, Sohan Yadu, Kamlesh Sonkar, Sohandas Sahu, Shubham Sahu, Dipali Patel, Kajal Patel, Shobhana Patel, Parvati Sriwas, Preeti Sonkar, Sangeta Choure, Shanti Nirmalkar and Sunita Verma were present.

Three-day annual function held at GBTI



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 03: A three-day annual function of Government Basic Training Institute (GBTI) was held here on Saturday.

It was under guidance of the Principal GBTI Revaram Deshlahare that this three-day annual function was held from Dec 28-30. In this 28 different types of programmes were

held. This year in the annual function, all the students were full of enthusiasm and took part in each and every programme. The students of first and second year were divided

into six groups and were given separate titles and students from each of the six groups gave wonderful and eye-catching performance and made this annual function a grand success.

7 got seriously injured, two others suffered minor injuries

As Bolero vehicle with 13 passengers loses control in order to save a rider on Scooty



Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 03: A Bolero vehicle bearing No. CG 08 AE 9686 going from Gram Bundeli to Dongargaon lost balance and collided with a 'neem' tree by the roadside and the impact was so high that entire vehicle got badly damaged and in this 7 got seriously injured and two other received minor injuries and 2 other remained safe. Those seriously injured

were referred to Civil Hospital and four others with less injured after first-aid were discharged.

A total of around 13 persons from Yadav family from Gram Bundeli of Bemetara District went to see a house for marriage in their Bolero vehicle. On reaching Gram Pendrikala from Khairagarh, the vehicle all of sudden became out of control and hit a 'Neem' tree nearby. Actually the driver in order

to save a person coming from other side in his Scooty all of sudden turned the steering-wheel of the vehicle to one side and due to which it collided with a tree nearby. In this seven person viz. Narad, Sunkhdev, Ganga Sagar, Sanjay Yadav, Mohan Yadav, Dukhu Yadav, Arjun Yadav suffered serious injuries and after first-aid in the Civil Hospital were referred to District Hospital for treatment. The other two persons viz. Sonu and Tikeshwar Yadav received less injury and after treatment in Civil Hospital were discharged. Two others in the vehicle did not receive any injuries. After the incident the persons who witnessed the accident immediately informed about it to 108 and those injured were rushed to the hospital. A case under section 279, 337, 338 K of IPC has been filed by Khairagarh police and the matter has been taken into investigation.

BS Singh appointed President ABKM

Khairagarh, Jan 03: It was under guidance of Akhil Bharatiya Kshetriya Mahasabha (ABKM) National President Anil Singh that the state president ABKM Pradeep Singh Kachawah that Bhagwat Sharan Singh has been appointed as President of ABKM Khairagarh unit. It is seeing the works done by him in social field and in favour of public that this appointment has been made. He will look after expansion of ABKM in Khairagarh and its activities. The founder of this Mahasabha is Rajendra Singh and other members of Sangathan give valuable participation in any meetings.



Central Chronicle News

CHANGE OF NAME

It is informed to the general public that I, Nafis W/o Ata Husain have changed my old name Nafis W/o Ata Hussain to NAFEES HUSSAIN W/o Ata Husain, So in future I should be recognized by my new name Nafees Hussain W/o Ata Husain in all government and other documents.

Nafees Hussain W/o Ata Husain Raja Talab, Raipur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all people that Samta Sahkari Greh Nirman Sanstha Samiti Chiruhuldi, Raipur has Sold out the property a Open land bearing the part of Kh. No. 490, 491, 492, Plot No. 203, Area 2400 Sqft. Situated at Chiruhuldi P.H. No. 106 Raipur to Smt. Sarojini Tiwari W/o Shri Ramnihar Tiwari Raipur by registered Sale deed Dt. 10.12.1979.

After that above named owner has Sold out the property to Shri Anil Kumar Agrawal S/o Shri Laxmichand Agrawal R/o Samta Colony, Raipur by registered Sale deed Dt. 06.01.1990.

That the original Privouse sale deed date 10.12.1979 is lost somewhere. Whose report is contained in related police station Azad Chowk, Raipur Dt. 01.01.2022.

That Shri Anil Kumar Agrawal desire to mortgage the same property forgetting loan to my Client Bank of Baroda, Raipur.

Whose ever whether individual society, Association, Bank or housing board have any claim right authority are title over it, he should within 07 days of publication of this public notice approach and apprise this office under the following address of his claim and objections.

After expiry of 07 days no objection shall be entertained, such objection deemed invalid and void and shall be not tenable.

Please take notice Date - 03.01.2022 Yours truly, Vijay Rathore, Advocate Off. Cum Res. - Behind of Barat Gas Godam Laxmi Nagar, Pachpadi Naka, Raipur (C.G.) Mob. 9425202167

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat 362 266. Branch Office: 4th Floor, Skypark, Adjacent to G.E. Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur-492001. SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with 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 properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10.02.2022, for recovery of Rs. 18,38,726.07 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Six and Paise Seven Only) as on 07.05.2021 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and Guarantor(s) namely, (1) VSK Prabhakar (2) Padmavati Varnasi and (3) Prabhakar Enterprises. The reserve price will be Rs. 14,25,600.00/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Six Hundred Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be Rs. 1,42,560.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only). The last date of EMD deposit is 08.02.2022. DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that part and parcel of the property at Kh No 245/ 28245/ 29 Gokul Nagar Chandrashekhar Azad Ward No 52, Near Simran City Phase 05, Kalibadi S.O, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, INDIA - 492001. Part of Kh No 245/ 28, Area 495 Sq. Ft. Gokul Nagar Chandrashekhar Azad Ward No 52, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, INDIA - 492001. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net SD- Date: 04.01.2022 Authorised Officer Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited Place: Raipur

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat 362 266. Branch Office: 4th Floor, Skypark, Adjacent to G.E. Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur-492001. SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with 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 properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10.02.2022, for recovery of Rs. 18,32,603/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Six Hundred Three Only) as on 25.06.2020 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and Guarantor(s) namely, (1) Dhruva N Chatterjee and (2) Jhuma Chatterjee. The reserve price will be Rs. 14,88,888.00/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Eighty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be Rs. 1,48,888.00/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Eight Only). The last date of EMD deposit is 09.02.2022. DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: All that part and parcel of the property at Khata No. 804, KH. No. 255/7-8 (Part) P. H. No. 108 Nagar Mouja Khamtarai, Sector - 3, Veer Shivaji Ward No. 07, Shivanand, R.I.C. Raipur - 1, Tah. & Dist Raipur CG, Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net SD- Date: 04.01.2022 Authorised Officer Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited Place: Raipur

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LTD. Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat 362 266. Branch Office: 4th Floor, Skypark, Adjacent to G.E. Road, Ravi Nagar, Opp. Rani Sati Mandir, Raipur-492001. SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with 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 properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 07.02.2022, for recovery of Rs. 1,25,71,133.95 (Rupees One Crore Twenty-Five Lakh Seventy-One Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Three and Paise Ninety-Five Only) as on 11.05.2021 and further interest and other expenses thereon till the date of realization, due to Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor from the Borrowers and Guarantor(s) namely, (1) VIJAY KUMAR WADHWANI, (2) POOJA WADHWANI and (3) JMD TRADING. The Reserve Price in respect of sale of Property 1 shall be Rs. 52,57,096.00 /- (Rupees Fifty-Two Lakhs Fifty-Seven Thousand and Ninety-Six Only) and that of Property 2 shall be Rs. 44,97,080 /- (Rupees Forty-Four Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand and Eighty Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be Rs. 5,25,709/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Nine Only) for Property 1 and Rs. 4,49,708/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight Only) for Property 2. The last date of EMD deposit is 04.02.2022. DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY: ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY OF KH NO 276/ 14 (Part) PH NO 113/44 Rani Durgawati Ward No- 45 Mahavir Nagar, R. N. M. Mouza Purenra Tah & District - Raipur, Kalibadi S.O, RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH, INDIA - 492001 (Property 1) Plot No- 4 Kh No- 62/ 2 Ph. No- 113 Rani Durgawati Ward No- 45 Mahaveer Nagar Vill Purenra Raipur, Near Mahaveer Nagar Gurudwara, Kalibadi S.O, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India - 492001 (Property 2) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://homefinance.adityabirlacapital.com/properties-for-auction-under-sarfaesi-act or https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net SD- Date: 04.01.2022 Authorised Officer Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited Place: Raipur

RELIANCE Asset Reconstruction Reliance Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. Registered Office: Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited, 11th Floor, North Side, R-Tech Park, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400 063. DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 The below mentioned borrowers availed various credit facilities from Reliance Capital Limited. As borrowers have failed to maintain the financial discipline, the loan account has been classified as Non-performing assets (NPA) by Reliance Capital Limited on 20.05.2016 in accordance with the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India. Reliance Capital Limited vide Assignment Agreement dated 30.12.2016 assigned the financial assets of following borrowers along with all its right, title and interest together with all underlying security interests in favor of Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited trustee of RAFC 026 Trust. Pursuant to said assignment the undersigned authorized officer in exercise of powers conferred u/s 13(2) of the said Act r/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had sent the demand notices dated 15.12.2021 through registered post, thereby calling upon the borrowers to repay the entire outstanding mentioned in said notices with further interest thereon within a period of 60 days from the date of notice. However, as demand notices could not be served some of the parties mentioned below, the same is hereby served upon the borrowers by way of alternative mode of service. Details are as follows - Name & Add of Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgagees etc. 1. Mr. Deepak Kumar Khattar At: S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492001 Also At: E-34, IGPV, Opposite City Centre Mall, Pandri, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001 2. Mrs. Dimple Khattar At: S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492001 3. Smt. Asha Khattar At: S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492001 4. Smt. Vandana Ishrani At: Sector 4, Devendra Nagar, Behind Durga Temple, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492004 5. Smt. Sweta Chelwani At: 11, Kothi, Jari Parka, Nagpur, Maharashtra-440014 6. Smt. Nisha Jeevan At: S-6, Rajiv Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh- 492001 Outstanding Amount (In Rs.) : Rs. 1,94,74,076.24 (In Words Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Seventy Six and Paise Twenty Four Only) outstanding as on 30.11.2021 with future interest at the rate of 13.25% p.a. thereon till the date of realization, within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of this notice. Details of Secured Movable/Immovable Properties : Commercial Plot No.E-4, RDA, Devendra Nagar, Yojna No.32, Indra Gandhi Vyvasayik Parisar, Ph.No-109, Kh.No.117(2)(P)& 136/1(P) Pandritarai, Chhattisgarh-492001. Owned by Deepak Kumar Khattar, Boundaries : North by - Road, South by - Plot No. E.07, East by - Plot No. E.05, West by - Plot No. E.03. In case of failure to repay the aforesaid entire outstanding amount within a period of 60 days, the undersigned shall be constrained to enforce the above secured assets under the provisions of SARFAESI Act. Please note that as per Section 13 (13) of the said Act, you are restrained from dealing with or transferring any of the secured assets referred to herewith, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise. Any contravention of this provision is an offence and punishable under SARFAESI Act. Place: Raipur Sd/- Date: 04.01.2022 Authorised Officer

BRIEF

Probe ordered

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has ordered a magisterial probe into the collapse of the iron shuttering over an under-construction bridge resulting in injuries to 27 people in Samba district, officials said on Monday. The major bridge is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) over the Devika river at Ramgarh-Koulpur, the officials said.

Two held

New Delhi: Two people, including a 65-year-old disabled beggar, were arrested over the killing of a man on January 1 in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden area following an argument, police said. The victim's body, with stab wounds on the chest and near the collar bone, was found lying in a shanty on a pavement in the Subhash Nagar. Chandan was drunk and so was Santosh Pajiyar, the beggar who was sitting on the pavement.

Supplying drugs

Mumbai: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested two women drug traffickers from Siolim in Goa and seized various types of banned substances from them. The action was taken by the Mumbai and Goa zone of the NCB. The seizure included 1.030 kg marijuana and 49 tablets, 25 gm amphetamine, 2.2 gm cocaine, 1 gm MDMA powder and a vehicle.

Accused held

Mumbai: Two people with several house break-in thefts against their names have been arrested from Malad in northern Mumbai, police said. Haroon Sardar (35) and Raj Diwakar (24) were held after a tip off was received that they were in Malad area. They tried to resist arrest by using pepper spray on the police. Some of the people who were sitting them managed to flee.

Tree falls

Mangaluru: A 43-year-old man who was on his way in a car to Bengaluru from Pavanje near here died after a tree fell on him, police sources said. The deceased was Suresh Navada, an employee of a software company in Bengaluru, the sources said. He was travelling with his wife and two children. He had come to his mother's house at Pavanje on December 23. The family was on their way back to Bommanahalli in Bengaluru.

Gang nabbed

Medinagar: Three members of Bihar's notorious "Koda gang" and their two local associates including a woman were arrested from Panki police station limit of Palamu district, a senior police officer said. Police have recovered Rs 20,000, two stolen motorcycles, 37 small packets of Alkushi powder (Mucuna Pruriens), equipments to break open dicky of vehicles and five mobile phones from them, said SP Chandan Kumar Sinha.

'Centre should allow vaccination of children in 12-15 age group'

Aurangabad, Jan 03 (PTI):

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Monday said the state has congratulated the Centre for starting the COVID-19 vaccination of children in the 15-18 age group, but at the same time also requested it to allow those in the 12-15 age bracket to get inoculated.

Talking to reporters in Jalna after the commencement of the vaccination drive for the 15-18 age group, Tope said the central government should also rethink on the testing policy for those arriving from foreign countries.

"The Omicron variant has reached every country and there remains no issue now of high-risk and low-risk countries. The central government should guide over this issue as this policy is



Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope at vaccination for 15-18 age group people at Jalna on Monday.

framed by it," the minister said.

The minister also sought from the Centre a standard protocol for curbs to check the spread of COVID-19.

"We have congratulated the central government for starting the vaccination of 15-18 age group. But, at the same time we have placed some demands to tackle the virus spread. We have urged the

central government to also undertake the vaccination of children in the 12 to 15 age group," the minister said.

"We also need 40 lakh doses of Covishield and 50 lakh doses of Covaxin to give booster shots to those working in the essential and healthcare sectors and those (above 60 years of age) who have co-morbidities," he said.

Tope also said that mon-

oclonal antibodies, needed to treat some COVID-19 patients, are expensive. So, the central government should intervene and see the costs of these medicines are brought down and they are available in sufficient numbers.

"Another important antiviral drug, Molnupiravir, should also be made available in sufficient quantity as its demand will be high like Remdesivir. The central government has also told us that 13 companies are instructed to produce Molnupiravir," he said.

The testing kits used to differentiate between Omicron and Delta infections should also be made available at affordable prices, so that this testing is not costly, he said.

Tope also demanded a standard protocol for re-strictions to stem the spread of COVID-19.

Parliament's custodians hope public issues will get focus

● Rather than political agenda in 2022

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):



As Parliament is set to get a new building in 2022, the presiding officers of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are hopeful that MPs would not view the legislature merely as an extension of politics and the new structure would see India's parliamentary democracy shine in new grandeur.

The year 2021, which started on a low note with opposition parties boycotting the president's joint address to both houses of Parliament, ended with suspension of at least 13 MPs from the upper house for their unruly behaviour.

Repeal of farm laws and phone tapping using spyware Pegasus were the issues vociferously raised

by opposition leading to frequent adjournments of both houses last year.

The farm laws which remained the most contentious issue throughout the year had to be repealed in the winter session, not before hitting the productivity. The productivity of Lok Sabha was around 70 per cent and that of Rajya Sabha was 59 per cent in 2021. Logjam and disruptions marred all three sessions in the year, affecting the most the monsoon session, which touched new low as it witnessed ugly scenes of opposition members standing on the secretary general's table throw-

ing books and jostling between members and the security staff.

The spill over was witnessed during the entire winter session with 12 opposition MPs suspended for their unruly behaviour in the monsoon session. They sat on dharna in front of the Gandhi statue in Parliament premises.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien was then suspended from Parliament for the rest of the winter session after he allegedly threw the rule book at the Chair and walked out of Rajya Sabha during protests over an election reforms bill.

LIGHT MOMENT



MLA Sant Nagar Burari Sanjeev Jha shares a light moment with Deputy Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly Rakhi Birla at unveiling a mural at Delhi Assembly in New Delhi, Monday.

Pro-talks ULFA doubtful over Centre's 'sincerity' towards peace parleys

There are over 1,000 pro-talks ULFA cadres

Dibrugarh, Jan 03 (PTI):



The Digboi battalion of the army apprehended four youths trying to join ULFA from Pengeri area in Tinsukia district.

The pro-talks faction of ULFA has expressed doubts over the Centre's "sincerity" in taking forward the decade-long peace parleys with it, claiming that no dialogue has been held in the last two years and there was no government interlocutor at present to take the process forward.

The faction alleged that there has been "not much progress" in the peace talks with it since the Narendra Modi govern-

ment came to power, though the negotiations had reached the final stages during former prime minister Manmohan Singh's tenure. It also maintained that the hardliner ULFA(I) chief Paresh Barua is unlikely to come forward for

negotiations until the parleys with the pro-talks faction are completed.

The allegations come at a time when Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is trying to bring Barua to the negotiating table for a settlement with all factions of the group.

Talking to PTI, former self-styled general secretary of ULFA and pro-talks faction leader Anup Chetia said, "The last round of talks with the government was held in January 2020. The term of the government interlocutor had ended in March that year." "After that, there has been no contact with us. Still, we are waiting with hope that our issues will be addressed and resolved by the government," he said. Maintaining that the government is "more responsible" for taking forward the peace talks than the militant group, Chetia added, "There are reasons for us to doubt the sincerity of the government."

Karnataka likely to announce more COVID containment measures

Bengaluru, Jan 03 (PTI):

Faced with fresh COVID-19 threats, the Karnataka government is considering more containment measures to control the spread of the virus and the state cabinet is likely to decide in this regard, later this week after consulting experts.

The government has already imposed containment measures like "night curfew" from 10 PM to 5 AM, since December 28 till January 7, to control the spread.

"We are monitoring both COVID and Omicron situation, it is spreading at a very fast pace in the country, in the state and in neighbouring states, so we

need to have a discussion with experts. In this regard I will have a discussion with experts," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, the cabinet during its meeting on Thursday will discuss the situation in the state and the measures that need to be put in place, and decide on certain long term measures.

"Having the experience of managing the earlier two waves, we have already asked the experts to recommend containment measures, with limited impact on daily lives of the people," he further said, calling on the citizens to show self-control by following the COVID guidelines.

MP will take action against 'Bulli Bai' app on receiving complaint

Bhopal, Jan 03 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Monday condemned the 'Bulli Bai' app that has posted pictures of Muslim women for 'auction', and said action will be taken against developers of the application if a complaint is received against it in the state.

Politicians, netizens and women's rights groups demanded strict action against the makers of the app that has posted pictures of Muslim women, including many prominent personalities, for 'auction'.

