



BRIEF



An artist poses for the media during rehearsals for the upcoming Republic Day parade, on a cold winter morning at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, Thursday.

ED arrests

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it arrested an Indian man with "Chinese links" who is alleged to have cheated depositors to the tune of Rs 84 crore through "fraud" mobile applications. Anas Ahmed was lodged in judicial custody at the Puzhal central prison, Chennai, after he was arrested by the crime branch CID of the Chennai Police sometime back, it said.

Arrested

Srinagar: Security forces on Thursday arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir and seized arms and ammunition from his possession, police said. A police official said security forces launched a search operation in the Chadoora area of Budgam in the morning after learning about the presence of an ultra there.

Mill fire

Bardoli: Three persons were killed in a massive fire which broke out at a textile dyeing-and- printing mill located near Bardoli town of Gujarat on early Thursday morning, an official said. While ten workers were rescued from the three-storey building, charred bodies of three persons, hired for a carpentry job, were found on the first floor, said Bardoli's chief fire officer P B Gadhvi.

Mishap

Jalpaiguri: A woman was killed and three others were injured on Thursday after being hit by a private car on a rural hospital campus in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, police said. The accident took place around 1 pm when the driver of the four-wheeler lost control over it and the vehicle rammed into a group of people on the Maynaguri rural hospital campus, a senior officer said.

Drug smuggler

Jaipur: An alleged smuggler was arrested with 5 kg marijuana (charas) worth Rs 1 crore in the international market on Thursday in Chomu town of Jaipur district, police said. Mohammad Arif Ali, the accused, was arrested in Chaumun Police Station area on Thursday by a team of CID Crime Branch of Rajasthan Police. Arif, a resident of Ajmer, was travelling in a private bus coming from Amritsar to Jaipur and was intercepted at Chomu toll booth, Additional Director General of Police Crime Ravi Prakash said.

Weather
High 27 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,757.00
SENSEX 59,464.62

BULLION
GOLD 48,510
SILVER 65,510

MAJOR HAUL

3.33 kgs foreign origin gold worth Rs 1.65 cr seized

By DRI Raipur unit from a person at Raipur Rly Station

Raipur, Jan 20:



Gold smugglers are not stopping smuggling even in peak Covid time and DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) officers are committed to check smuggling of foreign gold. Based on specific intelligence, Officers of DRI apprehended one person carrying foreign origin smuggled gold by train from Kolkata to Nagpur at Raipur Railway Station with the assistance of Raipur RPF Staff here on Thursday. Foreign marked gold bars weighing 3.33 Kgs were recovered from that person after his ar-

rest. The gold bars were found to have been concealed inside his clothing by strapping it on the waist, with help of a cloth belt. The said foreign origin gold bars along with the packing material have been seized under the Customs Act, 1962.

In the present case, as of now role of five members of the syndicate has been revealed. In past also this syndicate has indulged in smuggling of gold of foreign origin in huge quantities for which the payment has been made through Hawala channels. Further investigation in the matter is underway. DRI officers have been conducting intelligence based operations against continuous inflow of smuggled gold of

EXCHANGE OF LEADERS

Mulayam's brother-in-law, Cong's 'ladki hoon' poster girl join BJP

Lucknow, Jan 20 (PTI):

Former Samajwadi Party MLA Pramod Gupta, relative of the party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and Priyanka Maurya, the face of Congress' 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti Hoon' poster in Uttar Pradesh, joined the BJP here on Thursday.



Gupta's joining comes a day after Yadav's daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi on Wednesday. The duo joined the party in the presence of former state unit president, and head of the BJP Joining Committee, Laxmikant Bajpai. "An important political name and a member of Samajwadi Party family and former MLA of

Auraiya, Pramod Guptaji is joining the BJP family today," Bajpai said welcoming Gupta. "I want to remind that from the family of Mulayam Singhji who is respected by all of us... after his 'samdhi' Hariom Yadavji, daughter-in-law Aparna Yadav and today his 'saadho' (brother-in-law) Pramod Guptaji is joining the BJP family and you all know the

value of 'saadho' in a family," Bajpai said. Introducing Maurya, Bajpai said she is the poster girl of the Congress leader Priyanka Vadra Gandhi and exuded confidence that she will now use her power and capabilities in giving strength and momentum to the election campaign of the BJP.

Maurya is a homeopath and a social activist having a large following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, Bajpai said. Along with them, Ayodhya's folk singer Vandana Mishra also joined the BJP.

Speaking to media persons, Gupta alleged "No one is being allowed to meet Mulayam Singh Yadav, who has been kept as hostage by Akhilesh Yadav."

INVITING COVID CASES



People not adhering to social distancing norms visit the Heritage street near the Golden temple, amid concern over rising cases of Omicron variant of COVID-19, in Amritsar, Thursday.

HIGHEST EVER FIGURE

Kerala Covid TPR touches 40%

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 20 (PTI):

Kerala on Thursday reported 46,387 new Covid-19 cases with test positivity rate soaring to 40.2 per cent, which is the highest ever figure since the onslaught of the pandemic. The state tested 1,15,357 samples in the last 24 hours. The worst-hit capital district of Thiruvananthapuram has 9720 new cases with a test positivity rate of 46.68 per cent. In the districts of Ernakulam and Kozhikode also TPR has gone up to 45.6 per cent and 42 per cent respectively. As many as 32 new Covid-19 deaths were reported, 309 other deaths have been included in the Covid-19 death tally after admitting appeals, taking the total number of deaths to 51,501.

'Deaths less in 3rd Covid wave in comparison to 2nd wave'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Deaths are significantly less in the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in comparison to the second wave, and the current surge is not witnessing increase in severe illness or death following high vaccination uptake, the government said on Thursday.

It said that 94 per cent of India's adults have been administered first dose of Covid vaccine, while 72 per cent are fully vaccinated.

For the 15-18 years age group, the government said 52 per cent have received their first dose of

SC ropes in SLSA to facilitate payment

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Taking a cue from the Gujarat High Court order passed in the aftermath of the 2001 earthquake in the State, the Supreme Court has directed all the States to share the particulars of registered death due to COVID along with details of payment of compensation with State Legal Services Authorities(SLSA) to reach out to the affected families.

Of COVID ex-gratia to families

The top court said that the member secretary of the State Legal Services Authority shall act as an Ombudsman and as the facilitator. It asked the States to cross-check/verify whether with respect to all the deaths recorded/registered, the claims are received or not and if it is found that with respect to some of the deaths recorded/registered, no payment has been made to the affected families its official must try to reach out to them.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and Sanjiv Khanna passed a detailed order on Thursday and said, We also direct all the States to furnish full particulars/ information to the concerned State Legal Services Authorities with respect to deaths recorded/registered and also the particulars whether the payment of compensation with respect to those deaths have been made or not. It made it clear that the said exercise of sharing of details of recorded death and particulars of payment of ex-gratia to the family member or kin shall be completed by the concerned States, within ten days.

India test-fires Brahmos missile



Balasore, Jan 20:

India successfully test-fired supersonic cruise missile Brahmos off the Odisha coast in Balasore on Thursday, Defence Research and Development Organisation sources said. With new added technologies, including the control system, the missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range launch pad-III at Chandipur around 10.45 am, said a source at the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The detailed data is being analysed analysis, the source said.

'Merit cannot be reduced to narrow definitions of performance'

SC upholds OBC quota in NEET

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Merit cannot be reduced to narrow definitions of performance in an open competitive examination which only provides formal equality of opportunity, the Supreme Court said on Thursday as it upheld 27 per cent Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation in All India Quota (AIQ) seats in the NEET for UG and PG medical courses. Justifying allowing quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) on existing quota for current academic year, the bench said, We are still in the midst of the pandemic and any delay in the recruitment of doctors would impact the ability to manage the pandemic. Hence, it is necessary to avoid any further delays in the admission process and allow



counselling to begin immediately. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna passed order detailing reasons for upholding the 27 per cent OBC reservation and allowing 10 per cent EWS quota on existing criteria for this year. "In view of the discussion above we hold that the reservation for OBC candidates in the AIQ seats for UG and PG medical and dental courses is constitutionally valid..." the bench said. Dealing with the validity of OBC quota, the bench said, Merit cannot be reduced to narrow definitions of performance in an open competitive examination which only provides formal equality of opportunity.

'System created where there is no place for any discrimination'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Asserting that an India whose thinking and approach are innovative and decisions progressive is emerging, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that a system is being created in which there is no place for any discrimination.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers the keynote address at the National launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ke Ore', through video conferencing, in New Delhi on Thursday.

India-assisted projects in Mauritius inaugurated

Cooperation between India and Mauritius, including in maritime security, has translated the vision of SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region - into action, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. Modi made these remarks after he along with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated India-assisted social housing units project in Mauritius virtually. They also launched the Civil Service College and the 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius that are being undertaken under India's development support.

need to counter them and present a proper picture of the country. Emphasising on duties, he said, "We also have to admit that in the 75 years after Independence, a malaise has afflicted our society, our nation and us all. The malaise is that we turned away from our duties and did not give them primacy."

Three-eyed calf dies week after birth

Rajnandgaon, Jan 20:

A rare calf born with three eyes and four nostril holes died a week after its birth in a village in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district on Thursday.

'Don't link incidents with faith or superstition'

Dr Dinesh Mishra, who heads the Andhashradha Nirmlan Samiti, had earlier said that people should not link such incidents with faith or superstition. "In many incidents, it has been seen that people, particularly from rural areas, worship such animals with deformities due to lack of awareness. People need to be explained scientifically about such deformities in animals so that they take care of their livestock properly, he had said.

The female calf was born to a jersey cow owned by farmer Hemant Chandel (44) of Nawagaon Lodhi village under Chhuikhadan police station limits, on January 13. A large number of people had been queuing up at the farmer's house to worship the calf, calling it an "incarnation of God", it was stated.

As the news spread about its death, locals reached Chandel's house to pay last respects to the calf. Talking to PTI, Chandel said, The calf died around 9 am, following which it was cremated at gowthan (the place where bovines are housed in the village).

I can't say what I am feeling now. We feel that the almighty had come to our house for a short period of time, the grieving farmer said. The calf was born with an additional eye in the middle of her forehead, four nostril holes, while its tail was like a 'jata' (a heap of matted hair) and its tongue was also longer than normal calves. Citing a veterinarian, the farmer had earlier said that the health condition of the calf was good.

FIGHT AGAINST OMICRON

Sputnik provides two times higher antibodies than Pfizer vaccine'

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

A study has found that two doses of Sputnik V provide two times higher virus neutralising antibodies against the Omicron variant of COVID-19 than two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said on Thursday. The study was conducted at the Italian Spallanzani Institute on comparable groups of sera from individuals vaccinated with Sputnik V and Pfizer. "The joint study by the Gamaleya Center and Spallanzani Institute confirmed



the results obtained in our separate study published in December 2021. "The hard scientific data proves Sputnik V has higher virus neutralizing activity against Omicron as compared to other vaccines and will play a major role in the global fight against this new contagious variant," Gamaleya Center Director Alexander Gintsburg said in a statement.

Raipur Police makes it to Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records

For its Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Campaign

Raipur, Jan 20: Under the week-long road safety and traffic awareness campaign of Raipur Police, as many as 1,02,468 citizens took pledge for road safety in a single day, and this record pledge sign up has been recognized by the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records. During this innovative campaign organized by Raipur Police on the theme 'Suno Raipur' from 26 December 2021 to 1 January 2022, aforementioned citizens of Raipur took a pledge for road safety in the new year by signing the road safety resolution letter on January 1.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has appreciated this innovative campaign of Raipur Police to create public awareness on road safety, with the help of active volunteers.



Differently-abled children of Divyang Mahavidyalaya Mann also gave a very sensible and emotional video message to support the campaign 'Suno Raipur'. This campaign was launched by SSP Raipur Mr. Prashant Agrawal on the evening of December 26 at Magneto Mall Raipur.

