



DECISION 2022, RESULT ON MAR 10

Five states to have 7-phased polls

From Feb 10-Mar 7
Ban on physical rallies till Jan 15

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 10 and March 7 in seven phases with counting of votes on March 10, the Election Commission announced on Saturday, and banned physical rallies and roadshows till January 15 due to Covid



CEC Sushil Chandra

concerns. The elections have huge political significance with BJP ruling four of these five states, while it is making a big

push to capture Congress-ruled Punjab, where the Aam Aadmi Party is also emerging as an important player.

Announcing the election schedule with a strong focus on digital and virtual modes of campaigning, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said the ban on rallies, roadshows, nukkad sabhas, padayatra and vehicle rallies will be reviewed on January 15.

Asked about experts predicting the third wave of the Covid pandemic to

peak in February, when voting for five of the seven phases of the polls will take place, he said the situation is very dynamic and nobody can predict Covid numbers of future date. He also assured voters that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure "Covid safe" elections and said they should come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise as polling booths will be sanitised and polling officers vaccinated. In all, elections will be held for 690 assembly seats, and 18.3 crore peo-

POLL STATISTICS

Elections will be held in 403 assembly seats in the UP in the seven phases from February 10 to March 7. For Manipur's 60 assembly constituencies, elections will held in two phases on February 27 and March 3, while polling in Goa (40 seats), Punjab (117 seats) and Uttarakhand (70 seats) will be held on February 14.

CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In an unprecedented step, the Election Commission on Saturday banned public rallies, roadshows and corner meetings till January 15 in the five poll-bound states, citing the fresh surge in COVID-19 cases, and issued stringent safety guidelines. Declaring the election schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra urged political parties to shift to the digital mode of campaigning and announced the doubling of air time allocated to political parties on public broadcaster Doordarshan for electioneering.

ple, including 8.5 crore women, will be eligible to cast their votes in the five

states. In the politically important Uttar Pradesh, voting will start from the

western region and move towards the east over seven phases.

BRIEF



Women commuters cover themselves with an umbrella during rain in Meerut, Saturday.

Jail term

New Delhi: A man has been sentenced to a five-year jail term for extorting money from a judge, in whose court he had worked as an assistant ahmad, by threatening to kill her two children in 2007. While awarding the jail term to Shiv Shankar Parsad Sinha, the court in Delhi said the incident affected the stream of justice and created a trust deficit among judges and support staff.

Tax evasion

Varanasi: The tax authorities raided the factory of a gutkha trader in Varanasi's Pandeypur, sources said on Saturday. So far, no official statement has come out in this regard. A team raided the factory of gutkha trader Laxmikant Pandey, alias Pammi, on Friday night, they said. According to the sources, the team seized papers and a computer hard disk. Prima facie, tax evasion of lakhs of rupees has come to the fore, the sources said.

Run over

Jaipur: Two brothers who were engrossed in playing popular online game PUBG on their mobile phones while sitting on a railway track were run over by a train in Rajasthan's Alwar district on Saturday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Lokesh Meena (22) and his younger brother Rahul (19). They were preparing for competitive exams, the police said. "Lokesh Meena and Rahul were sitting on the railway track near Roopbaas town and were playing PUBG when they were run over by a train.

Rejoin

Dehradun: AAP leader Ravindra Jugran on Saturday quit the party and rejoined the ruling BJP, saying it was like homecoming for him. Welcoming Jugran back into the party fold, Uttarakhand BJP president Madan Kaushik said the party will benefit from his experience and capabilities in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Weather High 28 Low 16

IIIMS STUDENTS TO PM

Steer India away from 'forces that seek to divide us'

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

A group of students and faculty members from Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to steer the country away from "forces that seek to divide us" and said his silence "emboldens" voices of hate.

The letter with over 180 signatories, has flagged hate speech and attacks on minorities. "Your silence on the rising intolerance in our country, honourable prime minister, is

disheartening to all of us who value the multicultural fabric of our country. Your silence, honourable prime minister, emboldens the hate-filled voices and threatens the unity and integrity of our country," it said. "We ask your leadership to turn our minds and hearts, as a nation, away from inciting hatred against our people. We believe that a society can focus on creativity, innovation, and growth, or society can create divisions within itself," it added. They urged him to steer the country away from "forces that seek to divide us".

Delhi records 20,181 new COVID-19 cases, 7 deaths

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

Seven more fatalities were recorded in Delhi on Saturday due to COVID-19 as the city clocked 20,181 infections in a single day, while the positivity rate rose to 19.60 per cent, according to data by the health department.

The national capital had reported 407 COVID-19 fatalities and 20,394 cases with a positivity rate of 28.33 per cent on May 2.

A total of 1,02,965 tests were conducted the previ-

Mumbai reports 20,318 cases, five deaths

Mumbai on Saturday reported 20,318 new coronavirus infections, little less than the day before, and five deaths, civic officials said. The city now has more than one lakh active cases. The caseload in the country's financial capital rose to 8,95,098, while death toll reached 16,399. On Friday, Mumbai had reported 20,971 new cases and six deaths. As many as 71,019 coronavirus tests were conducted during the day which took the total of samples tested so far to 1,41,35,556, said a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) release.

ous day, including 79,946 RT-PCR ones, while the rest were rapid antigen ones. Nearly, 1,586 patients are admitted to hospitals, with 375 patients

on oxygen support. Out of 375 patients, 27 are on ventilator. The number of active cases stands at 48,178, of which 25,909 are in home isolation.

LATEST DATA

Omicron variant driving third wave of pandemic across states

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic across all states is being driven by the fast-spreading Omicron variant, official sources said on Saturday, citing the latest data.

Till a few days ago it was only in the western region of the country that the surge in Covid cases was due to Omicron, while in the northeastern states, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha the Delta variant was predominant. A source said, however, the

latest data suggests that all eastern states have also reported high numbers of Omicron cases.

"So going by that it can be said that the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic across all states is being driven by the fast-spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant," the source said. India saw a single-day rise of 1,41,986 new coronavirus infections taking the total case tally to 3,53,68,372, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Sikh devotees carry the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book) during a religious procession on the eve of the birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh, at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Saturday.

DISPUTE RESOLVED

MHA restores FCRA licence of Missionaries of Charity

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

The Union Home Ministry has restored the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the Missionaries of Charity, days after revoking it following some "adverse inputs". A home ministry official said that with the restoration of the FCRA licence, the Kolkata-based famed organisation will be able to receive foreign fundings and can also spend the money lying in the banks.

The Missionaries of Charity (MoC) is a Catholic religious congregation established in 1950 by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa to help the poor and destitute.

Sarabjit Kaur is new Chandigarh mayor

BJP sweeps mayoral polls

Chandigarh, Jan 08 (PTD):

The BJP on Saturday swept the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation mayoral polls and its municipal councillor Sarabjit Kaur became the new mayor.

The saffron party also bagged the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor of the Chandigarh MC. The mayor's post was



reserved for a woman candidate this year. However, the AAP called the poll results a "murder of democracy". BJP's Sarabjit Kaur defeated Aam Aadmi Party's Anju Katyal by one vote in a direct contest. Out of the total 36 votes,

28 were polled, while seven Congress councillors and the lone Shiromani Akali Dal councillor abstained.

Kaur bagged 14 votes and Katyal got 13, officials said, adding that one was declared invalid. The Aam Aadmi Party was contesting the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation polls for the first time. After the result was declared, AAP councillors created a ruckus in the House, with some of them reaching near the mayor's chair and holding a protest.

21 tourists freeze to death at Pak hill station Murree

Lahore, Jan 08 (PTD):

Pakistan's popular hill station Murree was declared a calamity-hit area on Saturday after at least 21 people, including nine children, froze to death in their stranded vehicles due to unprecedented snowfall and rush of tourists to the picturesque town in Punjab province.

All the routes in Murree in Rawalpindi district were blocked after thousands of vehicles entered the city, leaving the

tourists helpless on the roads. Around 1,000 cars were stuck on the hill station while the Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar issued instructions for expediting rescue work and providing aid to the stranded tourists, the Dawn newspaper reported. The Punjab government has imposed a state of emergency in hospitals, police stations and administration offices.

According to a list issued by Rescue 1122, at least 21 people died, in-

cluding nine children, it said. Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was shocked and upset at the tragic deaths of tourists on the road to Murree.

"Unprecedented snowfall & rush of ppl proceeding without checking weather conditions caught district admin unprepared. Have ordered inquiry & putting in place strong regulation to ensure prevention of such tragedies," Khan said in a tweet. The military has been mobilised to clear

roads and rescue people still trapped, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said in a video message. He said Murree had "seen a huge number of tourists after 15-20 years", and due to that, a crisis took place.

Rashid said the government was forced to close the road from Islamabad to Murree.

The commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, deputy commissioners, police, are carrying out rescue operations, he said.

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Work with dedication to fulfil the dreams of development: CM



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel visited Bhilai Municipal Corporation on Saturday on the occasion of swearing in ceremony of the newly elected Mayor and Speaker. Chief Minister asked the newly elected representatives that the citizens have given them the opportunity to fulfill the dreams of development of the city.

All the elected representatives should be determined to fulfil this dream on a war footing. Congratulating the Mayor Neeraj Pal, Chief Minister said that the way Neeraj has developed the Sector 5 area is really commendable. The Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park constructed here is a beautiful work done to preserve the memories of great men.

He said that the vision that Neeraj has will help Bhilai to reach new heights of development. Chief Minister further said that the Mayor and

the elected representatives should also ensure that there is rapid development in the northern side of the railway lines also. Speedy development work should be done in areas like Kosa Nagar, Radhika Nagar, HUDCO etc.

Chief Minister said that the Congress State Government is moving ahead on the path of inclusive development in rural areas. Along with this, the state government takes full care of the development of urban areas as well. Baghel said that he has a clear belief that our rural economy is like roots, when we irrigate the roots, the tree will also grow.

Money has reached the markets on a large scale through the government schemes of loan waiver schemes, Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana, Godhan Nyay Yojana etc. This has flourished the urban economy also. Chief Minister said that this year 66 lakh metric



tonnes of paddy has been procured so far and this procurement is likely to exceed one crore metric tonnes.

In this way, Rs 25000 crore rupees will come in the markets and will naturally benefit the urban economy. Chief Minister said that good work has been done in the health sector in urban areas through mobile medical units, Dai Didi clinics etc. He appreciated the corporation staff for their commendable contributions in Covid combat. He added that the state government has developed the health infrastructure to control such situations. Significant work has been done in the field of education through Swami Atmananda English Schools.

Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, significant schemes of urban development are being run. District Guardian Minister Mohammad

Akbar said that the citizens have acknowledged the works done under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel over the last three years.

Mayor Neeraj Pal said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has given a big responsibility and has expressed confidence in him. He assured to try best to live up to this trust. Speaker Girwar Sahu proposed the vote of thanks.

MLA Devendra Yadav, MLA Arun Vora, Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Girish Dewangan, Durg Mayor Dheeraj Bakliwal, former MLA Pradeep Choubey, Antyavasayi Corporation Vice Chairman Neeta Lodhi, Mandi Board Chairman Ashwini Sahu, DCC Bank Chairman Jawahar Verma and other dignitaries were present. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, SSP Badri Narayan Meena and BMC Commissioner Prakash Sarve were also present.

Baghel instructs to establish Urban Livelihood Center in Risali

CM asks elected representatives to work for the development of Risali



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: On Saturday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel expressed the need to establish a livelihood center to increase livelihood opportunities in Risali. He emphasized on the need of working in the direction of necessary infrastructure and beautification of this civic body. He asked the newly elected public representatives of Risali Corporation to make a plan and assured to provide all possible support from the state government.

On Saturday, the newly elected Mayor and Speaker of Risali formally took charge of the office. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the function organised on this occasion. Addressing the gathering, Baghel said that ensuring rapid development of the area will be a big challenge for the newly elected mayor, speaker and corporators. Most of these corporators have been elected for the first time and are full of enthusiasm. At the

same time, some of them are experienced also. He hoped that the enthusiasm and experience of the public representatives would give new heights to the development of Risali.

Chief Minister said that the work done by the government for the farmers in rural areas has benefited the urban economy on a large scale. Rapid development works are being done in the urban areas also. People have appreciated the government policies by voting its candidates to power in the civic bodies. He further said that the government is working on a large scale for basic facilities like education, health, drinking water etc in urban areas. Necessary work is being done in the field of health through Dai Didi Clinic, Mobile Medical Units, etc. In the field of education, a solid foundation is being laid through Swami Atmananda English Schools.

Speaking about the agriculture sector, Chief Minister said that this year 66 lakh metric tonnes



of paddy has been procured, 12000 crores has been paid to the farmers. He added that about Rs 10000 Crores have also reached the market. Work is being done rapidly to provide new employment opportunities. The government is concentrating on the development of basic infrastructure in urban areas. Special works are being done for water supply in low pressure areas. Congratulating the newly appointed Mayor, Chief Minister said that she got her name recorded in history by becoming the first Mayor of Risali. CM asked her to work hard for the development of Risali.

Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that the Chief Minister has continuously supported the development works in the newly formed Risali Municipal Corporation and he is expected to continue to help this new corporation as much as possible so that the best work can be done here. District Guardian Minister Mohammad Akbar said

that the election results of urban bodies indicate that the urban schemes introduced under the guidance of the Chief Minister have made a meaningful ground impact and are useful for the welfare of the people. Mayor Shashi Sinha said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel formed Risali Corporation and Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu took the corporation forward under his guidance. Now it is the responsibility of all the newly elected public representatives to work together and give new heights to the development of Risali.

MLA Devendra Yadav, District Panchayat President Shalini Yadav, District Mandi Board President Ashwini Sahu, District Cooperative Central Bank President Jawahar Verma, Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure, SSP Badri Narayan Meena and other officers were present. Mayor and the Speaker took charge of the offices in the presence of the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister visits Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation after 22 years



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel visited the office of Municipal Corporation Bhilai Charoda after about 22 years. Baghel said that he had decided to enter this office only when the denizens expressed full faith in his party. CM's dream came true after a long wait of 22 years when

Mayor Nirmal Kosre and Speaker Krishna Chandrakar took charge of their offices. Chief Minister extended best wishes to both of them.

In his address, Baghel said that his residence comes within the limits of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation but his dream remained unfulfilled for long. He expressed gratitude towards the denizens



for making his dream come true. In his address, Chief Minister asked the newly elected Mayor and Chairman to work according to the expectations of the people. He added that the voters must feel that they made the right decision in the election.

CM said that the general public visits the municipal office for various works. He asked the local civic

body to get their works done on time. Chief Minister further said that the development work should not stop under any circumstances. He asked the elected representatives to complete all the works with unity and the spirit of service.

Chief Minister was addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Mayor and

Chairman of Bhilai Charoda Corporation on Saturday.

Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said that the people have reposed faith on the works done on the model of development introduced by the Chief Minister. Guardian Minister Mohammad Akbar said that the state government will fulfill the expectations of the people.

Newly elected Mayor Nirmal Kosre said that Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is his political mentor and assured to work as per the Chief Minister's intention, thinking and faith. Speaker Krishna Chandrakar also addressed the gathering. Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure and SSP Badrinarayana Meena were also present.

SMS 2 creates New Record of 38 Heats from Single Sequence from Caster 6



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: Bhilai Steel Plant's Steel Melting Shop 2 set up a new milestone of 38 heats in single sequence at a stretch in a single tundish from Caster-6 in Continuous Casting Shop (CCS) on January 06, 2022, surpassing previous best record of

single sequence of 36 heats made on June 04, 2015. This achievement is noteworthy for SMS-2 and BSP as it will help the shop increase productivity of slabs which is in high demand in the steel market.

This achievement could be possible under the guidance of Anjani Kumar, ED (Works) and leadership of

Sushil Kumar, CGM, SMS-2. The team involved in it was led by Sudhir Kumar GM I/c (CCS) (Operation), Alok Mathur, GM CCS (Operation) from CCS Operations, Yogesh Shastri, GM (Mech) from CCS (Mechanical) and Raghvendra Rao, GM (Elec) from CCS (Electrical).

HMS demands measures to protect BSP employees from Covid infection

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: Overlooking the increasing cases of Corona and Omicron, Bhilai Steel Plant management has not taken any step to protect the workmen from the infection at workplace. The employee would lose morale if they continue to get infected at the workplace.

Bhilai Steel Plant has lost 240 officers / personnel during the second wave of Corona. Unfortunately, the aggrieved family members of the deceased employees did not get compassionate appointments.

Further, they were deprived of the monetary compensation of Rs 10 to 15 lakh which is provided in other Navratna companies.

Hind Mazdoor Sabha President and NJCS member HS Mishra has requested the BSP management to immediately implement the roster system in the plant.

The management must provide free sanitizers, masks, etc keeping in mind the safety of the plant workers. The best medical facilities should be provided to the Covid 19 and Omicron patients in Sector 9 Hospital.

Mishra said that he had specially raised the issue of safety of plant workers in the meeting of NJCS and demanded compassionate appointment to a dependent of the deceased plant workers. But this demand still remains ignored.

In view of the increasing positivity rate in the third wave of corona, he appealed to the BSP management to take protective steps by implementing the roster system in every shop immediately. He appealed to the employees to follow the Covid Protocol at work place to protect their health and life.

M&HS Dept notifies timings of Flu Clinic & Home Isolation Counselling Clinic

Employees Advised To Avoid Overcrowding Hospital Premises

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 08: Employees of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant and their family members are advised to avoid overcrowding in JLN Hospital premises. The management of SAIL-Bhilai Steel Plant has already issued guidelines to employees to observe Covid protocols strictly, avoid unnecessary travel and organising large gatherings and take other proactive steps to prevent spread of COVID 19 virus.

While a number of measures have been taken by the Management including large scale sanitisation,

employees have been advised to refrain from gathering together with in work premises, corridors and canteens.

The management has urged employees to be safe, secure and follow social distancing norms, compulsorily wear masks, follow proper sanitisation and wash hands regularly.

The Medical & Health Services Dept of the Plant has now issued a circular to inform employees about timings of Flu Clinic and Home Isolation Counselling Clinic.

According to the circular, Flu Clinic will run for patients with high fever, cough, cold & sus-

pected COVID in Old Chest OPD from 08:30 hrs to 13:30 hrs & 14:00 hrs to 18:30 hrs.

All patients with fever with cough & cold are advised to attend Flu Clinic in above-mentioned timings. There will be separate Pharmacy counter for dispensing of medicines near Flu Clinic (in Psychiatry OPD Complex).

Home Isolation counselling clinic will run in Old Chest OPD from 09:00 hrs to 13:30 hrs & 14:00 hrs to 18:30 hrs. All COVID patients are advised to attend home isolation counselling clinic in above mentioned timings.

In the wake of the present situation in the country on account of spike in COVID 19 cases, various measures are being taken by Government / State Government for containment of the pandemic. The Plant management has advised employees to avoid unnecessary travel which may lead to spread of infection.

Employees performing inter-state/inter-national inward travel on or after January 04, 2022, should have negative RT-PCR test report for the time period within 72 hours of arrival at Head Quarter. Employees will need to submit RT-PCR report at the time of

joining. In his New Year Message to employees, Director I/c BSP had appealed to all those employees and contractual workers who have not yet taken the first/second dose to do so immediately, for their own good and for safety of their colleagues, co-workers and their own family members.

School going children aged 15 to 18 are being vaccinated from January 03, 2022, for which BSP has made arrangements. Employees are urged to encourage school going children to come forward for the vaccinations.

Make-shift Covid Hospital with 250 beds set up in Ayurvedic College

Preparation of Raipur district administration to deal with possible wave of Corona

Newborns and children's wards are equipped with colorful theme sports equipment

Central Chronicle News



guidelines. On the instructions of Collector Saurabh Kumar, the Health and Family Welfare Department in association with Municipal Corporation and Raipur Smart City Ltd. built a 250-bed temporary covid hospital at Government Ayurvedic Hospital to pro-

vide advanced medical care to the patients admitted during the possible wave of corona. Complete arrangements have been made for the treatment of newborns, children and adult patients. There is also a provision of toys, recreational sports equipment and TV

for the children in the infant ward of the temporary Covid Hospital where the children will be treated. Rooms equipped with neonatal machines have been prepared for newborns, where there is a facility to house 10 newborns together. The 40 children's ward built here has been given an attractive look by preparing them on the theme according to their choice. For continuous monitoring of the health of corona patients, CCTV cameras have been installed at the corona ward from where duty doctors and concerned nursing staff will provide assistance by monitoring them 24 hours. All facilities will be accessible at the temporary covid hospital.

House burgled in New Shanti Nagar

Raipur, Jan 08: Unidentified burglars reportedly broke into a locked house between Dec 31, 2021 and January 3, 2022 decamped with Rs 5.50 lakh through unlocked almirah. The burglary came to light when complainant Shilpa Gupta arrived at her house and found was main door's lock broken and missing.

Further entering inside she found that the almirah was lying open and couple of ornaments and cash Rs 5 lakh was missing from it. Civil Lines police meanwhile have register under Section 457, 380 IPC against unidentified burglars and further investigation is now underway.

Dust all around



With weather drying up and dust coming to street, the denizens are left with no option but to use double mask to save themselves from dust and from virus as well.

Two bike lifters arrested, 9 vehicles recovered

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: Acting on its tirade to curb bike lifting in the city, Moudhapara police in association of Raipur Cyber Cell on Saturday arrested two bike lifters and recovered from them 9 bikes.

According to police, found a notorious robber roaming in Moudhapara locality trying to sell a bike which was most probably a stolen. After surveying the suspect for some time, police detail him and brought to the police along with bike. Identified as Tarun Tandi, the suspect soon con-

fessed of having lifted the bike along accomplice Dinesh Sahu. He further confessed of having lifted a total of 9 bikes using master keys.

Police then detained Dinesh Sahu and recovered him a total of 9 bikes of which one was a Bajaj CT-100 bike, another a Honda Aviator and seven Honda Activa bikes. The total value of recovered bikes is reported to be Rs 4 lakh. Moudhapara police meanwhile have registered offence under Section 379 IPC against both the arrested lifters and further investigation is now underway.

Health Minister Singhdeo tests negative for Covid

Shares information by tweeting

Raipur, Jan 08: Health Minister TS Singhdeo has tested negative for Coronavirus.

Sharing the information through a tweet, Singhdeo wrote that his COVID test report came negative today thanks to doctors and all his well-wishers who expressed concern about his health. Singhdeo was under treatment in home isolation after being infected with corona on January 2. After having no symptoms for the last 4 days, he got himself tested again in which his report came negative.

24-hr Covid control room set up

Information about doctors, ambulance, hospitals on toll-free number

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: On the instructions of Collector Sourabh Kumar, 24x7 hr control room has been set up in Raipur district for the convenience of citizens for effective control and prevention of Covid-19.

Citizens who want to get corona test, isolation facility, hospital facility, ambulance, doctor's consultation or other medical related information,

can contact control room toll free no.-78801-00331, 77124-45785, 78801-00332. Officers and employees have been put on duty in 3 shifts in the control room.

RMC fines 949 people Rs 74220 for not wearing masks

The Health Department of Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) along with members of women's self help groups took action against those roaming without wearing masks in various zones of the city. The action is being taken on the instructions of Raipur District Collector Sourabh Kumar, Municipal

Commissioner Prabhat Malik and Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal for compliance of Covid-19 protocol. Apart from recovering fine the RMC staff are also advising them to wear masks.