The act of online auction of Muslim women on Bulli Bai app is condemnable. Women have



Screenshot of 'Bulli Bai' app.

always been revered in the Indian culture. The law banning 'triple talaq' was brought so that Muslim women are not harassed," Mishra told reporters.

"No such complaint (against the app) has been received in the state so far, if it comes, action will be taken, said the minister, who is also the state government's spokesperson.

Hundreds of Muslim women were listed for "auction" on the app with photographs sourced without permission and doctored. It has happened for the second time in less than a year. The app appeared to be a clone of Sulli Deals which triggered a similar row last year.

Union Information and Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government was working with police in Delhi and Mumbai in the matter.

AAP MLA seeks details of vigilance cases, matter sent to privileges panel

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Monday sent a matter pertaining to not answering a question related to action taken in corruption cases by vigilance department to the assembly's privileges committee.

The question pertaining to department-wise details of vigilance cases such as corruption and dereliction of duty was asked by AAP MLA Somnath Bharti on the first day of the two-day session of the Delhi Assembly. Bharti said the Delhi government's vigilance department denied to provide answer of the question, citing an old order of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) office that prohibits them from answering questions

on reserved subjects that include land, police and public order. Is BJP trying to save the corrupt officers through the office of Honble @LtGovDelhi? Otherwise why would answer of these questions to know details of corrupt/corruption be disallowed quoting a decision of Honble LG? After all this is @DelhiAssembly which fund vigilance department and LG office, he said in a tweet and also attached a copy of his question. Taking cognisance of the issue, Goel sent the matter to the Privileges Committee of the House. Goel had in August said that on March 29, 2018, the L-G wrote to then law secretary who in turn wrote to the Assembly that questions on any reserved subject would not be accepted.

Sidhu promises Rs 2,000 for women homemakers, 8 LPG cylinders

Chandigarh, Jan 03 (PTI):

Advancing the race to lure voters with promises of freebies ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday promised Rs 2,000 per month for women homemakers if his party is voted to power.

Sidhu also promised eight free cooking gas cylinders to homemakers every year.

The state Congress chief also promised two-wheelers to girls taking admission in colleges for further studies, Rs 20,000 to those passing 12th class, Rs 15,000 to the ones passing 10th standard and Rs 5,000 to the others passing fifth grade.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

Sidhu made these announcements in a rally organised in Punjab's Barnala district.

Addressing the rally, Sidhu made the promises while stressing the need for empowering women in the state.

Women homemakers will be given Rs 2,000 per month and eight (LPG) cylinders free by the Punjab government, he said. Announcing his second promise, Sidhu said girls, be it from villages or urban areas, after passing fifth class will be given Rs 5,000. As an incentive, girls who pass class 10th standard will be given Rs 15,000 and girls after passing 12th standard and wish to go to colleges for higher studies will be given Rs 20,000, he said.

Congress launches theme song for Uttarakhand polls

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Congress on Monday released its theme song for the Uttarakhand assembly elections which targets the BJP and highlights the "failures" of the "double engine" policy of the saffron party.

The BJP, which is power in Uttarakhand and at the Centre, has been claiming that its "double engine" model has been beneficial for the state's development.

With "Teen Tigada, Kaam Bigada" as the punch line, the Congress' theme song draws attention to the BJP changing its chief minister in the state three times. The party in the song also claims that the BJP will be defeated in the upcoming elections. The Congress' state unit presented a united face at the launch of the



Congress leader Harish Rawat with Uttarakhand Congress President Ganesh Godiyal (R) and others during the launch of a song for upcoming Uttarakhand polls, in New Delhi, Monday.

theme song, days after former chief minister and senior leader Harish Rawat targeted his own party publicly in the wake of factionalism and infighting in the unit. "People want a change in Uttarakhand and they are openly saying so," Rawat told reporters at the launch of the song. Asked

who will be the face of the Congress in the state, he said, "People will be the face and people are clearly asking for a change." Rawat said the theme song signals the importance of the 2022 elections and calls for a change. "We are seeking change not only for power but preservation of democracy to fight

for the concept of development which has been distorted. The Centre has acknowledged the failure of the 'double engine' government by changing chief ministers thrice," he said. Rawat, who is the campaign committee chief of the Congress in Uttarakhand, said one of the chief ministers, who was removed, was piloting the state budget as finance minister, and he was changed. "This is an insult to parliamentary conventions and people were not told why changes happened. In 2013, the change of chief ministers happened because of failure of handling of the Kedarnath tragedy," he said. "The double engine governance model failed in the state. Why the second chief minister was appointed remains a mystery.

BRIEF**Tested positive**

Washington: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin says he has tested positive for COVID-19 and is experiencing mild symptoms while quarantining at home. Austin said he plans to attend key meetings and discussions virtually in the coming week to the degree possible. I have informed my leadership team of my positive test result, as well as the President, Austin said. Austin, 68, said he was fully vaccinated and received booster.

Morrison upbeat

Sydney: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his country's health system can cope with the new wave of coronavirus infections as Victoria state reported a record number of new cases and hospitalizations surged in New South Wales. Morrison spoke in two television interviews before figures were released. Victoria reported 8,577 new cases, a record for the state which eclipsed the previous peak of 7,442 on New Year's Day.

Suez Canal

Cairo: Egypt's Suez Canal said its annual revenues reached USD6.3 billion last year, the highest in the crucial waterway's history. Admiral Ossama Rabei, head of the Suez Canal Authority, said last year's revenues rose 12.8 per cent, compared to 2020, when the canal achieved USD 5.6 billion. He said that 20,649 vessels flowed through the Suez Canal last year, an increase of 10 per cent compared to 18,830 vessels.

Theft surge

Richmond: In the tiny town of Lawrenceville, Virginia in US, a van owned by Poplar Mount Baptist Church was knocked out of commission for weeks after thieves cut the catalytic converter out of its exhaust system. Similar crimes followed, part of a nationwide surge in thefts of catalytic converters. Thefts of the exhaust emission control devices have jumped over the past two years as prices for the precious metals they contain have skyrocketed.

Seven killed

Kathmandu: A speeding bus carrying 22 passengers skidded off the road in Western Nepal, killing at least seven people and wounding 15, police said. The bus, carrying a dead body for the last rites, was heading towards Ridi when it met an accident at Ribdikot in Palpa district. All the 15 people, who sustained injuries, have been admitted to a local hospital for medical treatment, police said, adding that brake failure caused the accident.

Richard Leakey

Nairobi: Paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey, known for his fossil-finding and conservation work in his native Kenya, has died at 77, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced. The cause of death was not announced.

Third vaccine dose can boost effectiveness against Omicron to 88%

London, Jan 03 (PTI):

A third dose of COVID-19 vaccine can provide up to 88 per cent protection against hospitalisation from infection by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, according to early results from studies conducted in the UK.

The findings compiled in a report by the UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) show significantly higher protection provided by third vaccine dose against the highly mutated variant first identified in Botswana and South Africa in November, compared to two doses.

Eric Topol, professor of



Netherlands' outgoing Minister for Public Health, Welfare and Sport Hugo de Jonge (L) waits after he received a booster shot in Rotterdam.

molecular medicine, and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in the US noted that vaccine effectiveness drops to 52 per cent against Omicron around six

months after taking the second shot of a COVID-19 vaccine.

However, a booster dose substantially increases immunity and lowers the odds of being hospitalised with

COVID-19 infection.

"That's a big boost of protection for 3rd dose vaccine vs hospitalisation from Omicron infection. Vaccine effectiveness increased from 52 per cent (due to 2-dose waning after 6 months) to 88 per cent after the 3rd dose," Topol tweeted. "It's pretty impressive that vaccines directed to the ancestral strain spike from 2 years ago, with the virus that's evolved through more than 290 million confirmed cases, and now to the hyper-mutated Omicron, have preserved efficacy of near 90 per cent vs severe disease with a 3rd shot," he said in another tweet.

Hong Kong news site shuts as pro-Beijing lawmakers sworn in

Hong Kong, Jan 03 (AP):

Hong Kong welcomed a new batch of pro-Beijing lawmakers in its Legislative Council on Monday who were chosen in an election without opposition candidates, as the editors of one of the city's last remaining pro-democracy news outlets announced its closure.

They are the latest in a series of events in the past year in which the local government has been reshaping Hong Kong, with Beijing's backing, in an effort to stamp out dissent in a city once renowned for its freedoms of expression. The founders of news outlet Citizen News said Monday that although they have not been contacted by the Hong Kong national se-



Chris Yeung, right, founder and Daisy Li, chief editor of Citizen News, stand outside their office in Hong Kong, Monday.

curity police, the deteriorating media freedoms in the financial hub make it unclear whether their reporting violates the law. They said the news site will stop publishing on Tuesday. We all love this place,

deply. Regrettably, what was ahead of us is not just pouring rains or blowing winds, but hurricanes and tsunamis, Citizen News said in a statement, when it originally announced the closure.

Jerusalem Post hacked on Iran general's killing anniversary

Dubai, Jan 03 (AP):

Hackers targeted the website of an Israeli newspaper early Monday, replacing its content with an image that threatened a site associated with Israel's undeclared nuclear weapons program on the anniversary of the killing of a prominent Iranian general.

While no group immediately claimed responsibility, the image posted on the Jerusalem Post's website included a missile coming down from a fist bearing a ring long associated with Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian general killed by a US drone strike in Iraq two

years ago Monday.

The image included an exploding target from a recent Iranian military drill designed to look like the Shimom Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near the city of Dimona.

The facility is already home to decades-old underground laboratories that reprocess the reactor's spent rods to obtain weapons-grade plutonium for Israel's nuclear bomb program.

Under its policy of nuclear ambiguity, Israel neither confirms nor denies having atomic weapons. In a tweet, the Jerusalem Post acknowledged being the target of hackers.

Turkey's inflation hits nineteen year high of 36%



People buying vegetables at a market in Turkey.

Ankara, Jan 03 (AP):

Turkey's yearly inflation climbed by the fastest pace in 19 years, jumping to 36.08 per cent in December, official data showed on Monday.

The Turkish Statistical Institute said the consumer price index increased by 13.58 per cent in December from the previous month, further eroding peoples' purchasing power. The yearly increase in food prices was 43.8 per cent, the data showed.

The yearly inflation rate was the highest since September 2002. Inflation

has been rising in the country while the Turkish lira has been slumping to record lows after the country's central bank under pressure from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cut a key interest rate by 5 percentage points in September. The weakened lira has made imports, fuel and everyday items more expensive and has left many in the country of some 84 million struggling to buy food and other basic goods. Many have been purchasing foreign currencies and gold to protect their savings.

Brazil to probe cruise companies over Covid outbreaks



Cruise ship in Brazil.

Brasilia, Jan 03 (AFP):

Brazilian health authorities said they would investigate reports of cruise liners violating Covid-19 protocols, after outbreaks hit three ships plying the coast. "Failure to follow health

protocols and disobeying restrictive measures imposed by the authorities constitute infractions that, if confirmed, will result in fines and the suspension of (cruise companies') activities," the federal health regulator, Anvisa, said in a

Twitter bans US Senator's personal account for COVID claims

San Francisco, Jan 03 (AP):

Twitter said it had banned the personal account of far-right Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene for multiple violations of the platform's COVID-19 misinformation policy, the latest strike against the firebrand whose embrace of conspiracy theories has been called a cancer for the GOP and led the House to boot her from committees.

The Georgia Republican's account was permanently suspended under the strike system Twitter launched in March, which uses artificial intelligence to identify posts about the coronavirus that are misleading enough to cause harm to people.

Two or three strikes earn a 12-hour account lock. Four strikes prompt a weeklong suspension. Five or more strikes can get someone permanently removed from Twitter. In a statement on the



Marjorie Taylor Greene

messaging app Telegram, Greene blasted Twitter's move as un-American. She wrote that her account was suspended after tweeting statistics from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a government database that includes unverified raw data.

Twitter is an enemy to America and can't handle the truth, Greene said. That's fine, I'll show America we don't need them and it's time to defeat our enemies.

Twitter had previously suspended Greene's personal account for periods

WADING FLOODWATERS



People wade past an inundated lorry stuck in floodwaters in Lhoksukon, North Aceh on Monday.

Angst over China, Russia lessens chance of US nuke changes

US has not publicly discussed details of nuclear review

Washington, Jan 03 (AP):

Joe Biden's arrival in the White House nearly a year ago seemed to herald a historic shift toward less US reliance on nuclear weapons and possibly a shrinking of their numbers. Even an American no first use pledge a promise to never again be the first to use a nuclear weapon seemed possible.

Then China happened revelations about its expanding nuclear force and talk of potential war with Taiwan. And then Russia happened signs that it might be preparing to invade Ukraine. Now, major shifts in U.S. nuclear weapons policy seem much less likely, and while Biden



A US nuclear warhead for missile.

may insist on certain adjustments, momentum toward a historic departure from the Trump administration's policy appears to have stalled. The outlook will be clearer when the Biden administration completes its so-called nuclear posture review an internal relook at the numbers, kinds and purposes of weapons in the nuclear ar-

senal, as well as the policies that govern their potential use. The results could be made public as early as January. The biggest unknown is how forcefully Biden will weigh in on these questions, based on White House calculations of the political risk. During his years as vice president, Biden talked of new directions in nuclear policy.

But heightened concerns about China and Russia would seem to improve the political leverage of Republicans seeking to portray such change as a gift to nuclear adversaries. Russia became a more urgent focus of Biden's attention after President Vladimir Putin in recent weeks sent an estimated 100,000 troops to positions near Ukraine's border and demanded U.S. security guarantees. Biden and Putin discussed Ukraine by phone on Thursday, and senior American and Russian officials are scheduled to follow up with more detailed talks in Geneva on Jan 9-10. Tom Z Collina, policy director at Ploughshares Fund, an advocate for nuclear disarmament, says the China and Russia problems complicate the politics of Biden's nuclear review but should not stop him from acting to reduce nuclear dangers.

Omicron clouds forecasts for endgame

Washington, Jan 03 (AP):

Pandemics do eventually end, even if omicron is complicating the question of when this one will. But it won't be like flipping a light switch: The world will have to learn to coexist with a virus that's not going away.

The ultra-contagious omicron mutant is pushing cases to all-time highs and causing chaos as an exhausted world struggles, again, to stem the spread. But this time, we're not starting from scratch.

Vaccines offer strong protection from serious illness, even if they don't always prevent a mild infection.

Omicron doesn't appear to be as deadly as some earlier variants. And those who survive it will have some refreshed protection against other forms of the virus that still are circulating and maybe the next mutant to emerge, too.

The newest variant is a warning about what will continue to happen unless we really get serious about the endgame, said Dr Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health.

Certainly COVID will be with us forever, Ko added.

We're never going to be able to eradicate or eliminate COVID, so we have to identify our goals.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, NEW DELHI Adv. No.ICMR/DIR/NARI/2021-22/1-Pers. VACANCY CIRCULAR

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: 1st Feb, 2022

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare invites application(s) up to **1st Feb, 2022 till 5.30PM** for the post of **Director at ICMR- National AIDS Research Institute, Pune** in Level 14 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 1,44,200-2, 18,200) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible to ICMR employees.

For detailed advertisement, please visit ICMR website at www.icmr.nic.in or <https://recruit.icmr.org.in>

Assistant Director-General (Admn.)
davp 17152/11/0008/2122

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग क्रमांक - 2 विलासपुर (छ.ग.)

(शुलेलाल धर्मशाला के बगल में, चकरमादा केम्य जिला-विलासपुर)
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निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

क्रमांक - 01/NIT-20/2021-2022/SAC दिनांक 01.01.2022

निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय करने हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 06.01.2022 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक

टेकेंदार द्वारा प्रस्तुत निविदाएं प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 13.01.2022 अपराह्न 5.30 बजे तक

निविदा खोलने की तिथि :- 14.01.2022 अपराह्न 11.30 बजे तक

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नोट:- नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाईट www.cnic.in/pwdraipur में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है। इनका अवलोकन संबंधित संभागीय कार्यालय में किया जा सकता है।

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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Uniformity in true sense

The introduction of gender-neutral uniform at a government school in Kerala has triggered a row with a section opposing it. Government higher secondary school at Balussery in Kozhikode district in north Kerala introduced the gender-neutral uniform. Shirts and trousers have been made the uniform for both boys and girls in higher secondary classes. It is time that this practice is gradually adopted at schools across India. Gender-neutral uniform can be described as bringing uniformity in true sense. Inspired by the Valayanchirangara model, more than a dozen schools in Kerala have shifted to gender-neutral uniforms and the state's ruling Communist Party of India has pledged to support the movement being implemented across the state. Several women's rights groups have also come out in support of the unisex uniform initiative, saying it will help bridge the gender gap. Kerala has India's highest literacy rate, but there is still a higher literacy rate for men than women and gendered and patriarchal expectations continue to be placed on women in society. A few parents had requested an overcoat, which the PTA gladly agreed to. Similarly, students can choose between full-sleeve and half-sleeve shirts. Vidya Mukundan, who works as a costume designer for television shows and commercials, was the person behind designing the gender-neutral uniform for the children of Govt LPS Valayanchirangara in Perumbavoor in 2018. She designed three-fourth trousers as uniform which were similar to the boys' shorts. The school administration says the measure will help promote gender-neutral attitudes among the most important segments of society, children. The decision to provide uniform uniforms for all students in any school in India is unique and the first of its kind.

Kerala Minister of Education of the Left Front government, Vasudevan Sivankutty, praised the school's decision. He said the government would help promote such gender inclusion activities. Sivankutty said that textbooks emphasize ideas of gender justice, equality, and conscience, but these things should not be limited to textbooks only. Students will wear the same uniform of shorts and shirts. The Minister of State for Education said that there should be a debate in society about whether it is still necessary to establish separate schools for boys and girls. Having eliminated the need for bias at such a root level could ensure a wholesome upbringing for the kids, paving the way to see each other in equal light and without facing any sort of gender discrimination. This initiative is first of its kind since not many government schools practice such a code of conduct. But there is hope, that they may now consider following suit. These schools are breaking stereotype. Gender equality should be on the minds of students and parents. Girls face a lot of problems when wearing skirts. Problems occur when going to the bathroom and while playing. That is also a factor. This dress is derived from the concept of gender-neutral uniforms. The Kerala government had made another important decision earlier this month saying that it was not necessary for teachers to wear saris in schools. The state government said the dress was a personal matter and insisting on wearing a sari was not in keeping with Kerala's progressive attitude.