Raipur SSP had appealed the people of Raipur to follow road safety rules and drive responsibly, as bypassing the safety rules can put them and others at risk. He said that people attempting any

kind of bike stunts or speed driving should first think about their family, friends and loved ones. SSP also appealed the people to take 'following of road traffic safety' as the New Year's resolution for the year 2022.

During the week-long campaign of 'Suno Raipur', Raipur Police teams and 300 active volunteers sensitized people about traffic rules in various public places, market areas, main squares, schools, educational institutions and commercial areas of Raipur.

- More than one lakh citizens of Raipur made a record by taking a pledge for road safety on Jan 1
- Citizens sign road safety resolution letter
- Road Safety and Traffic Awareness Campaign was organized for a week from Dec 26 to Jan 1, 2022 on the theme 'Suno Raipur'
- Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records have recognized this record for maximum number of road safety pledges signed in a day

Pamphlets, placards, hand-outs, video screens with interesting and educational messages were also used under this campaign. The social media platforms of Raipur Police were also extensively used to create awareness on road safety rules.

It is noteworthy that every year in India, nearly 1.5 lakh people die in road accidents. About 450 people

die every year in Raipur district alone. The main reasons behind these deaths are speeding, not wearing seat belt and not wearing helmet. Some people even drive under the influence of alcohol and put their lives and others' lives at risk. Use of cell phones while driving is also a major cause of road accidents. Accidental deaths can be reduced by following basic road safety rules. The campaign was led by SSP Raipur Prashant Agrawal, ADSP Traffic MR Mandavi and DSP Traffic Satish Thakur. The campaign is supported by Raipur Auto Dealers Association, Young Indians, Surakshit Bhava Foundation, Sikh Care India, Abha Foundation, Awaaz Foundation, Sparsh Ek Prayas, Helping Hand Foundation, Kopal Vani, Mission Sambhav, Vataker Manch and Saubhagya Foundation, Maruti Suzuki Driving School, Pranjali Seva Samiti and volunteers of many other NGOs and associations.

HUGE RUSH



Passengers coming out of the railway station platform No.1 are made to give their personal details along with phone number and other details as per corona guidelines.

CM Baghel pays tributes to martyr Gaid Singh

Raipur, Jan 20: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday paid floral tributes to the portrait of Amar Shaheed Gaid Singh on his martyrdom day, at his residence office here.

Recalling the incomparable contribution of Amar Shaheed Gaid Singh, Baghel said that Singh had raised his voice against the slavery and exploita-



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paying tributes to the portrait of Amar Shaheed Gaid Singh on his martyrdom day, at his residence office here.

who fought for the rights of the Abujhmadia brothers and sisters of Bastar, was hanged in front of the palace of Paralkot on January 20, 1825.

Chief Minister Baghel said that the whole country, including Chhattisgarh, bows down to the brave son Shaheed Gaid Singh. His sacrifices will be remembered for ages.

Akbar performs virtual Bhoomi Pujan of 7 different works worth Rs 10 cr

Road from Kawardha to Boramdev temple will be built at a cost of Rs 9 crore 60 lakh

Raipur, Jan 20: State Forest, Transport, Housing and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLC Mr. Mohammad Akbar approved various works worth Rs.10 crore for the development of Kabirdham district. Addressing the function, Mr. Akbar said that tourism facilities will be expanded after fulfilling the demand of construction of road from Kawardha to Boramdev temple, a place of major archaeological, religious, tourist and historical importance of the state. Good road facilities will be available for the tourists coming from different districts of the state.

He said that every effort was being made under the leadership of Chief



Minister Bhupesh Baghel to expand all the tourism facilities of Kabirdham district. 12 crore development works have been done for the development of Tribal Tourism Circle at Sarodhadar above Chilfi Valley, a major tourist destination of the district, which is giving a new direction to the proper development of tourism facilities in the state.

Minister Akbar said that today's Bhoomipujan of 7 different works has further added to the development of the district. Member of

Chhattisgarh Shakambhari Board, Hari Patel while appreciating the efforts of Minister Akbar for giving a new direction to the proper development of places of archaeological importance in Kabirdham district, said that this will give more fame to the tourism of the district in the coming times. Kawardha Municipality President, Rishi Sharma said that he expressed his gratitude on behalf of Kawardha Nagar Palika for the gift of access road from Kawardha to Boramdev temple.

In the program, Municipal President, Rishi Kumar Sharma, Additional Collector, VS UIK, Public Works Department, Executive Engineer, BK Chauhan, SDO, BS Chaurasia, District Panchayat members, Mukhiram Markam, Pitambar Verma, Nagar Panchayat President Mrs. Savitri Sahu, Bodla in the program. District President Mrs. Amita Prabhati Markam, Vice-President, Sanat Jaiswal and Azmat Ullah Khan will be present.

Employment Mission: Aim to create 10 to 15 lakh new employment opportunities in next 5 yrs

Chief Secretary gave instructions to the heads of departments to prepare an action plan

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 20: In Chhattisgarh, the process of making an action plan has started to create new employment opportunities and increase the income of the people through them. According to the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain took a meeting of senior officers of various departments related to employment mission here. In this high level meeting organized through video conferencing, Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain said that there is a lot of employment opportunities here in various sectors related to agriculture, horticulture, industry and forests. The



officers associated with these departments should prepare an action plan soon to create more and more employment opportunities. He said that Chhattisgarh Employment Mission has been formed to create employment opportunities in the state and to provide employment opportunities to the people in their area as per the local demands. Chief Secretary Jain said that under the Employment Mission, a target is to create 10 to 15 lakh new employment opportunities in the next five years. According to this goal, all the departments should prepare an action plan keeping in mind to provide employment to

the people. In the meeting, he also directed the collectors of all the districts to prepare a district level action plan along with suggestions regarding new employment opportunities according to the circumstances of their districts. State Employment Mission's Executive Officer Dr. Alok Shukla gave guidance to the officers of various departments including Industry, Rural Development, Agriculture, Forest, Horticulture, Urban Department, Tourism, Handicrafts, Village Industries in relation to the preparation of the action plan and took suggestions from them. He directed

ed the officers to keep the data related to employment mission systematically. In this meeting taken through video conferencing, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department Mrs. Renu Pillay, Principal Secretary, Department of Village Industries, Science and Technology Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Principal Secretary Forest, Commerce and Industry Mr. Manoj Pingua, Technical Education and Secretary of Employment Department, Ms. Rita Shandilya, School Education Secretary Dr. Kamalpreet Singh, Finance Department Secretary Ms. Alarmel Mangai D, Panchayat and Rural Development Department Secretary Mr. Prasanna R, State Minor Forest Produce Association's Managing Director Mr. Sanjay Shukla and officials from other departments including tourism attended.

Trade association, chamber raises user charge issues

Mayor assures of solution

Raipur, Jan 20: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Aggarwal informed that under the chairmanship of RMC Mayor Aiyaz Dhebar, a meeting of various trade unions including the representatives of the Chhattisgarh Chamber was held at Raipur Municipal Corporation office. The main topic of the meeting was regarding user charges, about which many trade organisations had complained in the chamber. While welcoming all the business representatives and keeping this point in this regard, Mayor informed about the implementation of it in the states by the Center, Mayor Mr. Dhebar said that this fee was published by the previous state government in the Gazette, which we have till now. He said that it was not implemented but now objection has been raised by the Accountant



General for not implementing it and the funds of Fifteenth Finance Commission has been stopped. Therefore, now it is our obligation to levy user charge, he said that at present, if there is any problem regarding this, then we will listen to the side of the traders and if any practical change is possible, then we will try to amend it.

In this series, the traders demanded that the user charge fee be made more practical and it should be kept according to our neighboring states. Some trade representatives gave the example of low user charge of Indore and Nagpur also and talked about taking a decision on this.

Mayor Aiyaz Dhebar, while assuring the office bearers of Chhattisgarh Chamber, talked about making a proposal for reasonable user charge and talked about taking a decision on the proposal as soon as possible after dis-

cussion with the administration.

Chamber State General Secretary, Ajay Bhasin told the Mayor that the administration has seriously resolved every problem of the business community for the last three years. Today there is also a need to amend the commercial sector in the user charge. For which we are looking at you with hopeful eyes. In his statement, the working president of the chamber, Vikram Singhdeo, while praising the cooperation given by the Mayor in the past, urged him to stand with the traders even in the present. The present plight of the traders of the Corona period is not hidden from anyone. In view of this situation, he urged RMC Mayor to make efforts to resolve the issue. The meeting was conducted by Chamber State General Secretary, Ajay Bhasin and vote of thanks was given by Chamber Working President, Vikram Singhdeo.

IIT Bhilai construction project wins GRIHA Council Awards

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 20: The Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai permanent campus project has made steady progress over the last few months. With respect to the latest onsite development, the structure works of most buildings are now completed. Work is on for installing the essential furniture, network, and audio-visual equipment.

At a function organized in New Delhi last month, the construction project, which is being handled by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), won two of GRIHA Council's 'Exemplary Performance Awards'. Not only did the project top in the category of 'Site Management' (during construction), but it was also ranked one in the category of 'Construction Workers Health & Safety' (during construction). With the tireless attention to detail, the construction work has now crossed 9 million safe man-hours.

Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labour & Employment presented the awards to Shri Rohit Maheshwari, Executive Engineer - IIT Bhilai Project, CPWD during the event. "Recognition of IIT Bhilai project through these awards indicates our endeavour to achieve quality in construction while being mindful of the sustainability and environment", said Prof Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Bhilai.

With these two awards, IIT Bhilai construction project has received five awards for GRIHA Council, with three awards received last year at the 12th GRIHA Council Summit. GRIHA is a rating tool that helps people assess a building's performance against nationally acceptable benchmarks. It has been adopted as the national rating system for green buildings by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt of India, since 2007.

First adventure park of Bastar division to be developed

On the banks of River Dankini in Dantewada

Dantewada to promote adventure tourism to attract more tourists

Hard-to-resist adventure sports activities to be offered here for adventure thrill seekers



Raipur, Jan 20: In a bid to attract tourists and promote adventure tourism, the first adventure park of Bastar division is being developed on the bank of River Dankini in Dantewada district. Situated amidst lush green surroundings and mountains, this tourist spot in Dantewada will soon become an attraction for the thrill seekers and children.

The adventure park is being developed by the district administration in collaboration with forest department using funds of District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMF). The adventure sports activities and training conducted at the adventure park will

provide significant benefits to the tourists and citizens in maintaining positive physical and psychological health.

According to the intention of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, this park, being developed under the guidance of Forest and Climate Change Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar, will prove to be a milestone in the field of tourism development of Dantewada district. Various fun-filled adventurous activities including zip line, cycle zip line are being developed here for the tourists. The tourists coming here will get to enjoy thrilling adventurous activities like zip line, cycle zip line, adventure swing, Burma Bridge, and adventure sports for kids. Latest information in this regard will also be provided by sports coaches and sports scientists through

the park. Meanwhile, the tourism facilities are being expanded in popular and important tourist spots in and around Dantewada district including Dholkal and Sathdar. The 10th century old lord Ganesh idol, located atop of Dholkal hill in Dantewada, which is a world-famous tourist spot, will also get a facelift with better food and accommodation facilities. Tourists from all over the country and abroad come here for 'darshan'. A plan is being chalked out to provide better accommodation facilities for tourists in traditional style of Bastar and Chhattisgarh and to boost local employment through Gadhkalewa—a traditional style restaurant serving ethnic food. This will not only boost tourism here, but will also help in preserving the rich culture and tradition of Chhattisgarh.

BRIEF**Found**

Pune: A four-year-old boy who had been allegedly abducted from the city eight days ago was found in the Pimpri Chinchwad area near here, police said. He was in good health, they said. Swarnav Chavan, son of a medical professional, was abducted from the plush Balewadi area here by an unidentified man who came on a two-wheeler, as per his family. The boy was found at a construction site in Punawale. He was reunited with family.