Assistant Health Officer of the Municipal Corporation, Dr Tripti Panigrahi informed that the Municipal Health Department are recovering fine from people without facemasks and giving them a stern warning for the future. Accordingly, total amount of fine of Rs 74220 was recovered from 949 people in different zones for not wearing masks.

Frauds dupes man of Rs 4.83 lakh

Raipur, Jan 08: In a bizarre incident of fraud reported in Tikrapara police station, four frauds had allegedly duped a man of 4.83 lakh by luring him of buying 300 litres of oil.

According to police, the frauds identified as Sahil Kumar Fauzi, Kuldeep Singh, Vinay Kumar and Dhiraj Kumar called complainant Shekhar Jain over phone 69130-35071 introduced themselves BSF employees. Further they offered of buying 300 litres of oil from his firm and for accomplishing the

deal, they asked him to furnish his firm's Aadhar Card and Bank Credit Card over the sent WhatsApp number.

Not suspecting the callers as frauds, Jain shared the sought after details and this turned out to be a major mistake as the frauds immediately siphoned Rs 4.83 lakh from his bank account.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 420, 34 IPC against all the above named frauds and further investigation is now underway.

'Coal mines in proposed Lemru elephant reserve area won't be allocated for mining'

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday said 39 coal mines that fall in the limits of the proposed Lemru Elephant Reserve in the northern part of the state will not be allocated for mining.

Talking to reporters at the helipad in Police Lines here, Baghel said the state government has informed the Centre that these mines will not be considered for auctioning.

At least 39 mines are within the limits of Lemru elephant corridor, hence, the question of mining in there does not arise. No further activities will take place in mines allotted to Chhattisgarh or other states in the area, the chief minister said.

The state government's

publication regarding the elephant reserve has already been sent to the Centre and it was also informed about this during a virtual meeting (with Union Coal and Mines minister Pralhad Joshi), he said.

In the virtual meeting of Baghel and Joshi on Friday, the state officials informed that the Gidhamuri-Paturia coal block and Madanpur South coal block, which fall under the reserve limits, will not be considered for auctioning and mining, a government statement said.

In August 2019, the state cabinet had decided to develop an elephant reserve in 1,995.48 sq km area in Surguja division, considering the constant rise in the elephant population in the region and to prevent incidents of human-

CBA welcomes decision

Meanwhile, Alok Shukla, the convener of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA), which fights for the rights of tribals and mining-affected people, said he welcomes the state government's decision. Shukla, however, questioned why the state government was silent about the coal blocks located in the adjoining areas of the reserve in the same biodiversity-rich Hasdeo Arand region.

elephant conflicts.

Meanwhile, Alok Shukla, the convener of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA), which fights for the rights of tribals and mining-affected people, said he welcomes the state government's decision.

Shukla, however, questioned why the state government was silent about the coal blocks located in the adjoining areas of the reserve in the same biodiversity-rich Hasdeo

Arand region. We welcome the Bhupesh Baghel government's decision to not allow coal mining in the reserve area. But why is it silent about the nearby Parsa and Kente Extension blocks, which fall in Surguja district where tribals have been protesting against mining. Why three blocks in Tara to Pendrakhi area in the same region were excluded from the reserve area? Shukla asked.

Man duped of Rs 1.20 lakh through Paytm customer care number

Raipur, Jan 08: In a routine e-fraud, a man has been reportedly duped of Rs 1.20 lakh by a fraud who had posed as customer care executive of Paytm. According to police, complainant Sharad Vaishnav of Rawatpura Phase-I Colony had sent Rs 1000 his sister over her Paytm account. However, the money was not delivered following which Vaishnav searched over Google to find the Customer Care number of Paytm. In the process, he came through a number 98319-30811 wherein the respondent told him that the money will be instantly by installing Anydesk App, the link of which was sent to him. Not suspecting the respondent at all, Vaishnav activated the sent link and this turned out to be major mistake as the fraud siphoned Rs 1.20 lakh from his bank account in six successive withdrawals. Tikrapara police meanwhile have registered a fraud under Section 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned telephone number and further investigation is now underway.

Playing a badminton shot inaugurates 'Khel Madhai'



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: It was playing a badminton shot between the General Secretary Chhattisgarh Olympic Association (COA) Gurucharan Singh Hora and President Raipur Press Club Damu Aambadore that inaugurated 'Khel Madhai' at Union Club, by members of Raipur Press Club here on Saturday. Under this single and double match in badminton will be played.

On this occasion Treasurer Press Club Shagufta Shireen, working committee member Sanjay Shukla, Javed Khan, Manoj Nayak, sports in-charge Vijay Mishra and members of Raipur Press Club were present. Hailing organiza-

tion of 'Khel Madhai' by Raipur Press Club GS Hora said that he is himself closely associated with sports and holding sports competition of Raipur Press Club is an honour in itself. Hailing works of President Press Club Damu Aambadore, Singh said that he has been working for welfare of his fellow journalists. As & when he contacted me, it was for works related to Raipur Press Club.

In the single's of the Badminton tourney on Saturday, Santosh Sahu entered into semi-finals winning three matches and similarly Chandan Sahu, Bhupesh Kesarwani, Satyendra Kar, Lavindar Pal, Teekam Verma,

Khemraj Dewangan winning their respective matches entered into semi-finals. On Sunday along with single's matches, men's double will also organized and a decision was taken to hold matches of Jan 11 tomorrow, informs a press release.

'Roko Au Toko' campaign started in Raipur district

Under guidance of Collector

Volunteers of Azim Premji, UNICEF, 'We The People' roaming around, explaining benefits of

Masks and measures to prevent corona

Volunteers also motivating everyone for vaccination and following corona guidelines

Central Chronicle News



Corona. UNICEF's District Mobilization Coordinator Kamini Athawale on Saturday met Collector Sourabh Kumar and started the "Roko Au Toko" campaign in Raipur district. Volunteers from Azim Premji Foundation, 'We the People' and UNICEF India are serving in this campaign. Under the campaign, volunteers are walking

around various office complexes, road junctions, markets and other public places and advising people to follow the corona protocol including wearing masks, maintaining distance and personal hygiene. Volunteers are also advising them to convince those who are little careless. The campaign will be conducted in the entire district.

Ch'garh sees 2,828 COVID-19 cases, 3 deaths; tally now 10,17,356

Raipur, Jan 08: Chhattisgarh on Friday added 2,828 COVID-19 cases to its tally, which reached 10,17,356, while three deaths took the toll in the state to 13,609, an official said. The recovery count stood at 9,94,063 after 12 people were discharged

from hospitals and 34 completed home isolation during the day, leaving the state with an active tally of 9,684, he said. "Raipur district reported 899 new cases, taking the tally to 1,61,288, including 3,146 deaths. The district has 2,974 active cases. Raigarh

recorded 364 cases, followed by 293 in Durg, 279 in Bilaspur, 268 in Korba and 153 in Jashpur, among other districts," he said.

With 44,773 samples being examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,51,70,644, the

official said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 10,17,356, New cases 2,828, Death toll 13,609, Recovered 9,94,063, Active cases 9,684, today tests 44,773, Total tests 1,51,70,644.

Drug dealers' associations urge not to sell corona medicines without doctor's prescription

To patients and general public

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: In view of the widespread contagion of corona the office bearers of the drug dealers' associations have urged all their chemists not to sell the medicines of corona especially to the patients and the general public without a doctor's prescription. In this regard, National President of All India Retail Chemist Association



Devraj Gurnani addressed all his chemists, President of Confederation of Pharma Dealers Association, Narendra Harchandani to

his members, Chhattisgarh Chemist and Druggist Association General Secretary, Avinash Agrawal have written letters to the presidents and secretaries of the districts association, urging them not to sell Covid related medicines without a doctor's prescription. Similarly, the President of District Drug Dealers

Association, Raipur, Mr. Vinay Kriplani and Co-Secretary Mr. Nitesh Jain have requested all their retail chemists members of Raipur district to sell exclusively Covid medicine with utmost care and not without prescription of doctors. They have also urged that they should also maintain the record of purchase and sale of such medicines and said that in this fight against Covid, we all chemists will fulfill our responsibility by cooperating with the government and administration.

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Task force meeting on the eradication of single use plastic concludes

● Chief Secretary chairs the meeting

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: In connection with the preparation of a detailed action plan for the eradication of single-use plastic in the state, a meeting of the task force was held on Friday through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Mr. Amitabh Jain. In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Housing and Environment Department Mr. Subrat Sahoo, Secretary, Urban Administration Department, Alarmelmangai D., Mr. Prasanna R., Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department and Mr. R.P. Tiwari, Member Secretary, C.G. Environmental Protection Board participated. In the meeting, discussions were held to prepare a comprehensive action plan as per the guidelines received



from the Government of India regarding the eradication of single use plastic. Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain directed that various industrial institutions and departments of the state should be encouraged to explore the alternatives of single use plastic and implement the best practical methods implemented in other states of the country in their own states.

He directed that a public awareness campaign should be launched on a large scale regarding the eradication of single use plastic such as electronic media, print media and so-

cial media. It is worth mentioning that in addition to the carry bags, the Housing and Environment Department, Chhattisgarh Government has short-lived PVC and chlorinated plastics i.e. advertising and promotional materials (PVC banners, flexes, hoardings, foam boards etc.) and plastic items used for catering (cups, etc.). The manufacture, storage, import, sale, transport and use of glass, plate, bowl and spoon have been banned in the state of Chhattisgarh with immediate effect. A task force has been constituted under

the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary in relation to the preparation of a detailed action plan for the eradication of single use plastic by the State Government. In this committee, Secretary, Housing and Environment Department, Secretary, Commerce and Industry Department, Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department and Member Secretary has been included as a member of the Environment Protection Board.

Prakash D. transferred as IG CRPF Central Sector, Lucknow



Raipur, Jan 08: Prakash D. working as IG CRPF Chhattisgarh sector has been transferred and posted as IG CRPF Central Sector, Lucknow (UP) and Saket Kumar Singh, IPS, who was DIG Operations, has been promoted and posted as IG CRPF Chhattisgarh Sector.

In a brief ceremony here on Friday, Prakash D handed over his charge to Saket Kumar Singh. Prakash. D thanked all the officers and personnel of CRPF, other Security Forces and Chhattisgarh Police for their cooperation and support.

On this occasion the "Suicide Prevention" poster of CRPF Family Welfare Association was also released.

STRICT ACTION



Traffic police and policemen posted in chowks took strict action against those violating traffic norms and not wearing mask while moving out in the open.

Surprise inspection at Krishna godown of Madhu Fertilizers

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 08: According to the oral instructions of Collector Sourabh Kumar, a surprise inspection was conducted at Krishna Godown of Madhu Fertiliser Raipur at village Giroud in Dharseva

development block. Quantity of fertilizer stock was not found displayed during inspection. Even cash memo was found without signatures of farmers and manual distribution register was not properly maintained. A show cause notice was issued for all such

drawbacks and clarification was sought within seven days. Deputy Director of Agriculture Department, RK Kashyap, Assistant Directors, UK Gawde, MD Ojha, SK Makeway, Agriculture Development Officer and Anjani Sahu were present during inspection.

Bhavani Markam nominated president of Adivasi Congress

● CPAC releases list of district bodies

Raipur, Jan 08: Following the recommendation of PCC Chief Mohan Markam, state president of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Adivasi Congress (CPAC) Janak Dhruv has released the list of office bearers of different districts. As per the list issued of district presidents, Bhavani Markam is district president of Raipur (Urban), Prapat Thakur Raipur (Rural), Khemraj Dhruv Mahasamund, Teksingh Dhruv Balodabazar, Khedu Negi Gariabandh, Gemu Kunjam Rajnandgaon (Urban), Laduram Tumreki Rajnandgaon (Rural), Rakesh Thakur Durg (Urban), Sarshat Mandavi Durg (Rural), Surendra Bhedia Balod, Narottam Padoti Kanker,



Jethu Mandavi Kondagaon, Laikhen Baghel Bastar, Santuram Kunjam Dantewada, Pandiram Wadde Narayanpur, Surit Dhruv Bemetara, Deva Marko, Mungeli, Suraj Markam Bilasuli, Chatrapal Singh Kanwar Korba, Yudhistir Kamro Korea, Santosh Pawle Surajpur, Vinod Pradhan Jashpur, Prayag Singh Ambikapur, Mitku Bhagat Balrampur and Vekko Hunga Sukma.

Tobacco use will be controlled through awareness and participation of people: Singhdeo

Need to create awareness about the ill-effects of tobacco through schools and colleges.

State level orientation workshop on tobacco control concludes



tobacco addiction. Health Minister Singhdeo was addressing the state level orientation workshop organised by the Health Department on the topic of tobacco control, here. On this occasion, he released Chhattisgarh's corresponding results of the fourth phase of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2019.

The Health Minister said in the workshop that once the addiction of tobacco is inculcated by young children and youth, it is very difficult to quit it. That is why we should make them aware of the ill

effects of tobacco in advance. He said that the percentage of people who start using tobacco in the country between the age of 10 to 22 years is more than 90. The percentage of tobacco use by children in the age group of 13 to 15 years in the state of Chhattisgarh is 8, even though it is less than the national average but it is a matter of great concern. He said that there are 3500 deaths every day in India, about 12.8 lakh deaths are caused by tobacco use in a year which is more than the combined deaths due to TB, HIV and Malaria. Even the current corona epidemic is more than the death toll. In the workshop, Health Director Mr. Neeraj Bansod said that the tobacco control program in the state needs to be worked fast while setting targets with inter-departmental

coordination. Dr. Kamlesh Jain, State Nodal Officer of Tobacco Control Program of Chhattisgarh State said that in the present scenario, the use of tobacco and tobacco products not only helps in spreading the infection of corona virus. Along with increasing its severity, it also causes death. In the workshop, Dr. Rana Jagdeep Singh of The Union, who joined the online medium, gave many suggestions for tobacco control. He said that more than 80 lakh people use tobacco in Chhattisgarh. We need to set a target that the tobacco use rate in the state can be brought down from 8 percent to 5 percent by the year 2025 among the children in the age group of 13 to 15 years.

CM congratulates newly elected Mayor of Birgaon



● And Speaker Kriparam Nishad

Raipur, Jan 08: The newly elected Mayor of Birgaon Municipal Corporation, Mr. Nandlal Devangan and Speaker Mr. Kriparam Nishad had a courtesy call on Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his resi-

dence office here. The Chief Minister congratulated both the newly elected public representatives for their resounding victory. On this occasion, Chairman of District Co-operative Bank Raipur, Mr. Pankaj Sharma, Mr. Motilal Devangan and other public representatives were also present.

First dose of vaccine being given to 15-18 yr old children

Raipur, Jan 08: In Dantewada district, according to the instructions of the state government, vaccination of children between 15 to 18 years has been started from January 3, 2022. In 10 schools of the district, 100% vaccination is being provided. District Collector Deepak Soni congratulated all the principals and health team of these schools for this achievement. Vaccination of students is being done continuously in all the schools of the district with the better coordination of the Education Department and the Health Department. A total of 17 thousand 560 students are to be vaccinated in the dis-



trict. So far 7011 students have been vaccinated in the district and more than 40 percent children have been vaccinated. According to the information received from the district administration, Aastha Vidyamandir Jawanga, Government High School Balud, Government High School Pandawar, Gayatri

Peeth Dantewada, Nirmaladesh Pandey Dhurli, Potakabin Kuakonda-1, and Potakabin Kuakonda-2, Government High School Malawada, Government High School of the district. Schools in Kodenar-1, Potacabin Palnar have completed 100% vaccination. All the high schools, higher secondary schools of Dantewada district are being vaccinated for the students of 15 to 18 years of age born in 2007 and earlier. After preparing an action plan for vaccination by the district administration, vaccination is being done on a war footing in view of the upcoming third wave. Great enthusiasm is being

seen among the children in the vaccination campaign. In all the development blocks of the district, vaccination teams have been formed by the Health and Education Department with a better action plan. Medical officers have been deputed for AFI management in each of the centers to deal with the adverse effects of vaccination in schools. Vaccination is an effective means in decreasing infection, so parents have been appealed for compulsory vaccination to students in the age group of 15 to 18 years to follow the guidelines related to prevention of infection of Covid-19 and Covid friendly behavior.



NACHA donates Rs 5.51 lakh to CM Relief Fund

Raipur, Jan 07: The founder of North America Chhattisgarh Association (NACHA) Ms. Deepali Sarawagi and President Mr. Ganesh Kar had a courtesy call on Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here. On this occasion, they handed over a

cheque of Rs. 5.51 lakh to Chief Minister Mr. Baghel in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the prevention, treatment and assistance of the infected people in the state of Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Baghel thanked the North America Chhattisgarh Association for this.

Big relief to Siksha Karmi's : Teachers' promotion rules relaxed

Raipur, Jan 08: The Chhattisgarh School Education Service (Educational and Administrative Cadre) Recruitment and Promotion Rules have been relaxed by the state government for one time. Minimum experience for promotion of teachers has been reduced from 5 years to 3 years. This relaxation is given for once. With this decision of the state government, about 28 thousand teachers of LB teacher cadre will get the benefit of promotion. Of these, about 22,500 assistant teacher will get promoted to Head Master primary school, assistant teacher to teacher pre secondary school, about 3 thousand 500 teacher will be promoted to head reader pre secondary school, about two and a half thousand teachers will get the benefit. It is noteworthy that in the meeting of the Council of Ministers held under the chair-

manship of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on November 22, giving a big relief to the Siksha Karmi's, it was decided to relax the provision of promotion in the teacher cadre, under which the Head Master, primary school, teacher and for promotion to the posts of lecturer, it was decided to give promotion on the basis of experience of 3 years, relaxing the experience of 5 years as provided in the departmental recruitment rules for one time. The education workers merged with this decision will be able to get promoted by getting the benefit of their service period, while the children will get the benefit of their teaching experience. In compliance with the decision of the Council of Ministers, a notification has been published in the Chhattisgarh Gazette (Extraordinary) by the Department of School Education.

Patel reviews preparation for prevention of corona virus infection

● In Balod district

Raipur, Jan 08: Higher Education Minister and Minister in-charge of Balod district, Umesh Patel, reviewed the efforts being made for prevention of corona virus infection in Balod district through video conferencing. He inquired about the Covid positive cases, availability of medical kits and medicines etc. in the district and gave necessary guidelines. In-charge Minister Patel said that we can defeat Corona in



the district only with the cooperation of all sections of the society. Social participation is essential for prevention of corona virus infection. Collector Janmejy Mahobe has given detail information to the Minister in-charge in re-

lation to the preparations made so far for prevention of corona virus infection in the district, vaccination, corona test, oxygen plant, ICU bed, oxygenated bed, arrangement of medicines, public awareness and other actions. He said that for the prevention of infection of Covid-19 in the district, from January 04, 2022, a complete ban on social, cultural, religious and sports, large events and gathering of public community at one place was imposed under the revenue limit of the district. He said that to pre-

vent the spread of corona virus in the district, the general public is being motivated for the use of masks and effective behavioral changes. Superintendent of Police Mr. Sadanand Kumar, Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat, Dr. Renuka Srivastava, Additional Superintendent of Police Mr. Dr. Porte, District Nodal Officer and Deputy Collector of Covid-19, Mr. Subrata Pradhan, Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. J.P. Meshram and all SDMs were present.

Make optimum use of custom milling potential: Jain

Raipur, Jan 08: Chief Secretary Shri Amitabh Jain took a meeting of all the Divisional Commissioners and Collectors of the state through video conferencing here and reviewed purchased paddy in the state, the targets and progress of depositing rice in FCI, milling capacity and actual milling, lifting of paddy from procurement centres. He also did a thorough review of the availability of gunny bags, measures for the safety of paddy in the procurement centres and directed the collectors to ensure optimum utilization of milling capacity of the millers. The Chief Secretary has given instructions to deposit

rice in FCI as per the target set for the districts. He has asked to take action against the millers who do not deposit the rice even after lifting. For this, instructions have been given to get the paddy being lifted by the millers from the committees, rice being deposited after milling and physical verification of the remaining stock in the mills. For custom milling, it has been asked to make maximum use of the milling capacity of the contracted mills and deposit rice in prescribed quantity in FCI and NAAN. Jain said that sufficient gunny bags are available in all the districts. More gunny bags will be made available if

needed. After the purchase of paddy, he has asked to expedite the lifting so that there is no jam in the committees. Farmers have been asked to expedite the process of surrendering acreage after the sale of paddy. He has directed to keep a watch on illegal transportation and sale of paddy in the border districts and to take legal action against the concerned if found involved in this work. Due to the warning of rain in the coming days by the Meteorological Department, Jain has clearly asked all the collectors to pay special attention to the safety of the paddy kept in the procure-

ment centers. He has asked to give wide publicity to the facts and information related to the purchase of paddy. Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Subrat Sahoo, Principal Secretary Public Health and Family Welfare Dr. Alok Shukla, Secretary Food Mr. Topeshwar Verma, Secretary Revenue Mr. N.N. Ekka, Mission Director Ms. Priyanka Shukla, Managing Director State Civil Supplies Corporation Mr. Niranjan Das, Managing Director Markfed Ms. Kiran Kaushal, Registrar Cooperative Mr. Himshikhar Gupta, Special Secretary Food Department Mr. Manoj Soni were present.

SDM urges people to follow corona guidelines

Asks them to wear mask and stay at home

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Jan 08: The officers from Revenue department

are roaming in the streets asking people to adhere to corona guidelines and wear masks and also warning them of imposing fine, if they fail to do so. With cases of corona on the rise all over India

and in state, the local district administration is on the alert over rise in cases in Koriya district as well.

SDM Bharatpur RP Chouhan gave information about increasing corona cases to people and also gave suggestions to people and how to put a check on the same. It is by roaming around near Janakpur Atal Chowk, market and road-side, people were informed and warned about spread of corona virus and asked to

follow corona guidelines.

In Janakpur of Bharatpur block, SDM RP Chouhan, Tehsildar Ashok Singh and police department team went out to direct people about prevention of Corona virus and not to move out in the open without masks or else they will be fined. He made it clear that seeing the rise in number of cases, there needs to be more of strictness and ensure that all follow covid-19 protocol.

Ten shops mid-way to temple gutted in fire

No casualties, but loss worth lakhs

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 08: A total of ten shops mid-way to Maa Bamleshwari Mandir in Dongargarh were gutted in fire on the intervening night of Jan 7-8 and since the fire broke out late at night, it created sensation in the area and caused panic among other shopkeepers having shops nearby. Investigation into this fire incident has been started and sources believe that most likely it broke out due to some



short-circuit.

On getting information about fire breaking out, the security force present were put on heels and took all measures to gain control on fire and avoid its spread to other nearby

shops. The big relief in this fire incident was that no casualties took place. But the items and puja materials and other things stored in these ten shops were gutted in fire, causing loss worth lakhs to all

shopkeepers. Earlier also fire broke out in shops

It is worthwhile to mention here that prior to this also fire has broken out in these shops mid-way to Maa Bamleshwari temple. Last it was on 25 April 2021 fire broke out all of sudden in the afternoon and in this around 20 shops were gutted in fire. At that time since it was lockdown period and all shops were closed and therefore no one could reach there on time. Due to this the shopkeepers of all these 20 shops had to face huge loss and with no guarantee of returns.