Changing canvas of conflict

Understanding the canvas of conflict has perpetually been the foremost and most complicated facet of the study of war. A century ago, the declaration of war was a formal exercise. Diplomats in frock coats would turn up at chancelleries to first serve ultimatums and subsequently to hand-deliver notices of war. These age-old courtesies were abridged by the time of World War II and terse telegrams replaced frock coats. The advent of the Cold War, nuclear weapons and proxy wars put an end to the custom of formal war declarations. In recent times, an incoming missile or fighter aircraft announces war. Not anymore. Information warfare is an ongoing affair with changing canvas of conflict. The threats in cyberspace are in the prime focus of the security strategy. The importance of cyber security was highlighted at the DGPs' conference in Lucknow, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was himself present at the entire session for two days. The threat of terrorism has resulted in two new developments - induction of the Army in counter-terror operations on our soil taking the challenge of civil-military cooperation to an entirely different plane, and opening of the ground for paramilitary forces of the Centre and Army to work together for the security of our borders. The Army trained in inflicting maximum casualties on the enemy attacking the country had to specially train itself for keeping collateral damages in counter-terror operations to its minimum, and presenting before the population the image of an empathetic force.

Intelligence-based operations help in this and that is why the role of our intelligence infrastructure for the maintenance of internal security has become extremely critical. Security is protection against covert actions of the unseen enemy and is therefore anchored entirely on timely information on the plan and location of the latter which is precisely what intelligence was. An entirely new extension of 'proxy war' aimed at 'winning the war by other means is the use of civil rights fora to run down a democratically elected government by building narratives for influencing the unsuspecting people against the ruling dispensation. Majoritarianism, authoritarianism and treatment of minorities are 'issues' that could be easily built on vague grounds for creating the impression that Constitutional mandate was not being followed by the ruling regime. Influencing the political outcome through non-governmental bodies linked to lobbies at home and abroad is a new age phenomenon, it uses 'human' channels that supplemented what was being attempted through 'technology' on the internet. The significance of the recent address of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at the 'passing out' function for new IPS officers at the National Police Academy in Hyderabad can be grasped in this context. He pointed out that civil society was the new frontier of war as it can be manipulated to hurt a nation's interests.

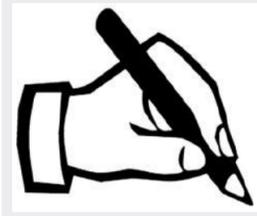
VISIT TO CONFECTIONERY FACTORY



Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin (R) and Misha Spiridonov (C) of the Oryol region visit the Krasny Oktyabr confectionery factory in Moscow, Russia.

People are lying more since rise of social media and smartphones

DAVID MARKOWITZ



Technology has given people more ways to connect, but has it also given them more opportunities to lie? You might text your friend a white lie to get out of going to dinner, exaggerate your height on a dating profile to appear more attractive or invent an excuse to your boss over email to save face. Social psychologists and communication scholars have long wondered not just who lies the most, but where people tend to lie the most, that is, in person or through some other communication medium. A seminal 2004 study was among the first to investigate the connection between deception rates and technology. Since then, the ways we communicate have shifted, fewer phone calls and more social media messaging, for example and I wanted to see how well earlier results held up. Back in 2004, communication researcher Jeff Hancock and his colleagues had 28 students report the number of social interactions they had via face-to-face communication, the phone, instant messaging and email over seven days. Students also reported the number of times they lied in each social interaction.

The results suggested people told the most lies per social interaction on the phone. The fewest were told via email. The findings aligned with a framework Hancock called the 'feature-based model.' According to this model, specific aspects of a technology whether people can communicate back and forth seam-

lessly, whether the messages are fleeting and whether communicators are distant predict where people tend to lie the most. In Hancock's study, the most lies per social interaction occurred via the technology with all of these features: the phone. The fewest occurred on email, where people couldn't communicate synchronously and the messages were recorded. When Hancock conducted his study, only students at a few select universities could create a Facebook account. The iPhone was in its early stages of development, a highly confidential project nicknamed 'Project Purple.' What would his results look like nearly 20 years later? In a new study, I recruited a larger group of participants and studied interactions from more forms of technology. A total of 250 people recorded their social interactions and number of interactions with a lie over seven days, across face-to-face communication, social media, the phone, texting, video chat and email. As in Hancock's study, people told the most lies per social interaction over media that were synchronous and recordless and when communicators were distant: over the phone or on video chat. They told the fewest lies per social interaction via email. Interestingly, though, the differences across the forms of communication were small. Differences among participants how much people varied in their lying tendencies were more predictive of deception rates than differences among media.

Despite changes in the way people communicate over the past two decades along with ways the COVID-19 pandemic changed how people socialize people seem to lie systematically and in alignment with the feature-based model. There are several possible explanations for these results, though more work is needed to understand exactly why different media lead to different lying rates. It's possible that certain media are better facilitators of deception than others. Some media, the phone, video chat might make deception feel easier or less costly to a

social relationship if caught. Deception rates might also differ across technology because people use some forms of technology for certain social relationships. For example, people might only email their professional colleagues, while video chat might be a better fit for more personal relationships. What is striking is the link between rates of poor self-esteem and unhappiness for people who agreed they 'tend to compare their life to others' lives online' or who admitted they followed lots of celebrities on social media. Using social media for dishonest activities such as being 'economical with the truth' and 'spying' on the activities of others is also linked to lower rates of self-esteem. While there is strong evidence that real face to face social contacts have significant benefits for a person's wellbeing, this is not the case for online social contacts, and many studies have found negative associations, leading to a tentative conclusion that online social connections are not a replacement for real life social contacts and at best enhance them. In addition, it has been long established that the higher the number of hours spent on screens the greater the chance of being overweight or obese which is one of the most serious health problems of our age. It may seem that with all the attention and concern with fake news and misinformation that there is no way that digital communities can be honest, but research shows that when we get people to review their personal communications, they find that their online messages are more honest than their face-to-face interactions or phone calls. How can this be? The problem is that there isn't one big online world. For each person, there are at least two online worlds.

But the ingenuity of using the Internet as a canvas for mischief and critique worked a little too well. Just a couple of decades later technology companies have created a media ecosystem that allows governments, political operatives, marketers and other interested parties to

routinely expose Internet users to dangerous misinformation and dupe them into amplifying it. There is mounting evidence of foreign operatives, partisan pundits, white supremacists, violent misogynists, grifters and scammers using impersonation on social media as a way to make money, gain status and direct media attention. How did we end up in a situation where lies travel farther and faster than the truth? The answer involves the promise of networked communication technology, the new data economy and the spiralling deluge of profitable strategic misinformation. Probably the most surprising thing is how much more psychology predicts deception with technology than anything to do with the technology. It's easy to forget, but (most) people lie for a reason, and simply because a person is using a phone or a computer or a tablet to communicate doesn't make them more or less likely to lie. Instead, it's all about goals and motivations. To me, there are two key take-aways. First, there are, overall, small differences in lying rates across media. An individual's tendency to lie matters more than whether someone is emailing or talking on the phone. Second, there's a low rate of lying across the board. Most people are honest, a premise consistent with truth-default theory, which suggests most people report being honest most of the time and there are only a few prolific liars in a population. Since 2004, social media have become a primary place for interacting with other people. Yet a common misperception persists that communicating online or via technology, as opposed to in person, leads to social interactions that are lower in quantity and quality. People often believe that just because we use technology to interact, honesty is harder to come by and users aren't well served. Not only is this perception misguided, but it is also unsupported by empirical evidence. The belief that lying is rampant in the digital age just doesn't match the data.

(David Markowitz is Assistant Professor of Social Media Data Analytics, University of Oregon, US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Weird scenario

Year 2022 begins with grim news of twelve pilgrims' death and over a dozen injured in a stampede at Jammu and Kashmir's Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. The stampede was triggered by 'a group of 15-20 pilgrims suddenly created a circle pushing other people saying that their phones have been lost', amid a massive rush of devotees on New Year. People are shocked that in the days of social distancing, people die of stampede, that's too 25000 in one time. Is this not a weird scenario? Actually, this is the result of too many religious rituals following Narendra Modi who goes through such trivialities every now and then. Not only this, as per Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "personally monitoring and keeping track of the tragic situation." Even, I thus fail to understand the rationale for such large ex gratia payments to the families of the dead and the injured - that too separate ones from the PM National Relief Fund, of Rs 2 lakh each from would be given to the families of those who lost their lives but also the injured would be given Rs 50,000 and from the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha also announced an amount of Rs 10 lakhs to each deceased family and Rs 2 lakh each for the injured, beside Rs 25,000 by the temple trustee. Naturally to see the PM and the LG showing empathy towards the pilgrims. But one thing unable to digest is why does the government dole out cash to the affected families after such an incident? Because Uttar Pradesh and five other states election knocking at the door, and to woo Hindu voters for Hindu nationalist party? People want to know if the Modi government will show the same spirit for other communities too and PM Modi personally monitoring the situation then? Remember, the devotees had gone of their own free will, and the stampede was preceded by a smaller incident, not of any official failure. But when the situation aggravated, a few policemen resorted to a mild lathicharge to control the movement to make it worse. If so then did the regulatory authorities too should be blamed for this tragedy for they have dismally failed in crowd management. We are also being told by those at the helm that crowding should be avoided in a Covid-19, and that too in the face of the latest threat of Omicron variant, but it is apparent that politicians and the so-called pious are immune from it.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Approach UN

An alarming report of The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published some years back dubbed beef as climate-harming meat. It is noteworthy that India consumes just average 12 gms meat per person per day which is just about ten-percent of global average of 115 gms per person per day with USA leading with 322 gms per person per day. India already has a total ban on cow-slaughter in most parts of the country also to respect religious sentiments of majority community. Firstly a total ban on cow-slaughter should be imposed throughout the country because even in states with partial or nil ban on cow-slaughter, there is a vast majority which worships cow as holy animal. Even secular-declared Nepal has made cow as its national animal also to prevent cow slaughter. But in accordance with UNEP report, India has a solid ground to ban cow-slaughter even on environmental and scientific grounds. India should rather approach United Nations Organisation (UNO) to impose a ban on beef to save mankind from dangerous effects of global warming and water consumption where production of beef consumes heavy amount of water.

Subhash Chandra Agarwal, Delhi



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Swara Bhasker@ReallySwara
At that point where we've to remind ourselves that it's not okay to SELL MUSLIM WOMEN ONLINE! Remind ourselves that it's not kosher to rally & call for genocide! That it's not okay to disrupt people's prayers. This is happening in our name, in the name of our Gods. It's on us!

Radhika Gupta@iRadhikaGupta
A long way to go on how successful women in corporate India are depicted in films and OTT content. Most stories re-iterate the stereotype of making compromises, being ruthless and having dysfunctional lives at home. This needs to change: ambitious doesn't mean abnormal!



Dipshikha@DipshikhaGhosh
Delta hasn't left and Omicron is here. Next few weeks are crucial. Stay in your homes as much as you can. Please don't go out unless absolutely necessary. Don't invite people over unless you're sure they weren't exposed recently. Consider everybody a suspect unless negative.

Raghava Krishna@Anviksiki
Finally, managed to see Akhanda. Cinematically it shows the power of a mass hero in a culturally relatable theme. Meme makers acting cute about stunts etc won't know this ever. But this isn't just another movie. It is a potential turning point in spreading civilizational.



JSai Deepak@jsaideepak
At Mahaperiyava Manimandapam, Orikkai, Kanchipuram.



Vaishali Mathur@mathur_vaishali
Our neighbours get fresh flowers for their pooja/prayers in the morning. Every morning they arrive in a plastic bag. Sometimes they forget to pick them up as the flowers rot in the sun. I can't imagine why they can't be delivered tied in leaves or paper.

Amrullah Saleh@AmrullahSaleh2
Few expendable Talibs are filmed removing bits of the Pak installed fence somewhere along Durand line. It is an attempt by the ISI to give a sense of national identity to Talibs. With the ISI performing the functions of the dead Mullah Haibatullah such fence isn't needed for now.

BRIEF

New models



New Delhi: Ducati on Monday said it will introduce 11 new motorcycles in the Indian market this year. MD Bipul Chandra said new launches would include all new models like the Scrambler 800 Urban Motard, Streetfighter V2, V4 versions and the X model.

To invest

New Delhi: Electric two-wheeler maker One Moto India on Monday said it plans to invest Rs 250 crore to set up a manufacturing unit in Telangana. The company has signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government to set up the new facility at the outskirts of the capital Hyderabad.

Experience centre



Mumbai: Ampere on Monday inaugurated its first and one-of-a-kind experience centre at Ranipet, Tamil Nadu. MD Nagesh A Basavanahalli said he is also committed to elevate overall customer experience with best-in-class products and other ecosystem support.

Disburses loans

Mumbai: Bike Bazaar Finance disbursed Rs 100-crore worth of loans for the Hero MotoCorp range of motorcycles and scooters in November last year. Hero MotoCorp has an alliance with Bike Bazaar Finance, an arm of Bike Bazaar, to facilitate fast and flexible loans primarily in the rural areas focused on customers who don't have access to organised retail finance.

Digital solution

New Delhi: EasyGov, a start-up in the GovTech space, on Monday announced enhancements to its digital solution for social protection programmes. EasyGov is working towards transformation in the design and delivery of social protection programmes globally. Currently, social protection programmes globally suffer from the error of inclusion or exclusion despite policy planners working hard to refine the design and implementation with-in governance.

Solar project

New Delhi: Azure Power on Monday said it has commissioned a 600 MW solar power project in Bikaner. According to a statement, the power generated from the project, located in Rajasthan, will be supplied to SECI at a tariff of Rs 2.53 per kWh for 25 years.

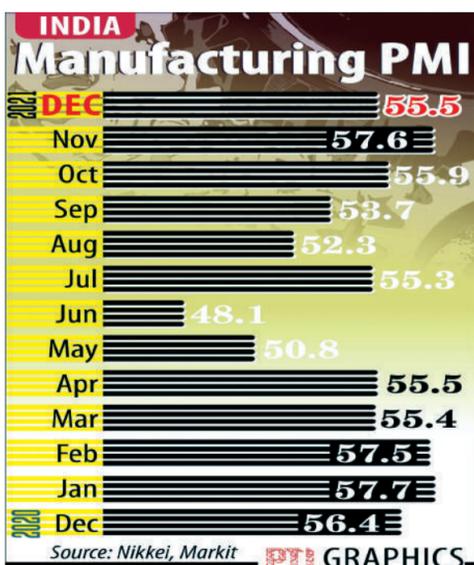
India's manufacturing during Dec sees substantial but slower rise

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

India's manufacturing sector activities moderated in December but output remained in the growth territory, amid slower rise in sales and new orders, even as business sentiment was dampened by concerns surrounding supply-chain disruptions, COVID-19 and inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 55.5 in December, from November's ten-month high of 57.6.

The December data pointed to a "substantial, albeit slower, rises in sales and output", the survey said, adding that the latest quarterly reading was at 56.3, its highest since the final quarter of fiscal year 2020/21. The December PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall oper-



ating conditions for the sixth straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The last PMI results of 2021 for the Indian manufacturing sector were encouraging, with the economic recovery continuing as firms were success-

ful in securing new work from domestic and international sources," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at IHS Markit, said. Lima, however, noted that "manufacturers were optimistic that output would continue to increase in 2022, but business sentiment was somewhat tamed by worries surrounding the path of the pandemic, inflationary pressures and lingering supply chain disruptions."

The survey noted that the upturn in new orders during December was sharp, despite being the slowest since September. Similarly, production rose at a sharp pace that was nevertheless the weakest in three months.

Spending trends were mixed, with employment falling fractionally in response to a lack of pressure on capacity, but firms purchasing additional inputs amid restocking efforts.

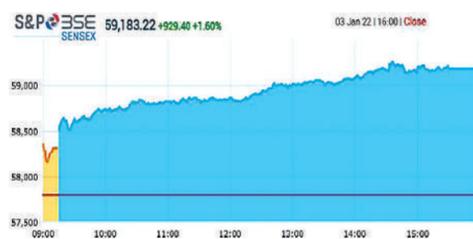
Mumbai, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Indian equity market kicked off 2022 on a bullish note on Monday, with the benchmark BSE Sensex surging over 900 points to reclaim the 59,000-level.

Starting off the session confidently, the BSE gauge further strengthened its gains as the trade progressed and went to hit the day's high of 59,266.39. It finally ended 929.40 points or 1.60 per cent higher at 59,183.22.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty soared 271.65 points or 1.57 per cent to settle at 17,625.70. Among the prominent gainers on the Sensex chart were Bajaj Finance, Bajaj FinServ, ICICI Bank, Axis bank, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank and HDFC Bank — rising as much as 3.50 per cent.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, M&M, Tech Mahindra and Nestle ended in the red. The Indian equity mar-



ket ended the year 2021 on a high note on Friday. On the last trading day of 2021, the Sensex closed 459.50 points or 0.80 per cent higher at 58,253.82 and the Nifty ended 150.10 points or 0.87 per cent up at 17,354.05.

On yearly basis, the Sensex gained 21.99 per cent or 10,502.49 points, and the Nifty rose 24.11 per cent or 3,372.3 points during 2021.

Asian stock markets were mixed on the first trading day of 2022 on Monday.

Hong Kong shares retreated while South Korea stocks gained. Markets in

Japan and China were closed.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 1.49 per cent to USD 78.94 per barrel.

On Friday, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital market, as they purchased shares worth Rs 575.39 crore, according to stock exchange data.

In Asian trading, Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.5% to 23,274.75 and the Kospi in South Korea rose 0.4% to 2,988.77. Singapore, Jakarta and Malaysia advanced. Markets in New Zealand and Thailand were closed.

NMDC's best ever Dec month and 9 months physical performance

Hyderabad, Jan 03:

NMDC on a steady growth trajectory, produced 3.95 MT and sold 3.40 MT of iron ore in the month of December, 2021. The largest iron ore producer of India registered marginal growth in production over CPLY and delivered the highest ever production in any December month since inception. Cumulative production and sales figures for the first nine months of FY22, up to December 2021, stood at 28.32 MT and 28.36 MT respectively, recording the best ever 9 months physical performance of NMDC. The company achieved a growth of 30% in production and 27% in sales over the same period last year. Congratulating



the NMDC team for yet this impressive performance, CMD NMDC Sumit Deb said, "I'd like to congratulate the team for continuing to deliver solid results at the start of an exciting year. In 2022 with the completion of several of our projects you will see NMDC transition into a very different company with stronger fundamentals and exciting, cutting edge mining technologies."

Sebi notifies, allows bourses to set up gold exchange in India

It has right to undertake inspection of books of accounts

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Markets regulator Sebi has notified rules for vault managers that allow bourses to set up a gold exchange in the country. This comes after the board of Sebi cleared a proposal in September for setting up a gold exchange, wherein the yellow metal will be traded in the form of electronic gold receipts and the bourse will help in having a transparent domestic spot price discovery mechanism. The instruments representing gold will be called elec-



tronic gold receipts (EGRs) and will be notified as securities. These EGRs will have trading, clearing and settlement features akin to any other securities. The gold exchange, encompassing the entire ecosystem of trading of EGR and physical delivery of gold, is expected to create a vibrant gold ecosystem in India.

In a notification dated December 31, the regulator said the vault manager will be registered and regulated as a Sebi intermedi-

ary for providing vaulting services meant for gold deposited to create EGRs.