Robbery

Ahmedabad: A man named in several cases of illegal cattle slaughter robbed 11 buffaloes worth Rs 6.5 lakh from a cattle owner in Ahmedabad district last week. The Sarkhej police in Ahmedabad city managed to recover seven of the 11 animals, while main accused Mohammad Azhar Maniyar (19) and his brothers Naeem Maniyar and Nadeem Maniyar were still at large.

Seized

Noida: The Noida Police seized Rs 4.72 lakh in cash from two people who were transporting the "unaccounted money" in an SUV, days ahead of the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. The incident comes a day after police briefly detained two persons and recovered Rs 99 lakh unaccounted cash from them. Security has been heightened across Noida and Greater Noida in Gautam Buddh Nagar, which borders Delhi.

Swallows

New Delhi: A 29-year-old inmate of Tihar Jail swallowed a mobile phone out of fear of getting caught by prison officials during checking. The device was removed from his body after an endoscopy. A purported video of the inmate's abdomen with the phone in his stomach has emerged. According to Director General (Delhi Prisons) Sandeep Goel, the incident took place when the jail staff was conducting a check.

Duped

Ahmedabad: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Ahmedabad city crime branch has arrested a brother-sister duo for allegedly duping several people of Rs 2.92 crore through ponzi schemes. Although the mastermind of the racket, Mahesh Bhadra, is yet to be nabbed, the crime branch has arrested his son Chirag Bhadra (29) and daughter Mamata Bhadra (24), who lived in an apartment in Naroda area of Ahmedabad.

Stranded

Ranchi: Arrangements have been made to bring back 33 labourers who are stranded in the Maldives, following the intervention of Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The labourers from Jharkhand's Giridih and Hazaribagh districts are stranded in Maldives' capital Male for quite some time, they said.

AAP, Trinamool, Shiv Sena fared poorly in previous Goa polls



AAP projected CM candidate, Amit Palekar seeking blessings at 'havan' for upcoming assembly election in Goa on Thursday.

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI):

Goa appears set for a multi-cornered contest where a fractured opposition is attempting to overthrow the BJP, which has been in power in the coastal state for the past 10 years. Congress has

been insisting that it is the key challenger to the BJP and other parties - Trinamool, AAP, NCP-Shiv Sena - in the fray after failed talks for an alliance could only end up muddying its chances. A look at the previous election results shows that the

BJP had polled the maximum votes - 32.48 per cent - to emerge victorious on 13 seats in the 40-member assembly, while the Congress had garnered 28.35 per cent votes and won 17 seats.

In percentage terms, Maharashtra's Gomantak Party (MGP) had polled 11.27 per cent votes and managed to win three seats, while 58 Independent candidates had together garnered 11.12 per cent votes and three had emerged victorious.

The AAP, which has unveiled grand plans for Goa and declared Amit Palekar as its chief ministerial face, had polled 6.27 per cent votes in the 2017 elections and failed to open its account, while Sharad Pawar-led NCP had managed to garner 2.28 per cent of the total valid votes and won one seat.

Order to cancel title deeds triggers political controversy in Kerala

Idukki, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Kerala Revenue Department's recent order to cancel the title deeds, issued illegally in this high range district, has triggered a political controversy as MM Mani, a strongman of the ruling CPI(M), openly expressed displeasure, saying the move would be dealt with "legally" and politically.

Known as "Raveendran Pattayam" in general, the title deeds were allegedly issued illegally by MA Raveendran, the then Devikulam Taluk Additional Tehsildar during the regime of the Left government in 1990s.

The Raveendran title deeds have been the centre of political controversy



here since then as critics charge that they have no legal validity as they had been issued flouting all legal norms.

However, Mani rubbished the charges and said the title deeds were issued to the people at a 'pataya mela' (title deed fair) conducted by the government after it was approved by a panel headed by the

then MLA.

He also wanted the Revenue department under the CPI, the second largest coalition partner in the government, and its minister and senior party leader K Rajan to explain why such land deeds should be cancelled now.

An MLA and former minister, Mani also made it clear that no one would



A woman exercises at a park on a cold winter morning in New Delhi, Thursday.

MPWC slams aid decision to women disabled due to domestic violence

As per NCRB, MP ranks third in crime against women in India

Bhopal, Jan 20 (PTI):

Madhya Pradesh Women's Commission chairperson Shobha Oza on Thursday slammed the state government's decision to provide financial assistance to women suffering disability due to domestic violence, citing that it was "impractical" and "added salt to the injury of victims". The Madhya Pradesh cabinet had on Tuesday approved a scheme for providing financial assistance to women who have become handicapped due to domestic violence. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government's decision to provide financial assistance to women who turned divyang (disabled) due to



Shobha Oza

domestic violence, despite having empty coffers, is nothing but a jumla (false promise), Oza said. It is a totally impractical decision and is like adding salt to the injury of women, she said. The move also proves that the state government was trying to cover up for its failure of not being able to control the atrocities against women, she said. Oza fur-

ther said that no amount of compensation will be sufficient for a woman who was a victim of mental and physical torture. Instead, it would have been better if the state government had taken some concrete and effective measures to curb crimes against women, she added.

Oza also criticised the state government for not allowing the women's commission to discharge its duties by getting it embroiled in a legal conflict since the state government changed in March 2020. The Madhya Pradesh government had on Tuesday approved a scheme for providing financial assistance to women suffering disability due to domestic violence.

NPP leader sentenced to life imprisonment for murder



Nidamon Chullet

Shillong, Jan 20 (PTI):

A senior leader of the ruling National People's Party (NPP) in Meghalaya was sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in West Jaintia Hills district for murdering a 25-year-old man during a drunken brawl. District Session Judge B Khriam convicted NPP working president of Jaintia Hills region

Nidamon Chullet under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on him. Chullet's aide Koming Rabon was convicted under IPC section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) for disposing of the body. He was sentenced to seven years in jail, besides a fine of Rs 10,000 was imposed on him. Chullet is known to be a close associate of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma. Chullet and another accused, who died during the course of the trial in 2019, attacked Ewanmidoo Lhuid with a dao (traditional sword) under the influence of alcohol following a brawl while they were playing cards at a shop in Jowai. The incident happened in February 2008. Rabon later disposed of the body, as per the prosecution.

Pregnant woman forest guard beaten up by couple, duo held

Minister promises strict action

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Pune, Jan 20 (PTI):

A former sarpanch and his wife allegedly thrashed a woman forest guard, who is three months pregnant, along with her husband at a village in Satara district of Maharashtra, following which the accused couple

has been arrested, police said on Thursday. The incident took place at Palsawade village in the western Maharashtra district, located around 120 kms from here, they said.

CISF ASI commits suicide in Delhi

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTI): An assistant sub inspector posted with the Central Industrial Security Force allegedly hanged himself to death at his barrack in Outer Delhi's Narela Industrial Area, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Praveen Kumar (51). He hailed from Sonapat in Haryana and had joined the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as head constable. No suicide note was found from the spot, police said, adding that no foul play is suspected so far. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Bijendra Singh Yadav said at about 9:35 pm on Wednesday, an information was received through Sub Inspector Sumer Singh, in-charge of CISF campus, Narela Industrial Area that ASI Kumar had committed suicide. When police reached the spot, they found that the victim had hanged himself from the ceiling fan using a bedsheet in the new barrack of CISF campus, he said.

Jerri hamlet declared as 'milk village' in J&K

Farmers to form their farmer producer organisations

Jammu, Jan 20 (PTI):

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has declared Jerri settlement in Reasi district as the first 'milk village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated dairy development scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet, officials said. The milk village, which houses 73 individual dairy units with 370 cows, will give financial security to the local farmers, they said. Taking a lead to carving out a hamlet of dairy

farms, the women of the settlement have formed a cooperative of 11 females for collecting milk from the dairy farms and households for further transportation to the milk selling plants or other establishments.

"We have carved out this village into a dairy or milk hamlet, as local farmers of DC Reasi inspect dairy farms," a local farmer Dheeraj said. After being declared as 'milk village', a total of 57 units have been sanctioned under the IDDS for the village, Agriculture Department officials said.

Under the integrated dairy development scheme, dairy units of five animals are provided with a 50 per cent subsidy.

Both lives and livelihood will be considered regarding COVID curbs

Bengaluru, Jan 20 (PTI):

A day ahead of the Karnataka government deciding about the future of COVID-19 curbs that are in place across the state, Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Thursday said both lives and livelihood of the people will be considered, while arriving at any decision.

Clarifying that there was no confusion within the government regarding the curbs, the Minister said views expressed by leaders of all political parties and several organisations will also be taken into account, before taking the decision.

"Regarding COVID guidelines, the Chief Minister has called an im-



R Ashoka

portant meeting with senior Ministers. Opinions expressed by leaders of various political parties and organisations regarding the curbs that are in place, and the centre's guidelines will also be taken into consideration," Ashoka said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there are about 15-20 districts in the

state where cases are low, while in cities like Bengaluru and Mysuru the numbers are rising.

"While protecting the lives of people, the government will also have to facilitate for their livelihood, especially of poor and daily wage workers, keeping all this in mind, we will arrive at a decision. I'm confident that the Chief Minister will announce a decision that will be good for the people," he added.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said his government will re-examine the COVID-19 curbs that are in place, and will take a decision regarding relaxation, including the weekend curfew on Friday.

DVAC raids at 57 premises linked to former TN Minister

Chennai, Jan 20 (PTI):

Vigilance raids were conducted on Thursday in different parts of Tamil Nadu at the premises of AIADMK leader and former Minister KP Anbalagan in connection with a disproportionate assets case.

Anbalagan was the Higher Education Minister in the previous AIADMK government in the state. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC), Dharmapuri, registered a disproportionate assets case against the Minister and four of his close family members, even as sleuths simultaneously raided 57 premises linked to him in Dharmapuri,



KP Anbalagan

Salem and Chennai districts.

Anbalagan is the sixth former AIADMK Minister to come under the scanner of the DVAC. The FIR, registered by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, DVAC, under various sections of Prevention of

Corruption Act, 1988, named the former Minister Anbalagan and accused him of being involved in "corrupt activities and intentionally enriching himself illicitly and acquiring properties and pecuniary resources on his name and on the names of his family members, disproportionate to his known source of income." The case pertains to his acquisition during his term in office as Minister between 2016 and 2021. Anbalagan, aged 62, is accused of "illicitly enriching" himself to the tune of Rs 11,32, 95,755 on his name and on the name of his family members and others, disproportionate to their known sources of income.



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5G interference

Air India has resumed B777 flight operations after approval from the United States (US) authority according to the airline officials. The decision by Air India came after US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) gave approval which include most Boeing and Airbus SE airliner aircrafts, including Boeing's 777, which was left off of the list. The expansion occurred because three additional models of altimeters were found to be resistant to interference from 5G, the FAA said. It had earlier cleared two altimeter models. Interference by 5G signals may also offer a lesson to authorities in India. It is hoped that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will coordinate 5G rollout in India carefully to avoid the problems seen in US. C-Band frequencies primarily range from 3.7 to 3.98 GigaHertz (GHz), airlines are concerned these mid-band waves may impact the radio altimeters that pilots use to know how far planes are from the ground. It's unclear whether 5G is an issue for these altimeters. After all, 5G itself isn't exactly new. 5G smartphones have been on the market since 2019, and last year, nearly 90 million of these devices were shipped in the United States alone. Wireless carriers have promised that the technology won't just offer higher speeds but also lower latency, which will make activities like streaming media and video calls achievable without lag. But to make 5G a reality, wireless companies in US spent over USD 81 billion to buy the rights to use certain parts of the radio spectrum specifically, the C-band frequencies between 3.7 and 3.98 GHz. Wireless providers use a range of frequencies to send data between smartphones and base stations. Each band of frequencies comes with its own advantages and disadvantages. C-band is considered a sweet spot on the spectrum and is a critical part of wireless companies' 5G ambitions. 5G phones can already connect to what's called millimetre wave spectrum, which operates at a very high frequency.