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SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

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Upset Price : For Prop. No.1: Rs.3,21,38,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty One Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand only); Prop. No. 2: Rs.19,45,50,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crore Forty Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only); Prop. No. 3: Rs.2,24,98,750/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Four Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty only)

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Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. 4. 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price For, Prop. No.1: Rs.32,13,800.00 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred only); Prop. No. 2: Rs.1,94,55,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakh Fifty Five Thousand only); Prop. No. 3: Rs.22,49,875.00 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account No. 07170200000431 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with Bank of Baroda Naper Town Branch Jabalpur (IFSC Code: BARB0NAPIER) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. 5. Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 15-02-2022 online. 6. A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalpur, 797-II Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. 7. Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be For, Prop. No.1: Rs.4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh only); Prop. No. 2: Rs.20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only); Prop. No. 3: Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. 8. The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained. After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. 9. In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his/her favour, through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. 07170200000431 mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. 10. The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with pondage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs.10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. 07170200000431 mentioned at SL. No. 4 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. 11. Property will be sold "As is Where is and No Complaint Basis". 12. The properties can be inspected on 29-01-2022 Between 12.00 hours and 16.00 hours. 13. Properties will not be sold below the upset price. 14. Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason. 15. Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with the Mr. Dhimant Shah, Asst. Vice President, contact no. 9326425849, 9320317744 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. 16. Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger B 704, Wall Street II opposite Orient Club Near Gujarat College Ellis Bridge Ahmedabad Gujarat 380006 Gujarat India Contact person Mr. Tilak Maratha Mobile No. 919067799646 and Mr. Alpesh Gupta Mobile No. 9893377336 Helpline No. 79-41072410/411412/413 Toll Free No.1800103542 email id- tilak@auctiontiger.net and mp@auctiontiger.net website address http://drt.auctiontiger.net. 17. Further property details if any required shall be obtained from Mr. Dhimant Shah, Asst. Vice President, Contact No. 9326425849, 9320317744. 18. The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting/ bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT/ Bank / Service Provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure etc.

Place : Jabalpur (Satish Solanki) Date : 06-01-2022 RECOVERY OFFICER

UCO Kasdol branch celebrates 79th foundation day

Central Chronicle News

Katagi, Jan 08: Like every year, this year also 79th foundation day of UCO Bank, Kasdol branch was observed and under this the branch was colourfully decorated.

Branch Manager UCO Bank Puneet Yadav, Asst. Branch Manager Roshan Kumar, Simon Kashyap, Prashant, Milan, Piyush, Neelam, Ashok Kumar Giri, Ratiram Yadav, Rajendra Yadav, Harishankar Patel were present.

It is notable here that on 6 Jan 1943, UCO Bank's head office was established in Kolkata (WB).

So on occasion of Bank's foundation day, the staff of the Branch gave information in detailed about the facilities being provided by UCO Bank. Along with this the staff also distributed masks and calendar to its customers. Among the old customers of the branch, viz. Ramkrishna



Mishra, Shatruhan P Sahu, Aatmaram Sahu, Gajadhar Sahu, Dukhram Sahu, Ramchandra Sahu, Umed Ram Sahu and other senior customers were felicitated by presenting them with shawl and flower bouquet.

UCO Bank's Kasdol branch was established on 10 June 1978 by KK Kashyap and this branch has 42800 account holders.

On this occasion SDO Dy. Treasury Kasdol-Devgan Sahu, KK Gupta

(block education officer), RC Khunte (Asst. Grade-2), Ramgopal Sahu Janpad member; Ishwar Patel Janpad member; Rajesh Jaiswal (businessman Katagi); Gopal Sahu (Secretary Nagar Sahu Sangh); Gopal Sahu (Sr. BJP leader); Shiv Prasad Sriwas; Rajendra Tiwari (ex-MP's rep); Guniram Sahu President Nagr Sahu Sangh and corporator ward No. 9 Naga Panchayat Kasdol and other well known citizens and seniors were present.

Collector appeals to follow COVID 19 protocol

Both in urban and rural areas

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jan 08: District Collector Ranu Sahu has appealed to the people in the villages including urban areas to strictly follow the COVID 19 protocol, in view of the steep rise in COVID cases in the region.

She appealed to the people all over the district, particularly rural areas to strictly follow COVID appropriate behaviour and compulsorily come out of their homes wearing

masks. Hands should be washed regularly with soap and avoid going in crowded places and when

necessary, social distancing should be compulsorily followed while going to crowded places, she said.

The Collector also advocated the COVID19 vaccination administration to all above age group 15 and sought the common man to abstain from paying attention to any misleading news related to the vaccine.

The vaccine has been made completely under scientific research and medical procedures by testing and trialing at various stages, and therefore safe and anti-virus for all age group, she added.

Legal action on hoarders of essential commodities

Taking serious note on information of alleged hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities, the Collector has appealed to the shopkeepers not to hoard essential things or sell them at a price higher than MRP. She assured the people that in the near future there is no plan yet by the state government to impose lockdown due to COVID 19 infection. The collector has appealed to all the traders to extend their cooperation in the fight against corona virus infection and not to do black marketing and hoarding of ration, and has given instructions to all the traders and administrative officers to inspect the stock of the items available in the ration shops.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA www.rbi.org.in

Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI/ any Department of RBI

Entities regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are required to provide expeditious resolution to complaints received from their customers.

Complaints not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or complaints not responded to within 30 days of lodgment can be filed on the RBI's Complaint Management System (CMS) Portal at https://cms.rbi.org.in. Complaints can also be filed at "Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC), 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India, Sector -17, Central Vista, Chandigarh - 160017 through physical means or by email at crpc@rbi.org.in.

All the maintainable complaints are taken up for resolution under the "Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021" (RB-IOS) if the entity complained against falls under the ambit of RB-IOS. Complaints against entities outside the ambit of RB-IOS are handled by Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs). The RB-IOS, list of entities falling under RB-IOS and those outside its ambit and the addresses of CEPCs are available on the CMS Portal.

Information on grievance redress mechanism of RBI can also be obtained at 14448, a toll-free number currently available from 9:30 am to 5:15 pm on Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

2. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)

(For complaints against DICGC, members of public can lodge the complaint at following address/e-mail id)

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) The General Manager DICGC, Complaint Redressal Cell RBI Building, 2nd Floor, Opp. Mumbai Central Railway Station, Mumbai - 400 008.

Complainant can also approach Smt. Sangita E, Deputy General Manager on Telephone No. 022-23026400 Ext. No. 8204 or through e-mail dicgc_complaints@rbi.org.in

Important Information

Note 1: Before lodging any complaint under the RB-IOS/CEPC, the complainant must approach the concerned regulated entity (viz. his bank, NBFC and/or the payment system participant, etc.) with the grievance. If the grievance is not redressed within 30 days or if complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the regulated entity, he/she can approach the RBI-Ombudsman / CEPC anytime within one year of receipt of such reply from the concerned bank / NBFC / system participant. In case no reply is received from the bank / NBFC / system participant, RBI-Ombudsman can be approached anytime within one year and one month from the date of representation to the entity.

Note 2- For written/email complaints, the complainant MUST necessarily indicate his/ her name, address and present contact number along with full details of the complaint.

Appeal against decision of RBI-Ombudsman

Appeal against the decision of RBI-Ombudsman can be filed online on CMS Portal or sent to the Appellate Authority, Reserve Bank of India, Consumer Education and Protection Department, Central Office, 1st Floor, Amar Building, Sir P M Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 (E-mail aaos@rbi.org.in) within 30 days of receipt of the communication of the RBI-Ombudsman's decision, only if the complaint is closed under the appealable Clauses of the Scheme.

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED

Bhilai Steel Plant Bhilai - Dist. Durg, Chhattisgarh, India, 490001

Extension of Date : Ref. Advt. No. BSP-13/21-22, Dt. 15/12/2021

Name of the Work : TENDER/AUCTION OF SHOPS/PLOTS IN BSP TOWNSHIP FOR ALLOTMENT ON LICENSE BASIS IN SECOND PHASE

Table with 2 columns: Bid Document Download Start date & time, Bid Document Download End date & time, Bid submission Closing Date & Time, Bids Opening Date & Time.

All other things in the Notice Inviting Tender remain the same. Tender document s can also be downloaded through SAIL Website www.sailtenders.co.in and email at ajitkumar67@sail.in for tender Documents. - GM (Contract Cell- Non Works).

Advt. No. BSP-13(Extn.)/21-22, Dt. 08/01/2022 Registered Office: Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003 Corporate Identity Number: L27109DL1973G0006454. Website: www.sail.co.in There's a little bit of SAIL in everybody's life

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Regional Office : 41, Shakespeare Sarani, 1st. Floor, Duckback House, Kolkata - 700 017

APPENDIX - IV, [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower'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. The Borrower (s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of PCHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Table with 4 columns: Name of the Borrower (s) & Co-borrower (s), Description of the Secured Assets, Date of Demand Notice & Amount, Date of Possession.

Date : 09.01.2022 Place : Raipur Sd/- Authorised Officer Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

BRIEF

Four held

Mumbai: Four persons were arrested in Mumbai for allegedly duping a woman by claiming they had earned Rs 55,000 crore from selling a precious metal to a Canada-based firm, and she could have a 40 per cent share in the transaction by paying Rs 27 crore in tax to the RBI. These people had told the woman the foreign exchange department of the RBI had frozen the transaction and Rs 27 crore was needed to get the amount released.

Postal cover

Pune: The postal department released a special cover on legendary military leader Narveer Subedar Tanaji Malusare as a tribute to his bravery and supreme sacrifice for the motherland. The special cover was released by G Madhumita Das, Postmaster General (Pune Region), in the presence of Dr Shital Malusare, a descendant of the trusted lieutenant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Five rescued

Gopeshwar: Five members of a family stuck in rains and snow near popular tourist spot Chopta in Chamoli district have been rescued. The family had got stranded at Bhulakna near the tourist spot due to continued rains and snowfall, police said, adding they were rescued. The rescue team cut its way through the snow to reach the stranded tourists and brought them to Gopeshwar, they said.

Four held

Jammu: Four people were arrested for allegedly killing a peacock on the outskirts of Jammu. Hunting and killing of a peacock is prohibited by law and it is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. According to the Indian Forest Act, 1972, those found guilty under this law can be jailed for up to seven years. The peacock was killed during hunting and it was shot with a 12-bore gun at Karkoi village in Akhnoor Tehsil, the sources said.

Fake notes

Ghaziabad: Seven people were arrested for allegedly printing counterfeit Indian currency and fake notes of Rs 6.60 lakh face value were seized from here, police said. The kingpin of the gang, Azad learnt to forge notes by watching videos on YouTube, they said. Assistant Superintendent of Police Akash Patel said the gang operated in Kaila Bhatta and Islamnagar areas of the city and the accused were nabbed after a tip-off.

Plants saplings

New Delhi: The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has planted 76 saplings at different parks in its jurisdiction in two-and-a-half months under the "gift a tree" initiative since its launch. The scheme was launched on October 19 and till now over 66 applications were received.

HEALTHCARE EXPERTS TO POLL-BOUND STATES

'Ensure social distancing, limit number of people in rallies'

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTI)

As the Election Commission announced assembly poll schedule for five states on Saturday, healthcare experts have advised these states to ensure social distancing norms are followed and set a limit on the number of people attending rallies, saying violations of Covid guidelines can have severe repercussions at this critical stage of the pandemic.

Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 10 and March 7 in seven phases. The counting of votes will be held on March 10.

With the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolding, the commission has set new protocols to ensure "Covid safe" elections to 690 assembly

seats across the five states, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra told reporters here.

Healthcare experts cautioned that any violations of rules at this critical time can have severe repercussions in view of the current COVID-19 situation in the country.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, said there shouldn't be any physical campaigning by any political parties and they should only hold online rallies.

"We need to ensure that there is no violation of Covid protocols. When wedding attendance has been limited to 20 people then the political rally attendance should also be capped by the Election Commission," Bajaj said.

Sugandh Ahluwalia, Chief of Strategy, Indian

Spinal Injuries Centre, said the most important thing now is to ensure that all Covid protocols are strictly followed by all voters.

"No one should be allowed to vote if they have not been fully vaccinated. The EC should ensure social distancing at all polling booths. No voter should be allowed to vote without a mask. Temperature of the voters should be checked via infrared thermometers. While large-scale voting is important for democracy, it is also critical to ensure the safety of all voters," Ahluwalia said.

Dr Sajid Khan, a Noida-based endocrinologist, said those suffering from co-morbidities should specially take extra care.

"This is a very critical time and the next couple of weeks are very crucial for the Covid situation in the country, hence it is ad-

visible that extra caution is exercised by people, especially those suffering from co-morbidities like diabetes and hypertension," he said.

The Health Ministry on Wednesday said that India is seeing an exponential rise in the number of coronavirus cases, which is believed to be driven by its Omicron variant.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, in his meeting with the poll panel on Thursday, also presented the overall global and domestic status of the spread of Covid, as well as Omicron, in the country. Details were also presented on the status of preparedness of the public health response within the states for control and management of the increasing numbers of Covid cases, the Health Ministry had said.

COVID CARE CENTER



Workers arrange beds at a COVID Care center in a hotel, amid rise in the coronavirus cases, in Patna, Saturday.

AIADMK welcomes SC verdict on OBC quota

Chennai, Jan 08 (PTI):

The AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Saturday welcomed the Supreme Court upholding the 27 per cent reservation in all India Quota (AIQ) seats for medical admissions, and claimed this was a victory for its sustained struggle on the quota issue. The main opposition party also lashed out at its rival, the ruling DMK for claiming credit in the matter, alleging it had not made the smallest

effort in the quota issue. AIADMK Coordinator O Panneerselvam and Joint Coordinator K Palaniswami also vowed to oppose the 10 per cent EWS quota.

In a joint statement, the two leaders said the judgement of the apex Court was a 'victory' to the party's long-pending and sustained plea on the OBC quota front, they said, adding it will enable increasing seats in medical admissions. Claiming that the

AIADMK had taken pioneering steps for the implementation of welfare measures for the socially and educationally backward sections of the population, they recalled reservation for the backward classes was increased from 31 per cent to 50 per cent during the rule of late Chief Minister M G Ramachandran in 1980, which has benefited the members in the areas of admission in professional education and government jobs.

FOETUS WITH RARE CHROMOSAL DISORDER

'HC allows termination of over 30-week pregnancy'

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court has allowed a woman to terminate her over 30-week pregnancy as the foetus had a rare chromosomal disorder and said had she given birth, the child would have such substantial abnormalities that normal life might have never been an option.

If the woman is forced to continue with the pregnancy she will be in constant fear about the high odds of a stillbirth. Even if the infant is born alive, the mother would be bearing the heavy pain of knowing the child can die within a few months, the High Court said.

Justice Rekha Palli said there are certain risks to the petitioner in undergoing termination of her pregnancy at this stage.

But when considered in light of the medical opinion, which clearly suggests that the foetus is suffering from a rare chromosomal disorder, the compelling reason for her to seek per-

mission to end the pregnancy is not difficult to fathom, the High Court judge said.

The court was informed by the woman, who was present at the hearing, that she has been explained the risks involved in the procedure.

"I, thus, have no hesitation in holding that this is a fit case where the petitioner should be granted permission to undergo medical termination of her pregnancy at a medical facility of her choice. However, the same shall be done at her own risk and consequences," the judge said. The court, in its order, said, "Not to mention that the child will be born with such substantial abnormalities that living a normal life may never be an option, thus causing grave hardship to the child as well as putting the petitioner through extreme amounts of mental, emotional, and even financial distress. "It is thus a clear case where, leaving aside the lifelong anguish and trauma which

may be caused to the petitioner, the foetus itself suffers from such abnormalities that it clearly falls under the ambit of section 3(2B) of the MTP (Medical Termination of Pregnancy) Act."

The court disposed of the plea by the woman seeking permission to undergo medical termination of her pregnancy, which was 28-week at the time of filing of the petition, under the MTP Act.

According to the petition, the foetus was suffering not only from Edward Syndrome (Trisomy 18) but also from non-ossified nasal bone and bilateral pyelectasis. According to medical opinion, if the pregnancy is taken to its logical conclusion, the child is not likely to survive beyond one year and that too with continued medical assistance will not only cause severe harm to her physical health but mental health as well.

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav addresses a press conference at the party office, in Lucknow, Saturday.

Lucknow, Jan 08 (PTI)



Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said if his party is voted to power in Uttar Pradesh, laptops will be distributed among the youth and students in the state.

This comes days after Yadav promised 300 units of free electricity to households if his party won the assembly elections.

The SP chief also took strong objection to the BJP media cell posting his picture on social media with the claim that the Kanpur perfume trader who was recently raided by the income tax department was

present alongside Yadav during a tour of France.

Yadav said the legal cell of his party will lodge an FIR against the BJP IT cell in-charge for indulging in "false propaganda".

"The party has already promised 300 units and free electricity for irrigation purposes. The party resolves to provide best quality laptops to the youth and students on coming to power," Yadav told news persons here.

"We had distributed lakhs of laptops last time, and the recipients are still benefiting from them in moving ahead and making

arrangements for their employment," he said.

The Yogi Adityanath government of the state is also distributing smartphones and tablets to the youth. With state elections right around the corner, political parties are coming out with a slew of promises to attract voters.

"They have shared my picture of France saying that the ittar (perfume) trader arrested in Kanpur is standing along with me. The legal cell of the SP will definitely lodge an FIR against him," Yadav said, also showing the picture in the press conference.

"The in-charge of the BJP IT cell is spreading lies for money by taking support from the government of India and the Uttar Pradesh government. I will ask my digital team to also use his picture and tell the people that he is the biggest liar," Yadav alleged. In a joint

raid by Income Tax and the GST Intelligence wing, Rs 177 crore cash and a large quantity of gold and silver were recovered from the home of perfume trader Piyush Jain in Kanpur and also from his house and factory in Kannauj. The trader was subsequently arrested. The safe from party had alleged that Jain has links with the SP. Akhilesh Yadav, however, has vehemently denied it.

On whether on coming to power, his party would do anything for students from poor families who want to study abroad, Yadav said the SP would create a fund for the purpose.

He also appealed to the Election Commission that if it decides to hold virtual rallies for Uttar Pradesh polls, some amount of funds should be given to political parties which do not have the resources to match the BJP.

Rail to levy fee for boarding, alighting at redeveloped stations

Suburban train passengers exempted

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTI)

Long-distance train travel is likely to cost more for passengers boarding or alighting at redeveloped stations as the Railways is planning to levy a station development fee ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 50 depending on the class of travel.

Officials said the fee is likely to be added to the train tickets during booking. The fee will be levied only after such stations become operational.

The user fee would be in three categories. Rs 50 for all AC classes, Rs 25 for sleeper class and Rs 10 for the unreserved class. No station development fee will be charged for suburban train journeys, according to a circular issued by the Railway Board.

It stated that platform tickets at these stations will also be costlier by Rs 10. "Station Development Fee (SDF) shall be collected from the passengers (boarding as well as

alighting at such stations).

"Class-wise SDF for developed/redeveloped stations shall be charged as under: For alighting passengers at such stations, the SDF shall be 50 per cent of the rates indicated above. If both boarding/alighting such stations, in that case, SDF shall be 1.5 times of the applicable rate, the circular stated.

SDF shall be uniform across all such stations and shall be charged as a separate component plus applicable GST, for which instructions shall be issued separately, it added.

Officials said that the levying of SDF will ensure a continuous revenue stream for the Railways and will make the model financially viable for the national transporter to lure private players Various stations are being redeveloped on Indian Railways to provide modern amenities. Rani Kamalapati station of West Central Railway and Gandhinagar Capital station of Western Railway have been developed and commissioned.

गुजराती
वधु चाहिये
वधु चाहिये- गुजराती 41' 5' 11", सेल्फ बिजनेस, मिडिल, छोटा परिवार सभी गुजराती/ उच्च जातिबंधन नहीं, मैरिज व्यूरो क्षमा. संपर्क करें- मो.-98271-14645, 9131139179. (248042)

47/ 5' 4''/ गवर्नमेंट हासिटल स्टाफ नर्स/ बी.एस.सी., जी.एन.एम./ सैलरी- 67,000/- हेतु वर चाहिए. अविवाहित, तलाकशुदा, विधुर/ घरजमाई, स्वीकार- 8052388639, 6391534215 (53000)

कायस्थ
वधु चाहिये
Looking For A Hindu Girl (B.Tech./ BE, Software Engineer) For A Shrivastava Boy (Software Engineer in U.S.A.) Education MS, BE, Age 29, Height 5' 11", (Caste No Bar), Contact: 8980045224, 8888010989.

क्रिश्चन
वर चाहिये
क्रिश्चियन वर चाहिये- सुंदर, सुशील, गृह कार्य में दक्ष सेवारत कन्या हेतु सर्विस क्लास वर चाहिये. संपर्क करें- मो.- 9301586418. (247973)

42/ 5' 6''/ एस.बी.आई. बैंक अधिकारी आय- 10 लाख हेतु वर चाहिए. घरजमाई, अनपढ़, अनमैरिड, तलाकशुदा, विधुर, बच्चे मान्य, प्रस्ताव शीघ्र आमंत्रित - 07898410145, 09179749242. (53001)

पंजाबी
वधु चाहिये
Wanted Bride Boys Age:- 33 Complexion:- Fair, Qualification:- M.Com, Occupation:- Working in Bank Caste:- Brahmin Punjabi (Hindu) Address:- Nagpur. Contact: 9960634248, 8055950578.

वधु चाहिये
वधु चाहिये

बंगाली
वर चाहिये
Bengali Groom-Wanted for Bengali Girl 27/ 5' 3'' B. E. Elec., MBA, PGDCA, for Suitable match Boy are working in Government Service or reputed Company. Contact No. 9340342597. (52965)

आवश्यक सूचना
पाठकों को परामर्श दिया जाता है कि वे किसी भी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, कार्य करने से पूर्व समुचित जांच कर लें. वर-वधु के स्तर, आय, आय संबंधी विवरण के संबंध में विज्ञापनदाताओं द्वारा किये गये दावों और वर्णनों के लिये यह समाचार पत्र समर्थक अथवा उत्तरदायी नहीं है.

नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल
जोड़ियां स्वर्ग में बनाई जाती है...
अब इनको टुंढना और भी आसान नवभारत मैट्रीमोनियल के साथ...
NAVABHARAT METRIMONIAL Rate Card

	One Sunday	Two Sunday	Three Sunday	Four Sunday
All C.G.+Odisha	500/-	900/-	1200/-	1400/-
All C.G.+Odisha+MP/MH	800/-	1500/-	2000/-	2400/-
All C.G.+Odisha+MP+MH	1000/-	1800/-	2600/-	3000/-

Contact: 0771-3000139, 8871246900

BRIEF

Cafeteria blast

■ **Beijing:** A lunchtime explosion at an office cafeteria killed 16 people in southwest China and injured 10 others, authorities said. A gas leak is the suspected cause of the blast, the Chongqing city government said in an online statement. The cafeteria collapsed, trapping victims inside. Rescue workers searched the debris and all the bodies were recovered.