The obligations of the vault manager include accepting deposits, storage and safekeeping of gold, creation as well as withdrawal of EGR, grievance redressal and periodic reconciliation of physical gold with the records of depository.

Any person intending to carry on the business as a vault manager can make an application to Sebi for grant of a certificate of registration.

Spelling out eligibility criteria, Sebi said the applicant shall be a body corporate incorporated in India and shall have the minimum net worth of Rs 50 crore.

Rupee settles 3 paise up at 74.26 against USD, gold declines by Rs 84

Mumbai, Jan 03 (PTI):

The rupee pared its initial losses and closed on a positive note in the first trading session of 2022 on Monday, tracking positive domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.35 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.25 and a low of 74.47.

The domestic unit finally settled at 74.26 (provisional) against the US dollar, registering a gain of 3 paise over its previous close. The local unit had settled at 74.29 on the last trading day of 2021. "Rupee started the year on a steady note, supported by

stronger regional currencies and domestic equities..." said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Parmar further noted that "dollar selling has been seen from local banks on behalf of exporters and expectation of better inflows from primary markets could continue this quarter as well."

Market is pricing for around Rs 44,000 crore from IPO this quarter."

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 929.40 points or 1.60 per cent higher at 59,183.22, while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 271.65 points or 1.57 per cent to 17,625.70.

India seeks emergency meeting of WTO to discuss COVID package

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

India has sought an emergency meeting of the General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) this month in Geneva to deliberate upon the world trade body's proposed response package, including patent waiver proposal, to deal with the pandemic amid rising coronavirus infections globally, an official said.

The General Council is WTO's highest decision-making body in Geneva. It meets regularly to carry out the functions of WTO. It has representatives (usually ambassadors or equivalent) from all member governments and has



the authority to act on behalf of the ministerial conference which only meets about every two years. WTO is a 164-member multilateral body which formulate rules for global exports and imports and adjudicates disputes between two or more than

two countries on trade-related issues.

Expressing disappointment over no progress on TRIPs (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver proposal to deal with the pandemic, India has called for including this proposal

into WTO's proposed response package.

In October 2020, India and South Africa submitted the first proposal, suggesting a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPs agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.

In May 2021, a revised proposal was submitted. TRIPs came into effect in January 1995. It is a multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP) rights such as copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.

Lockdown of retail biz should be last resort in case of extreme strain

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): Retailers Association of India (RAI) on Monday said partial or total lockdown of retail businesses should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure, amid a surge of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Asserting that ensuring economic health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives, the retailers' body also said emphasis should be given on strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour: "Partial or total lockdown of retail businesses should only be considered as a last resort in case of extreme strain on healthcare infrastructure as ensuring economic



health and continuity of employment is as important as saving lives," RAI said in a statement.

Instead, it added, "emphasis should be given on strict adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour such as masking, social distancing and sanitisation by citizens and businesses alike."

Highlighting the steps taken by the Brihanmumbai Municipal

Corporation (BMC) which has adopted a new model of reporting by mentioning number of asymptomatic patients, hospitalizations, oxygenated beds occupied and number of discharged patients on a daily basis, RAI said this is an accurate measure of the situation as it gives a realistic picture and avoids panic among citizens.

"We hope all states adopt this model and make decisions about restricting economic activity (based on) hospitalizations rather than the positivity rate," RAI said.

According to the Union health ministry's data updated on Monday, India recorded 33,750 fresh cases of COVID-19.

Institutional investments in real estate down 17%



New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): Institutional investment in real estate fell 17 per cent year-on-year in 2021 to USD 4 billion because of lower inflows in office segment, according to property consultant Colliers India. Institutional investments declined to USD 4,033 million in 2021 from USD 4,833 million in the previous year. Colliers India attributed the fall in investments to conclusion of some large transactions

in 2020. As per the data, the institutional investments in office assets fell to USD 1,248 million last year from USD 2,199 million in 2020 calendar year. Similarly, the inflows in mixed-use development projects dipped to USD 182 million from USD 1,616 million. Retail assets also saw a marginal fall in investments to USD 77 million from USD 79 million.

In contrast, industrial and logistics segment re-

ceived USD 1,130 million institutional investments in 2021, a sharp jump from USD 195 million in the previous year. The industrial and logistics investments has been highest in 5 years. Institutional investments in housing sector rose to USD 919 million from USD 386 million, while inflows in alternative assets (student housing, co-living, life sciences, data centers) grew to USD 453 million from USD 359 million.

Colliers highlighted that the industrial and logistics segment has been drawing strong operator and investor interest due to increased demand from e-commerce and 3PL (Third Party Logistics) players post pandemic.

India's Oct-Dec sugar output up 4.75% at 115.70 lakh tonne

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The country's sugar production is estimated to have risen by 4.75 per cent to 115.70 lakh tonne during the October-December period of the 2021-22 season, sugar cooperatives body NFCSFL said on Monday.

Sugar output stood at 110.45 lakh tonne in the same period of 2020-21 season. Sugar season runs from October to September.

About 491 mills had crushed 1227.17 lakh tonne of sugarcane as on December 31, 2021, higher than the year-ago period, as per the latest data released by the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSFL).

According to NFCSFL, production in Uttar Pradesh, the country's



leading sugar producing state, remained lower at 30.90 lakh tonne during October-December of the 2021-22 season, as against 33.65 lakh tonne in the year-ago period.

However, production in Maharashtra, the country's second largest sugar producing state, rose to 45.75 lakh tonne from 39.85 lakh tonne, while in Karnataka production increased to 24.90 lakh tonne from 24.15 lakh tonne in

the said period.

Sugar production in Gujarat remained slightly higher at 3.40 lakh tonne during October-December of this year, as against 3.35 lakh tonne in the year-ago period.

There was marginal increase in production in states of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttarakhand, the NFCSFL data showed. The total sugar produc-

tion in 2021-22 season is pegged at 315 lakh tonne, as against 311.05 lakh tonne during the 2020-21 season, it added.

Meanwhile, Indian sugar mills are still waiting for global sugar prices to rise to enter into further export deals, industry body ISMA said on Monday.

Owing to fall in global prices of raw sugar, not many export contracts happened in the last one month or so, beyond the 38-40 lakh tonne of export contracts which have already been signed, it said in a statement.

"Since almost nine months are left for the current season, mills are still waiting for the opportune time to enter into further export contracts," Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) added.

Shashaa Tirupati on her experience of singing 'Rait Zara Si'

Popularly known as 'The Humma Girl', Shashaa Tirupati recently sang a song in the film 'Atrangi Re' starring Akshay Kumar, Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush. The song is called 'Rait Zara Si' and this is her third duet with Arijit Singh. Award-winning singer Shashaa had previously sung 'Phir Bhi Tumko Chahunga' from 'Half Girlfriend' and 'Khul Ke Jeene ka' from 'Dil Bechara'. This will also be her first

ever song for Sara Ali Khan. Speaking about the song 'Rait Zara Si', she says: "It is my third duet with Arijit Singh. This is a love song and this is the first song that I have sung for Sara Ali Khan. I have sung both the Tamil and the Hindi versions of the track.

I feel Arijit and my voice kind of sync beautifully together, I really like how we sang it together. It is also gorgeously composed by

A.R. Rahman sir and written by Irshaad ji. The thing is that when you are recording any song for Rahman sir he kind of casts you in that song in his mind and then he calls you for it." "When I was singing this song there was an instant connection even when I was rendering it for the very first time. I recorded the first version in Canada during the lockdown and I think it was love at first sound for me. I was praying

that the song would release in my voice. I am utterly grateful to Rahman sir and Aanand L. Rai sir apparently who both took the collective call to cast me in the track. The song has so much love, so much vulnerability and so much naiveness to my lines in the song and I think it represents me in so many ways," adds the singer.

This is her third song with Arijit and she calls it an overwhelming experience to be

cast on a song with one of her favourite singers of all time. She shares: "Arijit is someone from whom I think I have tried to learn as much as I can, as a learning artiste everyday, based upon how he has this unbelievable knack for interpreting melodies, and that is something that I continue to imbibe in my singing by trying to learn from what he does in his songs. To be featured with him on a track

like this is unreal to actually be in that place again. I would love to do a single with Arijit, I would like to write a song for Arijit actually. I am his next level fan and student."

Her recent releases also include 'Hututi' from 'Mimi' and 'Chhoddo Mori Baiyyaan' from 'Navarasa'. Shashaa is also all set to release her debut English EP titled 'I'm Sorry Heart'.

'In search of roles that leave a lasting impression'

Actor Lara Dutta says she is at a stage in her career where she is in search of characters that promise to leave a lasting impression rather than chase prime roles.

Dutta has been working in the industry since her big-screen debut in 2003 with "Andaaz" and has featured in several successful films in the last two decades.

In an interview with PTI, the actor said what gets her to board a project today is the script, the people involved in mounting it and the scope it has for her to try something new.

That is why, she said, even a film like "BellBottom" which was headlined by Akshay Kumar, got her excited as she got to play the role of former Prime Minister Indra Gandhi.

"It is the content that is being made, what the character is doing is what excites me. I have gone long past the phase where I want to play the lead or the prime character, because at the end of the day, I genuinely feel you will be limiting yourself greatly if you are going to come with that mindset.

"There are some incredible characters that leave an indelible mark on your mind, long after a show or a film is over. Playing Mrs Gandhi in 'BellBottom' is a fine example, where the film was led by a top hero. But I knew if I had the opportunity to play her, I would do it in a way she would never be forgotten on screen," Dutta said.

The 43-year-old actor said she isn't just keen to experiment with her characters but also switch genres in the digital space, since her OTT debut in 2020.

While her debut series "Hundred" featured her as a cop, her 2021 follow-up with "Hiccups and Hookups" saw in the role of a single mother navigating the world of dating.

She is now gearing up for the release of her third OTT outing, "Kaun Banegi Shikharwati", which stars Naseruddin Shah as an eccentric king in search for his heir apparent - one among his four daughters, played by Dutta, Soha Ali Khan, Kritika Kamra and Anya Singh.

Directed by Gaurav Chawla of "Baazaar" fame and Ananya



Banerjee, the series follows the daughters, as they compete in a series of royal games, the winner of which will be chosen as king.

Dutta, who plays the eldest daughter Devyani in the ZEE5 series, said since her character already considers herself as the heir apparent, she finds fighting for the throne "completely bizarre".

"So their coming together to play these games with each other, leads to a lot of comedy, fun and quirkiness. I loved the opportunity to step into a world like that. Have this crazy family led by an eccentric king," she added.

For the former Miss Universe, who was born in Uttar Pradesh and later lived in Bengaluru and Mumbai, understanding the world of royalty was not a task. She said she has seen that life through her friends, who are members of royal families.

"They live in fancy areas of Mumbai and Delhi, lead a cosmopolitan life but the moment they go back to their kingdom and principalities, they have to wear these saris with ghungahats (veils). They live in a different world for that amount of time that they spend there. These royal families do exist, who are caught in a time warp. They exist in their own little world which is separated from reality," she added.

But the series, backed by Applause Entertainment in association with Emmay Entertainment, follows the lives of a fictional royal family through humour, she said.

"The show sounded quirky, fun, and different from anything that was on the OTT space already. We have seen a lot of dysfunctional families on screen before but this is

set in a dystopian setting... Almost in a Wes Anderson type of a world."

The series also gave the actor an opportunity to star alongside acting greats like Shah and Raghuraj Yadav, Dutta said.

The idea to share screen space with the veterans was initially "scary as hell", she added.

"I have a line on the show, where I look at Raghuraj ji and Naseer saab and say, 'Kya tum dono buddhe paagal ho gaye ho?' (Have both of you old men lost your mind). I was like, I just can't say this to them, I said 'Can we please rewrite it?' But both of them were like, 'Just have fun with it.'"

"There is a tremendous amount of nervousness and anxiety when you are facing an actor like that. Naseer saab is lightyears ahead of us in terms of his craft. But what an incredible opportunity to watch, learn, observe and imbibe. One of the biggest reasons for me to do the show was that he was in it," she added.

"Kaun Banegi Shikharwati" will premiere on January 7.

'It's very difficult to be completely present'

In the year 2018, Gayatri Bhardwaj represented Delhi in the Miss India contest and even without any prior modelling experience, she ended the night as one of the finalists, accomplishing the right to be the Indian delegate at the Miss United Continents pageant, where she made the country proud by securing a place in the Top 10.

Since then, Gayatri has been a regular on the ramp and recently she made an impressive screen debut with the web show Dhindora opposite comedian-actor Bhuvan Bam. Speaking about her journey, Gayatri shares, "Even though I had never modelled before Miss India, I have been doing it ever since. Throughout that process I realised that moving camera was more my speed and I was a natural in front of the camera.

That really made me transition into acting," she shares, pointing out that she didn't straightaway jumped into auditioning but prepared herself first. "When I put in the work, I feel confident. So, I did take a lot of workshops and prepared a lot, and when you do that, it makes you confident about auditions and then you are able to crack them." However, Gayatri just didn't just see the happening part of the industry and made this decision. "I knew how hard it was going to be. It's very difficult to be completely present and give your 100 percent each time. But I am hopeful that I learn these skills and I know with time, patience and consistency I will. I have so much to learn from my peers and from people I look up to. I just want to absorb everything from them like a sponge and that is what my superpower is," she chuckles. The actress impressed the audience and the industry with her portrayal of a doctor in the comedy series Dhindora, and now she has some more interesting offers in the line up that will explore more facets of her craft. Gayatri is steadily climbing the ladder of success and will soon be a force to be reckoned with in the industry.



Allu Arjun to make Bollywood debut

Actor Allu Arjun says he has received an offer to star in a Hindi film but his fans up north will have to wait.

The 39-year-old actor, whose latest Telugu film Pushpa: The Rise has grossed Rs 300 crore worldwide since its release on December 17, said he is open to the idea of working in a true-blue Bollywood movie provided the project is exciting.

I have got an offer but nothing concrete or exciting. Hopefully soon (it will happen). It does take courage, you have to risk it (to work in another industry), Arjun told PTI. Son of noted producer Allu Aravind, the actor is known for films like "Bunny", "Arya", "Desamuduru", "Parugu", and "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo", among others. After spending about two decades in Telugu



film industry, Arjun said he is not interested in playing second fiddle to another actor when he takes up a Hindi script. When we are the protagonist of the films that we do, anybody who comes to us will only come with the offer

to play a protagonist, I would not be interested in anything (else). And it is very well understood. Even the other person will not come and it doesn't make sense to ask such a big star to play a second role as it damages the film, they also know it. You have to work as a protagonist, as a main lead, he added.

The actor is happy with the glorious run of Pushpa: The Rise, which has collected Rs 56.69 crore from its Hindi-dubbed version.

Directed by Sukumar of Arya fame, the action drama was also released in Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada languages.

Meanwhile, Arjun's 2020 action-drama "Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo" is being remade in Hindi as "Shehzada" with Kartik Aaryan in the lead.

'Shamita Shetty is very close to 'Big Boss 15' trophy'

TV and film actress Akanksha Puri is quite excited to enter 'Big Boss 15' house as a challenger. She says: "I think this was a very nice and a very different experience. Because you know, when you enter as a challenger, you feel very powerful, you have a lot of powers in your hand, I feel. So, it was really interesting. It was really fun to make the contestants do things. "But I'm sure we are not going to get very good feedback once they are out. Because we made them do things that we shouldn't have. I think this was much required at this point. I'm very happy with this, because this is how finally they've come out of their shell, they are giving their 100 per cent and we were amazed to see this."

Akanksha is best known for her role of Goddess Parvati in 'Vignaharta Ganesha'. She was also seen on 'Big Boss 13' as a guest where she went to support Paras Chhabra. This time the actress says that she has been supporting Shamita Shetty throughout the season. The 'Calendar Girls' actress adds: "Shamita has been my favorite. I've been supporting her from outside throughout. I think the way Rakhi Sawant is doing she should be given one seat in every season. I feel that she is amazing. I think people should be scared of her and they should not take her lightly because if she is there, she can really give everybody a tough time. But definitely I see Shamita very close to the trophy."



HOROSCOPE TUESDAY JANUARY 04

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
Your communication skills will work wonders today. Your eloquence will win you precious brownie points, and may prove highly beneficial in meetings. In fact, all your arguments will sound very persuasive. The trick is not to get ruffled, says Ganesha, when people don't agree with you.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Sometimes, pressure is a good thing, as it brings out the best in you. You will outshine your colleagues in whatever you choose to do. But your expectations may far exceed the outcome. Ganesha asks that you have patience. Results take time.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Planning your own milestones and celebrating the success of friends is the agenda for the day. Your thoughts will be progressive in business or at work, and any plans you make will make a rock-solid foundation for your future. Social gatherings and parties will beckon with bubbly and bruschetta.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesha. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Today, you will use money to fulfil your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process. If there has been any limit to the amount of money flowing in, there is certainly no limit to the money leaving your coffers.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesha. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you. Take it as a warning that works to your advantage, says Ganesha. All the worrying and sorting out done, do not forget to sit back and relax! you deserve it more than anybody.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
Today, your ingenuity will breed ideas like rabbits. You have the healer's hands, and so shall you make right many a wrong, predicts Ganesha. You shall be most understanding, and reading people's mind will do wonders for you and your beloved.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket. Still, with someone like that, you are always assured of getting good value for your money! So bring on the champagne and the caviar! Ganesha wishes you a splendid time ahead.

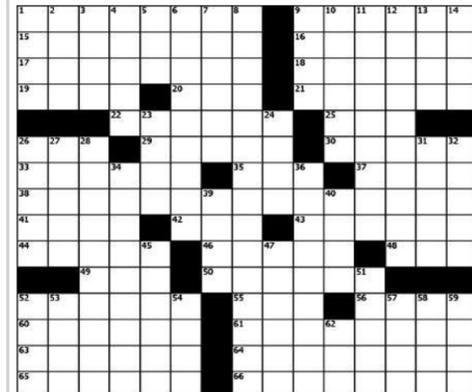
Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21
Dark and gloomy shall be your temperament for most part of the day today. But the afternoon may just see the skies clearing. The apparent mood change, says Ganesha; will mainly be because of good news from abroad and business profits from your partner.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesha. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have arisen because of misinterpretation. There is nothing really to worry about, but keeping abreast of the activities of your rivals will help you stay ahead in competition.