The millimetre wave frequency band supports very high speeds and can carry a lot of data but doesn't stretch very far. 5G phones can also connect to low-band spectrum, which operates at a much lower frequency. Low-band frequencies can cover large areas but can only support a small amount of data, which makes it slower. C-band is essentially a middle ground between low-band and millimetre wave, so it covers a good amount of area with pretty high speeds. Once they're turned on, these frequencies should be enough to finally start to see a real difference between 5G and 4G. Flight regulators are very nervous about this C-band update because of how it might affect certain aircraft's radio altimeters. This device transmits radio waves from an airplane toward the ground in order to help measure a plane's altitude. Altimeters are especially useful on a cloudy day or in a mountainous area, when pilots can't see where they're landing. The problem is altimeters rely on parts of the spectrum that neighbour the airwaves used by the C-band. In a nightmare scenario, signals sent over C-band could interfere with these altimeters, specifically older altimeters, creating a potential safety issue. In November last year, Canada placed restrictions on 5G transmitters. These include 'exclusion zones' around 26 airports where outdoor 5G base stations would not be permitted to operate; 'protection zones' where 5G operations would operate with restricted power; and a requirement that 5G antennas tilt down, rather than horizontally or upward, so as not to interfere with radio altimeters. Perhaps authorities in India may also follow this decision to not allow 5G base station towers near airports.

Digital growth story

India has experienced an unusually rapid expansion of digital connectivity and access to services. This has had a positive impact on the inclusiveness of economic growth on efficiency and productivity in retail, supply chains, and finance and on entrepreneurial activity. India's engagement with digital growth story dates to the late 1980s. Major investments in computer science and education were made under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government. And with the expansion of internet access in the 1990s, India became home to many major outsourcing companies in IT administration, business processes, and customer service. But because the infrastructure needed for widespread mobile-internet access remained deficient, penetration lagged and data costs for mobile users ended up being among the highest in the world. The combination of higher speeds and low costs led to rapid growth in internet use in multiple sectors, including e-commerce, social media, streaming video, and other forms of digital content. Last year, 38 Indian startups have achieved unicorn status (meaning they are privately valued at over USD 1 billion) in sectors such as social commerce, education, financial services, and health care. And though there have been a few disappointing IPOs by Indian digital-services firms in recent weeks, overall funding has accelerated as global capital flows are diverted away from China, owing to that country's regulatory tightening.

It is instructive to compare India's digital growth story with that of Mexico, where per capita income (adjusted for purchasing power parity) is three times higher. It took Mexico more than 16 years to reach internet penetration of about 72 percent, whereas India expanded its coverage from 16.5 percent to 41 percent in the space of just five years. More chapters in the Digital India story will be written in the coming years. But the country already offers important lessons for understanding and adapting development models to an era in which traditional sources of employment, especially manufacturing will be displaced by automation and artificial intelligence. Internet-based digital technologies are crucial to economic and financial inclusion. India's experience shows that the rapid expansion of the mobile internet creates opportunities for employment, value creation, and growth far exceeding the returns to investors. Some of those additional benefits can be captured by forward integration into the digital-services opportunities that open with the mobile internet's expansion and upgrading in terms of speed. Up-front investments are substantial, and the returns may not be realized for many years.

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.

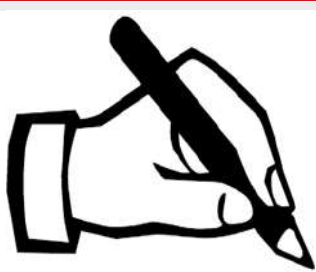
SNOW AT REFUGEE CAMP



Children play in the snow at refugee camp for internally displaced Syrians near Afrin city in Aleppo province, of Syria.

Untapped potential of effective non-drug treatments

PAUL GLASZIOU



In 2017, while travelling around rural India, Rae Thomas's adolescent daughter began experiencing dizziness and nausea lasting for several hours. Rae recalled hearing that a head rotation procedure could help with the most common cause of persistent dizziness. Using her mobile phone she found a description of the Epley manoeuvre (or canalith repositioning) on the HANDI (Handbook of NonDrug Interventions) website, watched the linked video a few times, and performed the procedure. Her daughter's relief was immediate - though it needed repeating over the next few days. Rae was aware of this option only because she worked at the same university as the developers of HANDI. The Epley manoeuvre is just one of dozens of effective 'non-drug' treatments which are under-used by doctors and patients. Some have substantial, research-supported effects: exercise (as part of 'pulmonary rehabilitation') for patients with chronic airways disease can prevent 70 percent of hospital re-admissions and deaths; daily sunscreen can cut invasive melanoma rates by 50 percent; and 'external cephalic version', turning an in-utero baby by pushing on the mother's abdomen, can avoid 50 percent of dangerous breech births.

If there were drugs that were similarly effective, doctors and patients would clamour for access; companies would set high prices. But unlike their pharmaceutical brethren, these non-drug treatments are less intensively researched, poorly described in that research, weakly regulated, and unmarketed - especially when free or cheap. One explanation for their relative neglect has been the lack of a respected compendium, equivalent to the pharmacopoeias (drug handbooks) which doctors look up when prescribing. Instead, the trials of effective non-drug treatments are widely scattered in the vast oceans of research literature. There is no regulatory body (such as the TGA in Australia or FDA in the USA) to pass judgment on which are effective. And usually no company has an interest in marketing them. Non-drug treatments fall into several generic classes: exercise (general and specific), diet, cognitive behavioural therapy, physical manoeuvres, but also a wide range of others.

Perhaps the most neglected non-drug 'treatment' is exercise for chronic illness - lung disease, heart failure, cancer fatigue, diabetes, depression, and so on. While exercise is often promoted for prevention in healthy people, ill people have the most to gain, but are often fearful of exercise. Exercise can bring on symptoms such as breathlessness and fatigue, but, with persistence, will improve function and quality of life, and often reduce relapses and improve survival. In the past decade, we recognised that specific exercises can often overcome functional deficits. Some of these are described in Norman Doidge's popular book *The Brain that Changes Itself* which sets out the discovery and im-

proved non-drug interventions, but other problems are yet to be tackled. One issue is how poorly pact of brain plasticity for rehabilitation. One clinical example is 'mirror therapy' where patients perform activities via feedback from a mirror successfully used to treat phantom limb pain and regional pain syndromes after stroke. When reading research about a medication, doctors often assume that if they give the same drug in the same dose, they can expect more-or-less the same effect each time. But for non-drug treatments, the precise operational description of the intervention used in those trials becomes of paramount importance. For instance, physical exercise to improve circulation - also known as aerobic training - has been shown to be beneficial for heart failure. It helps improve symptoms and decrease the number of heart-related hospitalisations. But how much is needed? Before doctors can use this with their patients they will need to know how often and how intense the training should be. They will also need to know if there are patients at particular risk who should not do the training.

To address the lack of a compendium, in 2013 Australia's Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP) began to compile effective non-drug interventions relevant to primary care. Based on the format of modern drug handbooks, each HANDI entry includes indications, contraindications and 'dosing'. The aim is to make 'prescribing' a non-drug therapy almost as easy as writing a prescription for a drug. It enables clinicians to offer a greater choice of interventions to a patient, who may wish to avoid drugs and the risks and lifestyle changes often associated with drug treatment regimes. Since its launch in 2015 HANDI has become steadily more popular with Australian GPs, and has been incorporated into many local 'clinical pathways', but it is under-used compared with drug-based options. HANDI is one step towards improved non-drug interventions, but other problems are yet to be tackled. One issue is how poorly

non-drug treatments are described in current medical trials, one study showed less than half are sufficiently clearly described to allow replication in follow-up studies; this also creates problems in reviewing the evidence and making recommendations. Another barrier is the lack of inclusion in medical training pharmacology is taught but not as much 'non-pharmacology'. But perhaps the most important problem is that many of these non-drug treatments are free or cheap and have no copyright, so there is no one to profit other than the patient. The pandemic has taught us the important role of non-drug interventions - such as social distancing, avoiding crowds, better ventilation, and masks. Let's hope that lesson is not forgotten.

The HANDI development process includes the RACGP's HANDI working group meeting six times per year, collecting possible topics from a variety of sources. Each potential HANDI entry then goes through a three-step process before being published. In step one, assessing the evidence and relevance. The group assesses the proposed non-drug intervention, by considering two questions: Is the evidence strong enough? and is the intervention relevant to and practical for general practitioners? Treatment must be supported by at least two positive, good-quality randomised controlled trials (RCTs) with patient-relevant outcomes, or one RCT with strong supportive evidence for the causal connection under investigation. In step two, drafting the HANDI entry. Next a group member works with a medical writer to develop a detailed 'how to' guide for the use of the non-drug intervention which includes indications, contraindications, precautions, adverse effects, availability and description of intervention, plus consumer resources. In the final review and posting, the draft entry is reviewed at a subsequent committee meeting prior to finalisation and publication onto the HANDI website.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't allow

There have been cases including amongst celebrities and politicians where new-to-be wed couple joined Islam symbolically for a day for having a second wife, because first wife refused to sign divorce-papers. This is nothing but cruelty to the first wife who thereafter remains totally isolated and neglected for rest of the life. Legislation must be passed so that no person having adopted Islam may be allowed to have a second wife. Rather India should follow those Islamic countries by allowing only one wife even for Muslims. There have been cases including even hi-fi politicians and celebrities where husband gets married to a second wife by somehow managing divorce-papers signed from an illiterate first wife who usually keeps worshipping the husband as a life-time partner till death being totally unaware of her being officially divorced because of her being illiterate. This is again cruelty to such isolated and ignored first wife. Necessary steps should be taken to stop such menace by all means including social and political boycott of those responsible for inhumanity and cruelty to their first wives. Unfortunately such persons including husbands and second wives are given undue respect even in political circles and at state-level. National Commission for Women should take initiative in persuading central government for taking all necessary steps to prevent injustice to first wives by having second wives only for sake of love and pleasure. It must be ensured that such neglected and ignored first wives may get equal rights and share in property of deceased husbands.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, via email

Declining values

The heinous murders recently of educated people must have saddened every sensible person. In fact, in our society, there is a need to seriously discuss the psychological reasons behind such killings. I would say directly that such moral policing is in fact a social ill. This is a socio-psychological issue, of course. The brain infrastructure of a person who frequently commits crimes and gets brutal pleasure by torturing human beings is inconsistent to some extent. According to Neuroscience, the human brain contains a number of specialized nerve cells that help maintain human values. The function of these nerve cells is impaired in criminals. This is the inconsistency of the brain infrastructure of the criminals. And as a result, criminals can commit one crime after another. Even these people can commit inhumane acts like murder. Due to the inconsistency of the brain infrastructure, the human qualities like kindness, compassion, empathy, etc., of the criminals towards human beings are comparatively much less than that of good human beings. In fact, people who have always grown up in a negative environment usually have no qualms about committing a crime like murder. Their brains are left to their own devices to figure out what the outcome of the murder will be. Recently, in the society in which we live, the stress of human beings has been gradually increasing for various reasons. The biggest concern is that in today's society, science and technology, the transformation of private sector enterprises is taking place at an unimaginable pace. There are some unwanted changes in it, which make many people feel uncomfortable adapting to the change. In fact, the people in our society do not have enough time to adapt to this change. In all cases, Darwin's adaptation theory - 'Survival of the fittest is not applicable. On the other hand, human beings are unable to cope with certain situations. This has led to an increase in stress among people. The result of this stress is intolerance.

Heramba, via email

(Paul Glasziou is chair of HANDI project and Professor at Bond University, Australia.)



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Mohar Basu@MoharBasu

The warmest, most welcoming city I have ever lived in. It's just a plus that as a woman, I can take a walk on the road alone at 3 am without thinking twice. In a world where safety is a luxury for women, I think a city offering me that wins big time!

Elite Predators@elitepredators

A different game is going on between Ukraine and Russia, a multi axis conflict seems a spark away. NATO aircrafts hauling to smell the danger but Russian EW isn't even started yet, very interesting development and a situation which has very important lessons.