Issues notice

■ **Karachi:** Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency said that it has issued a notice to a popular cryptocurrency exchange, while investigating a multi-million dollar scam linked to fraudulent online investment mobile applications. An order of attendance has been issued to Hamza Khan, the general manager, growth analyst at Binance Pakistan, to explain his position on the company's linkage to "fraudulent online investment mobile applications."

Man jailed

■ **Columbia:** A judge sentenced a Missouri man in US to 28 years in prison the maximum he could impose for the 2019 killing of his wife, whose body he buried in a state park and whose death he misled the authorities about for more than a year. The sentence Judge Brock Jacobs gave to 26-year-old Joseph Elledge was the one juror recommended in November when they convicted Elledge of second-degree murder in killing of his wife.

Teacher convicted

■ **Berlin:** A Berlin teacher was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison for the killing of another man that the judge said was carried as part of cannibalism fantasies. The 42-year-old, who has been identified only as Stefan R in keeping with German privacy rules, went on trial in August at the Berlin state court.

Heist case

■ **Lisbon:** A Portuguese court acquitted a former defense minister but convicted 11 others in connection with the theft of weapons from the national armory more than four years ago, according to the defendants' lawyers. Former Defense Minister Jos Azeredo Lopes stood accused of malfeasance and conduct leading to a denial of justice, in relation to the mysterious reappearance of weaponry in a nearby field four months after.

To get

■ **Maine:** A judge has awarded nearly 1 million in damages to the families of four fishermen who died when their boat mysteriously sank off Massachusetts, US in 2020. The 82-foot (25-metre) Portland, Maine based Emmy Rose went down early Nov. 23, 2020, as it was heading to port after a seven-day fishing trip, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

Former anti-terror chief held over Kazakhstan protests

Moscow, Jan 08 (API):



Karim Masimov

The former head of Kazakhstan's counterintelligence and anti-terror agency has been arrested on charges of attempted government overthrow in the wake of violent protests that the president has blamed on foreign-backed terrorists.

The arrest of Karim Masimov was announced Saturday by the National Security Committee, which Masimov headed until he was removed this week by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Authorities say security forces killed 26 demonstrators in this week's unrest and that 18 law-enforcement officers died. More than 4,400 people have been arrested, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

The protests in the Central Asian nation were the most widespread since Kazakhstan's independ-

ence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The unrest began in the country's far west as protests against a sharp rise in prices for liquefied petroleum gas that is widely used as vehicle fuel, and spread to the country's largest city, Almaty, where demonstrators seized and burned government buildings. At Tokayev's request, the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a Russia-led military alliance of six former Soviet states, authorised sending about 2,500 mostly Russian

troops to Kazakhstan as peacekeepers. Some of the force is guarding government facilities in the capital Nur-Sultan, which made it possible to release part of the forces of Kazakhstan law enforcement agencies and redeploy them to Almaty to participate in the counter-terrorist operation, said a statement from Tokayev's office. Tokayev said that he had authorised security forces to shoot to kill those participating in unrest. On Saturday, there were no immediate reports of unrest in Almaty, but police dispersed a demonstration and made detentions in the city of Aktau, while sporadic gunfire was heard in Kyzylorda, the Russian agency Sputnik said.

No details were given about what Masimov, the security agency head, was alleged to have done that would constitute an at-

tempted government overthrow. The agency, a successor to the Soviet-era KGB, is responsible for counterintelligence, the border guards service and anti-terror activities.

Although the protests began as denunciations of the near-doubling of LPG prices at the start of the year, their spread and intense violence indicate they reflected widespread dissatisfaction in the country run by the same party for more than 30 years. Many demonstrators were shouting old man out, a reference to Nursultan Nazarbayev, who was president from independence until resigning in 2019 and anointing Tokayev as his successor. Nazarbayev, who was given the title Ebasy (leader of the nation), retained substantial power after resignation as head of the National Security Council.

South Korea disputes North's claim of hypersonic missile test

● **Appeasement policy has made little progress**

Seoul, Jan 08 (API):

South Korea dismissed North Korea's claim to have recently launched a hypersonic missile as an exaggeration, saying it was a normal ballistic missile that could be intercepted.

The assessment is certain to anger North Korea. South Korea has previously avoided publicly disputing North Korea's weapons tests, apparently so as not to aggravate rela-

tions. South Korea's Defence Ministry said it believes North Korea hasn't acquired the technologies needed to launch a hypersonic weapon.

It said in a report that what North Korea fired on Wednesday was a type of ballistic missile that was displayed in October during a weapons exhibition in Pyongyang, its capital. It said South Korea and US forces could shoot it down. The ministry said North Korea's claim that the weapon flew 700 kilometres and maneuvered laterally appeared to be an exaggeration. Ministry officials said the claim was likely aimed at a domestic

audience to boost public confidence in its missile program.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been calling for greater unity and improved weapons development in the face of pandemic-related difficulties. He has refused to return to disarmament talks with Washington and Seoul while maintaining tough anti-virus restrictions. The UN Security Council scheduled closed consultations on the North Korean launch on Monday afternoon and diplomats said members will receive a briefing from Assistant-Secretary-General Khaled Khairi.

Former Aussie PM tests positive as omicron cases rise

Sydney, Jan 08 (API):

Australia's former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday, as case numbers hit new highs across the country and health officials warned that the real number of cases is likely much higher than testing shows.

Turnbull, who was prime minister from 2015 to 2018, confirmed on Twitter he was isolating at home after a positive test.

'Like hundreds of thousands of other Australians I have tested positive for COVID. Symptoms moderate so far. Isolating as required,' Turnbull wrote. 'This pandemic and especially this latest wave has put our health professionals under enormous pressure.'

'Please be polite and considerate when dealing



Staff check a client at a drive-through COVID-19 testing clinic at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia.

with the front-line health workers,' he added. 'They have had two years of relentless pressure and it's now at its most intense. So give them the love and respect they deserve, please.'

The revelation of Turnbull's case followed the announcement that federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg also has tested

positive.

New South Wales saw a record 45,098 new cases on Saturday up from 38,625 a day earlier as the spread of the omicron variant forced the reintroduction of some restrictions in Australia's most populous state. Dancing and singing in pubs and nightclubs was prohibited.

Indian Ambassador meets US Prez advisor on science



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu in virtual meeting with Prof Eric Lander.

Washington, Jan 08 (PTD):

India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has met America's presidential advisor on science, Prof Eric Lander, and

exchanged ideas on strengthening bilateral cooperation in science and technology, a key priority area for the leadership of the two countries. During the meeting, the discus-

sions focused on key sectors including healthcare, technology, space, earth and ocean science, energy, emerging technologies, and cooperation in Science & Technology education. We exchanged ideas on strengthening the India-United States coop in Science and Technology, a key priority for the leadership of India and the US, Sandhu said in a tweet after the meeting with Lander. A mathematician and geneticist, Lander is the 11th Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Science Advisor to the President, serving on the Cabinet in both capacities.

AGAINST PRIVATISATION



Banner reading "They want money from lithium" during protest against Chilean President Sebastian Pinera for privatisation of lithium industry, in Santiago, Chile.

Sikh taxi driver assaulted, his turban knocked off at JFK Airport

New York, Jan 08 (PTD):

In a yet another case of suspected hate crime, an Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver in the US has been assaulted by an unidentified man, who knocked off his turban and also used

expletives against him outside the JFK International Airport here, according to a video on social media.

The undated 26-second video was uploaded by Navjot Pal Kaur on microblogging site Twitter on

January 4, showing a man assaulting the Sikh taxi driver outside the airport. She said the video was shot by a bystander at the airport. The person can be heard allegedly using expletives against the victim.

Cold kills 16 stuck in cars in snow at Pakistani resort

Many places experience weird weather due to climate change

Islamabad, Jan 08 (API):

Temperatures fell to minus 8 degrees Celsius (17.6 Fahrenheit) amid heavy snowfall at Pakistan's mountain resort town of Murree overnight, killing at least 16 people who were stuck in their vehicles, officials said Saturday.

Atiq Ahmed, an Islamabad police officer said eight of the 16 fatalities were from the family of fellow Islamabad police officer Naveed Iqbal, who also died. All 16 died of hy-



People stuck in cars during snowfall on route to Murree.

pothermia, officials said.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said thousands of vehicles had been pulled from the snow but more than a thousand were still stuck in the area Saturday.

Located 28 miles (45.5 kilometers) north of the capital of Islamabad,

Murree is a popular winter resort that attracts well over a million tourists annually. Streets leading into the city are often blocked by snow in winter.

Ahmed, the interior minister, said more than 4 feet (1.2 meters) of snow fell in the area overnight and all incoming traffic

was blocked Saturday. The minister said paramilitary troops and a special military mountain unit had been called in to help.

Until then no vehicle or even people on foot are allowed to enter Murree except for the emergency and rescue vehicles and those bringing food for the stuck people, he said.

Umar Maqbool, a local administrator, said the heavy snowfall hampered rescue efforts during the night and even heavy equipment brought in to clear the snow got stuck initially.

Officials gave no further details about those who died in their stuck vehicles but said they were working on both recovery and rescue operations.

Romania tightens pandemic measures amid COVID-19 surge

Bucharest, Jan 08 (API):

Tighter pandemic measures came into force in Romania on Saturday as authorities hoped to quell sharply rising coronavirus cases amid concerns that the next virus wave could overstretch the country's health care system.

In mid-December, Romania was reporting fewer than a thousand COVID-19 infections a day, but over the past week, daily cases have surged to around 6,000. It is the highest number of infections since early November when cases were on the decline following a vicious fourth virus wave.

Over the winter holiday period, hundreds of thousands of Romanians return home from other countries, many from the West, which fueled concerns over the threat of the fast-spreading omicron variant. Romania has



Restrictions in Romania against COVID-19 surge.

so far confirmed almost 300 cases of the new variant.

Health minister Alexandru Rafila said in a press briefing that Romania is already in the fifth wave of the pandemic and that omicron is expected to soon become the dominant virus strain.

For the time being, there is a sporadic transmission (of omicron), he said. But it is very possible that in the coming days, the coming

weeks, we will witness a community transmission supported by this new strain.

The new measures Saturday include the

mandatory wearing of face masks in outdoor and indoor public spaces, and textile masks have been banned. Non-compliance with mask rules could result in hefty fines of up to 500 euros (USD 567), authorities said.

Bars and restaurants can stay open until 10 p.m. and operate at 50 per cent or 30 per cent capacity depending on the area's infection rate, and COVID-19 passes are required. The same goes for sporting events, gyms, and cinemas. Meanwhile, quarantine and isolation periods have been reduced.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
:: ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::

जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन बिलासपुर की ओर कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकदारों से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु प्रपत्र "अ" (प्रतिशत दर) ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

सिस्टम क्रमांक	निविदा के दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	धरोहर राशि
90171	225/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड बिल्हा के ग्राम कडार में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	108.31	81500.00
90172	226/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड बिल्हा के ग्राम भिल्ली में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	101.57	76500.00
90173	227/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम करी, सोस जाली में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	193.09	144900.00
90175	228/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड बिल्हा के ग्राम महमंद में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	780.13	136000.00
90176	229/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम बेड़ापाट (दिलिया, बिल्लीबद में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	145.91	109500.00
90177	230/05.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड बिल्हा के ग्राम कडार, सिलपहरा में (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)	154.87	116500.00

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन के ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 12.01.2022 सुबह 10.30 बजे से उपलब्ध है तथा दिनांक 25.01.2022 समय 17.30 तक बीड डाले जा सकते हैं एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खंड
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
G-66615/3

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Online tenders are invited for Construction Of Road work ,up to Date **22/01/2022**

Sr No.	NIT No.	System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract	Tender Downloaded upto	Tender Call
1	2	3		5	6	
1	15	89868	BT Renewal Work on 08 Number Various Road Under Subdivision Keshkal.	176.86 Lakh	22.01.2022	1st Call

All Documents related to Tender are to be submitted by Tenderers online only, failing which the tenderer can not participate in the bidding, for tender details please visit <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

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CENTRAL Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 97

Unchecked globalisation risk

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently said at a summit that COVID-19 pandemic has brought India's capabilities and need for more domestic production rather than unchecked globalisation and to foster technology growth, the nation must seek more education, skills, start-ups, supply chains and jobs to be created internally. Jaishankar said it was not possible to ignore 'politics' when it came to opening markets to other countries and said there was no need to be 'defensive' in the debate between 'protectionism vs globalisation'. It is clear now that the government in India understands risk of connectivity with globalisation. Globalisation has tripled India's GDP in a generation but workers in the country have been left out. Globalisation has not only resulted in greater world economic integration and interdependence, but also in the rise of China's new economic power and the fast growing economic influence in Asia, Central Asian Republics, Europe, Africa and South America. Common wisdom a year-plus into the pandemic holds that globalisation is in retreat. COVID's rapid spread revealed the infectious dangers of a hypermobile world. Supply chains cracked, countries went into lockdown, and a new brand of nationalism appeared to redefine politics around the world. But another lesson from the crisis is how deeply absorbed globalisation has become in our economic and cultural DNA. Scientists cooperated across borders to invent treatments and vaccines at a pace unprecedented in world history. Even as we hunkered down in our own countries, international Internet traffic soared; trade and capital flows are rebounding beyond our expectations. And while there have been serious manufacturing and shipping disruptions, we should pause to reflect on how surprisingly well global trade still worked.

COVID-19 may become not only a huge health crisis, but also a crisis of globalisation and global governance. Most obviously, it raises the question of how the world should organize itself against the threat of pandemics. But it also has implications for how globalisation is perceived and what that perception means for the future of international cooperation. Five decades of increasing interconnectedness have opened up the world to massive cross-border flows of goods, services, money, ideas, data, and people. While globalisation itself is not new, the sheer scale and scope of the current version has made the world unprecedentedly interdependent and thus fragile. Today's global socioeconomic infrastructure looks and works like a hub-and-spoke network in which all nodes are separated by very short distances and essential functions are centralized in large hubs. Financial activity is concentrated in the United States, for example, while China is the world's manufacturing centre. This structure is geared toward maximizing efficiency by capturing the benefits of economies of scale and specialisation. However, connectivity also creates an enormous but often hidden risk of catastrophe. This is because connectivity increases what statisticians call 'fat-tailedness,' or the likelihood of inherently unquantifiable extreme events, such as financial crises, a nuclear holocaust, hostile artificial intelligence, global warming, destructive biotechnology, and pandemics. India has been a beneficiary of globalisation. Exports have grown faster than most countries from the early 1990s till today. However, a globalised world means a lot of risks. Economists have pointed out in the past that among the effects of globalisation were jobless growth as manufacturing and supply chains shifted and became more automated.

Alert from culture of hate

A group of students and faculty members from the Indian Institutes of Management in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad flagged hate speech and attacks on minorities in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying his silence 'emboldens' voices of hate. This culture of hate is more visible on internet, particularly on social media platforms. The central government shall be made alert on threat from culture of hate. Trolls have been around for as long as the Internet but never have they been as organised as they are now. It's almost as if someone decided to take the most rage-filled human beings existing in their lonely universes, bring them together and weaponise them against the rest of us. Packs of trolls can descend on anybody's timeline to abuse. The cause could be any. If you analyse social media controversies, it is highly likely that you will encounter the same prolific abusers over and over again. And this brings us to the role of social media giants and the way in which they use the weaponised trolls to build engagement and stickiness. Look at the bigotry and hatred which has led to riots in Tripura, Lakhimpur, the killings of rationalists and dissenters from Dabholkar to Gauri Lankesh. The volume of hate messages which trolls circulate and which social media companies ignores is stupendous. They don't even spare Gandhi and Nehru, spreading all kinds of vile stories about them. Academics who refuse to toe the line aren't spared either. We are a country that sends gangsters to Parliament and gagsters to prison. One can only imagine the effect this new low in political morality has on impressionable minds. Abusive social media platforms have built their business on the backs of the abusers. They have to ignore protests time and again on abusers and trolls. To protect the trolls, the social media giants have weaponised the American First Amendment and have used it to protect hate speech. And now, while these social media giants go laughing all the way to the bank, they leave behind devastated societies, communities and families. When Dickens wrote 'A Tale of Two Cities', he described the era as the 'best of times, and the worst of times'. You can say the same of the social media era. You find advice and collaborations. You can find a treasure trove of information and knowledge. Psychiatrists say our children who are supposed to be handled while they explore their world are left to face the adult world guided not by parents and teachers, but by the social media, resulting in ill-founded relationships with crass understanding in a digital world which is cold and emotionally hollow and in which it is easy to mistake fake news as news.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editorcentralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

TRIBUTE TO ICONIC SINGER

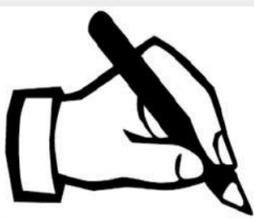


Elvis Presley tribute acts by, (L-R) Chris Vegas, Steve Brooks, Emilio Santoro and Steve Knight posing in Birmingham, UK during European Elvis Championships. Elvis Presley was the most popular and iconic english language singer and performer ever.

Bactrian camels in Nubra Valley provide lessons for conservation



ILSE KOHLER-ROLLEFSON



They have peaky humps, soulful eyes under long lashes, and stocically wait for things to come: rows of couched and saddled Bactrian camels lined up at the edge of a sand dune patch outside Hunder village in India's Nubra Valley to provide rides for tourists. Against the backdrop of the forbiddingly steep and barren flanks of the Ladakh range, they form an impressive sight, conjuring up reminiscences of the Silk Road trade that once connected northern India with China. The camels are a mixture of females, males, and youngsters, mostly in good condition. Going on a camel ride ranks on the top of the bucket list of Indian tourists that escape the pre-monsoon heat of Indian cities for the cooler climes of Ladakh, India's Union Territory nestled high up in the Himalayas. This run for a camel ride experience has led to a remarkable turn-around for the fate of a species that was not long ago regarded as 'virtually extinct' within India. Since the 1960s, the number of Bactrian camels has grown from a mere handful to around 300 now; it can be expected to increase further, as the number of people who want to take a ride is outpacing the availability of camels. As a result, the prices for Bactrian camels are high, hovering around Rs 1 to 1.5 lakh (Rs 100,000 to 1,50,000), according to the bunch of camel handlers and owners with whom we sit in a little thorn-bush shed where they make tea and cook gruel for the camels.

For owners of camels, the returns on investment are high: during the peak

period, a camel can earn about Rs 2000-3000 per day. Unfortunately, the tourist season only lasts four months, and during the remaining eight months the maintenance of the camels poses as a major challenge. They are let go to fend for themselves, feeding on sea buckthorn and other vegetation. This riles landowners and the forest department; camels are not only shooed away but sometimes attacked and injured. The camels breed and give birth during the winter, and stray dogs may kill the newborn calves. In order to find out more about the history of the Bactrian camel in Ladakh, the camel handlers recommended that we talk to Haji Abdul Razzaq as the most knowledgeable source of information and local pioneer of camel keeping. We track him down in Hunder that has morphed from a small oasis into a sprawling web of guesthouses, tent camps and eco-resorts. Haji Abdul Razzaq is a gracious, 89-year-old gentleman, a devout Muslim wearing Buddhist garb who has received several awards for his role in camel conservation from the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources and the National Research Center on Camels. He has also written a little book about the Nubra Valley. Over tea and biscuits, he elaborates on how camels were earlier used for trade on the Silk Road between India and China crossing the Karakorum range and the Changtang Plateau of Tibet. Even after Independence, transportation by camel caravans continued in a small way, but after the Sino-Indian War in 1962 this came to a total standstill. At that time

Haji Abdul Razzaq purchased five camels that had been left in Leh and subsequently put them to good use by deploying them to carry goods for the army that had set up an airport in the area. Their numbers grew slowly and, by 1978, there were 32 Bactrian camels in Ladakh. The fact that they now have grown to over 300 is exclusively due to local entrepreneurial spirit and driven by the urge of Indian tourists to experience a camel ride. Bactrian camels can provide other products too. Their silky long-fibred wool is prized at Rs. 2000 per kg and sent to Kashmir for processing. They are also used as a source of milk and meat in Mongolia, China and other countries, but not in Ladakh. Their situation shows both differences and parallels to that of their one-humped dromedary cousins in Rajasthan. Some of the latter are also used for tourist rides and safaris in Jaisalmer, but the species has experienced a more than 80 percent decline in population from over a million in the 1980s to only around 200,000 now, due to the loss of its transport function. A special law that was meant to protect it, but limits camel utilisation has only exacerbated the situation, and even its declaration as 'state animal of Rajasthan' has not helped at all. Dairy production is currently regarded as the main avenue for its conservation, as use for meat is banned, as is its export. But back to the Bactrian camels. Their global population is less than a million, but slowly increasing after bottoming out in the early 2000s.

The camel's unique adaptations to cold deserts, the ability to withstand temperatures ranging from minus 40 degree C to 40 degree C that exist at high altitudes up to 18,600 feet and making do with scarce feed and water, make it of immense interest to researchers. The conservation of such farm animal genetic resources that can deal with challenging environments is a global concern and an important national priority. Over the last five decades, the number of livestock breeds has diminished significantly, as a handful of high performance breeds

is replacing the diversity of locally adapted animals. This loss of genes makes humanity more vulnerable to climate change and any yet unforeseen future developments. In an effort to stop the trend, a Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources was agreed upon at the UN level in 2007. Unfortunately, it placed more emphasis on the documentation, evaluation, and characterisation of breeds as well as on capacity building of officials rather than supporting the roles of communities and entrepreneurs in conservation. India prides itself on being a mega-biodiverse country but the rural communities who have created and sustain its agricultural biodiversity rarely receive acknowledgment and backing. Official government support is restricted to the conservation on government farms which really leads nowhere. The government has set up a Bactrian Camel Farm in Chuchot near Leh that currently holds 16 camels that are not put to any use and languish in a shed. Occasionally, some of these camels are donated or given away at a preferential price to interested parties.

Instead of devoting resources to maintain such farms, there is an urgent need to support the existing entrepreneurial spirit and broaden the uses that can be made from camels. There is good potential for cottage industries based on the various raw materials that can be obtained from camels. The Bactrian camels of Ladakh have the real capability of changing the economics of the Nubra Valley making the stakeholders prosperous and rich. Complete registration of the Bactrian camel, protection of community grazing areas, promotion of camel-based tourism and small cottage industry for camel products will ensure conservation of this treasureable genetic resource,' say the experts from the National Research Centre on Camel, and this holds true also for the dromedary camel. Both, one-humped and two-humped camels are an integral part of India's biodiversity. They need just as much protection as India's tigers do.