CROSSWORD

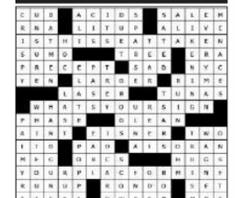
177



- ACROSS**
- Pasta, maybe
 - U.S. border protector
 - Summon for service
 - Fund
 - It might wake you up
 - Attacked
 - Base order
 - Carla locale
 - Paranoid piece
 - Miss, eventually?
 - First name in objectivism
 - Not ahead
 - Still
 - Foible
 - Unappetizing alternatives, figuratively
 - Digs in Durango
 - Much-debated blowups
 - Showing no restraint
 - Fashionable ones, in some circles
 - Friendly leader?
 - Striking end
 - Graphic introduction
 - Tease
 - Like the title woman of a Gene Wilder film

- Put a damper on
- Greensboro Four protest of 1960
- Make out
- Flatter, maybe
- It's hard to hit
- Warehouse platform
- Nice beach season
- Strauss's "___ Nacht in Venedig"
- "Calm down"
- Medieval strummer
- Polar bear's domain
- Elbows and such
- Start enjoying
- Showy flowers
- Sibling's issue
- Bumpy type
- Actress Zellweger
- Between, in Brest
- Bargain meal
- Dwelling
- Name seen in cold war news
- Adolescent woe
- Cut further, perhaps
- Reddish-brown
- Back in
- High school jr.'s hurdle
- Razor handle?
- Under-the-tree name
- Inflexible
- Endangered state bird
- Crimson rivals
- "As Time Goes By" pianist

SOLUTION 176



India all out for 202 on day one of 2nd Test

Johannesburg, Jan 3 (PTI):

India were all out for 202 on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa here on Monday. Stand in skipper K L Rahul (50) was the top-scorer for the visitors while R Ashwin (46) played a crucial knock towards the end of the innings.

Left-arm pacer Marco Jansen (4/31) was the pick of the South Africa bowlers while Duanne Olivier (3/64) and Kagiso Rabada (3/64) also played their part in wrapping up Indian innings.

Earlier, Stand-in captain KL Rahul scored a gutsy half-century but could not convert that into a big knock as another shoddy display by Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane left India in a troublesome 146 for 5 at tea on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa, here Monday.

With skipper Virat Kohli ruled out of the match due to back spasm, Rahul (50 off 133 balls) was patience-personified on a bouncy and seaming Wanderers track before one pull shot ended his gritty knock in the post-lunch session.

The Indian skipper for



Ajinkya Rahane leaves the field after being dismissed by South Africa's bowler Duanne Olivier for a duck, during the first day of the 2nd Test Cricket match between South Africa and India at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday.

the game hit nine boundaries and he mostly played the short ball well. He kept his pull shots down the ground and drove well before Marco Jansen (2/18)

induced from a pull shot that went into Kagiso Rabada's hands at fine leg.

He had nice little partnership of 42 runs between him and Hanuma

Bumrah appointed vice-captain

Johannesburg: India's leading pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Monday appointed vice-captain for the second Test against South Africa after KL Rahul was elevated as skipper in the absence of injured Virat Kohli. Besides regular captain Kohli, who is missing the crucial match owing to upper back spasm, middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer was also ruled out of the game due to a stomach bug, the BCCI said in a statement.

Vihari (20) before an inspirational close-in catch from Rassie Van der Dussen at short leg sent the latter back. Rishabh Pant (13) and an attacking Ravichandran Ashwin (24 batting 21 balls) added 30 in quick time as India aimed to get at least a total between 225 to 250 in the first innings.

It was Duanne Olivier who dismissed out-of-form batters Pujara and Rahane off successive balls to leave Virat Kohli-less India reeling in the first session. Having given up hopes of playing for England, Olivier, who played his first Test in Proteas colour after three years, removed Pujara (3

off 33 balls) with extra bounce and then with slight seam movement had Rahane (0) caught at slips.

Olivier (2/47) bowled multiple spells after being given the new ball alongside Kagiso Rabada.

Mayank Agarwal (26) looked fluent in the first hour with five boundaries before Marco Jansen pitched one in the spot from where it wasn't on drivable length as it climbed on. The opener went for a drive only to edge that to wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne.

Rahul on his part survived strong caught behind and leg before appeals which were negated by debutant umpire Allahudien Palekar, someone who impressed on debut.

The start wasn't great for India as they could not have skipper Kohli in the playing XI due to back spasms but Rahul couldn't be blamed for electing to bat first and make best use of difficult conditions.

Till Agarwal was giving him company, the openers just like Centurion, looked good but once he was gone, Pujara once again got into a shell and was very uncomfortable against steep bounce which finally became his undoing.

'Corrupt players should never be allowed to represent country'

Karachi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Pakistan's former captain Mohammad Hafeez, who announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday, said that players found guilty of corruption in the sport should never be allowed to represent their country.

Hafeez told a media conference in Lahore after announcing his retirement that he stood by his stance that players who "fix matches and betray their country" should never be allowed to play.

"To me, the biggest disappointment and hurt of my career was when I and Azhar Ali took a principled stand on this issue, but we were told by the board chairman that if we don't want to play, fine, but the concerned player will play," Hafeez said.

Hafeez also made it clear that his retirement had nothing to do with PCB chairman Ramiz Raja's stance that he and Shoaib Malik should have retired after the 2019 World Cup.

"No I had started thinking about my retirement since the 2019 World Cup but my wife and some well wishers convinced me to carry on. But I had started thinking about since then.

"As far as what Ramiz said or felt that is his opinion and I have always respected critics and my way has been to go out on the



Saqlain conveys to PCB that he can't take up head coach job full-time

Karachi: Former Pakistan spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has conveyed to the PCB that he would be unable to take up the head coach job with the national team on a full time basis due to his personal commitments. According to a well-informed source in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Saqlain, who has worked as interim head coach with the Pakistan team since September, has informed PCB chief Ramiz Raja of his inability to take up the role full-time. Saqlain told the chairman that while he was happy to have contributed as interim head coach he wouldn't be able to accept a long term and permanent assignment as head coach as he had prior business and personal commitments. Saqlain conveyed that already his business has been affected due to his absence with the Pakistan team as interim head coach, the source said.

field and give reply to them. I have no hard feelings towards anyone in the board." Hafeez insisted he was retiring from international cricket without any regrets.

The senior player, however, admitted that since the T20 World Cup he had been trying to meet the PCB chief.

"Ramiz said it was because he thought I wanted to speak about my category in the PSL and central contracts. But when I fi-

nally met him on 31st December I told him I just wanted to inform him about my decision to retire.

"I took this decision because I want to set a new and positive precedent for others to follow. Players must retire gracefully, at the right time with respect, and after taking the board into confidence."

Hafeez also called for better communication between the players and the board.

We will try new combinations for Asian Games at FIH Pro League: Manpreet

Bengaluru, Jan 03 (PTI):

Anticipating tough competition at the Asian Games this year, Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh says the FIH Pro League will be a perfect platform to try out new combinations for the big-ticket event in Hangzhou.

Manpreet had led India to first Olympic medal in 41 years in Tokyo, where the team won a historic bronze. "Asian Games will undoubtedly be the biggest event for us this year. Surely the competition will be quite tough at



the Asian Games as all teams will be vying to make the Olympics cut (by winning gold)," he said. Gold medal-winning country at the Asian Games, starting September 10, automatically qualifies for

the Olympics. India had won a bronze in the Jakarta Games in 2018.

The FIH Pro League matches begin in February and India will play the likes of Spain, Germany, Argentina and England in Bhubaneswar.

"This year is going to be quite exciting with back-to-back tournaments all year long. We begin with FIH Pro League matches in February. After almost two years, we will be returning to our favourite venue in Bhubaneswar where we will play double-headers against Spain, Germany, Argentina and England," he said.

Spain, Poland win 2nd consecutive matches at ATP Cup

Sydney, Jan 03 (AP):

Spain and Poland remained perfect at the ATP Cup with 3-0 wins in their matches Monday, their second consecutive victories in the team event.

Robert Bautista Agut clinched the match for Spain by beating Casper Ruud of Norway 6-4, 7-6 (4) after Pablo Carreno Busta defeated Viktor Durasovic 6-3, 6-3.

Bautista Agut improved to 9-2 in singles at the team event.

Casper is playing unbelievable tennis, (he did) an unbelievable performance last year, and today I played very good, Bautista Agut said in his on-court



Viktor Durasovic of Norway plays a shot against Spains Pablo Carreno Busta during their match at the ATP Cup tennis tournament in Sydney, Monday.

interview.

I returned very well, I made very few unforced errors and I played aggressively."

Kamil Majchrzak gave Poland the early lead over

Georgia with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Bakshi before Hubert Hurkacz clinched it with a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Metreveli.

He (Metreveli) played

well in the first set and things were not going my way. But I got better with each set and am happy to get the win, Hurkacz said.

Spain and Poland later both won their doubles matches to make it 3-0 scorelines.

Poland can book a place in the semifinals if it defeats Argentina on Wednesday in its next group game.

Majchrzak needed only 53 minutes to beat Bakshi.

I was trying to move (Bakshi) around and I think that was the key to the match, said Majchrzak, who is coached by former world seventh-ranked Joakim Nystrom.

Joshna back in top-10 of world rankings



New Delhi: India's leading squash player Joshna Chinappa has returned to the top-10 of PSA world rankings. The 35-year-old had reached a career-high 10th place for the first time in 2016. She has returned to the elite club of players in 10th position. Saurav Ghosal has dropped a spot to be 16th in the men's rankings. It is an important year for Indian squash with Asian Games and Commonwealth Games scheduled. Former top-10 player Dipika Pallikal, who was blessed with twins earlier this year, is expected to return to action soon.

Bangladesh 401-6 at stumps on day 3 of 1st test

Mount Maunganui (New Zealand), Jan 3 (AP): Captain Mominul Haque scored 88 to lead Bangladesh to a 73-run, first-innings lead over New Zealand in the first cricket test Monday, in one of its best-ever performances away from home.

Mominul shared a 158-run partnership with wicketkeeper Liton Das, who made 86, steering Bangladesh to 401-6 at stumps on the third day in reply to New Zealand's first innings of 328.

Bangladesh has seldom been so commanding in New Zealand, where it has never won a match in any format, or anywhere outside the sub-continent.

It began the day 175-2



Kyle Jamieson, right, appeals for a LBW call on Bangladeshes captain Mominul Haque, left during play on day three of the first cricket test between Bangladesh and New Zealand at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, Monday.

with Mahmudul Hasan Joy 70 not out after a 104-run partnership on the

second day with Najmul Hossain Shanto (64). Joy was out early for 78 and

Mominul and Liton Das then combined in a partnership which occupied the next 52 overs and saw the tourists attain a first-innings lead 20 minutes after tea. Trent Boult dismissed both Mominul and Liton Das within four overs of each other in the final session to slightly diminish the tourists' commanding possession. But the day belonged to Bangladesh and for the second day in a row they finished with the upper hand. The boys really got stuck in, Bangladesh batting coach Ashwell Prince said. "We had a good day yesterday but we had to follow it up with another good day and the guys did exactly that.

BCCI begins clearing dues of affected players

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The BCCI has started clearing the long-standing dues of the domestic cricketers who suffered financially after the 2020-21 season was curtailed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Many Indian cricketers struggled financially after the Ranji Trophy was not held last year for the first time in its history. The women's T20 games were also curtailed due to the pandemic.

"BCCI has started clearing the compensation amount due for not having the red ball tournament last season," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

No Novak yet but rest of tennis prepares for Australian Open

Sydney, Jan 03 (AP) : While the will he or won't he? question remains for No. 1 Novak Djokovic and his participation in the Australian Open, the rest of the tennis world returns to work this week to prepare for the season's first major beginning Jan. 17 at Melbourne Park.

The men's ATP Cup team event has been on since the weekend in Sydney, and there are three tune-up events being played this week in Melbourne as part of Tennis Australia's Summer Set of tournaments two WTA tournaments and one ATP. In Adelaide, there is a joint



ATP and WTA tournament this week. Next week, both Adelaide and Sydney will hold joint ATP-WTA tournaments. Djokovic is still nowhere to be seen.

Australian Open chief executive Craig Tiley says there is quite a bit to play out before nine-time champion Djokovic shows up to play in Australia.

Smith surprised by Broad's limited role in Ashes

Sydney, Jan 3 (PTI):

Star Australian batter Steve Smith on Monday said England pacer Stuart Broad's limited role in the ongoing Ashes series has left even the home team "surprised".

Broad, who has snared 526 Test wickets for England in 150 games, only featured in the Adelaide match, missing out on the opening and Boxing Day Tests.

"We have been a bit surprised. Two wickets that would have suited him pretty well," Smith was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"He bowled well in Adelaide. He's always

been a good contest for me. He's got me out quite few times, I've scored some runs off him so it's been a decent battle," Smith added.

While Broad is in line to bowl in tandem with fellow veteran pacer James Anderson in the Pink Test, starting here on Wednesday, England will only be fighting to avoid a whitewash as hosts Australia have taken and unassailable 3-0 lead in the series.

They've got quality bowlers. Him and Jimmy (Anderson) together are two world class performers, they have been for a long time. Maybe we'll see them out here together

this week, I'm not sure, Smith added.

Smith's comments come a few days after teammate David Warner, who struggled against Broad in England in 2019, said from our perspective, I think it's great he is not playing, after the MCG Test.

The southpaw has been dismissed by Broad a remarkable seven times in five Tests in 2019.

England's selection in the series has copped up sharp criticism with questions also being raised over skipper Joe Root's leadership and head coach Chris Silverwood, who is also responsible for selecting the squads.

Chelsea-Liverpool draw thriller leaves Man City celebrating

London, Jan 3 (AP):

The only winner was Manchester City. And Romelu Lukaku certainly lost out.

What a pulsating, entertaining encounter for Lukaku to miss not out of his own choosing as Chelsea recovered to draw 2-2 with Liverpool on Sunday without the temporarily exiled striker.

It left City 10 points clear from Chelsea at the top of the Premier League with Liverpool a further point back.

The sky blue ribbons look like remaining on the trophy for another year thanks to the fading challenge from the chasing

pack. It is a big gap," Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk said. They have the title, maybe, to lose but anything can happen.

That's even before Liverpool is the hardest hit by players heading to the African Cup of Nations. Before leaving for what could be more than a month away, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah did contribute Liverpool's goals.

Liverpool seemed to be coasting but was stung twice at the end of the first half with Mateo Kovacic's volley and Christian Pulisic's strike pulling Chelsea level. It was an engrossing and wild game that was only tempered



Liverpools Sadio Mane, left, and Chelseas Thiago Silva contest possession during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in London.

after the break by the goal-keeping of Chelsea's Edouard Mendy denying

Salah and Liverpool's Caoimhin Kelleher's reflexes thwarting Pulisic's

pursuit of a winner. Turn away and you could miss another wondrous moment.

For the public it must have been an unbelievable game," said Liverpool assistant manager Pepijn Lijnders, deputizing for coronavirus isolating Jrgen Klopp.

It was a game to keep fans on their toes which they could do legally in parts of a Premier League stadium for the first time in 28 years as part of standing trials.

It was a brilliant match," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said.

Everybody not in the stadium missed something.

'Practice your religion but don't indulge in hate speech'

Kottayam (Ker), Jan 03 (PTI):

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday expressed his strong disapproval of attempts to ridicule other religions and create dissensions in the society, saying every person has the right to practice and preach his or her faith in the country.



M Venkaiah Naidu

"Practice your religion but don't abuse and indulge in hate speech and writings," the Vice President said at an event organised to mark the 150th death anniversary of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a spiritual leader and social reformer from the Kerala Catholic community, at Mannanam near here. Observing that hate speeches and writings are against culture, heritage,

traditions, constitutional rights and ethos, Naidu said secularism is in the blood of every Indian and the country is respected world-over for its culture and heritage.

In this context, the Vice President called for strengthening the Indian value system, an official statement said. The Vice

President said community service must be made compulsory for students studying in government as well as private schools as it would help them to develop an attitude of sharing and caring in their interaction with others.

"Today, there is a dire need to inculcate the spirit of service from a young age in the youth of this country. Once this pandemic is behind us and normalcy returns, I would suggest that government schools as well as those in the private sector must make community service of at least two to three weeks compulsory for students," he said.

Urging youngsters to imbibe, protect and promote Indian cultural values, Naidu highlighted the importance of India's philoso-

phy of sharing and caring for others. He said that living for others will not only give a person a lot of satisfaction but will also make the people remember that person for a long time for his or her good deeds.

The Vice President said inculcating the spirit of service in youngsters at school level would help them to develop an attitude of sharing and caring in their interaction with others. "As a matter of fact, the philosophy of share-and-care is at the core of India's age-old culture and must be widely propagated. For us, the whole world is one family as encapsulated in our timeless ideal, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. It is with this spirit that we should move forward together," Naidu said.

MARTIAL ART SKILL



Nihang Sikh warriors display their martial art skills during a religious procession on the occasion of the 355th birth anniversary (Pakash Parv) of Guru Gobind Singh, in Jammu, Monday.

Bengal govt gets national level award for public outreach prog

Kolkata, Jan 03 (PTI):

The West Bengal government has earned the Award of Excellence under the Project Category of Computer Society of India's e-Governance Awards for its public outreach programme 'Duare Sarkar'.

The award was presented to the government at the 19th Computer Society of India (CSI) SIG e-Governance Awards 2021. The TMC wrote in its Twitter handle, 'Duare Sarkar' (government at your doorstep) programme is an initiative of the state government for delivery of some specific schemes at the doorsteps of the people through camps organised at the gram panchayat and municipal ward levels.

The programme was launched on December 1, 2020. The CSI Special Interest Group (SIG) on eGovernance instituted a series of awards for recognising the contributions made to the field

of eGovernance in the country in 2002-03. The awards are given under two categories - state and project.

According to the CSI website, it is the largest and most professionally managed association of and for Information Technology professionals in India.

The state government got the award a day after it postponed the 'Duare Sarkar' camps due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases. The next camps are scheduled to be held on February 1. Till Monday, over 1.04 lakh camps for the programme have been organised in different districts of the state, an official said.

COVID-19 curbs take a back seat in crowded trains of West Bengal

Kolkata, Jan 03 (PTI):

Commuters were seen travelling in crowded local trains on Monday, thumbing their nose to the restrictions imposed by the state government a day ago to curb the spread of COVID-19. Metro Railway coaches also ran almost jam-packed in the peak hours, with people barely maintaining distance from one another.

The West Bengal government, in an order issued on Sunday, capped the number of passengers in local trains to 50 per cent of the seating capacity. It has also limited the hours of service to 7 pm. Metro Railway has made

smart cards mandatory for passengers to avail its services, discontinuing token issuance.

The new set of rules will be applicable till January 15. Suburban trains were choc-a-bloc with passengers in the busy Sealdah and Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway during the day as some of them pushed each other to make their way inside the coaches. In the Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway, too, the situation was no different. Eastern Railway spokesperson Ekalabya Chakraborti said suburban trains will leave the station of origin from 5 am to 7 pm as per the existing timetable.

Mob booked in Indore for holding rally to support Kalicharan

Indore, Jan 03 (PTI):

A case was registered against 50 unidentified people in Indore in Madhya Pradesh for protesting against the arrest of Hindu religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj, who was held last week for using an expletive for Mahatma Gandhi during a speech at an event on December 26 in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, an official said on Monday.