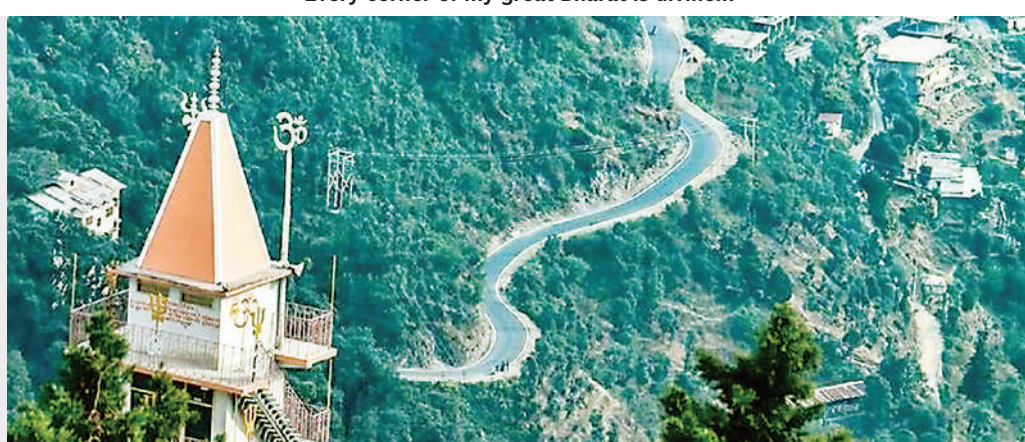


Hana Mohsin @girlplot_

Never in my whole adult life did I hear the filth that I have heard in the past 7-8 months. And I studied in Delhi university so that's saying something. My vocabulary really didn't need an upgrade. Just so sick of the rot in this society.

Commander Vikram@w_karve

#JustSaying If patriotism was the main reason for people joining the military - then - most politicians would have joined the armed forces instead of politics. Presumption In democracy - politicians are the most patriotic citizens #humor #politics #military #patriotism #job.

Vertigo_Warrior@VertigoWarrior
Every corner of my great Bharat is divine..!

Kenter J@kenterjaya

My two cents: How is the Covid night curfew in Itanagar even helping? It's not like Itanagar has a happening nightlife it can boast of. Better focus on violations like not wearing masks, gatherings etc instead of restricting movement in general.

Sonali Gogate@Sonali_Gogate

I bunked my Yoga class today because I decided to sleep in. Just now I found out that the class didn't take place today! So as it happens I didn't bunk it after all! And I was the only one who slept in. Really happy that I got to sleep in and didn't miss yoga! Grinning face #yoga #sleep.



Sushmita Sen elated on winning International Association of Working Women Award for 'Aarya 2'

Bollywood actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen is elated on being conferred the International Association of Working Women Award for an outstanding performance by a female actor in a TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'.

The award is presented by the DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF), which is currently underway virtually starting from January 16 to January 30.

The actress credits the team of 'Aarya' for working tirelessly for the show that is now gaining global recognition. Sharing her excitement, the actress said in a statement, "I am overwhelmed with all the love and appreciation being showered on 'Aarya 2'. The entire team has worked strenuously to put together a work of art that would be loved by everyone."

"It's euphoric to win the International Association of Working Women Award for an outstanding performance by a female actor in a television series. I would like to thank the organisers of the DC South Asian Film Festival for bestowing this honour on me and the entire team. This is surreal!" the statement further said.

Talking about DCSAFF, the film fest which started in 2012 featuring Shyam Benegal's classic film 'Mammo' as the opening title, is currently in its 10th edition and will feature films from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Canada, and the US and many regional languages.

The 2022 edition of the film fest opened with a book discussion with writer, director, and actor Ananth Mahadevan about his new book 'Once Upon A Prime Time' and the Nepali feature film 'Mahanagar/One Night in Kathmandu', directed by Mohan Rai. Filmmaker Vishal Chaliha's Assamese film 'Sijou' will be the closing film of DC-SAFF 2022 on January 30.



&TV actors express pride in having a daughter

National Girl Child Day is celebrated on the 24th of January every year to promote awareness about rights of girl child, their education and curb gender biases. On this occasion, &TV actors Vishal Nayak (Manish Agarwal, GharEk Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki), Farhana Fatema (Shanti Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Amrish Bobby (Ramesh Prasad Mishra, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?), Asif Sheikh (Vibhuti Narayan Mishra, BhabjiGhar Par Hai), Rohitashv Gaur (Manmohan Tiwari, BhabjiGhar Par Hai), Shubhangi Aatre (Angoori Bhabhi, BhabjiGhar Par Hai), ex-

press how proud they are of their daughters and wish best for all the daughters of the country. Farhana Fatema aka Shanti Mishra from Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? shares, "I am a proud mother of a 10-year-old daughter, with whom I share a special bond. My relationship with her is evolving into a beautiful friendship as she grows older. On this day, I would like to tell all the parents

out there that our daughters are no less than boys, so we must educate and nurture them just as we do for our boys. Eradicating gender bias will help us making the world a much better place to live." Amrish Bobby aka Ramesh Prasad Mishra from Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? says, "Daughters are a blessing. We have an exceptional bond, and I learn so much from my

daughter every day. My day is incomplete unless I talk to her. The world is incomplete without girl children, so they should be given equal rights and opportunities to grow". Tune in to watch GharEk Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaja Ki at 9:00 PM, Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai? at 9:30 PM and BhabjiGhar Par Hai at 10:30 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV.

Vishal's 'Veerame Vaagai Soodum' trailer garners 1 million views

The trailer of director Thu Pa Saravanan's action entertainer 'Veerame Vaagai Soodum', featuring Vishal and Dimple Hayathi in the lead, has garnered an impressive one million views in a matter of just six hours of being released on YouTube.

The trailer, which was released on Wednesday evening, shows Vishal as a cop who thinks out of the box. The dialogues showcased in the trailer seem to be deep. A case in point would be a dialogue that goes, "There's a lot of difference between one who kills to save oneself and another who kills others and makes a living out of it."

The trailer gives the impression that the film will provide a feast to action lovers. Several celebrities also complimented Vishal for the trailer. Comedian Soori complimented Vishal on Twitter, saying, "The trailer looks awesome. My best wishes for the film to succeed." Producer Dhananjayan also seemed to be impressed by the



trailer. He tweeted, "Vishal's 'Veerame Vaagai Soodum' trailer is superb with fantastic dialogues." Over 85,000 people have liked the trailer of the film, which releases on January 26 for Republic Day.

Aetashaa shares her thoughts on 'Punyashlok Ahilyabai'

Aetashaa Sansgiri is ruling the television screen with her performance as Ahilyabai in Sony TV's popular historical drama series Punyashlok Ahilyabai. She made her television debut with this show as a lead and has proved her mettle through her acting chops. Playing such a pivotal and different role in a debut show is not everyone's cup of tea, but Aetashaa has managed to pull it off really well.

The actress has managed to win the hearts of the audiences and has built a good fan following for herself.

Excerpts from the interview:

The show has completed a year. How is it to be associated with such a great project? How has the journey been so far?

Yes, the show as completed one year, but this question should be asked to the people who have been associated with the



entry in the show has been great and commendable. For me, the entire team was new and I was trying to adapt to the character, costumes, etc. Now, I feel I am well settled here and I have understood things better.

I have also made some great friends on the sets of the show, so the journey has been peaceful and amazing.

What was your first impression of your co-star Gaurav?

I met Gaurav for the first time during the look test and audition, but the actual time when we spoke to each other was during the promo shoot. The whole day, we were talking to each other and getting to know each other and our journeys.

At first, he appeared to be a very strict and serious

person and not the kind of a person who would joke around and speak something silly. Basically, he came across as a person whom you would think twice before joking about something.



Parineeti Chopra is grateful to directors who have brought the best out of her

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra feels lucky to have worked with filmmakers who have brought the best out of her and helped her in honing her craft.

In her opinion, it's important to collaborate with people who push an artiste to do better. Parineeti says, "I'm lucky to have been directed by some of the best cinematic geniuses in Indian cinema. Such experiences have only enriched me and made me a better performer. As an actor, one needs to constantly evolve and collaborate with people who can push you to excel, who can open horizons for you and make your craft better."

She adds, "From being groomed by

Aditya Chopra, to working with filmmakers like Rohit Shetty (Golmaal Again), Maneesh Sharma (Shuddh Desi Romance), Dibakar Banerjee (Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar), Amole Gupte (Saina), Habib Faisal (Ishaqzaade), Vinil Mathew (Hasee Toh Phasee), Anurag Singh (Kesari), Ribhu Dasgupta (The Girl On The Train), I couldn't have imagined a more fulfilling journey in cinema for myself." This year, the actress will be seen in two big-ticket releases: Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Animal' opposite Ranbir Kapoor and Sooraj Barjatya's 'Uunchai' in which she will be seen with Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher and Boman Irani.

HOROSCOPE FRIDAY JANUARY 21

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Today, you will wish there were two of you! You are deluged with pending work, and even doubling up efforts will not seem enough. You may even cancel your movie date, deciding to deal with your sweetheart's tantrums later. It's your boss you are worried about, says Ganesha.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Bright prospects will greet whatever new ventures you decide to focus on today, says Ganesha. It is a good time to implement your plans. Apart from short-term monetary gains, you may also find yourself pursuing activities which bring you intangible rewards, like goodwill for example.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine. Monetary gains can be expected either in the form of inheritance of ancestral property or as increment in your basic salary.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22

You wish to display your social prestige and monetary clout in front of your relatives. But you have to pay a heavy price for that. Your past experience will teach you something, which will stand in good stead for future dealings.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22

Try to take a chill pill as you may be worried about petty issues today. Do not let them hinder your happiness and take a toll on your health. However, the day looks promising towards the end. Friends are just a phone call away, call them and set out for a destination unknown to distress and rejuvenate.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you will feel the communication of new power in yourself. But because of this you can become a little arrogant and especially self-confident. Ganesha says that take care that ego and special self-confidence do not become a hindrance in the way of achieving your goal. If you try to please the family, then you will be able to get the blessings of elders.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23

You will see some change in your daily schedule today. It is a good day to start a new job or business activity. You will focus more attention on your personality today. You will try to improve yourself and bring your hidden talents to the fore. Make the most of this opportunity to implement your plans, says Ganesha.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

It's time for some entertainment. Movies, picnics and dining out is on your mind. Invite your beloved and enjoy quality time with each other. Also, you will spend time with you family and friends, and attend a music concert together.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

This day you will tend to be too bossy, too harsh on your subordinates or employees and end up making them miserable as well as hostile. Their insubordination could corrode the respect you get and, in addition, make things unworkable. This acrimony and ill will is sure to spread and foul up your larger professional connections and interests.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22

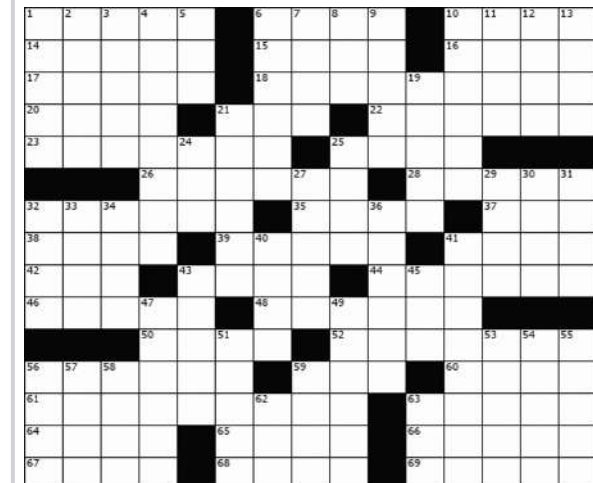
Ganesha says you realise the importance of family matters today. You have great skills when it comes to negotiations, and you will use them in settling disputes amicably. Ganesha says you have learned the lessons of life on staying level-headed, and that you keenly believe that opposition eventually leads to progress.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20

Though you leave no stone unturned to identify the opportunities coming your way, you need to keep your guards on whenever you are a part of a legal matter. Financially, you're likely to bear some heavy losses, and if you're a dealer or a broker, the chances of suffering from them are even higher. Take some precautionary measures well in advance, advises Ganesha.