(Ilse Kohler-Rollefson is a German scientist known for championing pastoralism, Ethnoveterinary medicine and camels.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos South Africa

Kudos to South Africa (SA) for its memorable victory against India and congratulations to the team that is young and in transition. It will give them a huge amount of confidence. Disappointed as an Indian fan but absolutely delighted for SA and its captain, Dean Elgar, who not only defied a hostile Indian attack and body blows from balls produced but also delivered a match-winning unbeaten innings of 96 to lead his team to a seven-wicket victory over India in the second Test. So far, India had played six Test at Wanderers, this is their first defeat at Johannesburg was down to a combination of factors, from Rishabh Pant's hara-kiri (he also needs to differentiate between bravery and foolhardy and hope that Pant learns something about tenacity and discipline from this Elgar masterpiece) and a porous middle-order to SA getting the heavy roller advantage and poor catching. Though Cheteswar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane ended up scoring 50 odd each and that will give them reprieve and it will become heavy on cricketers like Shreyas Iyer. Compare to SA captain, Dean Elgar's match-winning innings India's captain KS Rahul probably didn't get the adequate preparation time to lead India for the first time, as Kohli's decision to opt out of the second Test due to a back injury came just hours before the start of the game. Even though Rahul played a half century in the first innings but in the crucial moment, especially during SA's second innings, his captaincy left a lot to be desired. Catches win Matches is probably one of the most famous proverbs in the game of cricket, sadly Pant's dropped catch proved crucial as also Shardul Thakur failing to hold on to a caught-and-bowled chance of Temba Bavuma (is their most consistent batsman in the series), before to open his account was a costly drop and two half chances. Who forget that India had dropped more than 30 catches during their tour of Australia last season, and dropped a couple in the first Test against South Africa also. It is ironic that 'the best ever' Indian pace attack was the first to 'fail' to draw or win a game at this ground in 6 attempts. Hope in the final Test of the three-match Test series India will be back in his form under the leadership of Virat Kohli to proud the country with splendid performance.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Underrepresented

In order to see if a country is actually developed we have to see how its women and children are treated. But when women in armed forces in India are concerned they are way underrepresented with only 0.56% serving the Indian Army, 1.08% in the Indian Airforce and 6.5% in the Indian Navy. These numbers are way better than it was just 5 years back with just 3000 women as compared to 9118 today. Women are fierce competitors and are dedicated and there are many reports to show for it. The armed forces have always had a men's point of view, I think it is time that they can use some women's point of view.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Aman Sagar @a_Man_Sagar

Every nukkad wala is an entrepreneur in fundamental terms. Problem is, most young entrepreneurs start with unrealistic goals, it's always a coloured toilet paper company, they're already targeting a niche market. So many huge biz problems needs to be solved, nobody looks at them.

Harsha Bhogle @bhogleharsha

Interesting new amendment to T20Is. If you haven't begun the last over by the scheduled close, the rest of the innings will have one fielder less outside the 30 yard circle. So if you are bowling your 19th and your time is up, you get only 4 fielders outside for the 20th.



Paul Graham @paulg

If you're a student interested in both technology and startups and wondering how to combine them, the answer is: serially. Focus entirely on technology at first. Then once you're an expert in some technology (which will take several years), you can start to think about startups.

Persis Taraporevala @persistara

As someone who has moved through an obscene number of houses over the last decade, I feel a deep sense of fatigue. A fatigue of being denied the opportunity to grow roots and form a sense of community. Can I live in my current city AND borough for a decade at least? thank you.



wakashmir@wakashmir

Waking up to this in Doodhpathri. #Doodhpathri_Budgam PC #Mr_Abdul_Hamid.



Shivani Mohan @Chevane

The best part about being on a fitness mission is your sleep cycle gets regulated automatically. Until 10 days ago I was struggling out of bed at 9 am. Now 8.30 am, HIIT work out done and dusted! Fire Ok, rest of the day, here I come!

Sneha Mordani @snehamordani

Quarantine is precautionary, for those who have travelled, for those who could have come in contact with a positive patient. A person who is not positive but suspected to be in quarantine. Isolation is for patients diagnosed with #Covid_19. That's isolation, not quarantine.

BRIEF

Profit rises

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts, which owns and operates retail chain D-Mart, on Saturday reported a 23.62 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 552.53 crore for the third quarter ended December 31. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 446.95 crore in the same quarter a year ago, Avenue Supermarts said in a BSE filing. Its revenue from operations was up 22.22 per cent at Rs 9,217.76 crore during the quarter under review against Rs 7,542 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal. The total expenses also increased 21.72 per cent to Rs 8,493.55 crore in Q3 FY 2021-22, compared to Rs 6,977.88 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Dairy venture

Guwahati: The Assam government and National Dairy Development Board signed an agreement to create a Rs 2,000-crore joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Guwahati in the presence of Union Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Parshottam Rupala, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and other senior officials. As per the MoU, a joint venture company will be set up for Rs 2,000 crore with a target of processing 10 lakh litres of milk through six new units in seven years. Milk from more than 4,100 dairy cooperative societies will be processed, packed and marketed.

Fund raising

Kochi: Indian e-Mobility startup, VAAN Electric Moto pvt Ltd, has raised Rs 6 crore from Asian Energy Services Limited, an oil and gas services company. VAAN which began its operation in 2019 is recognised worldwide as an Indian Life Style E-mobility startup which intends to bring to the market the products, including e-bikes, e-mopeds, e-scooters and even e-boats. The company was launched globally at the famed EICMA motorcycle show in Italy held in November, last year. "Asian Energy Services was attracted to VAAN Electric Private Limited considering the vast opportunities in the e-mobility sector."

Exporters websites

New Delhi: Apex exporters body FIEO has inked an initial pact with digital platform provider RebelCorp to help MSME exporters create their own websites at affordable cost and expand business. Saad Khan, Founder and COO of Mumbai-based startup RebelCorp said the company will help the exporters create a portal which can be easily managed by themselves. "At a time when the world is facing serious issues due to COVID-19 pandemic, our product will help exporters and businesses particularly from the MSME segment to create their own websites and reach out to global players," Khan said.

Entrepreneurs zeal needs to be matched with domain expertise

■ Three winners to receive cash prizes

Ahmedabad, Jan 08 (PTD):

The "extraordinary zeal" shown by the potential innovators and entrepreneurs needs to be matched with deep domain expertise, or else there is a danger of failing for entirely avoidable reasons, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India K Vijay Raghavan said on Saturday.

Such innovators and entrepreneurs need a much better connection with the national and global ecosystem of technologies and techno-economic perspectives. For this, they require "a high-quality mentorship at an individual level", he said. "One thing which is



K Vijay Raghavan

striking to all of us interacting with the potential innovators and entrepreneurs is their extraordinary zeal... But on the ground level today, the zeal-to be slightly critical-needs to be matched with deep domain expertise and/or access to that expertise," Vijay Raghavan said.

He was addressing through video conference

a grand finale pitch event called 'EVangelise,' virtually organised by iCreate, an Ahmedabad-based start-up incubator, to identify the next generation of innovators in the electric vehicle sub component segment. In the lack of domain expertise, there are chances of a potential innovator and entrepreneur falling by the way side for relatively obvious and simple reasons rather than falling for more complex reasons and learning in the process, said the distinguished biologist.

"And there, we need to have a much better connect with the national and global ecosystems in every kind of technology, so that the best advice from the scientific perspective -- but also from the techno-economic perspective -- comes in," said Vijay Raghavan,

who is a former director of the National Centre of Biological Sciences.

He said that the "techno-economic" part is substantially missing among entrepreneurs in the ecosystem. "I have been saying this for some time, that we need high quality mentorship at the individual level so that this process takes place," he said.

Leaving aside those who have "connections and pedigree", organisations like iCreate can "make sure that everyone who needs access in a particular domain has access, both technologically, financially, techno-economically," he further said.

He also said that entrepreneurs should concern themselves with what they want to do and whose problems they are trying to solve.

Sarthak Metals Limited announces first interim dividend for FY22

Mumbai, Jan 08:

Sarthak Metals Limited, one of India's leading manufacturer of cored wires and aluminium flipping coils, that are used in Steel industry, announced its first interim dividend of 10% which is Rs1 per share on face value of Rs 10 per share. Commenting on this milestone, Sanjay Shah, Executive Director, said: "This is an important milestone for the Company, Sarthak Metals has once again reaffirmed its commitment of inclusive growth for all of its stakeholders, the Company has been maintaining a consistent dividend paying track record sharing its profits with their investors. In the past, the Company has paid a dividend of ₹1 per share in 2021 and Rs 0.5 per share in 2020 & 2019 respectively. For the recent year, the Company has reported solid results in H2FY21 and continued its growth in H1FY22, reporting its highest-ever half-yearly profit after tax."

Sebi mulls measures to strengthen regulatory framework for CIS

■ Unit certificates against acceptance of application shall be allotted

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

To strengthen the regulatory framework for Collective Investment Schemes (CIS), markets regulator Sebi proposed mandating a minimum of 20 investors and a subscription amount of at least Rs 20 crore for each such scheme.

Currently, CIS rules do not mandate minimum number of investors, maximum holding of a single investor or minimum subscription amount.

Also, the regulator has suggested that a Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) or its promoters should meet certain criteria with respect to track record and net-worth, according to a consultation paper. In addition, the markets watchdog has proposed



a cap on cross-shareholding in CIMCs to 10 per cent to avoid conflict of interest and recommended that CIS should not be open for subscription for more than 15 days.

CIS is a pooled investment vehicle in closed-ended investment space and the units of the schemes are listed on an exchange.

The structure of CIS is a two-tier one as there are two entities involved in the process -- the CIMC and Trustees. CIMC is created to float and manage a CIS and the trustee is appointed as guardian of the funds and assets. According to Sebi, with no limit on minimum investment by an investor, retail investors are the primary target base for CIS.

Mango, pomegranate exports from India to US soon

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

Exports of mango and pomegranate from India to the US will start from January-February to boost the country's outbound shipments of agri-products, the commerce ministry said on Saturday.

Exports of pomegranate arils to the US and imports of Alfalfa hay and cherries from America would also begin from April this year, it added. In pursuant to the 12th India - USA trade policy forum meeting held on November 23, 2021, the Department of Agriculture and farmer's welfare and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) have signed a framework agreement for implementing the "2 Vs 2 agri-market access issues", it said.

This access concept includes inspection and oversight transfer for



Indian mangoes, pomegranate and pomegranate arils, and market access for US cherries and Alfalfa hay in India. "Mango and pomegranate exports will start from January February 2022 and pomegranate aril from Apr 2022," the ministry said.

Further, it said that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has conveyed its readiness to provide market access for US pork.

These issues were discussed during the Trade Policy Forum meeting.

India has not exported mangoes to the US for the last two years.

Irdai to set up hubs on motor, property insurances

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

The regulator Irdai decided to set up two hubs on motor insurance and property insurance and also an advisory committee with the overall objective to promote loss prevention measures in the general insurance industry.

"It has been decided to form a hub on property insurance at 'National Insurance Academy (NIA)' and one on motor insurance at 'Institute of Insurance and Risk Management (IIRM),' the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said in a statement.

The decision to set up these hubs was based on the recommendations of a working group on loss prevention and minimisation in the general insurance industry.

As health concerns rise, car gadgets proliferate

Las Vegas, Jan 08 (AFP):

With personal health a rising priority around the world, the auto industry is on the hunt for new gadgets and accessories to make the car cockpit feel safer for the driver and passengers.

Items on display at this week's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) include air purifiers, car seat alarms and intelligent sun visors.

The objective is to transform the automobile "into a sort of health cocoon," Christophe Perillat, deputy chief executive of Valeo said at a press conference at the show held in Las Vegas.

The French auto supplier's wares at CES include devices to monitor drivers' attention and air filters and systems that allow personalized climate controls for passengers. The company's filtration system for cars and buses clears out



Smart baby car seat alarm to alert when a child is left in a vehicle, is displayed during the Consumer Electronics Show (CES), Las Vegas in US.

more than 95 percent of viruses, including Covid-19. CabinAir and Marelli also showcased car air purification systems that could be installed inside the cockpit or in a cup holder. Another offering by Gentex is a sensor composed of nano-fibers capable of surveying the air and identifying contami-

nants. The latest generation of technologies comes after earlier efforts focused initially on the trucking industry, where lengthy periods behind the wheel marred physical health, said Carla Bailo, head of the Center for Automotive Research.

After developing more ergonomic seats, auto sup-

pliers have begun focusing on tools to help drivers get ahead of other health problems such as cardiovascular issues, and to maintain driver awareness.

Some of the systems follow government requirements on autos.

The Italian startup Filo developed an alarm system for children's car seats following a law in its home country intended to prevent kids from being left in the car on hot days.

The company was in Las Vegas to launch the technology for the United States, where there are dozens of casualties each year due to hyperthermia. "With the hecticness of life, stress, et cetera, sadly, it happens more than we would like to admit that parents actually have on occasion lapsed... and they leave their children in the car," said Rudolf Jantos, who works in marketing for Filo.

Deal Street has best year with over 2,220 deals fetching USD 115 bn

Mumbai, Jan 08 (PTD):

Deal Street had the best year in 2021, clocking the highest tallies in both value and volume terms at USD 115 billion involving 2,224 deals, an industry report said.

This was USD 37 billion and 867 transactions more than the corresponding figures for 2020.

While 499 mergers and acquisitions (M&As) worth USD 42.9 billion were concluded in the year gone by, there were 1,624 private equity deals involving USD 48.2 billion, and 101 IPOs and QIPs worth USD 23.9 billion, of which 65 initial public offerings alone fetched a record USD 17.7 billion, according to data collated by Grant Thornton.

The year was also a



record in terms of large deals as there were 14 deals of over USD 1 billion each, 15 between USD 500 million and USD 999 million, and 135 between USD 100 million and USD 499 million.

Though these transactions accounted for only 8 per cent of volume, they fetched as much as 80 per cent of value, the report said.

Of the overall deals, domestic deals constituted 76 per cent and the rest were cross-border ones.

PE investment rose to a

record USD 48.2 billion across 1,624 deals and of them, 112 were of USD 100 million and above.

As much as 66 per cent of these funds went into startups and among them e-commerce trumped with 32 per cent of the total. Players from retail and consumer, education and pharma were most active, together constituting 9-10 per cent of PE volume.

When it comes to IPOs and QIPs, 2021 saw 36 qualified institutional placements (QIPs) worth USD 6.2 billion, making it the third highest fund-raising via this route since 2011.

On the other hand, as many as 65 companies hit the main market raising USD 17.7 billion in initial public offerings -- both the numbers are the highest ever.

PE inflows spurt 15% in 2021 to record USD 40 bn

Mumbai, Jan 08 (PTD):

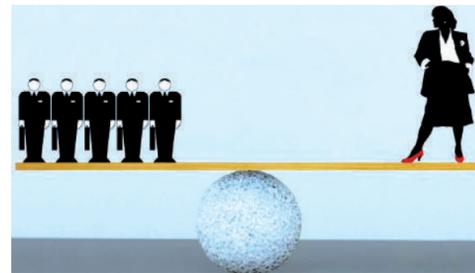
Private equity investments hit a record high of USD 40.1 billion in 2021, an increase of over 15 per cent from the previous year, led by a USD 3.6 billion flow into Flipkart and USD 1.93 billion into Bundl Technologies, as per a report. According to the data collated by Refinitiv, an LSEG business, while the value of inflows rose 15.2 per cent from USD 34.8 billion in 2020 to USD 40.1 billion in 2021, the deal volume soared to 990 in the reporting year from 588 in 2020. Analysts at the agency expect the inflow momentum to continue in 2022 as technology companies, especially startups, continue to attract capital from both private and public markets.

Women directors mandate tokenism, regulation wording humorous

Mumbai, Jan 08 (PTD):

Former Sebi chairman M Damodaran termed the mandate to have independent women directors on company boards as mere "tokenism", stating that firms are adhering to the guideline just for compliance.

Damodaran also called the wording of the regulation "humorous", saying there is nothing like an "independent woman director" as the regulations state, but it should have been "woman independent director", and pointed out that this is reflective of a "mindset steeped over time". Speaking at an event hosted by the Moneylife Foundation, the former head of the capital markets watchdog, who is well regarded for his views on corporate gover-



nance, said the argument over the mandate to appoint a woman on a company's board is one between tokenism and talent.

When a woman gets approached to join a board, she should first question if the appointment is being made to tick a box or because of her abilities.

And if the latter is cited as the reason, then the woman leader should report

by asking why the company waited till the regulations came in, he said. In 2018, the capital markets watchdog made it mandatory for the top 1,000 listed companies to have at least one independent woman director to break the all-boys clubs that company boards were. Subsequent data has revealed that most of the companies have complied with the mandate.

Gujarat chamber initiative to promote textiles in Bodoland areas

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry will take a special initiative to promote textiles in Assam's Bodoland Territorial Region to help the weavers and sector growth, SGCCI President Ashish Gujrati said on Saturday.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the SGCCI Expo 2022 held at Surat in Gujarat on Saturday, a press release said.

He said the chamber -- which represents the major textile industries of the country -- will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the BTR (Bodoland Territorial Region) administration, headed by Pramod Boro, soon as part of

the Bodoland Textiles Mission in Assam.

The expo was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways Darshana V Jardosh in the presence of BTR chief Boro and representatives from the textiles industry. Bodoland textiles sector was the focus of the inaugural session of the expo.

In accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat', the union minister stressed the need to support the BTR areas to achieve their full potential in the textile sector by using modern technology and market linkages to add to the traditional strengths of the weavers.

Gold bond issue price fixed at Rs 4,786 per gram

Mumbai, Jan 08 (PTD):

The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at Rs 4,786 per gram, the RBI said.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series IX will be open for subscription for the period from January 10-14, 2022.

The nominal value of the bond "works out to Rs 4,786 per gram of gold", the central bank said in a statement. The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, has decid-



ed to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode. "For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 4,736 per gram of gold," the RBI said. The issue price for Series VIII, which was open

for subscription during November 29 December 3, 2021 was Rs 4,791 per gram of gold. The RBI issues the bonds on behalf of the Government of India.

The bonds will be sold through banks Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges -- NSE and BSE.

The scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings -- used for the purchase of gold -- into financial savings.

Aligning LCR norms for small biz accounts with Basel standards

■ RBI hikes funds cap by 50%

Mumbai, Jan 08 (PTD):

The Reserve Bank has increased the threshold for deposits and other funds of non-financial small businesses by 50 per cent to Rs 7.5 crore for the purpose of maintenance of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), with the aim to better align its regulations with Basel norms and also enable banks to manage liquidity risks more effectively. The existing cap was Rs 5 crore, the central bank said, adding the new framework will be effective immediately. Issuing the revised Basel III

framework on liquidity standards -- liquidity coverage ratio (LCR), liquidity risk monitoring tools and LCR disclosure standards and net stable funding ratio -- for small business customers, the monetary authority said these revisions are aimed at helping banks manage their liquidity risks more effectively by aligning them with the norms as set out by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

Accordingly, the cap on deposits and other 'extensions of funds' has been increased to Rs 7.5 crore from the present threshold of Rs 5 crore for small businesses when it comes to maintaining the LCR, the regulator said.

Alia Bhatt 'flexes' Ranbir's photography skills

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt recently uploaded pictures clicked by her partner Ranbir Kapoor on social media.

It is the first time that the actress publicly addressed Ranbir as her 'boyfriend'.

Alia took to Instagram and shared a few pictures of herself from her year-end vacation with Ranbir at an undisclosed location. She wrote in the caption, "Casually flexing my boyfriend's photography skills."

While Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor and Alia's mom Soni Razdan commented with heart emojis under the pictures, Alia's 'Two States' co-star Arjun Kapoor put up a quirky comment saying, "#phirseuddchale".

Alia and Ranbir had jetted off to an undisclosed location to ring in the New Year amid the wilderness. In an earlier set of pictures shared by Alia on her Instagram, Ranbir too made an appearance in one of the images.

On the work front, Alia was supposed to be seen in S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus 'RRR' alongside Telugu superstars Ram Charan and Jr NTR. However, the third wave of the pandemic has pushed the release of the film to a later, unannounced date.

On Vishwa Hindi Diwas, &TV artists share their love for language

Vishwa Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language across the globe. While Hindi is widely used in several parts of the country, it is increasingly popular worldwide. &TV artists, including Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Ambrish Bobby (Ramesh Prasad Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), share some special and interesting encounters with foreigners trying their hands on Hindi and leaving them completely astounded!

Shubhangi Atre aka Angoori Bhabi from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai recollects, "There have been numerous times when I would be outside of India and people would recognise me and greet me saying 'Namaste Angoori Bhabi'. One such wonderful fan encounter was in Indonesia. A lady came up to me, and in her unique accent, she tried



saying Angoori's catchphrase, 'Sahi pakde hain!'. It was such a cute moment that I hugged her. I deeply believe our television shows travel across the world and play

a significant role in making Hindi such a popular language globally."

Himani Shivpuri, who plays Katori Amma on Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Hindi is a beauti-

ful Indian language, and I am personally very fond of it since my childhood, as my father Dr. Bhatt was Hindi and Sanskrit teacher in The Doon School. Working in this industry and trying out Hindi in various accents and dialects has deepened my love for the language. Currently, my Katori Amma's Kanpuriya Hindi has made me popular among the people in our country and abroad. I remember meeting a young foreigner who walked up to me and said something that nobody could figure out. But after his few attempts, I realised that he was trying to say 'nimboo nichod denge'. I must give it to him for his efforts and love for the Hindi catchphrase. Hindi has made its way globally, and dialogues of Hindi shows and Bollywood movies continue to increase its popularity." Watch Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV

Big twists ahead in 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main'



SAB's Tera Yaar Hoon Main has kept the audience hooked to the show with its gripping storyline, focusing on the ever-evolving family dynamics between the Bansals and the Baggas. An unexpected turn of events has brought a massive change in Daljeet (Sayantani Ghosh), and Rajeev's (Sudeep Sahir) life as Sarwar Ahuja makes an entry into the show. Portraying the character of Daljeet's ex-husband Ravinder Bagga, this entry is sure to change the dynamics in Daljeet and Rajeev's relationship.

Sharing details about his character, Sarwar said, "My character Ravinder loves Daljeet unconditionally. He is a fun-filled, larger than life Punjabi character; just

like Daljeet. The viewers can expect an explosion of emotions with his entry to the show as it will unfold an old chapter of Daljeet's life.

The equation and chemistry between Daljeet and Rajeev will be put to the test because Daljeet still loves her ex-husband and fondly remembers her past. So, I can assure you that the upcoming episodes will keep the viewers on their toes, and they will keep guessing about what will happen next. I am coming back to the small screen after a break, so I hope my fans like me in my new role and show their love and support to Ravinder." Stay tuned to Tera Yaar Hoon Main every Monday to Saturday at 10 PM only on Sony SAB.

I'm still honing art of switching characters

Television actress Aanchal Goswami has expressed her joy on getting the opportunity of playing a double role in the show 'Rishton Ka Manjha'.

Talking about her double role, Aanchal, who plays Diya and Pihu in the show, says: "I must say that I am having a lot of fun playing Pihu's character. While I love portraying the idealistic and optimistic Diya, it is great to change things up from time to time. With Pihu, I've got the liberty to open up and behave in a slightly different way."

"Her way of talking, her chemistry with Arjun, and her dialogues are quite different, and I keep improvising them because Pihu is a desi girl, who doesn't have any regard for restrictions."

In the current episode, Arjun (Krushal Ahuja) and Diya (Aanchal Goswami) get married. Though things changed after their marriage as Arjun started observing several changes in Diya.

The reality is he is not staying with real Diya, but her doppelganger,



Pihu. Arjun is still not aware of this truth.

The actress goes on saying how she is still learning to switch from one character to another.

"While it has been fun playing two characters for 'Rishton Ka Manjha', I'm still honing the art of switching from one character to the other, especially with both of them being opposite.

"But I am truly happy that I got this opportunity, which is so diverse and allows me to showcase my talent," added the 'Bepannah' actress.