A video of the protest, which was held on Sunday, also showed some people shouting slogans in praise of Nathuram Godse, the Mahatma's assassin.

Some 50 unidentified Akhil Bharatiya Hindu

Mahasabha and Bajrang Sena activists on Sunday staged a protest and raised slogans at Regal Square without the administration's permission. They then marched to the police commissionerate to submit a memorandum on Kalicharan Maharaj's arrest," said Savita Choudhary, in charge of Choti Gwaltoli police station.

She said, as per a prohibitory order of the district collector, rallies, processions and dharnas cannot be held in public places without the prior permission of the administration. "A FIR has been registered against the protestors for violation of this order under Indian Penal

Code (IPC) section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant)," Choudhary said.

Choudhary said she was unaware if the protesting crowd shouted slogans praising Godse.

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Aminul Khan Suri shared a video of the protests, in which pro-Godse slogans can be heard, and said it took place near the commissionerate and the police remained mute spectators.

The police should book them under sedition rather than the lighter provisions that have been invoked currently, he said.

Kalicharan was held from MP by Chhattisgarh police last week.

WINTER CARNIVAL 2022



Women perform Kulvi Naati dance during the Winter Carnival 2022 in Manali, Monday.

SC judge to CBI Academy pass-outs

'Upon you to probe impartially, assist courts in upholding justice'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The CBI has established itself as a premier agency, which is trusted by all, Supreme Court Judge Justice Dinesh Maheshwari said on Monday as he told a batch of 37 sub-inspector probationers, which recently passed out of the from CBI Academy, that more the trust, "more is your responsibility".

Addressing the passing out ceremony of the 24th batch of the sub-inspector probationers, Justice Maheshwari, who was the chief guest at the event, said the CBI has come a long way to establish itself as the premier agency which is trusted by almost all across the board, right from a common man to the



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari (R) presents the award to a trainee, during the Investiture Ceremony of the XXIV Batch of the Sub-Inspector trainees of CBI, at CBI Academy in Ghaziabad.

top administrators. "More the trust, more the faith in you, more is your responsibility," he said. In the wake of new age challenges before investigators, Justice Maheshwari told the young officers to

continuously upgrade their knowledge through persistent and inquisitive zeal, which is going to be their biggest ally, biggest support, biggest asset in the times to come. "Do not forget that whenever con-

stitutional courts want that matters must be presented to them with impeccable true facts, it is the CBI which is called upon for the purpose," he said.

He called upon the passing out officers to discharge their responsibilities impartially and inconsonance with the oath taken of allegiance to the country and to become even more loyal, honest and impartial.

Justice Maheshwari said institutional integrity and personal integrity are the "two aspects that we need to go on and remind ourselves". "As an individual, the officers have learnt as to what integrity is about, how a person is supposed to be, as we say, of unquestionable integrity," he said.

'Nijaat' campaign helps addicts shun drugs, alcohol

Tikeshwar Patel

Raipur, Jan 03: Mukesh Kumar Sahu, a resident of Korea district, got addicted to liquor and ganja in his student days. He left his studies, later his addiction affected his marital life and even his parents started living separately because of his habits. But, Sahu is a changed man now. He has not only overcome his addiction, but also helps local police in nabbing drug peddlers and motivates other addicts in his area to quit drugs and liquor consumption.

Like him, there are several men in Korea district who have quit addiction in the last six months, thanks to a campaign being run by local police against

drugs and illegal liquor sale. Under the 'Nijaat' (ridance) drive, launched in July last year, the police have been successful in effectively curbing the smuggling of drugs and illegal liquor, and also persuaded a large number of addicts to quit the habit and lead a normal life, Korea Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh claimed while talking to PTI.

The campaign is gaining momentum across Korea, a small district in Chhattisgarh's tribal-dominated Surguja division, with wall paintings, posters and banners of 'Nijaat' seen at many places in urban areas and remote villages of the district. According to the police official, the campaign

is drawing more attention as celebrities like Prabhu Deva, Arbaaz Khan, Rajpal Yadav and Kailash Kher have been roped in to appeal to people, through video messages, to quit drugs and liquor.

Some noted artists from Chhattisgarh, like actor Anuj Sharma and folk singers Teejan Bai and Mamta Chandrakar, have also extended support to the campaign. Singh, the brain behind the drive, said "the campaign has started yielding results and local public representatives as well as the common people have taken it forward in their areas on their own."

Around 200 public awareness programmes have been conducted so far

under the drive in the district where hundreds of drug addicts have been counselled and successfully convinced to quit the habit, said the 2011-batch IPS officer.

Besides, since July last year, so far 152 people have also been arrested in 126 cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, while 822 arrests have been made in 935 cases pertaining to the sale of illegal liquor, the police official said.

After attending an event under the campaign in Sonhat village, Mukesh Sahu, a local, came in contact with police who convinced him to quit the addiction. "I started consuming liquor when I was in

Class 10. I did not even appear for the exams and later quit studies. Soon, from liquor, I shifted to smoking ganja and chewing tobacco, and became addicted to these narcotics. I had no idea that I had started on a catastrophic journey, Sahu told PTI.

He said he used to buy liquor with money given to him for household items. His parents thought he might quit drug addiction after getting married. "I got married in 2016, but I continued with my habits and even assaulted my wife in drunken state. My wife started living most of the time at her maternal home along with my two children and even my parents left me," he said.

जोड़ो का दर्द

सूजन

ऐठन

बदलते मौसम के कारण वातरोगों कि शिकायतें काफी बढ़ जाती है ऐसे समय लिजीये बैद्यनाथ महाराजनादि काढा (पुंगुलुयुक्त) यह जोड़ों का दर्द, सूजन, ऐठन आदि को दूर करने में सहायक है।

बैद्यनाथ
असली आयुर्वेद

महाराजनादि काढा (पुंगुलु युक्त)

वात रोगों में दर्द से छुटकारा दिलाने में सहायक।

हरारत

भूख न लगना

आखें लाल होना

इनसे बचने के लिए असली चिरायतायुक्त..

बैद्यनाथ
असली आयुर्वेद

महासुदर्शन काढा

बदलते मौसम के कारण होनेवाली तकलीफें: हाथपाँव का जकड़ना, मुँह का स्वाद कड़वा होना, भूख न लगना, सिरदर्द, अत्याधिक मात्रा में प्यास लगना, आखें लाल होना, बदन दर्द, आदि तकलीफें दूर करने में उपयोगी।

आयुर्वेद अपनाएं... स्वस्थ रहें....

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BRIEF



A health worker prepares to administer a dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a teenager at a government school in Bengaluru, Monday.

Hike

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Monday announced an increase in the salary of junior teachers, both regular and contractual, engaged in primary schools of the state by 50 per cent. A statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the hike will be effective from January 1, 2022. The decision of the salary hike will benefit as many as 33,038 junior teachers, including 13,324 contractual and 19,714 regular ones.

Cultural survey

New Delhi: Government-promoted CSC SPV, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application. The survey, titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar', will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique, CSC SPV said in a statement. "India has a unique cultural identity rooted in its villages. No one can understand it better than the CSC VLEs who are embedded in the community they serve."

Mishap

Nagpur: Four women labourers were killed and seven sustained grievous injuries after a multi-utility vehicle crashed into a tree by the road in Katol in Nagpur district, police said on Monday. The incident took place in the early hours of Sunday and the MUV was at high speed when the driver lost control near a cotton mill, an official said. "The vehicle was going from Mohapa to Isapur carrying nine labourers hailing from Ambada for an orange plucking job."

Eliminated

Srinagar: Two terrorists including a wanted Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) ultra Salim Parry were killed in two encounters with security forces in Harwan area on the outskirts of the city on Monday, police said. "Srinagar police neutralised dreaded terrorist of proscribed terror outfit LeT Salim Parry," IGP Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar said. He said details of the operation will be shared later.

Weather
High 27 Low 12

MARKET
NIFTY 17,625.70
SENSEX 59,183.22

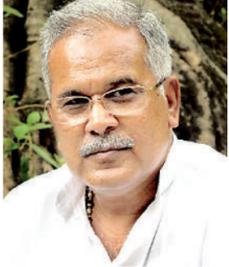
BULLION
GOLD 47,843
SILVER 61,725

'COVID-19 cases rising, lockdown last option'

Raipur, Jan 03 (PTI):

Amid a rise in COVID-19 cases in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday chaired an emergency meeting of ministers, senior officials and asked district level authorities to increase testing and also impose restrictions on major public events to prevent crowding. Coronavirus cases are rising rapidly and it seems a third wave of infections is approaching, the CM said, but added that a lockdown will be the last option after various curbs and measures are implemented. "Districts should remain alert. The number of daily tests must increase and all arrangements must be in place in hospitals," he said.

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel on Monday chaired a high-level emergency meeting of cabinet ministers and senior officials to review Covid-19 situation in the



CM directs officials to enforce measures to control situation

state, at his residence of office here. The meeting was organized in the view of surge in number of Covid-19 cases across the state. Chief Minister urged all the districts to be on alert besides instructing the officials concerned to increase the number of daily Covid tests conducted per day. Besides, he also directed to make all necessary arrangements in hospitals

38 CRPF jawans test COVID-19 positive

Konta, Jan 03: As many as 38 personnel of the CRPF's jungle warfare unit CoBRA tested positive for coronavirus in Chhattisgarh's Naxal-hit Sukma district on Monday following which they were quarantined in their camp, officials said. The personnel belong to the 202nd battalion of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), an elite wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), they said. As many as 75 personnel posted in the Temelwada camp of the district were subjected to rapid antigen test. Of them, 38 tested positive for the infection following which they were quarantined in their camp," Sukma Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) CV Bansod said. Swab samples of remaining jawans were sent for RT-PCR tests to Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, he said.

and stressed on ensuring strict adherence to COVID safety precautions at all places. He added that we are keeping an eye on the current situation. Later, talking to reporters after the meeting, Baghel said officials have been told to coordinate with all departments, business sector, industry associations and other organizations before taking further decisions to

deal with the outbreak. The third wave seems to be different from the first and second ones and less dangerous but alertness will have to be maintained as the infection was spreading in Delhi, Mumbai etc, the CM said. "A lockdown will be the last option. As of now, efforts are being made to increase testing at airports, railway stations and bus stands as well as

Delhi logs 4099 new Covid cases, positivity rate jumps to 6.46 %

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The national capital on Monday reported 4,099 new Covid cases, 28 per cent more than on Sunday, and one death due to the disease as the positivity rate rose to 6.46 per cent, according to the data shared by the health department.

If the positivity rate is over five per cent for two consecutive days, it would trigger a 'red alert' under the Delhi Disaster Management Authority-approved Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) leading to a 'total curfew' and halting of most economic activities. Delhi reported 3,194 Covid cases with a positiv-

8,082 new Covid cases in Mumbai

Mumbai: Ninety per cent of Mumbai's fresh coronavirus cases (8,086) are asymptomatic, official data shows today, further highlighting that 574 patients have been hospitalised in the last 24 hours. Monday's spike is marginal as compared to Sunday (8,063) but the number of hospitalisations have increased to 12 per cent as compared to 10 per cent yesterday.

ity rate of 4.59 per cent on Sunday and 2,716 cases with a positivity rate of 3.6 per cent on Saturday. The daily case tally on Wednesday, Tuesday and Monday were 923, 496 and 331, respectively.

Schools in Mumbai to remain shut till Jan 31

Amid a rapid surge in COVID-19 cases in Mumbai, including the Omicron variant, the civic body on Monday decided to shut schools of all mediums for classes 1 to 9 and 11 till January 31, a civic official said. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that students of classes 10 and 12 are excluded from this decision which means they can attend schools in person. Classes for students of 1 to 9 and 11 will continue in online mode, as directed earlier.

EC TO FIVE POLL-BOUND STATES

'Step up Covid vaccination drive'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Days after assessing the COVID-19 situation in the five poll-bound states, the Election Commission (EC) has asked them to step up the inoculation drive against the viral disease and ensure that the personnel to be deployed on election duty are "double vaccinated". In a recent letter to the chief secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur and Punjab end on different dates in March. The EC is likely to announce the poll dates for the five states in the first half of this month. The personnel to be deployed on election duty in the five poll-bound states

vaccines, sources said. The commission has said the polling personnel to be deployed in these states should be fully vaccinated and those eligible for the second dose of the vaccines should be administered the jabs on a priority basis, the sources said citing the letter. While the tenure of the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly ends in May, the terms of the legislative assemblies of Goa, Manipur and Punjab end on different dates in March. The EC is likely to announce the poll dates for the five states in the first half of this month. The personnel to be deployed on election duty in the five poll-bound states

will be included in the category of frontline workers and will be entitled to the "precaution dose" of the COVID-19 vaccines, the Union health ministry had said a few days ago. In a letter to the states and Union territories, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had said the personnel to be deployed on election duty in the poll-bound states will be included in the category of frontline workers. "As a matter of abundant precaution, for those healthcare workers and frontline workers who have received two doses, another dose of COVID-19 vaccine would be provided from January 10, 2022.

VACCINATION FOR 15-18 AGE GRP

Youngsters eagerly line up for COVID vaccine jab

Parents say it is a big relief

New Delhi /Mumbai /Jammu, Jan 03 (PTI): As lakhs of teenagers got their first COVID-19 vaccine jabs across the country at the start of the inoculation drive for the 15-18 age group on Monday, many of the beneficiaries and their parents said they were eagerly waiting for it and feel a sense of relief, especially in the backdrop of the fresh rise in cases.

From setting up attractive selfie points to putting up imaginative posters and colourful balloons,



A student takes a selfie as a health worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to teenagers in Thane, Monday.

the designated vaccination centres, mostly schools and educational institutes, were decked up

to welcome the youngsters. The students, some of whom were dressed in school uniforms and oth-

ers in casuals, were greeted with flowers and gifted pens at some places after receiving the vaccine. Over 39.88 lakh youngsters had registered on CoWIN portal till Monday afternoon after the process began on Saturday for this category and over 12.3 lakh children had received the jab by 3 PM. An estimated 7.4 crore children are there in this age group. The vaccination campaign started on January 16 last year in a staggered manner, and many youngsters like Harmanjot Singh said they were keen to get the jab as soon as it was allowed for their age group.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Sikh devotees take out a procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, in Jammu, Monday.

Sameer Wankhede's tenure with Mumbai NCB ends

Sent back to DRI

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI): The tenure of controversial NCB Mumbai zonal director Sameer Wankhede with the federal anti-narcotics agency has ended and his services have been put at the disposal of his parent organisation DRI, officials said on Monday.

The charge of the NCB Mumbai zonal unit will be handled in an additional capacity by its Indore zonal director Brijendra Chowdhary. Wankhede, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 2008 batch, was sent to the Narcotics Control Bureau

(NCB) Mumbai zone in August, 2020 "on loan" from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the wake of the drugs probe being conducted by the agency into the death of 34-year-old actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

He had been serving as the head or the zonal director of the NCB Mumbai unit since August 31, 2020 and was given some extensions. Wankhede's extended tenure with the NCB ended on December 31, 2021 and as there has been no order for his extension, he has been sent back to his parent organisation DRI, that functions as an

investigation agency under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), they said.

Wankhede has been in the limelight following the high-profile October, 2021 raids by the NCB on a Mumbai cruise after which the agency arrested Aryan Khan, the son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and several others and claimed to have seized some narcotics too. Soon after this action, Maharashtra minister and NCP leader levelled multiple charges of alleged misconduct and corruption against the officer. Wankhede has denied the allegations.

Centre suspends biometric attendance for govt employees

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Centre on Monday suspended marking of biometric attendance for all its employees till January 31, as a precautionary measure to check the spread of coronavirus. Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the government employees. "Keeping in view the rise in #COVID cases in the last few days, the BIOMETRIC ATTENDANCE for govt officials and employees is being suspended with immediate effect, till further orders. Under leadership of PM Sh

@NarendraModi, this decision has been taken in the interest of safety and health of the govt employees," he tweeted. However, all the employees are required to mark their attendance in attendance registers to be maintained manually, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said. "As a precautionary measure, it has been decided to suspend the marking of biometric attendance in the Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system in all ministries/departments of the Government of India, including its attached/subordinate offices, with immediate effect till January 31, 2022," it said.

SC refuses to give protection to GP Singh

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay a probe into a corruption case and grant protection from arrest to Gurjinder Pal Singh, the suspended director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy. "Dismissed," said the bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana after senior advocate U R Lalit, appearing for the suspended IPS officer, submitted that the accused has been a victim of "political vindictiveness" of the current government in the state. The bench, also comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Hima Kohli, was hearing an appeal of Singh against the November 26 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court refusing to grant protection from arrest and stay the ongoing investigation being

Case lodged by Chhattisgarh police

conducted by the Economic Offence Wing/Ant-Corruption Branch of the state police. The state government was represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and lawyer Sumeer Sodhi. "Grant the protection against arrest and stay in the further proceedings in respect of impugned preliminary enquiry and FIR in connection to crime no... under Section 13 (1) (b) and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, registered in police station EOW /ACB Raipur on June 29, 2021," the plea stated. Singh, in his plea, claimed that he was "repeatedly forced as Economic Offence Wing/Ant-Corruption bureau chief to proceed against

the previous chief minister and his wife" in one 'Nagrik Aapurti Nigam' scam, popularly known as NAN scam in Chhattisgarh. "When he showed his disability to it since he was of the opinion that the material available was not sufficient enough to proceed against them, from that point of time vengeance and malicious political vendetta started against the petitioner in the form of multiple frivolous preliminary enquiries and FIRs for not obliging unduly to the current dispensation," the plea alleged. The suspended IPS officer said earlier the apex court had granted him the protection. Singh, the 1994-batch IPS officer who had served as the IG of Raipur, Durg, and Bilaspur during the BJP rule, has been facing the probe in three criminal cases.

'COVID health insurance policies will also cover Omicron infection treatment costs'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

Insurance regulator Irdai on Monday said health insurance policies that cover COVID treatment costs will also cover expenses for treating infections due to Omicron. "All health insurance policies issued by all general and health insurance companies that cover treatment costs of COVID-19 also cover the costs of treatment towards Omicron variant of COVID-19 as per terms and conditions of policy contract," the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said in a release. The regulator has issued the directive to general and health

insurers in view of the growing number of cases of the Omicron variant. The regulator has also asked insurance companies to put in place an effective coordination mechanism with all their network providers and hospitals to make available seamless cashless facilities to all policyholders in case of hospitalization and render speedy services to all policyholders. In April 2020 also, Irdai had clarified that all the indemnity based health insurance products that cover the treatment costs of hospitalisation offered by all general and health insurance companies cover the costs of hospitalisation treatment on account of COVID-19.