CROSSWORD

193



ACROSS

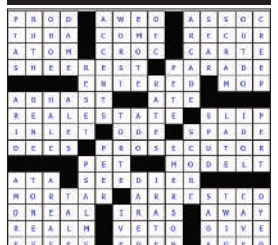
- Animals' homes
- Keats poems
- Beach feature
- Concur
- Connect
- Petition
- Rear
- Pointed out
- Main point
- "___ Lost You"

DOWN

- Huge
- Once more
- From Dublin
- Paraphrased
- Comprehend
- "___ Twist"
- Eat well
- Conclude
- Slalom participant
- Scanty
- Chorus voice
- Not ever, in reverse
- June honorees
- Box
- Cold era (2 wds.)
- Nothing

- Insignificant
- Paring tool
- Brownish gray
- Mr. Schwarzenegger
- Train track
- Perk up
- Emphasize
- Golf peg
- Relinquish
- Grouped
- Flat-bottomed boat
- Toothpaste container
- Flour factory
- Encouraged
- Throne
- Shoe part
- Shabby
- Correct copy
- Join in
- Beach toy
- Loafing
- Active person
- Train track
- Golf stroke
- On a ship
- Waiter's handout
- "Scarface" gangster
- Aloud
- Government health program
- Intended
- House extension
- Adjusted beforehand
- Sewing item
- Things
- Brink
- Trimmed the border
- In want
- Drama divisions
- Hint
- Castro's land
- Narrate
- Mexican waterway
- Public transport

SOLUTION 192



'Don't go ahead with amendment to IAS (Cadre) Rules'

Kolkata, Jan 20 (PTD):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote yet another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to withdraw the proposal to amend IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, as it would "create a fear psychosis among officers and impact their performance". In the letter to the PM on the issue, her second in a week, Banerjee said the amendment will "destroy" the federal polity and basic structure of the Constitution.

She warned him of "greater movements" in case the Centre does not reconsider its decision. "I humbly urge you to kindly reconsider this move by the central government and not to go ahead with the proposed amendments



and request you not to push us to the points of greater movements on this issue to protect the soul of this great democracy that India is and has been (sic)," the CM wrote. Banerjee also said that the proposed changes, if implemented, will "irreparably damage the spirit of mutual accommodation between the Centre and the state". The Union government has proposed an amendment to IAS (Cadre) rules, which would enable it to post IAS

officers on central deputation, bypassing reservations of state governments. On January 13, too, the CM had written to Modi, requesting him not to go ahead with the amendment.

"I'm constrained to invite your kind attention to the issue of IAS Cadre management yet again, twice in a week's time. I had written to you on this, conveying my reservations... but I had to write again, further reiterating

my points, because the central government has, meanwhile, further accentuated its stand, proposing yet another revised draft, taking the matter to further non-federal extremes," she wrote in her letter to Modi on Thursday.

The CM pointed out that the proposal's "very grain is against the foundations of our great federal polity and the basic structure of India's Constitutional scheme". "It will create fear psychosis and impact their performance, effectiveness and accountability to the state government. This will destroy the fundamental principle of the Services which postulates that an officer serving in connection with the affairs of the state is accountable to the state government alone," Banerjee emphasised.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Men ride a modified bicycle to raise awareness about organ donation, in Moradabad, Thursday.

SC to hear plea of journalist Tejpal for in-camera hearing

Of appeal in sexual assault case

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTD):

The Supreme Court would hear on Friday the appeal of journalist Tarun Tejpal against the Bombay High Court's order rejecting his plea for an in-camera hearing of the proceedings challenging his acquittal in a 2013 rape case.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai has listed for hearing the plea of Tejpal whose application for conducting an in-camera hearing of the proceedings under section 327 of the CrPC was rejected by the Goa bench

of the Bombay High Court on November 24, last year. The acquittal of the former editor-in-chief of Tehelka magazine, who was accused of sexually assaulting his then-woman colleague in the lift of a five-star hotel in Goa in November 2013, by a sessions court in May 2021 was challenged in the Goa bench of the high court by the state government.

Senior advocate Amit Desai, who had appeared for Tejpal, had referred to the Law Commission and various judgements of high courts supporting his application for an

in-camera hearing. The high court, however, had rejected the submissions. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Goa government, had argued that the judgement (of acquittal of Tejpal) by the district court is in the public domain.

Section 327 applies for the purpose of inquiring into or trying any offence. It has limited application during inquiry or trial. The appeal is something very clear. Appeals, revisions, etc are neither investigation nor inquiry nor a trial, he had said.

Uproar over auction of farmers' lands in Rajasthan

Gehlot asks officials to stop it

Jaipur, Jan 20 (PTD):

BKU leader Rakesh Tikait on Thursday met in Rajasthan's Dausa farmers whose lands have been auctioned by commercial banks over the non-payment of loans, while peasants led by BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena protested against the action outside the chief minister's residence. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot asked officials to stop the auction of agricultural land of farmers.

Land attachment and auction is being undertaken by banks that are controlled by the Reserve Bank of India, he said,

urging the Centre to waive farmers' loans. Notably, many instances of land auction notices being issued to farmers who have been unable to pay back their loans have come to the fore recently.

Tikait, who is the spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, met farmers in Ramgarh Pachwara in Dausa district whose lands were auctioned by banks after they failed to repay their loans.

Talking to reporters, Tikait said, "Why was the auction done? An investigation should be carried out against bank officials and a case registered. You cannot auction a farmer's entire land for a small loan. It was an illegal auction. The land mafia have

their eyes on prime land." He claimed several farmers have received land auction notices. "We will meet bank officials on the issue and decide the future course of action," the BKU leader said.

Separately, a group of farmers from Dausa led by BJP MP Dr Kirodi Lal Meena managed to reach the high-security zone near Gehlot's residence here, demanding action against bank officials and cancellation of the land auction process. However, the protesters were dispersed and Meena was taken away in a bus by police officials.

"Approximately 15 lakh farmers in the state have taken loans worth Rs 10,000 crore from cooperative banks and they are

not being waived. The farmers who have come here have less than 5.5 acres of land and have received land auction notices," Meena told reporters from inside the bus. Recently, a farmer committed suicide in Ramgarh Pachwara and the police have not registered a case in the matter, he alleged.

A protesting farmer said, "My father had taken a loan from the Rajasthan Grameen Bank. Bank officials harassed my father, who committed suicide two months ago. Still, the bank auctioned 15 high lands for Rs 45 lakh a couple of days ago. We had taken a loan of Rs 3.5 lakh." Meena was later taken to the Secretariat here, where he met offi-

cial from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), according to a statement.

He handed over a memorandum to the CMO officials seeking a complete waiver of farm loans, the statement issued by Meena's office said. State BJP president Satish Poonia hit out at Gehlot, saying he is busy writing letters while farmers are being forced to commit suicides.

"Due to the promise made by Rahul Gandhi ji in 2018, lands of farmers of Rajasthan are being auctioned. Farmers are being forced to commit suicide. CM Gehlot is busy writing letters," he said. If the government has any honesty left, then it should waive loans of all farmers, he added.

KEEPING AWAY COLD



People warm themselves around a small fire on a cold winter morning, in Agartala.

Book on story behind creation of India's private forest sanctuary

To release on Jan 24

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTD):

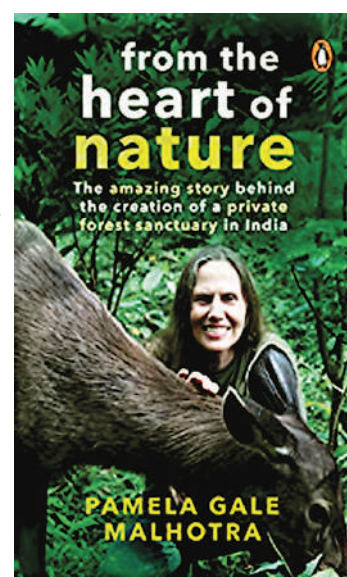
A new book, "From the Heart of Nature", tells an inspiring story of a couple transforming over 300 acres of barren land into India's only private wildlife sanctuary.

The book, written by Pamela Gale Malhotra, is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and will hit the stands on January 24.

Coming from two rich wisdom cultures, one Native American and one Indian, Pamela and her late husband Anil Malhotra made it their mission to salvage what they could in Kodagu, Karnataka, where years of coffee-growing had ravaged and denuded the land.

Today, in its near-original form, the SAI (Save Animals Initiative) sanctuary boasts a rich variety of indigenous trees and plants as well as numerous rare and threatened species of animals, some found nowhere else on the planet.

"It (the book) is the story of my sanctuary, of our sanctuary, and of the struggles my husband, Anil, and I have had to endure, the obstacles we had to overcome to turn my dream into the living sanctuary of life that it is today; a story of the sorrows and joys, the wonders and awe-inspiring experiences I have been privileged to have living here in the heart of Nature." The sanctuary itself is dedicated to



the Universal Divine Mother, that is Mother Nature," writes Pamela in the introduction of the book. In 2017, the then president Pranab Mukherjee in conjunction with the

Union Ministry for Women and Child Development presented Pamela the Nari Shakti Puraskar for 'Outstanding Contribution to Women's Empowerment' at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

According to the publishers, in this deeply fascinating and inspiring personal narrative, Pamela recounts how she connected and communicated with animals and trees at both physical and spiritual levels, and "how the only way to save humanity is through understanding and preserving nature".

"Pamela's goal is to inspire others to join the mission of protecting Mother Nature and rewilding the Earth for the benefit of the present and future generations," they said in a statement. The book, priced at Rs 364, is presently available for pre-order online.

Kerala govt order to cancel title deeds triggers row

Minister justifies

Thiruvananthapuram/

Idukki, Jan 20 (PTD):

The Kerala Revenue Department's recent order to cancel title deeds, allegedly issued illegally in high range Idukki district, has triggered a political row with ruling CPI(M) strongman M M Mani openly expressing displeasure, even as Revenue Minister K Rajan justified it but assured that no one would be evicted from their land over the order.

Indicating that the department would go ahead with the cancellation move, the minister said the order was issued as

part of continuation of procedures of a government decision taken in 2019 and its objective was to give authentic title deeds to deserved persons and to cancel those possessed by undeserving individuals.

CPI(M) state secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan also came in support of the minister saying that no one would be evicted from their land and new title deeds would be issued after conducting a legal scrutiny.

Known as "Raveendran Pattayam" in general, the controversial title deeds, which the government has decided to cancel now, were allegedly issued illegally by M A Raveendran, the then Devikulam Taluk

Additional Tahsildar, during the rule of the Left government in the 1990s.

The Raveendran title deeds have been at the centre of a political row here since then as critics allege that they have no legal validity as they had been issued flouting all legal norms.

Justifying the decision to cancel them, the minister said those title deeds were just "useless" as its holders were facing difficulty to avail loans over the land, sell it or remit tax as the deeds had been issued illegally.

"Raveendran had issued the title deeds illegally overpassing his jurisdiction. The government took the decision to cancel them for the sake of com-

mon people. It is not a government which treats the encroachers and the settlers equally," Rajan said.

He reiterated that the government's decision was not to evict anyone but to give the deserved persons actual and renewed title deeds.

Terming the controversies as "unwanted", Rajan said what the government did now was just to speed up the ongoing procedures to give the deserved persons a chance to become the actual owners of their land.

When asked about Mani's criticism over the matter, the minister said he was not going to give a reply to anyone. He also said the CPI(M)'s party office in Idukki had received

the title deed as it might have deserved it.

However, Mani said in Idukki that the controversial title deeds were issued to the people at a 'pattaya mela' (title deed fair) conducted by the government after it was approved by a panel headed by the then MLA.

He also wanted the Revenue department under the CPI, the second largest coalition partner in the government, and its minister, Rajan, to explain why such land deeds should be cancelled now.

An MLA and former minister, Mani also made it clear that no one would be allowed to touch the CPI(M) party office, located in Idukki, under the Raveendran title deed.