'Rishton Ka Manjha' airs on Zee TV.

Zamroodh talks about his journey in 'India's Best Dancer 2'

Kerala boy, Zamroodh who has been termed as the 'South Indian Superstar' on Sony Entertainment Television's India's Best Dancer 2 is known for his freestyle, semi-classical, Bollywood, lyrical and hip-hop dance styles. Winning the hearts of the judges aka ENT (Entertainment, Newness and Technique) specialists - Malaika Arora, Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur, the energetic dancer who is known for giving twists to each of his dance acts along with choreographer Sonali Kar has made it a long way on the show. Entered as just another boy during the auditions, he soon went on to win the hearts of the judges followed by that of India. With his impeccable dancing skills, he has



made his way to the Best 5 in the show. In our conversation with Zamroodh, here's what he had to say about his journey and the most anticipated 'Ultimate Finale' that is set to go on air on 9th January 2022.

You're one of the Best 5

finalists on India's Best Dancer Season 2, elaborate on your journey so far and how are you preparing for the finale?

It's a great feeling to be able to make it this far. The journey on India's Best Dancer has been just like a rollercoaster ride with a lot of ups, down, learning, laughter and more. Getting selected in the Best 5 was a huge opportunity for me and my family. From coming to Mumbai to auditioning of the show, being a part of the Best Baarah to now the Best 5, the journey has been surreal! It feels like a dream. Talking about our preparations, all of us used to practice together, and help each other out with different style and moves. I have a couple of acts and have been practicing day and night to give my best.

'I'm a bit of a fiery person'



Actress Shweta Tripathi has always portrayed strong characters such as Golu Gupta in 'Mirzapur' and Sandhya in 'Haraamkhor' to name a few. She says she resonates with such roles because she is a bit of a fiery person herself.

With 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein', she brings forth softer and warmer character tour screens. Shweta, while talking about her past characters and the challenges of playing a romantic role in 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein', said: "I'm someone who has played a lot of strong characters in the past, and I can resonate with them as well because I am a bit of a fiery person."

HOROSCOPE SUNDAY JANUARY 09

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You will come out top in whatever you choose to do, and success will smell like honey-sweet. Naturally, recognition and rewards await you. Take your friends to that trendy cafe; you needn't wait for a reason to party, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

If you are into retail business, planetary positions indicate today is a day for bumper sales. You will set records in making profits. After work, you may want to take your beloved out shopping. Though it may burn a hole in your pocket, the returns you get once you reach home will be worth every penny!

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Sit back and think hard - think about what is it that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all shall lead you somewhere different. The stars favour you today with a golden touch, so take it in your stride and make hay while the sun shines.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Ganesha advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesha.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesha. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesha. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesha foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

Your friend base is slated to multiply today. At work, additional responsibilities will be thrust upon you, and you will also be given charge of new resources. Ganesha predicts you taking up the challenge and emerging triumphant in all spheres today.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You need to be very practical and realistic in all that you do today, urges Ganesha. You are known to be pretty emotional and sensitive and generally go by your feelings. Your mind, your reason do not normally feature in your decision making. Even minor problems, complications get you worked up. Try to remain focused and down to earth this day.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

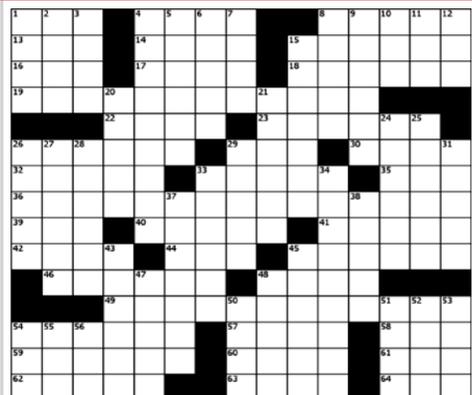
You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesha. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Overcome with feelings, you may take decisions that may stand in the way of success. Don't let your sentiments ruin your future prospects because the damage done will be beyond repair, warns Ganesha. Today, there are also chances that your down-to-earth nature and amiable approach will win the hearts of many.

CROSSWORD

181



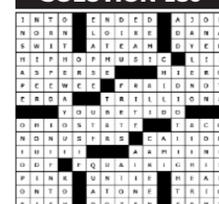
ACROSS

- White Sox city, on scoreboards
- Draw
- Scary part of the snake
- Stick in the microwave
- Way uptight
- "Little Shop of Horrors" role
- "Without further ____"
- Lose intensity
- Wanted poster amount
- Maintain equilibrium while pushing on a rotating peripheral attachment, alternating with the lower extremities
- Phone introduction?
- Cut some slack
- Present recipient, casually
- Album featuring "Smooth Criminal"
- Had a gut feeling
- Like helium
- Nintendo bad guy with an inverted hat logo
- "This American Life" host Glass
- Expand the intrapleural space, automatically allowing entry through the pharynx and beyond, then allow the diaphragm to relax, contract, and expel contents
- Go for an apple

DOWN

- Powerful figure
- "... but known..."
- Source of celebrity playlists
- City known as a center of Cajun culture
- Impotent
- Movie with Cuba Gooding Jr. as a mentally-challenged student
- One type of util.
- Gas and gasoline
- Professional product promotion publication
- Org. highlighted in "Bowling for Columbine"
- Nat. that underwent reunification
- Barrett of Pink Floyd
- Joan's home, on TV
- Gum brand
- Has a longing
- They may be civil
- Check out at the library
- Marla of "The Jeffersons"
- Hostile raid, or the route taken to get there
- Little some attempts
- Works with worms
- First word learned by Helen Keller
- Snipes of "Passenger 57"
- Then and there
- Track projectiles
- Donne subject
- Report to mom
- Noted cervera
- Goes nuts
- Boxing prize
- God who rode an eight-legged horse
- Chicago band whose one-take 2005 video was choreographed and filmed in their backyard
- A, in 11-down
- Cowboy boot attachment
- Moving hauler
- Altar utterance
- Cow's mouthful

SOLUTION 180



Khawaja twin centuries lifts Australia to big lead

Sydney, Jan 08 (API):

Usman Khawaja's stunning return to test cricket continued Saturday with a blistering century in Australia's second innings on day four which led the hosts to 265-6 declared and set England an unlikely 388 runs to win the fourth Ashes test.

Openers Zak Crawley and Haseeb Hameed then survived a nervous 11 overs in fading light to get England safely to stumps at 29 without loss.

Khawaja, who scored 137 in the first innings in his first appearance since the 2019 Ashes series in England, headlined another dominant day for Australia with an unbeaten 101 off 138 balls as part of a 179-run partnership with Cameron Green.

The 35-year-old scored his first fifty off 86 balls, but then accelerated his scoring rate by playing some extravagant strokes and brought up his hundred just 45 balls later with



Usman Khawaja celebrates making 100 runs against England during the fourth day of their Ashes cricket test match in Sydney, Saturday.

a two off Dawid Malan.

"I don't think it has sunk in yet," said Khawaja, who's 10th test century included 10 boundaries and two sixes.

"I've always wanted to score a century in both innings of first class cricket and never done it.

"But it's a nice one to

in an SCG test 2006 vs. South Africa. Khawaja is playing this test only because of Travis Head testing positive for COVID-19 ahead of the match, but has surely put in an undeniable claim to be retained for the fifth test in Hobart after back-to-back centuries.

Happy for him, but obviously would have liked it against different opposition, said England batting coach Graham Thorpe.

I thought he played very well and made it very hard for Australia to leave him out. He looked a better player from when he last played for Australia and not a bad one coming in to the team. Green (74) made a welcome contribution for Australia, which had sunk to 86-4 earlier in the day, with his second half-century in his eighth test.

The record successful fourth innings chase at the SCG is 288 runs, which was achieved by Ponting's Australia in the same 2006 test against South Africa.

While it's highly unlikely England will defy SCG history and chase down a near 400-run target, Crawley (22 not out) and Haseeb (eight not out) helped give England a glimmer of hope that it may yet save the game and achieve its best result so far in the series.

With some of the injuries we've got we're going to need whether it is two, three or four players to really stand up and bat for a long time, said Thorpe.

What I want to see is us play positively and have a good mental approach to it. I thought tonight our approach from Zak and Hass (Haseeb) was very good. I thought they moved well, you could see their intent. Earlier, Spinner Jack Leach took four wickets for England, including taking Green and Alex Carey off the final two balls of Australia's innings, in what was his best bowling performance of the series.

'Win in Wanderers step in right direction'

Johannesburg, Jan 08 (PTD):



Philander leads his side to a famous victory and the skipper feels the win will fire up the "relatively inexperienced squad" for the final Test.

The win at Wanderers against India is a move in the right direction for the South Africa team, according to skipper Dean Elgar, who revealed that while there is room for improvement, the hosts won't be tinkering with their game plan heading into the final Test.

After slumping to a 113-run defeat in the first Test, South Africa bounced back with a superb seven-wicket win here to level the three-match series 1-1.

"It's a positive move, no doubt and a step in the right direction," Elgar was quoted as saying by Sports24.

"We're still going to have challenging encounters coming our way that includes the next Test that starts on Tuesday. We're going to be pushed to different boundaries and how the guys respond to that is going to be important," he added. Elgar scored an unbeaten 96 while stitching crucial partnerships with Rassie van der Dussen and Temba Bavuma in the second

Positive intent in 2nd innings surprised Indian bowlers: Philander

Johannesburg: Former Proteas all-rounder Vernon Philander feels the South African batters' attacking intent in the second innings caught the Indian bowlers by surprise in the series-leveling second Test at the Wanderers. Hosts South Africa bounced back from the 113-run thumping in the series opener by inflicting a seven-wicket defeat on India to level the three-match series here. The South African batters were up to the task in the second Test with Keegan Petersen and Temba Bavuma scoring fifties in the first innings, while skipper Dean Elgar led the way with an unbeaten 96-run knock in the second essay to take his side over the mark.

Anisimova advances to WTA tournament final



Melbourne, Jan 08 (API):

American Amanda Anisimova has advanced to her first final since 2019 with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Daria Kasatkina in the WTA's Summer Set 2 event on Saturday at Rod Laver Arena. Anisimova will play either fellow American

Ann Li or Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus. They play their semifinal later Saturday.

In other semifinal play at the Summer Set 1 event, also in Melbourne, Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka was scheduled to play Veronika Kudermetova and Simona

Doubles win puts Canada into ATP Cup final against Spain

Sydney: Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov qualified Canada for its first ATP Cup final on Saturday when they defeated Daniil Medvedev and Roman Safiullin 4-6, 7-5, 10-7 in doubles to complete a 2-1 win against Russia. Canada will play Spain in the final on Sunday. Medvedev and Safiullin had been 3-0 in doubles this week. Shapovalov got the match off to a good start for Canada by winning his opening singles but Medvedev then leveled with a comprehensive victory against Auger-Aliassime.

Bopanna-Ramkumar pair cruise to final

Adelaide: India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan upstaged fourth seeds Tomislav Brkic and Santiago Gonzalez in straight sets to reach the final of the Adelaide International, here on Saturday. The unseeded Indian duo ousted the Bosnian-Mexican duo 6-2 6-4 in the doubles semifinals. The Indians will now lock horns with top seeds Ivan Dodig of Croatia and Brazilian Marcelo Melo in the summit clash of the of the ATP 250 event.

Halep took on Zheng Qinwen. In the semifinals of an ATP tournament at Melbourne Park, Rafael Nadal faced Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori and Maxime Cressy played Grigor Dimitrov.

Naomi Osaka withdraws from Melbourne tournament semifinal

Melbourne, Jan 08 (API):

Defending Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka withdrew from her semifinal match Saturday at a WTA tournament with an abdominal injury, allowing her opponent Veronika Kudermetova to advance to the final on a walkover.

I had a lot of fun playing here in Melbourne. Unfortunately I have an abdominal injury which I need to rest and prepare for the Australian Open," Osaka said in a statement issued by Tennis Australia. Sad to withdraw due to injury from my match today, my body got a



Naomi Osaka of Japan plays a forehand.

shock from playing back to back intense matches after the break I took," Osaka added later on Twitter.

"I'll try to rest up and I'll see you soon!" The

Saturday in the Summer Set 1 event. American Amanda Anisimova advanced to her first final since 2019 with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Daria Kasatkina in the Summer Set 2 event at Rod Laver Arena. Anisimova will play either fellow American Ann Li or Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus, who played their semifinal later Saturday.

In the semifinals of an ATP tournament at Melbourne Park, Rafael Nadal faced Finland's Emil Ruusuvuori in a night match. The winner will play American Maxime Cressy, who beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-5, 7-6 (9).

Mayank among three nominated for ICC men's player of month

Dubai, Jan 08 (PTD):

India opener Mayank Agarwal was on Saturday nominated for the ICC Player of the Month award for December following his stellar performance in the Test series against New Zealand and South Africa.

Besides Agarwal, New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel and Australian pacer Mitchell Starc were also short-listed for the award.

With regular openers Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and KL Rahul all missing games at some point last month, Agarwal grabbed the opportunity with both hands against New Zealand and South Africa. In two matches, he



scored 276 runs at an average of 69.00, which included two fifties and a century. Agarwal was the architect of the win in Mumbai against New Zealand with a Player of the Match-winning performance of 150 and 62 in the two innings.

He also played a crucial role in India breaking the Centurion hoodoo for the very first time.

Schopman eyeing WC berth for India women through women's Asia Cup

Bengaluru, Jan 08 (PTD):

Indian women hockey team chief coach Janneka Schopman says qualifying for the World Cup is key objective for her side at the upcoming Asia Cup, where she will also assess her players' style and standard, going forward.

India will enter Asia Cup, to be held in Muscat from January 21 to 28, as defending champions. The winner of the event will qualify for the World Cup, which will be held in Netherlands and Spain from July 1 to 17 this year.

Schopman, for whom the Asia Cup will only be her second assignment with the



team, is eager to make a positive start.

"First of all, our key objective will be to qualify for the World Cup. That is most important because that is where the best teams in the

world come together to compete," Schopman said in a Hockey India release.

"I am also very keen to see the level where we are at the moment and whether we can execute the style of

play that I envision for the team. "I am not looking to measure my team against our opponents in the competition, but instead against my own expectations of how I want my team to play. I am eager to see how the team will perform in Oman as it will be really challenging," Schopman added.

Schopman, who was Sjoerd Marijne's deputy during the Tokyo Olympics where Indian women narrowly missed out on a historic bronze and finished fourth, said her main focus in the ongoing training camp here is on striking a balance between attack and defence.

Danushka Gunathilaka, 30, retires from Test cricket

Colombo, Jan 08 (PTD):

Sri Lanka's aggressive opening batter, Danushka Gunathilaka, has decided to retire from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on the white ball formats, the country's apex cricket body said on Saturday.

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said the batter "will now be focusing on the shorter formats". The development comes close on the heels of another 30-year-old batter, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, announcing his decision to retire altogether from international cricket and a day after the board lifted a one-year bio-security breach suspensions on Gunathilaka, Kusal Mendis and Niroshan Dickwella



with immediate effect. Gunathilaka, who stated that he has taken the decision after evaluating all aspects, hasn't played a Test since 2018, with his eight appearances getting him 299 runs, two half-centuries and a career-best score of 61. He has got a better record in limited overs cricket. In 44 ODIs, he has scored 1520 runs at an average of 36.19, while in T20Is, he has 568 runs in 30 matches at a strike rate of 121.62.

'Bangladesh's win in NZ will change notion that team is dependent only on senior players'

Dhaka, Jan 08 (PTD):

Bangladesh's historic victory in New Zealand proves that the youngsters in the team are capable of handling responsibility and the side doesn't always rely on the same 4-5 senior players to win matches, says premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan.

Bangladesh created history earlier this week by beating the Black Caps, the reigning World Test Champions, by eight wickets to capture their first-ever win in New Zealand. "I don't think my presence was necessarily important (in New Zealand). I am actually happy that they did it without me. Not just me (but the others too)," Shakib, who withdrew from



the series, was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "I think what really delighted me was that the notion, particularly in the media, that not many players apart from the four or five senior ones can win games for the team - that will be changed. If they are handed the responsibility, these youngsters will play better." The 34-year-old former skipper feels while the win at the Bay Oval will not change

things drastically, it will open an opportunity for change.

"We made an unbelievable start to 2022. I am very happy. Credit goes to all the players and coaching staff for playing well under so much pressure and in these conditions. Everyone tried hard.

"This was always going to be a challenging year after a difficult time in 2021 for us. I hope we can continue in this manner. Bangladesh do not play this well all the time. "Not everything will change after a Test win. But it creates the opportunity for change. I think if we can hold onto this belief, particularly the BCB, we can do well in the World Test Championship," Shakib said.

Ramnaresh Sarwan named selector of West Indies team



St John's, Jan 08 (PTD):

Former skipper Ramnaresh Sarwan has been appointed as a selector to the West Indies men's senior and youth selection panels till 2024. Sarwan's appointment was confirmed during a Cricket West Indies (CWI) board meeting on Thursday. He will serve as a member on both panels till June 2024. The former top-order batter joins batting great Desmond Haynes, the newly-appointed

West Indies men's lead selector, and head coach Phil Simmons on the senior panel and former leg-spinner Robert Haynes on the panel to handle youth selection. "I want to thank CWI and everyone involved for giving me this opportunity to again serve West Indies cricket, as a member of the selection panels. I'm passionate about the game of cricket and especially West Indies cricket and once asked to contribute, I didn't hesitate," Sarwan said.

COVID-hit Man City ousts fourth-tier Swindon 4-1 in FA Cup

Swindon (England), Jan 8 (API):

Manchester City easily coped without seven coronavirus-infected players in eliminating fourth-tier club Swindon 4-1 to open the third round of the FA Cup.

City was still able to deploy a lineup packed with international players including the first three scorers Bernardo Silva, Gabriel Jesus and Ilkay Gundogan. The 19-year-old Cole Palmer scored the fourth after Harry McKirdy scored past goalkeeper Zack Steffen to pull one back for Swindon on Friday.

With manager Pep Guardiola isolating with COVID-19, assistant coach Rodolfo Borrell led the English Premier League champions.



Palmer set up the opener in the 14th minute, playing the ball into the box which was met at the far post by Bernardo Silva to tap in. Swindon was caught un-

successfully trying to play the ball out from the back, with City winning the ball back and Kevin De Bruyne playing in Gabriel Jesus to double the lead in the 28th.

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DECISION 2022, RESULT ON MAR 10

Five states to have 7-phased polls

■ From Feb 10-Mar 7
■ Ban on physical rallies till Jan 15

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 10 and March 7 in seven phases with counting of votes on March 10, the Election Commission announced on Saturday, and banned physical rallies and roadshows till January 15 due to Covid



CEC Sushil Chandra

concerns. The elections have huge political significance with BJP ruling four of these five states, while it is making a big

push to capture Congress-ruled Punjab, where the Aam Aadmi Party is also emerging as an important player.

Announcing the election schedule with a strong focus on digital and virtual modes of campaigning, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said the ban on rallies, roadshows, nukkad sabhas, padayatra and vehicle rallies will be reviewed on January 15.

Asked about experts predicting the third wave of the Covid pandemic to

peak in February, when voting for five of the seven phases of the polls will take place, he said the situation is very dynamic and nobody can predict Covid numbers of future date. He also assured voters that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure "Covid safe" elections and said they should come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise as polling booths will be sanitised and polling officers vaccinated. In all, elections will be held for 690 assembly seats, and 18.3 crore peo-

POLL STATISTICS

Elections will be held in 403 assembly seats in the UP in the seven phases from February 10 to March 7. For Manipur's 60 assembly constituencies, elections will be held in two phases on February 27 and March 3, while polling in Goa (40 seats), Punjab (117 seats) and Uttarakhand (70 seats) will be held on February 14.

CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In an unprecedented step, the Election Commission on Saturday banned public rallies, roadshows and corner meetings till January 15 in the five poll-bound states, citing the fresh surge in COVID-19 cases, and issued stringent safety guidelines. Declaring the election schedule for Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra urged political parties to shift to the digital mode of campaigning and announced the doubling of air time allocated to political parties on public broadcaster Doordarshan for electioneering.

ple, including 8.5 crore women, will be eligible to cast their votes in the five

states. In the politically important Uttar Pradesh, voting will start from the

western region and move towards the east over seven phases.

LATEST DATA

Omicron variant driving third wave of pandemic across states

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

The third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic across all states is being driven by the fast-spreading Omicron variant, official sources said on Saturday, citing the latest data.

Till a few days ago it was only in the western region of the country that the surge in Covid cases was due to Omicron, while in the northeastern states, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha the Delta variant was predominant. A source said, however, the

latest data suggests that all eastern states have also reported high numbers of Omicron cases.

"So going by that it can be said that the third wave of COVID-19 pandemic across all states is being driven by the fast-spreading and highly transmissible Omicron variant," the source said. India saw a single-day rise of 1,41,986 new coronavirus infections taking the total case tally to 3,53,68,372, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday.

IIIMS STUDENTS TO PM

Steer India away from 'forces that seek to divide us'

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

A group of students and faculty members from Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to steer the country away from "forces that seek to divide us" and said his silence "emboldens" voices of hate.

The letter with over 180 signatories, has flagged hate speech and attacks on minorities. "Your silence on the rising intolerance in our country, honourable prime minister, is

disheartening to all of us who value the multicultural fabric of our country. Your silence, honourable prime minister, emboldens the hate-filled voices and threatens the unity and integrity of our country," it said. "We ask your leadership to turn our minds and hearts, as a nation, away from inciting hatred against our people. We believe that a society can focus on creativity, innovation, and growth, or society can create divisions within itself," it added. They urged him to steer the country away from "forces that seek to divide us".

Delhi records 20,181 new COVID-19 cases, 7 deaths

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

Seven more fatalities were recorded in Delhi on Saturday due to COVID-19 as the city clocked 20,181 infections in a single day, while the positivity rate rose to 19.60 per cent, according to data by the health department.

The national capital had reported 407 COVID-19 fatalities and 20,394 cases with a positivity rate of 28.33 per cent on May 2.

A total of 1,02,965 tests were conducted the previ-

Mumbai reports 20,318 cases, five deaths

Mumbai on Saturday reported 20,318 new coronavirus infections, little less than the day before, and five deaths, civic officials said. The city now has more than one lakh active cases. The case load in the country's financial capital rose to 8,95,098, while death toll reached 16,399. On Friday, Mumbai had reported 20,971 new cases and six deaths. As many as 71,019 coronavirus tests were conducted during the day which took the total of samples tested so far to 1,41,35,556, said a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) release.

ous day, including 79,946 RT-PCR ones, while the rest were rapid antigen ones. Nearly, 1,586 patients are admitted to hospitals, with 375 patients

on oxygen support. Out of 375 patients, 27 are on ventilator. The number of active cases stands at 48,178, of which 25,909 are in home isolation.

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION



Sikh devotees carry the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh holy book) during a religious procession on the eve of the birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh, at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Saturday.

Sarabjit Kaur is new Chandigarh mayor

■ BJP sweeps mayoral polls

Chandigarh, Jan 08 (PTD):

The BJP on Saturday swept the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation mayoral polls and its municipal councillor Sarabjit Kaur became the new mayor.