Illicit sale of liquor causing disturbances to residents

Near Bazar chowk on daily basis

Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 03: There are incidents of physical fighting between people and those selling illicit liquor in Bazar Chowk daily and it is located in the heart of the city. In this context, on Dec 27 in the night at around 10:00 pm, one Ganesh Ram Dhruv working as Asst. Teacher informed that he is MA in Hindi and is teaching in Govt Primary School in Singhdehi. It was on the night of Dec 27, there was lot of noise and ruckus outside his house and he

found that people were scolding each other. He informed that near his house there is Fancy Store of Jagesh Nirmalkar and in the front lane, Pramod Patela and others are using foul language and scolding each other.

On this when I reached the site and urge the people not to scold and use foul language, the protesting people entered into verbal dialogue with me and my uncle Bisham Dhruv and becoming physical caused injuries on the forehead, right shoulder and behind the head and in this Bisham Dhruv also received some injuries.

Lalita, Urvasi, Sumita, Bhagat Nirmalkar, Laxmi



Women protesting against sale of illicit liquor.

Nirmalkar, Bhagmati, Kumari, Jagesh Nirmalkar, Lata Sahu, Ganesh, Bundhatin Dhruv informed that daily they witness such quarrelling and scolding in the lane and people come from Bazar Chowk scolding

each other and this causes lot of mental tension and disturbances in their sleep. They questioned that if all this goes on, how they are going to handle their children and what type of education are they being passed on. If at all this is

protested, then these people started scolding women and seeing all this the government should stop illicit sale of liquor in this region and this will help reduce crime as well.

Urvasi Dhruv informed that on the night of Dec 27, it was around 10:00 in the night she was cleaning the utensils in her house at the back and her husband, mother-in-law and children were asleep and door was locked. But the latch of the chain in the door was not locked and all of sudden Parmod Patela and other person of the village entered their house and started scolding, using foul language and threatened to kill them as well.

Urvasi said that she failed to understand as to whom she must call and since she was unaware of any incident related to it, she became fearful and went inside her room and locked it from inside. By this time, her husband Mahavir, mother-in-law Brijbai Dhruv was awake and was aware of entire incident.

A complaint in this regard has been lodged in Birejhar check-post and a case under section 294, 323, 506, 34 of IPC has been filed and taken into investigation. The women of the ward said that this illicit sale of liquor in the region should be stopped without any further delay.

Villagers perform rituals to establish village



Central Chronicle News

Anwari, Jan 03: In the village Bhaibod still a unique ritual of establishing village continues after the crop is harvested. The farmers express gratitude towards almighty for a

good crop. The village priest Ramprasad Dhruv said, the rituals start from the morning and from every house a portion of the crop is dedicated to 'Thakur Dev' for the peace and tranquillity of the village.

Mitali Meshram awarded Ph.D

Dongargaon, Jan 03:



Mitali Meshram of region has been awarded Ph.D in Political Science subject by Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (RSU). The subject of her research was 'India-Russia relations & the Changing Scenario'. She carried out her research work under guidance of Dr Ajay Chandrakar of Durga College, Raipur. Mitali Meshram is D/o Principal Dongargaon College-Dr (Mrs.) BN Meshram and Jitendra Meshram (Advocate).

Students of SSM take out awareness rally



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 03: The 'Bhaiyya and Behans' (students) of local Sarswati Shishu Mandir (SSM), Dongargaon took out a rally to create awareness among general public

and parents about prevention of likely third wave of Corona and this rally was taken out under leadership of Principal in-Charge Jitendra Kumar Sharma.

Through this rally the students of SSM raised

slogan and made a small de-tours of entire city. During this students passed on the message about washing of hands daily, using sanitizer frequently as & when going out and avoid going to public places with lot of rush, using masks going out and others. On this occasion Principal in-Charge JK Sharma, YK Singh Thakur, Jitendra Vaishnav, Sohan Yadu, Kamlesh Sonkar, Sohandas Sahu, Shubham Sahu, Dipali Patel, Kajal Patel, Shobhana Patel, Parvati Sriwas, Preeti Sonkar, Sangeta Choure, Shanti Nirmalkar and Sunita Verma were present.

Three-day annual function held at GBTI



Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 03: A three-day annual function of Government Basic Training Institute (GBTI) was held here on Saturday.

It was under guidance of the Principal GBTI Revaram Deshlahare that this three-day annual function was held from Dec 28-30. In this 28 different types of programmes were

held. This year in the annual function, all the students were full of enthusiasm and took part in each and every programme. The students of first and second year were divided

into six groups and were given separate titles and students from each of the six groups gave wonderful and eye-catching performance and made this annual function a grand success.

7 got seriously injured, two others suffered minor injuries

As Bolero vehicle with 13 passengers loses control in order to save a rider on Scooty

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 03: A Bolero vehicle bearing No. CG 08 AE 9686 going from Gram Bundeli to Dongargaon lost balance and collided with a 'neem' tree by the roadside and the impact was so high that entire vehicle got badly damaged and in this 7 got seriously injured and two other received minor injuries and 2 other remained safe. Those seriously injured were referred to Civil Hospital and four others with less injured after first-aid were discharged.



A total of around 13 persons from Yadav family from Gram Bundeli of

Bemetara District went to see a house for marriage in their Bolero vehicle. On

reaching Gram Pendrikala from Khairagarh, the vehicle all of sudden became out of control and hit a 'Neem' tree nearby.

Actually the driver in order to save a person coming from other side in his Scooty all of sudden turned the steering-wheel of the vehicle to one side and due to which it collided with a tree nearby. In this seven person viz.s Narad, Sunkhdev, Ganga Sagar, Sanjay Yadav, Mohan Yadav, Dukhu Yadav, Arjun Yadav suffered serious injuries and after first-aid in the Civil Hospital were re-

ferred to District Hospital for treatment.

The other two persons viz. Sonu and Tikeshwar Yadav received less injury and after treatment in Civil Hospital were discharged. Two others in the vehicle did not receive any injuries. After the incident the persons who witnessed the accident immediately informed about it to 108 and those injured were rushed to the hospital. A case under section 279, 337, 338 K of IPC has been filed by Khairagarh police and the matter has been taken into investigation.

Central Chronicle News

Khairagarh, Jan 03: It was under guidance of Akhil Bharatiya Kshtriya Mahasabha (ABKM) National President Anil Singh that the state president ABKM Pradeep Singh Kachawah that Bhagwat Sharan Singh has been appointed as President of ABKM Khairagarh unit.

It is seeing the works done by him in social field and in favour of public that this appoint-

ment has been made. He will look after expansion of ABKM in Khairagarh and its activities.

The founder of this Mahasabha is Rajendra Singh and other members of Sangathan give valuable participation in any meetings.



BS Singh appointed President ABKM

BCC (R) holds meeting for formation of Booth Committees

Dongargaon, Jan 03: BCC President (rural) Suresh Sinha convened a meeting of BCC and DCC office bearers for formation of booth samitis in Garm Devkatta, Achouli, Dhara and Ghotia under Dongargaon block. This meeting was attended by BCC President Suresh Sinha, Mahila BCC President Leta Sahu, senior Congress leader Firangi Patel, Chumman Sahu, Samsai Tandekar, Raju Rajput, Kishore Bais, Yodhan Sahu, Gautam Verma, Tumesh Netam, Sanjay Sahu, Mulchand Sahu, Booth President Kirtan Kanwar, Dhanu Patel and Congress party workers in large number.

Target Bhilai lifts Nandini Lime Stone Cup tourney



Defeats SK Sarik XI Bhopal by 6 wickets

Central Chronicle News

Nandini-Ahriwara, Jan 03: In the finals of Nandini Lime Stone Cup Tennis Ball cricket tournament, Target XI Bhilai defeated the last year's champion JK Sarik XI Bhopal with 7 wickets and won the Nandini Limestone Cup Season 13th tournament.

The JK Sarik Bhopal cricket team winning the toss elected to bat first and scored only 46 runs in 9.2 overs out of total 10 overs tournament. In this, batter Sachin scored 14 and Pollard 10 runs. Bowler Raget of Bhilai took 3 wickets in 3 overs giving 6

runs and Amarnath giving 16 runs took 2 wickets. Chasing the target of 47 runs, the opening batsman of Target Bhilai XI team was boldout in the first ball itself and in the first three overs, the Target Bhilai team could only score 15 runs and came under pressure. After this, Ashish Gautam scored 10 runs and Sahare 27 runs and scoring total 47 runs in the 7th over, lifted the title of Lime Stone Cup final.

The bowler of Target Bhilai Shubham was declared the man-of-match for taking good number of wickets and paving way for victory of his team. The winning Target Bhilai Cricket team was presented with cash prize of Rs 2

lakh and Lime Stone Cup

on behalf of Vijay Enterprises, Chanchal Fuels, Sharda Petroleum, Jai Jewellers and VNR Seeds. The runner's up team - JK Sarik Bhopal was presented with cash prize of Rs 1 lakh on behalf of Mukesh Cement, Shri Shubh Laxmi Jewellers, Ved Electricals, Pradeep Rajput.

The title of Best batsman in the tournament went to Ashwin Sahare of Target Bhilai and that of 'Best Bowler' went to Abhishek of Kumbali Patan and both were presented with cash prize of Rs 3000 and trophy on behalf of Disha Kirana. The Man-of-the-Series was awarded to Amarnath

Yadav of Target Bhilai with cash prize of Rs 20000 and trophy on behalf of RKS Transport.

In this tournament the umpiring was done by Bhuvan Sahu, Raja, Lajar, Dagendra Nishad, Vishnu Bahadur. Scoring was done by Manish Verma, Mulchand Senapati, Aakash Yadav. The commentators in the match were Tushar Sharma and Vivek Verma.

The chief guest of the concluding match was PHE Minister Guru Rudrakumar and in the presence of ex-MLA Saja Labchand Bafna, Natwar Tamrakar President Nagar Palika Ahirwara; forme President Nagar

Palika Ahirwara Ravishankar Singh, GM Nandini Mines P Ekka; Kailash Nahata, Oni Mahilang, Saraswati Ratre President Janpad Panchayat Dhamdha, Dulari Bhuvan Sahu, Shibu Agrawal, Nagmani Sahu, Harishankar, Sanjay Sav. The programme was conducted by Anuj Sahu and the organising committee President Jagtar Singh, V-P Stalin Samuel, gen. secy. Binju Bahadur, Bhuvan Sahu, Pradeep Kurre, Vijay Jain, and the senior most assistant of Samiti Rajinder Singh and all other members welcomed the guests and presented them with mementoes.

INDIAN BANK
Branch - Raigarh (C.G.)
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower(s) (Borrower) and (Co-borrower) have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but they have been returned unreserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrowers/Guarantors & Address	Amount Outstanding (As on the date of notice)	Date of Notice	Date of NPA	Details of Properties / Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced
Borrower-1) M/s. B. K. Enterprises, Proprietor-Bharat Selly, Lochan Nagar, Raigarh (C.G.) 496001	Rs 1032267.00 (CC-Rs. 971320/-)	22.12.2021	28.08.2021	Mortgaged assets:- All that part and parcel of the property situated at Kh. No. 51/36, P.H. No. 13, Village- Pandripan, Block-Raigarh, Tehsil and District- Raigarh (C.G.) Area 2400 Sq.ft. in the name of Smt. Madhu Selly W/o Shri Bharat Selly, Boundaries: North: Land of Sukidevi, South: Land of Ragnivendra, East: 15 Ft. wide proposed road, West: Land of Gokulchand and others. Hypothecated assets:- Hypothecation of stocks/book debts/other movable assets
2) Shri Bharat Selly S/o Shri Balkrishna Selly C/o Manoj Mishra, LIC Agent, Lochan Nagar, Raigarh (C.G.). Guarantor/Mortgagor- Smt. Madhu Selly W/o Shri Bharat Selly C/o Manoj Mishra, LIC Agent, Lochan Nagar, Raigarh (C.G.) 496001	Rs 639477/- Intt. + other charges from 22.12.2021	22.12.2021		

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. Your attention is invited to the provision of section 13(8) of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.

Date: 03.11.2021, Place: Raigarh
Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Main Branch, Korba (C.G.)
POSSESSION NOTICE [Appendix IV under the Act-Rule-8(1)]

Whereas, the under signed being the Authorised officer of the Canara Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice was issued on the dated in the given following table calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days of receipt of said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property, described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against the account. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the CANARA BANK (Below mentioned Branches) for the amount and interest mentioned thereon.

The Borrower's / Guarantors' / Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Borrower/ Branch Name	Detail of Possessed Property	Demand Notice Amount	Demand Notice Date
1.	Mr. Saiyad Hussain Sehzada S/o. S.A. Kadar and Mrs. Nusrat Jabben W/o. Saiyad Hussain Sehzada Branch: Main Branch Korba (C.G.)	All that part & parcel of the property situated at Plot/Khasra No. Plot Kh. No. 333/11, Beside Naman Vihar, Ward No. 12, Korba Tehsil and District- Korba, State Chhattisgarh, measuring an area of 2600 sqft. Boundaries of the property are: North- Road, South- Naman Vihar (Compound Wall), East- Land of Dev, West- Land of Dinesh Patel.	₹ 32,55,603.03/- with interest and applicable charges thereon.	27.10.2021 28.12.2021

Date: 03.01.2022 Place: Korba (CG)
Authorized Officer, Canara Bank



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 274

Uniformity in true sense

The introduction of gender-neutral uniform at a government school in Kerala has triggered a row with a section opposing it. Government higher secondary school at Balussery in Kozhikode district in north Kerala introduced the gender-neutral uniform. Shirts and trousers have been made the uniform for both boys and girls in higher secondary classes. It is time that this practice is gradually adopted at schools across India. Gender-neutral uniform can be described as bringing uniformity in true sense. Inspired by the Valayanchirangara model, more than a dozen schools in Kerala have shifted to gender-neutral uniforms and the state's ruling Communist Party of India has pledged to support the movement being implemented across the state. Several women's rights groups have also come out in support of the unisex uniform initiative, saying it will help bridge the gender gap. Kerala has India's highest literacy rate, but there is still a higher literacy rate for men than women and gendered and patriarchal expectations continue to be placed on women in society. A few parents had requested an overcoat, which the PTA gladly agreed to. Similarly, students can choose between full-sleeve and half-sleeve shirts. Vidya Mukundan, who works as a costume designer for television shows and commercials, was the person behind designing the gender-neutral uniform for the children of Govt LPS Valayanchirangara in Perumbavoor in 2018. She designed three-fourth trousers as uniform which were similar to the boys' shorts. The school administration says the measure will help promote gender-neutral attitudes among the most important segments of society, children. The decision to provide uniform uniforms for all students in any school in India is unique and the first of its kind.

Kerala Minister of Education of the Left Front government, Vasudevan Sivankutty, praised the school's decision. He said the government would help promote such gender inclusion activities. Sivankutty said that textbooks emphasize ideas of gender justice, equality, and conscience, but these things should not be limited to textbooks only. Students will wear the same uniform of shorts and shirts. The Minister of State for Education said that there should be a debate in society about whether it is still necessary to establish separate schools for boys and girls. Having eliminated the need for bias at such a root level could ensure a wholesome upbringing for the kids, paving the way to see each other in equal light and without facing any sort of gender discrimination. This initiative is first of its kind since not many government schools practice such a code of conduct. But there is hope, that they may now consider following suit. These schools are breaking stereotype. Gender equality should be on the minds of students and parents. Girls face a lot of problems when wearing skirts. Problems occur when going to the bathroom and while playing. That is also a factor. This dress is derived from the concept of gender-neutral uniforms. The Kerala government had made another important decision earlier this month saying that it was not necessary for teachers to wear saris in schools. The state government said the dress was a personal matter and insisting on wearing a sari was not in keeping with Kerala's progressive attitude.

Changing canvas of conflict

Understanding the canvas of conflict has perpetually been the foremost and most complicated facet of the study of war. A century ago, the declaration of war was a formal exercise. Diplomats in frock coats would turn up at chancelleries to first serve ultimatums and subsequently to hand-deliver notices of war. These age-old courtesies were abridged by the time of World War II and terse telegrams replaced frock coats. The advent of the Cold War, nuclear weapons and proxy wars put an end to the custom of formal war declarations. In recent times, an incoming missile or fighter aircraft announces war. Not anymore. Information warfare is an ongoing affair with changing canvas of conflict. The threats in cyberspace are in the prime focus of the security strategy. The importance of cyber security was highlighted at the DGPs' conference in Lucknow, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was himself present at the entire session for two days. The threat of terrorism has resulted in two new developments - induction of the Army in counter-terror operations on our soil taking the challenge of civil-military cooperation to an entirely different plane, and opening of the ground for paramilitary forces of the Centre and Army to work together for the security of our borders. The Army trained in inflicting maximum casualties on the enemy attacking the country had to specially train itself for keeping collateral damages in counter-terror operations to its minimum, and presenting before the population the image of an empathetic force.

Intelligence-based operations help in this and that is why the role of our intelligence infrastructure for the maintenance of internal security has become extremely critical. Security is protection against covert actions of the unseen enemy and is therefore anchored entirely on timely information on the plan and location of the latter which is precisely what intelligence was. An entirely new extension of 'proxy war' aimed at 'winning the war by other means is the use of civil rights fora to run down a democratically elected government by building narratives for influencing the unsuspecting people against the ruling dispensation. Majoritarianism, authoritarianism and treatment of minorities are 'issues' that could be easily built on vague grounds for creating the impression that Constitutional mandate was not being followed by the ruling regime. Influencing the political outcome through non-governmental bodies linked to lobbies at home and abroad is a new age phenomenon, it uses 'human' channels that supplemented what was being attempted through 'technology' on the internet. The significance of the recent address of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at the 'passing out' function for new IPS officers at the National Police Academy in Hyderabad can be grasped in this context. He pointed out that civil society was the new frontier of war as it can be manipulated to hurt a nation's interests.

VISIT TO CONFECTIONERY FACTORY



Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin (R) and Misha Spiridonov (C) of the Oryol region visit the Krasny Oktyabr confectionery factory in Moscow, Russia.

People are lying more since rise of social media and smartphones

DAVID MARKOWITZ

Technology has given people more ways to connect, but has it also given them more opportunities to lie? You might text your friend a white lie to get out of going to dinner, exaggerate your height on a dating profile to appear more attractive or invent an excuse to your boss over email to save face. Social psychologists and communication scholars have long wondered not just who lies the most, but where people tend to lie the most, that is, in person or through some other communication medium. A seminal 2004 study was among the first to investigate the connection between deception rates and technology. Since then, the ways we communicate have shifted, fewer phone calls and more social media messaging, for example and I wanted to see how well earlier results held up. Back in 2004, communication researcher Jeff Hancock and his colleagues had 28 students report the number of social interactions they had via face-to-face communication, the phone, instant messaging and email over seven days. Students also reported the number of times they lied in each social interaction.