CHECKING COVID-19

Telangana govt to undertake door-to-door survey for fever

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (PTD):

The Telangana government would undertake a door-to-door fever survey in the State from Friday as part of measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

The survey would help in controlling the spread by identifying those suffering from fever and others, State Health Minister T Harish Rao told reporters here on Thursday.

Some people are asymptomatic despite testing positive for the infection, while some others are not getting themselves tested

in spite of having symptoms like fever, he said. The survey would help address such issues. He said a home-isolation kit, comprising medicines and others, would be provided to those with symptoms.

Observing that a similar survey and the provision of the same kits helped save many lives during the second wave of COVID-19, he said this has received appreciation from the NITI Ayog.

The State government is geared up to deal with the third wave as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had

ordered procuring two crore testing kits and one crore home-isolation kits, he said.

The Minister said 27,000 hospital beds have been provided with oxygen supply. Oxygen generation plants have been established in 76 hospitals and the generation capacity has increased to 340 MTs from about 130 MTs during the second wave.

The capacity would be enhanced to 500 MTs, he said. While 56,000 COVID beds are available in the State, the bed occupancy rate is below one per cent at present.

CGSSS delegation submits memo to Jt. Director Education

In support of their just demands

Jagdalpur, Jan 20:

The divisional spokesman of CG Shalay Shikshak Sangh(CGSSS) Kailash Chandra Ramteke informed that a delegation of divisional representatives of CGSSS met Joint Director Education Hemant Upadhyay last on Jan 12 and submitted a memorandum to him for sorting out mistake in the teacher's LB Cadre seniority list and other demands. Prominent among other demands in the memorandum included to start promotion into all the vacant posts under sub-rule (3) of Clause (6) of 'CG Lok Sewa



Paddonati Niyam 2003'; the seniority in all the teachers of 7 districts of Bastar has been considered equal as per different dates of merger and instead it should be equal for all the districts; in the sen-

ior list there are many junior teachers who have become seniors and so it is taking into account the date of birth as standard the seniority should be fixed; by obtaining consent of teachers of subject

Maths, English, Science they have been given fresh posting and so at the time 'Padgana' they should be considered teacher of the same subject so as to avoid situation of additional staff; in the promotion, the

teacher of commerce subject be given promotion treating him as one from social sciences; since 90% of the Bastar division is reserved, therefore the reservation rule should be taken into account and other demands.

It was after giving patient hearing to CGSSS demands, the Joint Director Education assured them to find out amicable solution soon. Among the teachers present to submit memorandum included District President Kanker

Hemant Korram, Karnial Singh Rajput; District president Bastar Jogendra Yadav, District president Sukma Yashwant Ramarao and they all granted their consent for the demands.

BJP fearful of good response to Cong campaign in UP: Singh



Takathpur, Jan 20:

MLA and parliamentary secretary Rashmi Ashish Singh said that the way there is an open murder of democracy in UP and the Election Commission instead of showing biased approach has filed FIR against CM Bhupesh Baghel and this clearly shows that UP government is fearful of Congress campaign and is making all efforts to stop it from coming to power.

An effigy of CM of UP Yogi Adityanath was burnt near Old Bus Stand by NSUI party workers on charges of filing of FIR against CM Baghel and it was demanded on part of EC to work in a free & fair manner.

District Panchayat speaker Jitendra Pandey said that BJP has become fearful in case of massive campaigning by Congress under leadership of party leader and in-Charge Priyanka

EC had even banned Yogi Adityanath as well: Harshita

During the last VS polls in UP, Yogi Adityanath was also banned from campaigning for three days and at that time no questions were asked against the EC or the Opposition by the BJP and gave due respect to Commission's decision, says former CG Women's Commission Chairperson Harshita Pandey. This is a democracy and here the political decisions should be given due respect. Congress would not even be able to cross the ten seat's mark in UP and she questioned as to why Congmen create so much of hue and cry over such petty issues, she added.

Gandhi. It is in order to stop the effective influence of CM Baghel in the campaigning that BJP has filed this FIR, but this is not going to stop the efforts by Congress.

In this effigy burning programme, Nagar Palika President's rep-Munna Sriwas; Harwinder Singh Hura; former Nagar Palika President Ajay Dewangan; Tekchand Kara, DCC (urban) President Bihari Dewangan, Kallash Dewangan, Sunil Ahuja, Chand Prakash Dewangan, Raju Thakur;

Police foils the efforts:

No sooner the NSUI workers tried to burn effigy of UP's CM, the police was on the alert and snatched it from workers' and took it away and dipped in water and dowsed the fire and took it away in a vehicle.

Rajvir Hura, Omprakash Nirmalkar, Hojefa Bharmal, Sukhdev Kurre, Ajay Dhruv and other party workers were present in large number.

Three accused, Director of Gas Agency sent to jail

Kabirdhaam, Jan 20:

With instructions by SP Kabirdhaam Dr Lal Umed Singh and Addl. SP Manisha Thakur, the police department received about theft of gas from LPG Gas vehicle going to MP from highway. On this SP and Addl. SP asked to put a check on movement vehicles passing. So it was on Jan 3 a LPG gas tanker was found in abandoned condition near the road and so the Bodala police team gheraoed and conducted search and found three suspects near the tanker. All three accused viz. Binaram S/o Baburam (27), Naresh Kumar S/o Manshuram (30) and Manoj S/o Chanram Bishnoi (22) (all

On charges of getting refilling of cylinders using stolen gas from big LPG gas tankers

three from Bikaner Rajasthan) and were presently staying in Kawardha.

On conducting search the police found 2 four-wheelers, 72 empty cylinders; 8 filled cylinders; nozzle pipe-3 no's; Gas regulator, torch, mobile and other items and seized a capsule -type tanker, filled and empty cylinders, pick-up vehicle and a Maruti and Ertiga car from the site. On inquiry the three accused



informed that they are involved in refilling of small cylinders with nexus of gas-truck drivers between Kawardha to Mandla National Highway in big cities at different places. On this

acceptance, Bodala thana filed a case under section 407 411, 285, 34 of IPC and 3, 7 of EC Act (Essential Commodities Act) and taken the matter under investigation. In the investigative procedure, the

memorandum statement of all three accused, seized items and equipments from the accused; documents and inspection report of the Food Officer and other important evidence the Asst. Director Indian Gas Agency Kabirdhaam was taken into arrest and produced in the Court. The accused used to get the LPG cylinders kept in his godown filled through stolen LPG gas refilling capsules and sell it to urban and rural customers through 'number parchi' earning huge profit and causing financial loss to the government. So taking prompt action, the Director of Indian Gas Agency was sent to jail.

Students of Aastha Vidya Mandir to be trained in chess

Pawan Gupta

Dantewada, Jan 20: Dantewada, renowned for Naxal activities, and orphans left, due to the outcome, has always been a challenge for the government and administration in terms of educating and upbringing the children.

To meet the situation, Aastha Vidya Mandir has been established by the Chhattisgarh government for such orphan children in the district headquarters and the main objective of the school is to provide protection to the children affected by Naxalite attacks and connect them with the main stream of the society.

Under the ambitious scheme of the Chess Federation of India

With the inspiration and efficient guidance of Dantewada Collector IAS Deepak Soni, now the future of these children is shining even more, as for the intellectual and mental development of these students studying in Aastha Vidya Mandir, with the special cooperation of the administration, the said school is being linked with Chess training in schools program so that children can do chess course in the form of diploma.

Vinod Rathi, general secretary of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Chess Association, inter-

acted with the school children undergoing training during their stay in Dantewada and called upon the children of all the schools of the state to join the game of chess. Giving information, Mr. Rathi said that in the month of November last, under the leadership of the Gurucharan Singh Hora, the Patron of Chhattisgarh State Chess Federation and Secretary of the Olympic Association, Secretary Bharat Singh Chouhan and state union officials had a courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel about the im-

mense possibilities of development of chess in Bastar division.

In which Mr. Baghel had expressed his intention to provide as much cooperation as possible at the government and administration level. Santosh Pradhan, the head of the institution, expressed his happiness and said that it is possible only with the inspiration and guidance of the Collector, Deepak Soni, that we are going to join Chess in Schools, one of the ambitious scheme of the Chess Federation of India. Chess trainer Anish Ansari is giving special training in chess to school children, which will be of 15-15 days per month.

Effective Lecture Series for refresher courses in CU

Bilaspur, Jan 20:

Under the effective leadership and able guidance of Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alok Kumar Chakrawal, three Refresher Courses were started in a grand manner at Guru G h a s i d a s Vishavidhyalaya (a Central University) which are being organized by Department of History, Department of Commerce, and Department of Physical Education with UGC-HRDC, Guru Ghasidas Vishavidhyalaya, Bilaspur from 10 January 2022. The first lecture of the session "Consumerism through customer Relationship" was delivered by Dr. Harish Kumar, Professor, Business Administration, Guru G h a s i d a s Vishavidhyalaya Bilaspur (C.G.). He started by defining consumerism and negative aspects of consumerism like poor health, pollution, resource depletion, problem of waste disposal and so on. He explained social respon-

sibility of business of consumer/ customer, maintenance of quality and quantity ensuring fair price business ethics and advertising etc. By telling interesting stories he also explained time management. He highlighted quotes related to the value of customer like "your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning" by Bill Gates. He also explained sympathy and empathy and explain the duty of a businessperson. The second lecture of the session on "Customer Relationship Management" was delivered by Dr. Harish Kumar, Prof. Business Administration, Guru G h a s i d a s Vishavidhyalaya Bilaspur (C.G.). He explained about customer relationship management, which is a technology used to manage interactions with customers and potential customers. A CRM system helps organization build customer relationship and streamline the process so they can in-

crease sales and improve and increase customer service. He also told about communication and its importance and communication gap. Later, he explained the dimensions of CRM like information sharing, customer involvement and empowerment, customer care, consistent communication, and customer loyalty. Customer satisfaction survey is one of the most important functions of CRM. He told how to design questionnaire and told about indicators of poor CRM like maintaining negative attitude. He said 'Make your customer feel special and involved and have effective feedback and follow up'. The third topic of the session was "Commerce, E-Commerce and Quick Commerce" and the lecture was delivered by prof. Dr. S.K. Baral, Department of Commerce faculty of Management Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak MP. He explained the terms 'business', 'com-

merce' and 'trade'. In business there are maximum risks, commerce is less risky and in trade there is the least risk.

Then he explained about E-commerce. In E-commerce companies are trying to provide 24 hours' delivery or services. Many companies are using E-commerce to reach out to customers worldwide and increase their sales. E-commerce operates in four major markets and can be conducted over computers, tablets, smartphones, and other smart devices. He explained about quick commerce and methodology. E-economy is an economy that is based on digital computing technology and it is perceived as a means of conducting business through market based on internet and www.

He also explained the supply chain management and regulation of e commerce and new amendment policy? In the fourth session examination was conducted. All the participants were given 20 MCQ's.

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD. GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/02/2022 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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5G interference

Air India has resumed B777 flight operations after approval from the United States (US) authority according to the airline officials. The decision by Air India came after US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) gave approval which include most Boeing and Airbus SE airliner aircrafts, including Boeing's 777, which was left off of the list. The expansion occurred because three additional models of altimeters were found to be resistant to interference from 5G, the FAA said. It had earlier cleared two altimeter models. Interference by 5G signals may also offer a lesson to authorities in India. It is hoped that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will coordinate 5G rollout in India carefully to avoid the problems seen in US. C-Band frequencies primarily range from 3.7 to 3.98 GigaHertz (GHz), airlines are concerned these mid-band waves may impact the radio altimeters that pilots use to know how far planes are from the ground. It's unclear whether 5G is an issue for these altimeters. After all, 5G itself isn't exactly new. 5G smartphones have been on the market since 2019, and last year, nearly 90 million of these devices were shipped in the United States alone. Wireless carriers have promised that the technology won't just offer higher speeds but also lower latency, which will make activities like streaming media and video calls achievable without lag. But to make 5G a reality, wireless companies in US spent over USD 81 billion to buy the rights to use certain parts of the radio spectrum specifically, the C-band frequencies between 3.7 and 3.98 GHz. Wireless providers use a range of frequencies to send data between smartphones and base stations. Each band of frequencies comes with its own advantages and disadvantages. C-band is considered a sweet spot on the spectrum and is a critical part of wireless companies' 5G ambitions. 5G phones can already connect to what's called millimetre wave spectrum, which operates at a very high frequency.