The saffron party also bagged the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor of the Chandigarh MC. The mayor's post was



reserved for a woman candidate this year. However, the AAP called the poll results a "murder of democracy". BJP's Sarabjit Kaur defeated Aam Aadmi Party's Anju Katyal by one vote in a direct contest. Out of the total 36 votes,

DISPUTE RESOLVED

MHA restores FCRA licence of Missionaries of Charity

New Delhi, Jan 08 (PTD):

The Union Home Ministry has restored the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the Missionaries of Charity, days after revoking it following some "adverse inputs". A home ministry official said that with the restoration of the FCRA licence, the Kolkata-based famed organisation will be able to receive foreign fundings and can also spend the money lying in the banks.

The Missionaries of Charity (MoC) is a Catholic religious congregation established in 1950 by Nobel laureate Mother Teresa to help the poor and destitute.

21 tourists freeze to death at Pak hill station Murree

Lahore, Jan 08 (PTD):

Pakistan's popular hill station Murree was declared a calamity-hit area on Saturday after at least 21 people, including nine children, froze to death in their stranded vehicles due to unprecedented snowfall and rush of tourists to the picturesque town in Punjab province.

All the routes in Murree in Rawalpindi district were blocked after thousands of vehicles entered the city, leaving the

tourists helpless on the roads. Around 1,000 cars were stuck on the hill station while the Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar issued instructions for expediting rescue work and providing aid to the stranded tourists, the Dawn newspaper reported. The Punjab government has imposed a state of emergency in hospitals, police stations and administration offices.

According to a list issued by Rescue 1122, at least 21 people died, in-

cluding nine children, it said. Prime Minister Imran Khan said he was shocked and upset at the tragic deaths of tourists on the road to Murree.

"Unprecedented snowfall & rush of ppl proceeding without checking weather conditions caught district admin unprepared. Have ordered inquiry & putting in place strong regulation to ensure prevention of such tragedies," Khan said in a tweet. The military has been mobilised to clear

roads and rescue people still trapped, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid said in a video message. He said Murree had "seen a huge number of tourists after 15-20 years", and due to that, a crisis took place.

Rashid said the government was forced to close the road from Islamabad to Murree.

The commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, deputy commissioners, police, are carrying out rescue operations, he said.

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BRIEF



Women commuters cover themselves with an umbrella during rain in Meerut, Saturday.

Jail term

■ New Delhi: A man has been sentenced to a five-year jail term for extorting money from a judge, in whose court he had worked as an assistant ahmad, by threatening to kill her two children in 2007. While awarding the jail term to Shiv Shankar Parsad Sinha, the court in Delhi said the incident affected the stream of justice and created a trust deficit among judges and support staff.

Tax evasion

■ Varanasi: The tax authorities raided the factory of a gutkha trader in Varanasi's Pandeypur, sources said on Saturday. So far, no official statement has come out in this regard. A team raided the factory of gutkha trader Laxmikant Pandey, alias Pammi, on Friday night, they said. According to the sources, the team seized papers and a computer hard disk. Prima facie, tax evasion of lakhs of rupees has come to the fore, the sources said.

Run over

■ Jaipur: Two brothers who were engrossed in playing popular online game PUBG on their mobile phones while sitting on a railway track were run over by a train in Rajasthan's Alwar district on Saturday, police said. The deceased have been identified as Lokesh Meena (22) and his younger brother Rahul (19). They were preparing for competitive exams, the police said. "Lokesh Meena and Rahul were sitting on the railway track near Roopbaas town and were playing PUBG when they were run over by a train.

Rejoin

■ Dehradun: AAP leader Ravindra Jugran on Saturday quit the party and rejoined the ruling BJP, saying it was like homecoming for him. Welcoming Jugran back into the party fold, Uttarakhand BJP president Madan Kaushik said the party will benefit from his experience and capabilities in the upcoming Assembly polls.

Weather

High 28 Low 16

Ten shops mid-way to temple gutted in fire

● No casualties, but loss worth lakhs

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 08: A total of ten shops mid-way to Maa Bamleshwari Mandir in Dongargarh were gutted in fire on the intervening night of Jan 7-8 and since the fire broke out late at night, it created sensation in the area and caused panic among other shopkeepers having shops nearby.

Investigation into this fire incident has been started and sources believe that most likely it broke out due to some short-circuit.

On getting informa-



tion about fire breaking out, the security force present were put on heels and took all measures to gain control on fire and avoid its spread to other nearby shops. The big relief in this

fire incident was that no casualties took place. But the items and puja materials and other things stored in these ten shops were gutted in fire, causing loss worth lakhs to all shopkeepers.

Earlier also fire broke out in shops

It is worthwhile to mention here that prior to this also fire has broken out in these shops midway to Maa Bamleshwari temple. Last it was on 25 April 2021 fire broke out all of sudden in the afternoon and in this around 20 shops were gutted in fire. At that time since it was lockdown period and all shops were closed and therefore no one could reach there on time. Due to this the shopkeepers of all these 20 shops had to face huge loss and with no guarantee of returns.

Need for by-pass road at Gandhi Chowk

People stuck in jams for hours together

Central Chronicle News

Pandariya, Dec 08: Gandhi Chowk of Pandariya-Nagar gets jammed for hours every day, due to which the traffic is adversely affected. Due to the jam on the main road, people coming and going from outside including the towns and areas inside get stuck in the jam for hours.

In this, school children including those going to the hospital have to suffer more. Mainly Gandhi Chowk to Kawardha remains jam-packed till the State Bank and half the road is blocked by vehicles parked on the side of the road, while sugarcane-laden tractors pass through, and a opposite vehicle approaching cre-



ates a jam of hours together.

To get rid of this jam, there is a need to build a bypass road from the city, but despite the demand for a long time, the bypass road is not built. Now, after the said road is shifted to the National

Highway, it is expected to become a bypass road.

On being asked by National Highway Engineer Rupen Kerketta, he told that the proposal has been sent for Pandariya by-pass, approval will be given soon. Meanwhile there is no

arrangement of traffic police to ensure that there is no jam in Gandhi Chowk.

In case of jam, action is taken by the police force to evacuate and a permanent arrangement of traffic police should be made at Gandhi Chowk on an urgent basis.

Collector appeals to follow COVID 19 protocol

● Both in urban and rural areas

Central Chronicle News

Korba, Jan 08: District Collector Ranu Sahu has appealed to the people in the villages including urban areas to strictly follow the COVID 19 protocol, in view of the steep rise in COVID cases in the region. She appealed to the people all over the district, particularly rural areas to strictly follow COVID appropriate behaviour and compulsorily come out of their homes wearing masks.

Hands should be

Legal action on hoarders of essential commodities

Taking serious note on information of alleged hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities, the Collector has appealed to the shopkeepers not to hoard essential things or sell them at a price higher than MRP. She assured the people that in the near future there is no plan yet by the state government to impose lockdown due to COVID 19 infection. The collector has appealed to all the traders to extend their cooperation in the fight against corona virus infection and not to do black marketing and hoarding of ration, and has given instructions to all the traders and administrative officers to inspect the stock of the items available in the ration shops.

washed regularly with soap and avoid going in crowded places and when necessary, social distancing should be compulsorily followed while going to crowded places, she said.

The Collector also advocated the COVID19 vaccination administration to all above age group 15 and sought the common man

to abstain from paying attention to any misleading news related to the vaccine.

The vaccine has been made completely under scientific research and medical procedures with testing and trialing at various stages, and therefore safe and anti-virus for all age group, she added.

SDM urges people to follow corona guidelines

● Asks them to wear mask and stay at home

Central Chronicle News

Korea, Jan 08: The officers from Revenue department are roaming in the streets asking people to adhere to corona guidelines and wear masks and also warning them of imposing fine, if they fail to do so. With cases of corona on the rise all over India and in state, the local district administration is on the alert over rise in cases in Koriya district as well.

SDM Bharatpur RP Chouhan gave information about increasing corona cases to people and also

gave suggestions to people and how to put a check on the same. It is by roaming around near Janakpur Atal Chowk, market and roadside, people were informed and warned about spread of corona virus and asked to follow corona guidelines.

In Janakpur of Bharatpur block, SDM RP Chouhan, Tehsildar Ashok Singh and police department team went out to direct people about prevention of Corona virus and not to move out in the open without masks or else they will be fined. He made it clear that seeing the rise in number of cases, there needs to be more of strictness and ensure that all follow covid-19 protocol.

Administration gearing up for Covid-19 third wave

As public flouts Covid appropriate behaviour

Central Chronicle News

Fingeshwar, Jan 08: As COVID 19 cases are going up the scale, on a serious note, the administration is gearing up to treat susceptible patients and the preparations are as per medical norms.

On the other the public is taking every route to flout COVID appropriate behaviour, with a very few taking to masking and sanitization on a regular basis.

Only 10 percent of the population is wearing

mask, in spite of hundreds of people succumbing to the disease in the second wave and experts warning of a third wave of COVID 19 round the corner.

Municipal official Satish Yadav and other workers are taking to form teams and educating people to wear masks, but a very few are taking it seriously. With the administration ceasing against mask trespassers, the public is all free to make mask an accessory

to be worn only when felt. Nagar Panchayat official informed that loudspeakers are being used to disperse crowd and prevent crowd gathering, but people continue to come in groups to market places and other regions of public places.

Traders of the region too are paying no attention to the administrations voice against COVID 19 and many are seen entertaining customers without proper masking and sanitization.

UCO Kasdol branch celebrates 79th foundation day

Customers informed about Bank's services, facilities

Central Chronicle News

Katagi, Jan 08: Like every year, this year also 79th foundation day of UCO Bank, Kasdol branch was observed and under this the branch was colourfully decorated. Branch Manager UCO Bank Puneet Yadav, Asst. Branch Manger Roshan Kumar, Simon Kashyap, Prashant, Milan, Piyush, Neelam, Ashok Kumar Giri, Ratiram Yadav, Rajendra Yadav, Harishankar Patel were present.

It is notable here that on 6 Jan 1943, UCO Bank's head office was established in Kolkata (WB).

So on occasion of Bank's foundation day, the staff of the Branch gave information in detailed about the facilities



being provided by UCO Bank. Along with this the staff also distributed masks and calendar to its customers. Among the old customers of the branch, viz. Ramkrishna

Mishra, Shatruhan P Sahu, Aatmaram Sahu, Gajadhar Sahu, Dukhuram Sahu, Ramchandra Sahu, Umed Ram Sahu and other senior customers were felici-

tated by presenting them with shawl and flower bouquet.

UCO Bank's Kasdol branch was established on 10 June 1978 by KK Kashyap and this branch has 42800 account holders.

On this occasion SDO Dy. Treasury Kasdol-Devgan Sahu, KK Gupa (block education officer), RC Khunte (Asst. Grade-2), Ramgopal Sahu Janpad member; Ishwar Patel Janpad member; Rajesh Jaiswal (businessman Katagi); Gopal Sahu (Secretary Nagar Sahu Sangh); Gopal Sahu (Sr. BJP leader); Shiv Prasad Sriwas; Rajendra Tiwari (ex-MP's rep); Guniram Sahu President Nagr Sahu Sangh and corporator ward No. 9 Naga Panchayat Kasdol and other well known citizens and seniors were present.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, RPF had 522 oxygen special trains reach destination, and in a total 26 RPF personnel's lost their lives during the pandemic. Around 1650 people were given a new lease of life by RPF in and around the year in various accidents and cases. For safety of women passengers RPF formed 244 teams of 'Meri Saheli' a mission to safeguard women passengers mostly traveling alone. 840 stations and approximately 4,000 coaches have been equipped with

RPF embarks on 'Operation Trust'

Central Chronicle News

Bilaspur, Jan 08: Railway Protection Force, (RPF) has been entrusted with the responsibility of safety of railway property and passengers to provide a safe and comfortable travel experience twenty-four hours in a stretch. The nation's internal security authority, law and order protection during national and state elections and fighting the COVID 19 pandemic has been the biggest achievements of the RPF.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, RPF had 522 oxygen special trains reach destination, and in a total 26 RPF personnel's lost their lives during the pandemic. Around 1650 people were given a new lease of life by RPF in and around the year in various accidents and cases. For safety of women passengers RPF formed 244 teams of 'Meri Saheli' a mission to safeguard women passengers mostly traveling alone. 840 stations and approximately 4,000 coaches have been equipped with

CCTV system. 630 people were saved from human smugglers by RPF which includes 54 women and 401 minor girls and boys. In their fight against crime 3,000 and more criminals were arrested by RPF and handed over

to GRP. In accordance to NDPS Act 620 drug peddlers and drugs worth 15.7 billion rupees was seized by RPF in the year 2021. RPF also undertook their action against wildlife illegal trade and recovered birds, snakes, tur-

tles, peacocks, reptiles and other animals. RPF is on mission of continuous support of needs of individuals, especially senior citizens, sick people, pregnant women, differently and female passengers.

Household and utility items distributed to villagers

In Medical camp and civic action programme by 74 Battalion CRPF in Dornapal, Sukma

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jan 08: As per directions of Commandant Devendra Nath Yadav 74th Battalion CRPF organised Civic Action Program (CAP) and Medical Camp at village Kakerlanka (Pana Polampally, District Sukma) of Camp Konta Block.

In this event, Arun Kumar Singh (Second Commanding Officer), Nikhlesh Kumar (Deputy Commandant), Dr. Manogana Tirunagari (Medical Officer) and Samvay Officer Bhagirath (Assistant Commandant) and S.B. Sarpanch of Kakerlanka and Korapad were present along with



Patel (Assistant Commandant). In this program many citizens of nearby rural areas including children, old people and women also participated. Shovels for agricultural work, blankets for protection from winter, radios for entertainment and knowledge and utensils and fishing nets for domestic work were distributed

among the villagers who came to the civic action programme. In the medical camp, the sick villagers were examined by the Medical Officer of the Vahini and necessary medicines were distributed. Chocolate / sweets were distributed among the children.

The vaccine of Covid-19 was given by the local sub-

health center Kakerlanka. The villagers were informed and made aware about the prevention of epidemic Covid-19 by the officers present. Masks were distributed among the villagers and they were given food.

There was an atmosphere of great enthusiasm among the villagers regarding this program. A large number of villagers from Kakerlanka, Korapad and Rangaiguda villages participated in this program and got benefited. The above ceremony created an atmosphere of cooperation, coordination and closeness between the security forces and the villagers.

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS INFORMED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I, MILIND MANOHARRAO DESHKAR S/O MANOHAR RAMCHANDRA DESHKAR RESIDENT OF Q.NO.D-21, SEEPAT ROAD, INDIRA VIHAR COLONY, LINGYADIH, SECL BILASPUR C.G.495006 HAVE CHANGED MY OLD NAME MILIND MANOHARRAO DESHKAR S/O MANOHAR RAMCHANDRA DESHKAR, SO IN FUTURE I SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NEW NAME MILIND DESHKAR S/O MANOHAR RAMCHANDRA DESHKAR IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

MILIND DESHKAR Q.NO.D-21, SEEPAT ROAD, INDIRA VIHAR COLONY, LINGYADIH, SECL BILASPUR C.G. 495006

pnb		Circle Office, Plot No. A-48, Ring Road No. 2 Gaurav Path, Bilaspur, Ph.: (07752) 432710/729			
AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF VEHICLES					
Sealed quotation in plain paper accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) as mentioned hereunder by way of RTGS/NEFT/Funds Transfer to details mention in below table are invited from the interested bidders for purchasing of the following vehicles, which should reach at respected Branch of Punjab National Bank (as mentioned) before the tender closing day i.e. on or before 04.00 PM on 21.01.2022 (Friday), with self-attested copy of PAN Card, ID proof, address proof. Bid below the reserve price as mentioned hereunder will not be accepted. Bid without EMD/with EMD lower than the EMD amount stipulated hereunder will not be accepted.					
Sr.	Name	Vehicle detail Model & Registration	NPA Amount	Branch Name & Mob. No.	Reserve price EMD price (Amt. in Rs.)
1.	Pramod Singh Mashram	Piaggio Vehicle Pvt. Ltd. (3 wheeler auto) Model-18, CG-10-AR-2851)	₹ 2,49,826.24	Pendra Mo. 9111020091	₹ 60,000/- ₹ 50,000/-
2.	Rishi Agrawal	Hyundai Verna, Model- 10/2016, CG-11-AH-9933	₹ 6,51,325.00	Raigarh Mo. 8013147680	₹ 3,50,000/- ₹ 3,15,000/-
3.	M.R. Khomari	Tractor John Deer Pvt. Ltd. Model-2015, CG-15-CX-3976	₹ 11,21,454.00	Pampapur Mo. 9111005877	₹ 2,75,000/- ₹ 250,000/-
4.	Alok Kumar	Ashok Leyland Ltd. Maxi Cab & Passenger, Model- 2018, CG-11-AS-8779	₹ 8,22,214.41	Janjgir Mo. 9111013456	₹ 5,00,000/- ₹ 4,50,000/-
5.	Chait Ram Khunte	Tractor Sonalika Model- 2010, CG-11-D-2003	₹ 11,14,045.69	Shasha Mo. 9630763788	₹ 68,000/- ₹ 58,000/-
6.	Banto Ram Rathia	Tractor Sonalika Model- 2011, CG-14-E-0889	₹ 6,36,083.00	Lailunga Mo. 8969511735	₹ 1,40,000/- ₹ 1,30,000/-
7.	Full Singh Rathia	Tractor Sonalika Model- 2009, CG-14-A-3848	₹ 3,02,385.00	Lailunga Mo. 8969511735	₹ 75,000/- ₹ 65,000/-
8.	Dhana Ram	Tractor Mahindra Model-2013	₹ 14,21,913.53	Seorinarayan Mo. 7209536881	₹ 1,65,000/- ₹ 1,50,000/-

Date and Time of Auction: 24.01.2022 at 11:00 AM

Terms and Conditions of Sale : 1. The Sealed Envelope should mark as "QUOTATION FOR PURCHASE OF VEHICLE" received will be opened at 11:00 AM on 24.01.2022 at respective Branch mentioned. 2. Punjab National Bank does not in any way warrant the fitness, quality or usability of the Vehicle being sold. The Vehicle is being Auctioned on "As is where is basis" and "As is what is basis". 3. The Vehicle is open for inspection by the intending purchaser on their own expenses on any working day from 09.01.2022 to 21.11.2022 between 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM, with prior permission from the Branch Head. 4. Successful bidders with highest bid shall have to take delivery of the vehicle from the place of location on "As is where is basis" and "As is what is basis". Bids offered below the Reserve Price will not be accepted for consideration. 5. Bids can be improved only in multiples of Rs. 5000/- for all vehicles. 6. The Successful bidder will have to deposit 25% (Including amount of EMD already deposited) of the bid amount by way of Cash/Demand Draft/ NEFT/ RTGS / Funds Transfer to the Credit of Account No. 0058002100046604, PNB EARNEST MONEY, IFSC CODE- PUNB0005800, BO: Circle Office, Bilaspur on or before 4:00 PM on 25.01.2022 after conclusion of auction. The balance amount (75%) is to be deposited on or before 27.01.2022 by RTGS/NEFT/Funds Transfer, failing which the successful bidder will be deemed to have forfeited his amount (25% Deposited amount including EMD) as well as his right to purchase, and such money will not be refunded. 7. The Cost of transfer of ownership and statutory dues / misc. charges, if any is to be borne by the bidder. GST as applicable is to be borne by the successful bidder. 8. Punjab National Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and reserves the right to accept / reject / cancel the auction sale process of the above vehicles at its discretion at any point of time without assigning reason what so ever and without any prior notice. 9. This Public notice will be treated as a notice to the borrower (s) / Guarantor (s) / mortgager (s) of the above loan accounts. He / She is advised to repay the Bank dues on or before the due date, failing which the vehicle will be sold through auction and balance amount, if any will be recovered from him / her along with interest and other charges.

Date: 08.01.2022, Place : Bilaspur Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 279

Unchecked globalisation risk

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently said at a summit that COVID-19 pandemic has brought India's capabilities and need for more domestic production rather than unchecked globalisation and to foster technology growth, the nation must seek more education, skills, start-ups, supply chains and jobs to be created internally. Jaishankar said it was not possible to ignore 'politics' when it came to opening markets to other countries and said there was no need to be 'defensive' in the debate between 'protectionism vs globalisation'. It is clear now that the government in India understands risk of connectivity with globalisation. Globalisation has tripled India's GDP in a generation but workers in the country have been left out. Globalisation has not only resulted in greater world economic integration and interdependence, but also in the rise of China's new economic power and the fast growing economic influence in Asia, Central Asian Republics, Europe, Africa and South America. Common wisdom a year-plus into the pandemic holds that globalisation is in retreat. COVID's rapid spread revealed the infectious dangers of a hypermobile world. Supply chains cracked, countries went into lockdown, and a new brand of nationalism appeared to redefine politics around the world. But another lesson from the crisis is how deeply absorbed globalisation has become in our economic and cultural DNA. Scientists cooperated across borders to invent treatments and vaccines at a pace unprecedented in world history. Even as we hunkered down in our own countries, international Internet traffic soared; trade and capital flows are rebounding beyond our expectations. And while there have been serious manufacturing and shipping disruptions, we should pause to reflect on how surprisingly well global trade still worked.

COVID-19 may become not only a huge health crisis, but also a crisis of globalisation and global governance. Most obviously, it raises the question of how the world should organize itself against the threat of pandemics. But it also has implications for how globalisation is perceived and what that perception means for the future of international cooperation. Five decades of increasing interconnectedness have opened up the world to massive cross-border flows of goods, services, money, ideas, data, and people. While globalisation itself is not new, the sheer scale and scope of the current version has made the world unprecedentedly interdependent and thus fragile. Today's global socioeconomic infrastructure looks and works like a hub-and-spoke network in which all nodes are separated by very short distances and essential functions are centralized in large hubs. Financial activity is concentrated in the United States, for example, while China is the world's manufacturing centre. This structure is geared toward maximizing efficiency by capturing the benefits of economies of scale and specialisation. However, connectivity also creates an enormous but often hidden risk of catastrophe. This is because connectivity increases what statisticians call 'fat-tailedness,' or the likelihood of inherently unquantifiable extreme events, such as financial crises, a nuclear holocaust, hostile artificial intelligence, global warming, destructive biotechnology, and pandemics. India has been a beneficiary of globalisation. Exports have grown faster than most countries from the early 1990s till today. However, a globalised world means a lot of risks. Economists have pointed out in the past that among the effects of globalisation were jobless growth as manufacturing and supply chains shifted and became more automated.