The results suggested people told the most lies per social interaction on the phone. The fewest were told via email. The findings aligned with a framework Hancock called the 'feature-based model.' According to this model, specific aspects of a technology whether people can communicate back and forth seam-

lessly, whether the messages are fleeting and whether communicators are distant predict where people tend to lie the most. In Hancock's study, the most lies per social interaction occurred via the technology with all of these features: the phone. The fewest occurred on email, where people couldn't communicate synchronously and the messages were recorded. When Hancock conducted his study, only students at a few select universities could create a Facebook account. The iPhone was in its early stages of development, a highly confidential project nicknamed 'Project Purple.' What would his results look like nearly 20 years later? In a new study, I recruited a larger group of participants and studied interactions from more forms of technology. A total of 250 people recorded their social interactions and number of interactions with a lie over seven days, across face-to-face communication, social media, the phone, texting, video chat and email. As in Hancock's study, people told the most lies per social interaction over media that were synchronous and recordless and when communicators were distant: over the phone or on video chat. They told the fewest lies per social interaction via email. Interestingly, though, the differences across the forms of communication were small. Differences among participants how much people varied in their lying tendencies were more predictive of deception rates than differences among media.

Despite changes in the way people communicate over the past two decades along with ways the COVID-19 pandemic changed how people socialize people seem to lie systematically and in alignment with the feature-based model. There are several possible explanations for these results, though more work is needed to understand exactly why different media lead to different lying rates. It's possible that certain media are better facilitators of deception than others. Some media, the phone, video chat might make deception feel easier or less costly to a

social relationship if caught. Deception rates might also differ across technology because people use some forms of technology for certain social relationships. For example, people might only email their professional colleagues, while video chat might be a better fit for more personal relationships. What is striking is the link between rates of poor self-esteem and unhappiness for people who agreed they 'tend to compare their life to others' lives online' or who admitted they followed lots of celebrities on social media. Using social media for dishonest activities such as being 'economical with the truth' and 'spying' on the activities of others is also linked to lower rates of self-esteem. While there is strong evidence that real face to face social contacts have significant benefits for a person's wellbeing, this is not the case for online social contacts, and many studies have found negative associations, leading to a tentative conclusion that online social connections are not a replacement for real life social contacts and at best enhance them. In addition, it has been long established that the higher the number of hours spent on screens the greater the chance of being overweight or obese which is one of the most serious health problems of our age. It may seem that with all the attention and concern with fake news and misinformation that there is no way that digital communities can be honest, but research shows that when we get people to review their personal communications, they find that their online messages are more honest than their face-to-face interactions or phone calls. How can this be? The problem is that there isn't one big online world. For each person, there are at least two online worlds.

But the ingenuity of using the Internet as a canvas for mischief and critique worked a little too well. Just a couple of decades later technology companies have created a media ecosystem that allows governments, political operatives, marketers and other interested parties to

routinely expose Internet users to dangerous misinformation and dupe them into amplifying it. There is mounting evidence of foreign operatives, partisan pundits, white supremacists, violent misogynists, grifters and scammers using impersonation on social media as a way to make money, gain status and direct media attention. How did we end up in a situation where lies travel farther and faster than the truth? The answer involves the promise of networked communication technology, the new data economy and the spiralling deluge of profitable strategic misinformation. Probably the most surprising thing is how much more psychology predicts deception with technology than anything to do with the technology. It's easy to forget, but (most) people lie for a reason, and simply because a person is using a phone or a computer or a tablet to communicate doesn't make them more or less likely to lie. Instead, it's all about goals and motivations. To me, there are two key take-aways. First, there are, overall, small differences in lying rates across media. An individual's tendency to lie matters more than whether someone is emailing or talking on the phone. Second, there's a low rate of lying across the board. Most people are honest, a premise consistent with truth-default theory, which suggests most people report being honest most of the time and there are only a few prolific liars in a population. Since 2004, social media have become a primary place for interacting with other people. Yet a common misperception persists that communicating online or via technology, as opposed to in person, leads to social interactions that are lower in quantity and quality. People often believe that just because we use technology to interact, honesty is harder to come by and users aren't well served. Not only is this perception misguided, but it is also unsupported by empirical evidence. The belief that lying is rampant in the digital age just doesn't match the data.

(David Markowitz is Assistant Professor of Social Media Data Analytics, University of Oregon, US.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Weird scenario

Year 2022 begins with grim news of twelve pilgrims' death and over a dozen injured in a stampede at Jammu and Kashmir's Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. The stampede was triggered by 'a group of 15-20 pilgrims suddenly created a circle pushing other people saying that their phones have been lost', amid a massive rush of devotees on New Year. People are shocked that in the days of social distancing, people die of stampede, that's too 25000 in one time. Is this not a weird scenario? Actually, this is the result of too many religious rituals following Narendra Modi who goes through such trivialities every now and then. Not only this, as per Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "personally monitoring and keeping track of the tragic situation." Even, I thus fail to understand the rationale for such large ex gratia payments to the families of the dead and the injured - that too separate ones from the PM National Relief Fund, of Rs 2 lakh each from would be given to the families of those who lost their lives but also the injured would be given Rs 50,000 and from the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha also announced an amount of Rs 10 lakhs to each deceased family and Rs 2 lakh each for the injured, beside Rs 25,000 by the temple trustee. Naturally to see the PM and the LG showing empathy towards the pilgrims. But one thing unable to digest is why does the government dole out cash to the affected families after such an incident? Because Uttar Pradesh and five other states election knocking at the door, and to woo Hindu voters for Hindu nationalist party? People want to know if the Modi government will show the same spirit for other communities too and PM Modi personally monitoring the situation then? Remember, the devotees had gone of their own free will, and the stampede was preceded by a smaller incident, not of any official failure. But when the situation aggravated, a few policemen resorted to a mild lathicharge to control the movement to make it worse. If so then did the regulatory authorities too should be blamed for this tragedy for they have dismally failed in crowd management. We are also being told by those at the helm that crowding should be avoided in a Covid-19, and that too in the face of the latest threat of Omicron variant, but it is apparent that politicians and the so-called pious are immune from it.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Approach UN

An alarming report of The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published some years back dubbed beef as climate-harming meat. It is noteworthy that India consumes just average 12 gms meat per person per day which is just about ten-percent of global average of 115 gms per person per day with USA leading with 322 gms per person per day. India already has a total ban on cow-slaughter in most parts of the country also to respect religious sentiments of majority community. Firstly a total ban on cow-slaughter should be imposed throughout the country because even in states with partial or nil ban on cow-slaughter, there is a vast majority which worships cow as holy animal. Even secular-declared Nepal has made cow as its national animal also to prevent cow slaughter. But in accordance with UNEP report, India has a solid ground to ban cow-slaughter even on environmental and scientific grounds. India should rather approach United Nations Organisation (UNO) to impose a ban on beef to save mankind from dangerous effects of global warming and water consumption where production of beef consumes heavy amount of water.

Subhash Chandra Agarwal, Delhi



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Swara Bhasker@ReallySwara
At that point where we've to remind ourselves that it's not okay to SELL MUSLIM WOMEN ONLINE! Remind ourselves that it's not kosher to rally & call for genocide! That it's not okay to disrupt people's prayers. This is happening in our name, in the name of our Gods. It's on us!

Radhika Gupta@iRadhikaGupta
A long way to go on how successful women in corporate India are depicted in films and OTT content. Most stories re-iterate the stereotype of making compromises, being ruthless and having dysfunctional lives at home. This needs to change: ambitious doesn't mean abnormal!



Dipshikha@DipshikhaGhosh
Delta hasn't left and Omicron is here. Next few weeks are crucial. Stay in your homes as much as you can. Please don't go out unless absolutely necessary. Don't invite people over unless you're sure they weren't exposed recently. Consider everybody a suspect unless negative.

Raghava Krishna@Anviksiki
Finally, managed to see Akhanda. Cinematically it shows the power of a mass hero in a culturally relatable theme. Meme makers acting cute about stunts etc won't know this ever. But this isn't just another movie. It is a potential turning point in spreading civilizational.



JSai Deepak@jsaideepak
At Mahaperiyava Manimandapam, Orikkai, Kanchipuram.



Vaishali Mathur@mathur_vaishali
Our neighbours get fresh flowers for their pooja/prayers in the morning. Every morning they arrive in a plastic bag. Sometimes they forget to pick them up as the flowers rot in the sun. I can't imagine why they can't be delivered tied in leaves or paper.

Amrullah Saleh@AmrullahSaleh2
Few expendable Talibs are filmed removing bits of the Pak installed fence somewhere along Durand line. It is an attempt by the ISI to give a sense of national identity to Talibs. With the ISI performing the functions of the dead Mullah Haibatullah such fence isn't needed for now.

'Practice your religion but don't indulge in hate speech'

Kottayam (Ker), Jan 03 (PTI):

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday expressed his strong disapproval of attempts to ridicule other religions and create dissensions in the society, saying every person has the right to practice and preach his or her faith in the country. "Practice your religion but don't abuse and indulge in hate speech and writings," the Vice President said at an event organised to mark the 150th death anniversary of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a spiritual leader and social reformer from the Kerala Catholic community, at Mannanam near here. Observing that hate speeches and writings are against culture, heritage,



M Venkaiah Naidu

traditions, constitutional rights and ethos, Naidu said secularism is in the blood of every Indian and the country is respected world-over for its culture and heritage.

In this context, the Vice President called for strengthening the Indian value system, an official statement said. The Vice

President said community service must be made compulsory for students studying in government as well as private schools as it would help them to develop an attitude of sharing and caring in their interaction with others.

"Today, there is a dire need to inculcate the spirit of service from a young age in the youth of this country. Once this pandemic is behind us and normalcy returns, I would suggest that government schools as well as those in the private sector must make community service of at least two to three weeks compulsory for students," he said.

Urging youngsters to imbibe, protect and promote Indian cultural values, Naidu highlighted the importance of India's philoso-

phy of sharing and caring for others. He said that living for others will not only give a person a lot of satisfaction but will also make the people remember that person for a long time for his or her good deeds.

The Vice President said inculcating the spirit of service in youngsters at school level would help them to develop an attitude of sharing and caring in their interaction with others. "As a matter of fact, the philosophy of share-and-care is at the core of India's age-old culture and must be widely propagated. For us, the whole world is one family as encapsulated in our timeless ideal, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. It is with this spirit that we should move forward together," Naidu said.

MARTIAL ART SKILL



Nihang Sikh warriors display their martial art skills during a religious procession on the occasion of the 355th birth anniversary (Pakash Parv) of Guru Gobind Singh, in Jammu, Monday.

Bengal govt gets national level award for public outreach prog

Kolkata, Jan 03 (PTI):

The West Bengal government has earned the Award of Excellence under the Project Category of Computer Society of India's e-Governance Awards 2021, the TMC wrote in its Twitter handle. 'Duare Sarkar' (government at your doorstep) programme is an initiative of the state government for delivery of some specific schemes at the doorsteps of the people through camps organised at the gram panchayat and municipal ward levels. The programme was launched on December 1, 2020. The CSI Special Interest Group (SIG) on eGovernance instituted a series of awards for recognising the contributions made to the field

of eGovernance in the country in 2002-03. The awards are given under two categories - state and project. According to the CSI website, it is the largest and most professionally managed association of and for Information Technology professionals in India. The state government got the award a day after it postponed the 'Duare Sarkar' camps due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases. The next camps are scheduled to be held on February 1. Till Monday, over 1.04 lakh camps for the programme have been organised in different districts of the state, an official said.

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COVID-19 curbs take a back seat in crowded trains of West Bengal

Kolkata, Jan 03 (PTI):

Commuters were seen travelling in crowded local trains on Monday, thumbing their nose to the restrictions imposed by the state government a day ago to curb the spread of COVID-19. Metro Railway coaches also ran almost jam-packed in the peak hours, with people barely maintaining distance from one another.

The West Bengal government, in an order issued on Sunday, capped the number of passengers in local trains to 50 per cent of the seating capacity. It has also limited the hours of service to 7 pm. Metro Railway has made

smart cards mandatory for passengers to avail its services, discontinuing token issuance.

The new set of rules will be applicable till January 15. Suburban trains were choc-a-bloc with passengers in the busy Sealdah and Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway during the day as some of them pushed each other to make their way inside the coaches. In the Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway, too, the situation was no different. Eastern Railway spokesperson Ekalabya Chakraborti said suburban trains will leave the station of origin from 5 am to 7 pm as per the existing timetable.

Mob booked in Indore for holding rally to support Kalicharan

Indore, Jan 03 (PTI):

A case was registered against 50 unidentified people in Indore in Madhya Pradesh for protesting against the arrest of Hindu religious leader Kalicharan Maharaj, who was held last week for using an expletive for Mahatma Gandhi during a speech at an event on December 26 in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, an official said on Monday.

A video of the protest, which was held on Sunday, also showed some people shouting slogans in praise of Nathuram Godse, the Mahatma's assassin.

Some 50 unidentified Akhil Bharatiya Hindu

Mahasabha and Bajrang Sena activists on Sunday staged a protest and raised slogans at Regal Square without the administration's permission. They then marched to the police commissionerate to submit a memorandum on Kalicharan Maharaj's arrest," said Savita Choudhary, in charge of Choti Gwaltoli police station.

She said, as per a prohibitory order of the district collector, rallies, processions and dharnas cannot be held in public places without the prior permission of the administration. "A FIR has been registered against the protestors for violation of this order under Indian Penal

Code (IPC) section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant)," Choudhary said.

Choudhary said she was unaware if the protesting crowd shouted slogans praising Godse.

Meanwhile, Congress spokesperson Aminul Khan Suri shared a video of the protests, in which pro-Godse slogans can be heard, and said it took place near the commissionerate and the police remained mute spectators.

The police should book them under sedition rather than the lighter provisions that have been invoked currently, he said.

Kalicharan was held from MP by Chhattisgarh police last week.

WINTER CARNIVAL 2022



Women perform Kulvi Naati dance during the Winter Carnival 2022 in Manali, Monday.

SC judge to CBI Academy pass-outs

'Upon you to probe impartially, assist courts in upholding justice'

New Delhi, Jan 03 (PTI):

The CBI has established itself as a premier agency, which is trusted by all, Supreme Court Judge Justice Dinesh Maheshwari said on Monday as he told a batch of 37 sub-inspector probationers, which recently passed out of the from CBI Academy, that more the trust, "more is your responsibility".

Addressing the passing out ceremony of the 24th batch of the sub-inspector probationers, Justice Maheshwari, who was the chief guest at the event, said the CBI has come a long way to establish itself as the premier agency which is trusted by almost all across the board, right from a common man to the



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari (R) presents the award to a trainee, during the Investiture Ceremony of the XXIV Batch of the Sub-Inspector trainees of CBI, at CBI Academy in Ghaziabad.

top administrators. "More the trust, more the faith in you, more is your responsibility," he said. In the wake of new age challenges before investigators, Justice Maheshwari told the young officers to

continuously upgrade their knowledge through persistent and inquisitive zeal, which is going to be their biggest ally, biggest support, biggest asset in the times to come. "Do not forget that whenever con-

stitutional courts want that matters must be presented to them with impeccable true facts, it is the CBI which is called upon for the purpose," he said.

He called upon the passing out officers to discharge their responsibilities impartially and inconsonance with the oath taken of allegiance to the country and to become even more loyal, honest and impartial.

Justice Maheshwari said institutional integrity and personal integrity are the "two aspects that we need to go on and remind ourselves". "As an individual, the officers have learnt as to what integrity is about, how a person is supposed to be, as we say, of unquestionable integrity," he said.

'Nijaat' campaign helps addicts shun drugs, alcohol

Tikeshwar Patel

Raipur, Jan 03: Mukesh Kumar Sahu, a resident of Korea district, got addicted to liquor and ganja in his student days. He left his studies, later his addiction affected his marital life and even his parents started living separately because of his habits. But, Sahu is a changed man now. He has not only overcome his addiction, but also helps local police in nabbing drug peddlers and motivates other addicts in his area to quit drugs and liquor consumption.

Like him, there are several men in Korea district who have quit addiction in the last six months, thanks to a campaign being run by local police against

drugs and illegal liquor sale. Under the 'Nijaat' (ridance) drive, launched in July last year, the police have been successful in effectively curbing the smuggling of drugs and illegal liquor, and also persuaded a large number of addicts to quit the habit and lead a normal life. Korea Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh claimed while talking to PTI.

The campaign is gaining momentum across Korea, a small district in Chhattisgarh's tribal-dominated Surguja division, with wall paintings, posters and banners of 'Nijaat' seen at many places in urban areas and remote villages of the district. According to the police official, the campaign

is drawing more attention as celebrities like Prabhu Deva, Arbaaz Khan, Rajpal Yadav and Kailash Kher have been roped in to appeal to people, through video messages, to quit drugs and liquor.

Some noted artists from Chhattisgarh, like actor Anuj Sharma and folk singers Teejan Bai and Mamta Chandrakar, have also extended support to the campaign. Singh, the brain behind the drive, said "the campaign has started yielding results and local public representatives as well as the common people have taken it forward in their areas on their own."

Around 200 public awareness programmes have been conducted so far

under the drive in the district where hundreds of drug addicts have been counselled and successfully convinced to quit the habit, said the 2011-batch IPS officer.

Besides, since July last year, so far 152 people have also been arrested in 126 cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, while 822 arrests have been made in 935 cases pertaining to the sale of illegal liquor, the police official said.

After attending an event under the campaign in Sonhat village, Mukesh Sahu, a local, came in contact with police who convinced him to quit the addiction. "I started consuming liquor when I was in

Class 10. I did not even appear for the exams and later quit studies. Soon, from liquor, I shifted to smoking ganja and chewing tobacco, and became addicted to these narcotics. I had no idea that I had started on a catastrophic journey, Sahu told PTI.

He said he used to buy liquor with money given to him for household items. His parents thought he might quit drug addiction after getting married. "I got married in 2016, but I continued with my habits and even assaulted my wife in drunken state. My wife started living most of the time at her maternal home along with my two children and even my parents left me," he said.

जोड़ो का दर्द

सूजन

ऐठन

बदलते मौसम के कारण वातरोगों कि शिकायत काफी बढ़ जाती है ऐसे समय लिजीये बैद्यनाथ महाराजनादि काढा (पुंगुलुयुक्त) यह जोड़ों का दर्द, सूजन, ऐठन आदि को दूर करने में सहायक है।

बैद्यनाथ
असली आयुर्वेद

महाराजनादि काढा (पुंगुलु युक्त)

वात रोगों में दर्द से छुटकारा दिलाने में सहायक।

हरारत

भूख न लगना

आखें लाल होना

इनसे बचने के लिए असली चिरायतायुक्त..

बैद्यनाथ
असली आयुर्वेद

महासुदर्शन काढा

बदलते मौसम के कारण होनेवाली तकलीफें: हाथपाँव का जकड़ना, मुँह का स्वाद कड़वा होना, भूख न लगना, सिरदर्द, अत्याधिक मात्रा में प्यास लगना, आखें लाल होना, बदन दर्द, आदि तकलीफें दूर करने में उपयोगी।

आयुर्वेद अपनाएं... स्वस्थ रहें....

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