Alert from culture of hate

A group of students and faculty members from the Indian Institutes of Management in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad flagged hate speech and attacks on minorities in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying his silence 'emboldens' voices of hate. This culture of hate is more visible on internet, particularly on social media platforms. The central government shall be made alert on threat from culture of hate. Trolls have been around for as long as the Internet but never have they been as organised as they are now. It's almost as if someone decided to take the most rage-filled human beings existing in their lonely universes, bring them together and weaponise them against the rest of us. Packs of trolls can descend on anybody's timeline to abuse. The cause could be any. If you analyse social media controversies, it is highly likely that you will encounter the same prolific abusers over and over again. And this brings us to the role of social media giants and the way in which they use the weaponised trolls to build engagement and stickiness. Look at the bigotry and hatred which has led to riots in Tripura, Lakhimpur, the killings of rationalists and dissenters from Dabholkar to Gauri Lankesh. The volume of hate messages which trolls circulate and which social media companies ignores is stupendous. They don't even spare Gandhi and Nehru, spreading all kinds of vile stories about them. Academics who refuse to toe the line aren't spared either. We are a country that sends gangsters to Parliament and gagsters to prison. One can only imagine the effect this new low in political morality has on impressionable minds. Abusive social media platforms have built their business on the backs of the abusers. They have to ignore protests time and again on abusers and trolls. To protect the trolls, the social media giants have weaponised the American First Amendment and have used it to protect hate speech. And now, while these social media giants go laughing all the way to the bank, they leave behind devastated societies, communities and families. When Dickens wrote 'A Tale of Two Cities', he described the era as the 'best of times, and the worst of times'. You can say the same of the social media era. You find advice and collaborations. You can find a treasure trove of information and knowledge. Psychiatrists say our children who are supposed to be handled while they explore their world are left to face the adult world guided not by parents and teachers, but by the social media, resulting in ill-founded relationships with crass understanding in a digital world which is cold and emotionally hollow and in which it is easy to mistake fake news as news.

Central Chronicle welcomes, articles, write ups, comments on different issues for editorial page (800-900 words), Letter to editor for this page. It can be sent by e-mail at: editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

TRIBUTE TO ICONIC SINGER

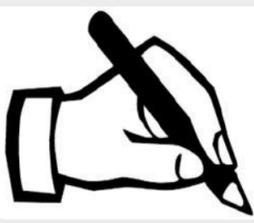


Elvis Presley tribute acts by, (L-R) Chris Vegas, Steve Brooks, Emilio Santoro and Steve Knight posing in Birmingham, UK during European Elvis Championships. Elvis Presley was the most popular and iconic english language singer and performer ever.

Bactrian camels in Nubra Valley provide lessons for conservation



ILSE KOHLER-ROLLEFSON



They have peaky humps, soulful eyes under long lashes, and stocically wait for things to come: rows of couched and saddled Bactrian camels lined up at the edge of a sand dune patch outside Hunder village in India's Nubra Valley to provide rides for tourists. Against the backdrop of the forbiddingly steep and barren flanks of the Ladakh range, they form an impressive sight, conjuring up reminiscences of the Silk Road trade that once connected northern India with China. The camels are a mixture of females, males, and youngsters, mostly in good condition. Going on a camel ride ranks on the top of the bucket list of Indian tourists that escape the pre-monsoon heat of Indian cities for the cooler climes of Ladakh, India's Union Territory nestled high up in the Himalayas. This run for a camel ride experience has led to a remarkable turn-around for the fate of a species that was not long ago regarded as 'virtually extinct' within India. Since the 1960s, the number of Bactrian camels has grown from a mere handful to around 300 now; it can be expected to increase further, as the number of people who want to take a ride is outpacing the availability of camels. As a result, the prices for Bactrian camels are high, hovering around Rs 1 to 1.5 lakh (Rs 100,000 to 1,50,000), according to the bunch of camel handlers and owners with whom we sit in a little thorn-bush shed where they make tea and cook gruel for the camels.

For owners of camels, the returns on investment are high: during the peak

period, a camel can earn about Rs 2000-3000 per day. Unfortunately, the tourist season only lasts four months, and during the remaining eight months the maintenance of the camels poses as a major challenge. They are let go to fend for themselves, feeding on sea buckthorn and other vegetation. This riles landowners and the forest department; camels are not only shooed away but sometimes attacked and injured. The camels breed and give birth during the winter, and stray dogs may kill the newborn calves. In order to find out more about the history of the Bactrian camel in Ladakh, the camel handlers recommended that we talk to Haji Abdul Razzaq as the most knowledgeable source of information and local pioneer of camel keeping. We track him down in Hunder that has morphed from a small oasis into a sprawling web of guesthouses, tent camps and eco-resorts. Haji Abdul Razzaq is a gracious, 89-year-old gentleman, a devout Muslim wearing Buddhist garb who has received several awards for his role in camel conservation from the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources and the National Research Center on Camels. He has also written a little book about the Nubra Valley. Over tea and biscuits, he elaborates on how camels were earlier used for trade on the Silk Road between India and China crossing the Karakorum range and the Changtang Plateau of Tibet. Even after Independence, transportation by camel caravans continued in a small way, but after the Sino-Indian War in 1962 this came to a total standstill. At that time

Haji Abdul Razzaq purchased five camels that had been left in Leh and subsequently put them to good use by deploying them to carry goods for the army that had set up an airport in the area. Their numbers grew slowly and, by 1978, there were 32 Bactrian camels in Ladakh. The fact that they now have grown to over 300 is exclusively due to local entrepreneurial spirit and driven by the urge of Indian tourists to experience a camel ride. Bactrian camels can provide other products too. Their silky long-fibred wool is prized at Rs. 2000 per kg and sent to Kashmir for processing. They are also used as a source of milk and meat in Mongolia, China and other countries, but not in Ladakh. Their situation shows both differences and parallels to that of their one-humped dromedary cousins in Rajasthan. Some of the latter are also used for tourist rides and safaris in Jaisalmer, but the species has experienced a more than 80 percent decline in population from over a million in the 1980s to only around 200,000 now, due to the loss of its transport function. A special law that was meant to protect it, but limits camel utilisation has only exacerbated the situation, and even its declaration as 'state animal of Rajasthan' has not helped at all. Dairy production is currently regarded as the main avenue for its conservation, as use for meat is banned, as is its export. But back to the Bactrian camels. Their global population is less than a million, but slowly increasing after bottoming out in the early 2000s.

The camel's unique adaptations to cold deserts, the ability to withstand temperatures ranging from minus 40 degree C to 40 degree C that exist at high altitudes up to 18,600 feet and making do with scarce feed and water, make it of immense interest to researchers. The conservation of such farm animal genetic resources that can deal with challenging environments is a global concern and an important national priority. Over the last five decades, the number of livestock breeds has diminished significantly, as a handful of high performance breeds

is replacing the diversity of locally adapted animals. This loss of genes makes humanity more vulnerable to climate change and any yet unforeseen future developments. In an effort to stop the trend, a Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources was agreed upon at the UN level in 2007. Unfortunately, it placed more emphasis on the documentation, evaluation, and characterisation of breeds as well as on capacity building of officials rather than supporting the roles of communities and entrepreneurs in conservation. India prides itself on being a mega-biodiverse country but the rural communities who have created and sustain its agricultural biodiversity rarely receive acknowledgment and backing. Official government support is restricted to the conservation on government farms which really leads nowhere. The government has set up a Bactrian Camel Farm in Chuchot near Leh that currently holds 16 camels that are not put to any use and languish in a shed. Occasionally, some of these camels are donated or given away at a preferential price to interested parties.

Instead of devoting resources to maintain such farms, there is an urgent need to support the existing entrepreneurial spirit and broaden the uses that can be made from camels. There is good potential for cottage industries based on the various raw materials that can be obtained from camels. The Bactrian camels of Ladakh have the real capability of changing the economics of the Nubra Valley making the stakeholders prosperous and rich. Complete registration of the Bactrian camel, protection of community grazing areas, promotion of camel-based tourism and small cottage industry for camel products will ensure conservation of this treasureable genetic resource,' say the experts from the National Research Centre on Camel, and this holds true also for the dromedary camel. Both, one-humped and two-humped camels are an integral part of India's biodiversity. They need just as much protection as India's tigers do.

(Ilse Kohler-Rollefson is a German scientist known for championing pastoralism, Ethnoveterinary medicine and camels.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos South Africa

Kudos to South Africa (SA) for its memorable victory against India and congratulations to the team that is young and in transition. It will give them a huge amount of confidence. Disappointed as an Indian fan but absolutely delighted for SA and its captain, Dean Elgar, who not only defied a hostile Indian attack and body blows from balls produced but also delivered a match-winning unbeaten innings of 96 to lead his team to a seven-wicket victory over India in the second Test. So far, India had played six Test at Wanderers, this is their first defeat at Johannesburg was down to a combination of factors, from Rishabh Pant's hara-kiri (he also needs to differentiate between bravery and foolhardy and hope that Pant learns something about tenacity and discipline from this Elgar masterpiece) and a porous middle-order to SA getting the heavy roller advantage and poor catching. Though Cheteswar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane ended up scoring 50 odd each and that will give them reprieve and it will become heavy on cricketers like Shreyas Iyer. Compare to SA captain, Dean Elgar's match-winning innings India's captain KS Rahul probably didn't get the adequate preparation time to lead India for the first time, as Kohli's decision to opt out of the second Test due to a back injury came just hours before the start of the game. Even though Rahul played a half century in the first innings but in the crucial moment, especially during SA's second innings, his captaincy left a lot to be desired. Catches win Matches is probably one of the most famous proverbs in the game of cricket, sadly Pant's dropped catch proved crucial as also Shardul Thakur failing to hold on to a caught-and-bowled chance of Temba Bavuma (is their most consistent batsman in the series), before to open his account was a costly drop and two half chances. Who forget that India had dropped more than 30 catches during their tour of Australia last season, and dropped a couple in the first Test against South Africa also. It is ironic that 'the best ever' Indian pace attack was the first to 'fail' to draw or win a game at this ground in 6 attempts. Hope in the final Test of the three-match Test series India will be back in his form under the leadership of Virat Kohli to proud the country with splendid performance.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad

Underrepresented

In order to see if a country is actually developed we have to see how its women and children are treated. But when women in armed forces in India are concerned they are way underrepresented with only 0.56% serving the Indian Army, 1.08% in the Indian Airforce and 6.5% in the Indian Navy. These numbers are way better than it was just 5 years back with just 3000 women as compared to 9118 today. Women are fierce competitors and are dedicated and there are many reports to show for it. The armed forces have always had a men's point of view, I think it is time that they can use some women's point of view.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Aman Sagar@ a_Man_Sagar

Every nukkad wala is an entrepreneur in fundamental terms. Problem is, most young entrepreneurs start with unrealistic goals, it's always a coloured toilet paper company, they're already targeting a niche market. So many huge biz problems needs to be solved, nobody looks at them.

Harsha Bhogle @bhogleharsha

Interesting new amendment to T20Is. If you haven't begun the last over by the scheduled close, the rest of the innings will have one fielder less outside the 30 yard circle. So if you are bowling your 19th and your time is up, you get only 4 fielders outside for the 20th.



Paul Graham@paulg

If you're a student interested in both technology and startups and wondering how to combine them, the answer is: serially. Focus entirely on technology at first. Then once you're an expert in some technology (which will take several years), you can start to think about startups.

Persis Taraporevala@persistara

As someone who has moved through an obscene number of houses over the last decade, I feel a deep sense of fatigue. A fatigue of being denied the opportunity to grow roots and form a sense of community. Can I live in my current city AND borough for a decade at least? thank you.

wakashmir@wakashmir
Waking up to this in Doodhpathri. #Doodhpathri_Budgam PC #Mr_Abdul_Hamid.



Shivani Mohan@Chevane

The best part about being on a fitness mission is your sleep cycle gets regulated automatically. Until 10 days ago I was struggling out of bed at 9 am. Now 8.30 am, HIIT work out done and dusted! Fire Ok, rest of the day, here I come!

Sneha Mordani@snehamordani

Quarantine is precautionary, for those who have travelled, for those who could have come in contact with a positive patient. A person who is not positive but suspected to be in quarantine. Isolation is for patients diagnosed with #Covid_19. That's isolation, not quarantine.



Alia Bhatt 'flexes' Ranbir's photography skills

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt recently uploaded pictures clicked by her partner Ranbir Kapoor on social media.

It is the first time that the actress publicly addressed Ranbir as her 'boyfriend'.

Alia took to Instagram and shared a few pictures of herself from her year-end vacation with Ranbir at an undisclosed location. She wrote in the caption, "Casually flexing my boyfriend's photography skills."

While Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor and Alia's mom Soni Razdan commented with heart emojis under the pictures, Alia's 'Two States' co-star Arjun Kapoor put up a quirky comment saying, "#phirseuddchale".

Alia and Ranbir had jetted off to an undisclosed location to ring in the New Year amid the wilderness. In an earlier set of pictures shared by Alia on her Instagram, Ranbir too made an appearance in one of the images.

On the work front, Alia was supposed to be seen in S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus 'RRR' alongside Telugu superstars Ram Charan and Jr NTR. However, the third wave of the pandemic has pushed the release of the film to a later, unannounced date.

On Vishwa Hindi Diwas, &TV artists share their love for language

Vishwa Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 10th January to promote the Hindi language across the globe. While Hindi is widely used in several parts of the country, it is increasingly popular worldwide. &TV artists, including Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi, Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai), Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan), and Ambrish Bobby (Ramesh Prasad Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), share some special and interesting encounters with foreigners trying their hands on Hindi and leaving them completely astounded!

Shubhangi Atre aka Angoori Bhabi from Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai recollects, "There have been numerous times when I would be outside of India and people would recognise me and greet me saying 'Namaste Angoori Bhabi'. One such wonderful fan encounter was in Indonesia. A lady came up to me, and in her unique accent, she tried



saying Angoori's catchphrase, 'Sahi pakde hain!'. It was such a cute moment that I hugged her. I deeply believe our television shows travel across the world and play

a significant role in making Hindi such a popular language globally."

Himani Shivpuri, who plays Katori Amma on Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, shares, "Hindi is a beauti-

ful Indian language, and I am personally very fond of it since my childhood, as my father Dr. Bhatt was Hindi and Sanskrit teacher in The Doon School. Working in this industry and trying out Hindi in various accents and dialects has deepened my love for the language. Currently, my Katori Amma's Kanpuriya Hindi has made me popular among the people in our country and abroad. I remember meeting a young foreigner who walked up to me and said something that nobody could figure out. But after his few attempts, I realised that he was trying to say 'nimboo nichod denge'. I must give it to him for his efforts and love for the Hindi catchphrase. Hindi has made its way globally, and dialogues of Hindi shows and Bollywood movies continue to increase its popularity." Watch Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 pm, Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 pm and Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai at 10:30 pm airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV

Big twists ahead in 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main'



SAB's Tera Yaar Hoon Main has kept the audience hooked to the show with its gripping storyline, focusing on the ever-evolving family dynamics between the Bansals and the Baggas. An unexpected turn of events has brought a massive change in Daljeet (Sayantani Ghosh), and Rajeev's (Sudeep Sahir) life as Sarwar Ahuja makes an entry into the show. Portraying the character of Daljeet's ex-husband Ravinder Bagga, this entry is sure to change the dynamics in Daljeet and Rajeev's relationship.

Sharing details about his character, Sarwar said, "My character Ravinder loves Daljeet unconditionally. He is a fun-filled, larger than life Punjabi character; just

like Daljeet. The viewers can expect an explosion of emotions with his entry to the show as it will unfold an old chapter of Daljeet's life.

The equation and chemistry between Daljeet and Rajeev will be put to the test because Daljeet still loves her ex-husband and fondly remembers her past. So, I can assure you that the upcoming episodes will keep the viewers on their toes, and they will keep guessing about what will happen next. I am coming back to the small screen after a break, so I hope my fans like me in my new role and show their love and support to Ravinder." Stay tuned to Tera Yaar Hoon Main every Monday to Saturday at 10 PM only on Sony SAB.

I'm still honing art of switching characters

Television actress Aanchal Goswami has expressed her joy on getting the opportunity of playing a double role in the show 'Rishton Ka Manjha'.

Talking about her double role, Aanchal, who plays Diya and Pihu in the show, says: "I must say that I am having a lot of fun playing Pihu's character. While I love portraying the idealistic and optimistic Diya, it is great to change things up from time to time. With Pihu, I've got the liberty to open up and behave in a slightly different way."

"Her way of talking, her chemistry with Arjun, and her dialogues are quite different, and I keep improvising them because Pihu is a desi girl, who doesn't have any regard for restrictions."

In the current episode, Arjun (Krushal Ahuja) and Diya (Aanchal Goswami) get married. Though things changed after their marriage as Arjun started observing several changes in Diya.

The reality is he is not staying with real Diya, but her doppelganger,



Pihu. Arjun is still not aware of this truth.

The actress goes on saying how she is still learning to switch from one character to another.

"While it has been fun playing two characters for 'Rishton Ka Manjha', I'm still honing the art of switching from one character to the other, especially with both of them being opposite.

"But I am truly happy that I got this opportunity, which is so diverse and allows me to showcase my talent," added the 'Bepannah' actress.

'Rishton Ka Manjha' airs on Zee TV.

Zamroodh talks about his journey in 'India's Best Dancer 2'

Kerala boy, Zamroodh who has been termed as the 'South Indian Superstar' on Sony Entertainment Television's India's Best Dancer 2 is known for his freestyle, semi-classical, Bollywood, lyrical and hip-hop dance styles. Winning the hearts of the judges aka ENT (Entertainment, Newness and Technique) specialists - Malaika Arora, Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur, the energetic dancer who is known for giving twists to each of his dance acts along with choreographer Sonali Kar has made it a long way on the show. Entered as just another boy during the auditions, he soon went on to win the hearts of the judges followed by that of India. With his impeccable dancing skills, he has



made his way to the Best 5 in the show. In our conversation with Zamroodh, here's what he had to say about his journey and the most anticipated 'Ultimate Finale' that is set to go on air on 9th January 2022.

You're one of the Best 5

finalists on India's Best Dancer Season 2, elaborate on your journey so far and how are you preparing for the finale?

It's a great feeling to be able to make it this far. The journey on India's Best Dancer has been just like a rollercoaster ride with a lot of ups, down, learning, laughter and more. Getting selected in the Best 5 was a huge opportunity for me and my family. From coming to Mumbai to auditioning of the show, being a part of the Best Baarah to now the Best 5, the journey has been surreal! It feels like a dream. Talking about our preparations, all of us used to practice together, and help each other out with different style and moves. I have a couple of acts and have been practicing day and night to give my best.

'I'm a bit of a fiery person'



Actress Shweta Tripathi has always portrayed strong characters such as Golu Gupta in 'Mirzapur' and Sandhya in 'Haraamkhor' to name a few. She says she resonates with such roles because she is a bit of a fiery person herself.

With 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein', she brings forth softer and warmer character tour screens. Shweta, while talking about her past characters and the challenges of playing a romantic role in 'Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein', said: "I'm someone who has played a lot of strong characters in the past, and I can resonate with them as well because I am a bit of a fiery person."

HOROSCOPE SUNDAY JANUARY 09

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

You will come out top in whatever you choose to do, and success will smell like honey-sweet. Naturally, recognition and rewards await you. Take your friends to that trendy cafe; you needn't wait for a reason to party, says Ganesha.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Major expenses are coming your way, but the good news is a lot of them can be avoided simply by drawing a line between your needs and your wants. Exercising a little restraint now will go a long way in boosting your savings later on, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today, people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

You need to be very practical and realistic in all that you do today, urges Ganesha. You are known to be pretty emotional and sensitive and generally go by your feelings. Your mind, your reason do not normally feature in your decision making. Even minor problems, complications get you worked up. Try to remain focused and down to earth this day.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

If you are into retail business, planetary positions indicate today is a day for bumper sales. You will set records in making profits. After work, you may want to take your beloved out shopping. Though it may burn a hole in your pocket, the returns you get once you reach home will be worth every penny!

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

Ganesha advises you to watch your back today. However, he wants to make it clear that you may be at the receiving end of others' actions. Anyway, your cautious and watchful approach will save you from needless discomfiture. In short, life will teach you priceless and precious lessons today, predicts Ganesha.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

The bourgeoisie feasted on cake, while the masses starved for want of a mere loaf of bread. Ganesha foresees something similar for you today, as you show the propensity to indulge in unwanted expenses. Whether it is impulsive decisions or compulsive buying, they shall not serve as an excuse on a later date when the milk is already spilt.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

You will be cool as a cucumber today. Nothing that happens will unsettle that composure, says Ganesha. Your loved ones will stand tall and strong behind you, and inspire you to overcome obstacles. Your work will reflect dedication, says Ganesha. Go ahead and ask for work that is intellectually taxing.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23

Sit back and think hard - think about what is it that you really want when it comes to your business enterprises, because there are many ways to go about things at work, and they all shall lead you somewhere different. The stars favour you today with a golden touch, so take it in your stride and make hay while the sun shines.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

While not the Trot, you shall, however, trot on the lines of radicalism today, predicts Ganesha. Learn to think as you would, and always have, but act as others would have you to, advises Ganesha. Be the maverick that you are only with those who are closest and dearest, cautions Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

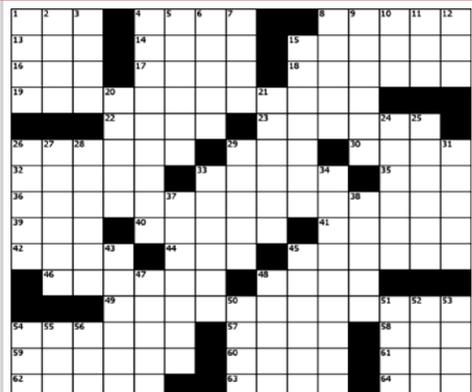
Your friend base is slated to multiply today. At work, additional responsibilities will be thrust upon you, and you will also be given charge of new resources. Ganesha predicts you taking up the challenge and emerging triumphant in all spheres today.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Overcome with feelings, you may take decisions that may stand in the way of success. Don't let your sentiments ruin your future prospects because the damage done will be beyond repair, warns Ganesha. Today, there are also chances that your down-to-earth nature and amiable approach will win the hearts of many.

CROSSWORD

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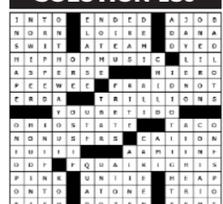
ACROSS

- White Sox city, on scoreboards
- Draw
- Scary part of the snake
- Stick in the microwave
- Way upright
- "Little Shop of Horrors" role
- "Without further ____"
- Lose intensity
- Wanted poster amount
- Maintain equilibrium while pushing on a rotating peripheral attachment, alternating with the lower extremities
- Phone introduction?
- Cut some slack
- Present recipient, casually
- Album featuring "Smooth Criminal"
- Had a gut feeling
- Like helium
- Nintendo bad guy with an inverted hat logo
- "This American Life" host Glass
- Expand the intrapleural space, automatically allowing entry through the pharynx and beyond, then allow the diaphragm to relax, contract, and expel contents
- Go for an apple

DOWN

- Powerful figure
- "... but known..."
- Source of celebrity playlists
- City known as a center of Cajun culture
- Impromptu
- Movie with Cuba Gooding Jr. as a mentally-challenged student
- One type of util.
- Gas and gasoline
- Professional product promotion publication
- Org. highlighted in "Bowling for Columbine"
- Nat. that underwent reunification
- Barrett of Pink Floyd
- Joan's home, on TV
- Gum brand
- Has a longing
- They may be civil
- Check out at the library
- Marla of "The Jeffersons"
- Hostile raid, or the route taken to get there
- Little some attempts
- Works with worms
- First word learned by Helen Keller
- Snipes of "Passenger 57"
- Then and there
- Track projectiles
- Donne subject
- Report to mom
- Noted cervera
- Goes nuts
- Boxing prize
- God who rode an eight-legged horse
- Chicago band whose one-take 2005 video was choreographed and filmed in their backyard
- A, in 11-down
- Cowboy boot attachment
- Moving hauler
- Altar utterance
- Cow's mouthful

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