The millimetre wave frequency band supports very high speeds and can carry a lot of data but doesn't stretch very far. 5G phones can also connect to low-band spectrum, which operates at a much lower frequency. Low-band frequencies can cover large areas but can only support a small amount of data, which makes it slower. C-band is essentially a middle ground between low-band and millimetre wave, so it covers a good amount of area with pretty high speeds. Once they're turned on, these frequencies should be enough to finally start to see a real difference between 5G and 4G. Flight regulators are very nervous about this C-band update because of how it might affect certain aircraft's radio altimeters. This device transmits radio waves from an airplane toward the ground in order to help measure a plane's altitude. Altimeters are especially useful on a cloudy day or in a mountainous area, when pilots can't see where they're landing. The problem is altimeters rely on parts of the spectrum that neighbour the airwaves used by the C-band. In a nightmare scenario, signals sent over C-band could interfere with these altimeters, specifically older altimeters, creating a potential safety issue. In November last year, Canada placed restrictions on 5G transmitters. These include 'exclusion zones' around 26 airports where outdoor 5G base stations would not be permitted to operate; 'protection zones' where 5G operations would operate with restricted power; and a requirement that 5G antennas tilt down, rather than horizontally or upward, so as not to interfere with radio altimeters. Perhaps authorities in India may also follow this decision to not allow 5G base station towers near airports.

Digital growth story

India has experienced an unusually rapid expansion of digital connectivity and access to services. This has had a positive impact on the inclusiveness of economic growth on efficiency and productivity in retail, supply chains, and finance and on entrepreneurial activity. India's engagement with digital growth story dates to the late 1980s. Major investments in computer science and education were made under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government. And with the expansion of internet access in the 1990s, India became home to many major outsourcing companies in IT administration, business processes, and customer service. But because the infrastructure needed for widespread mobile-internet access remained deficient, penetration lagged and data costs for mobile users ended up being among the highest in the world. The combination of higher speeds and low costs led to rapid growth in internet use in multiple sectors, including e-commerce, social media, streaming video, and other forms of digital content. Last year, 38 Indian startups have achieved unicorn status (meaning they are privately valued at over USD 1 billion) in sectors such as social commerce, education, financial services, and health care. And though there have been a few disappointing IPOs by Indian digital-services firms in recent weeks, overall funding has accelerated as global capital flows are diverted away from China, owing to that country's regulatory tightening.

It is instructive to compare India's digital growth story with that of Mexico, where per capita income (adjusted for purchasing power parity) is three times higher. It took Mexico more than 16 years to reach internet penetration of about 72 percent, whereas India expanded its coverage from 16.5 percent to 41 percent in the space of just five years. More chapters in the Digital India story will be written in the coming years. But the country already offers important lessons for understanding and adapting development models to an era in which traditional sources of employment, especially manufacturing will be displaced by automation and artificial intelligence. Internet-based digital technologies are crucial to economic and financial inclusion. India's experience shows that the rapid expansion of the mobile internet creates opportunities for employment, value creation, and growth far exceeding the returns to investors. Some of those additional benefits can be captured by forward integration into the digital-services opportunities that open with the mobile internet's expansion and upgrading in terms of speed. Up-front investments are substantial, and the returns may not be realized for many years.

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The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

SNOW AT REFUGEE CAMP



Children play in the snow at refugee camp for internally displaced Syrians near Afrin city in Aleppo province, of Syria.

Untapped potential of effective non-drug treatments

**PAUL GLASZIOU**

In 2017, while travelling around rural India, Rae Thomas's adolescent daughter began experiencing dizziness and nausea lasting for several hours. Rae recalled hearing that a head rotation procedure could help with the most common cause of persistent dizziness. Using her mobile phone she found a description of the Epley manoeuvre (or canalith repositioning) on the HANDI (Handbook of NonDrug Interventions) website, watched the linked video a few times, and performed the procedure. Her daughter's relief was immediate - though it needed repeating over the next few days. Rae was aware of this option only because she worked at the same university as the developers of HANDI. The Epley manoeuvre is just one of dozens of effective 'non-drug' treatments which are under-used by doctors and patients. Some have substantial, research-supported effects: exercise (as part of 'pulmonary rehabilitation') for patients with chronic airways disease can prevent 70 percent of hospital re-admissions and deaths; daily sunscreen can cut invasive melanoma rates by 50 percent; and 'external cephalic version', turning an in-utero baby by pushing on the mother's abdomen, can avoid 50 percent of dangerous breech births.

If there were drugs that were similarly effective, doctors and patients would clamour for access; companies would set high prices. But unlike their pharmaceutical brethren, these non-drug treatments are less intensively researched, poorly described in that research, weakly regulated, and unmarketed - especially when free or cheap. One explanation for their relative neglect has been the lack of a respected compendium, equivalent to the pharmacopoeias (drug handbooks) which doctors look up when prescribing. Instead, the trials of effective non-drug treatments are widely scattered in the vast oceans of research literature. There is no regulatory body (such as the TGA in Australia or FDA in the USA) to pass judgment on which are effective. And usually no company has an interest in marketing them. Non-drug treatments fall into several generic classes: exercise (general and specific), diet, cognitive behavioural therapy, physical manoeuvres, but also a wide range of others.

Perhaps the most neglected non-drug 'treatment' is exercise for chronic illness - lung disease, heart failure, cancer fatigue, diabetes, depression, and so on. While exercise is often promoted for prevention in healthy people, ill people have the most to gain, but are often fearful of exercise. Exercise can bring on symptoms such as breathlessness and fatigue, but, with persistence, will improve function and quality of life, and often reduce relapses and improve survival. In the past decade, we recognised that specific exercises can often overcome functional deficits. Some of these are described in Norman Doidge's popular book *The Brain that Changes Itself* which sets out the discovery and im-

proved non-drug interventions, but other problems are yet to be tackled. One issue is how poorly pact of brain plasticity for rehabilitation. One clinical example is 'mirror therapy' where patients perform activities via feedback from a mirror successfully used to treat phantom limb pain and regional pain syndromes after stroke. When reading research about a medication, doctors often assume that if they give the same drug in the same dose, they can expect more-or-less the same effect each time. But for non-drug treatments, the precise operational description of the intervention used in those trials becomes of paramount importance. For instance, physical exercise to improve circulation - also known as aerobic training - has been shown to be beneficial for heart failure. It helps improve symptoms and decrease the number of heart-related hospitalisations. But how much is needed? Before doctors can use this with their patients they will need to know how often and how intense the training should be. They will also need to know if there are patients at particular risk who should not do the training.

To address the lack of a compendium, in 2013 Australia's Royal College of General Practitioners (RACGP) began to compile effective non-drug interventions relevant to primary care. Based on the format of modern drug handbooks, each HANDI entry includes indications, contraindications and 'dosing'. The aim is to make 'prescribing' a non-drug therapy almost as easy as writing a prescription for a drug. It enables clinicians to offer a greater choice of interventions to a patient, who may wish to avoid drugs and the risks and lifestyle changes often associated with drug treatment regimes. Since its launch in 2015 HANDI has become steadily more popular with Australian GPs, and has been incorporated into many local 'clinical pathways', but it is under-used compared with drug-based options. HANDI is one step towards improved non-drug interventions, but other problems are yet to be tackled. One issue is how poorly

non-drug treatments are described in current medical trials, one study showed less than half are sufficiently clearly described to allow replication in follow-up studies; this also creates problems in reviewing the evidence and making recommendations. Another barrier is the lack of inclusion in medical training pharmacology is taught but not as much 'non-pharmacology'. But perhaps the most important problem is that many of these non-drug treatments are free or cheap and have no copyright, so there is no one to profit other than the patient. The pandemic has taught us the important role of non-drug interventions - such as social distancing, avoiding crowds, better ventilation, and masks. Let's hope that lesson is not forgotten.

The HANDI development process includes the RACGP's HANDI working group meeting six times per year, collecting possible topics from a variety of sources. Each potential HANDI entry then goes through a three-step process before being published. In step one, assessing the evidence and relevance. The group assesses the proposed non-drug intervention, by considering two questions: Is the evidence strong enough? and is the intervention relevant to and practical for general practitioners? Treatment must be supported by at least two positive, good-quality randomised controlled trials (RCTs) with patient-relevant outcomes, or one RCT with strong supportive evidence for the causal connection under investigation. In step two, drafting the HANDI entry. Next a group member works with a medical writer to develop a detailed 'how to' guide for the use of the non-drug intervention which includes indications, contraindications, precautions, adverse effects, availability and description of intervention, plus consumer resources. In the final review and posting, the draft entry is reviewed at a subsequent committee meeting prior to finalisation and publication onto the HANDI website.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't allow

There have been cases including amongst celebrities and politicians where new-to-be wed couple joined Islam symbolically for a day for having a second wife, because first wife refused to sign divorce-papers. This is nothing but cruelty to the first wife who thereafter remains totally isolated and neglected for rest of the life. Legislation must be passed so that no person having adopted Islam may be allowed to have a second wife. Rather India should follow those Islamic countries by allowing only one wife even for Muslims. There have been cases including even hi-fi politicians and celebrities where husband gets married to a second wife by somehow managing divorce-papers signed from an illiterate first wife who usually keeps worshipping the husband as a life-time partner till death being totally unaware of her being officially divorced because of her being illiterate. This is again cruelty to such isolated and ignored first wife. Necessary steps should be taken to stop such menace by all means including social and political boycott of those responsible for inhumanity and cruelty to their first wives. Unfortunately such persons including husbands and second wives are given undue respect even in political circles and at state-level. National Commission for Women should take initiative in persuading central government for taking all necessary steps to prevent injustice to first wives by having second wives only for sake of love and pleasure. It must be ensured that such neglected and ignored first wives may get equal rights and share in property of deceased husbands.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal, via email

Declining values

The heinous murders recently of educated people must have saddened every sensible person. In fact, in our society, there is a need to seriously discuss the psychological reasons behind such killings. I would say directly that such moral policing is in fact a social ill. This is a socio-psychological issue, of course. The brain infrastructure of a person who frequently commits crimes and gets brutal pleasure by torturing human beings is inconsistent to some extent. According to Neuroscience, the human brain contains a number of specialized nerve cells that help maintain human values. The function of these nerve cells is impaired in criminals. This is the inconsistency of the brain infrastructure of the criminals. And as a result, criminals can commit one crime after another. Even these people can commit inhumane acts like murder. Due to the inconsistency of the brain infrastructure, the human qualities like kindness, compassion, empathy, etc., of the criminals towards human beings are comparatively much less than that of good human beings. In fact, people who have always grown up in a negative environment usually have no qualms about committing a crime like murder. Their brains are left to their own devices to figure out what the outcome of the murder will be. Recently, in the society in which we live, the stress of human beings has been gradually increasing for various reasons. The biggest concern is that in today's society, science and technology, the transformation of private sector enterprises is taking place at an unimaginable pace. There are some unwanted changes in it, which make many people feel uncomfortable adapting to the change. In fact, the people in our society do not have enough time to adapt to this change. In all cases, Darwin's adaptation theory - 'Survival of the fittest is not applicable. On the other hand, human beings are unable to cope with certain situations. This has led to an increase in stress among people. The result of this stress is intolerance.

Heramba, via email

(Paul Glasziou is chair of HANDI project and Professor at Bond University, Australia.)



WHAT THEY TWEET!

**Mohar Basu@MoharBasu**

The warmest, most welcoming city I have ever lived in. It's just a plus that as a woman, I can take a walk on the road alone at 3 am without thinking twice. In a world where safety is a luxury for women, I think a city offering me that wins big time!

Elite Predators@elitepredators

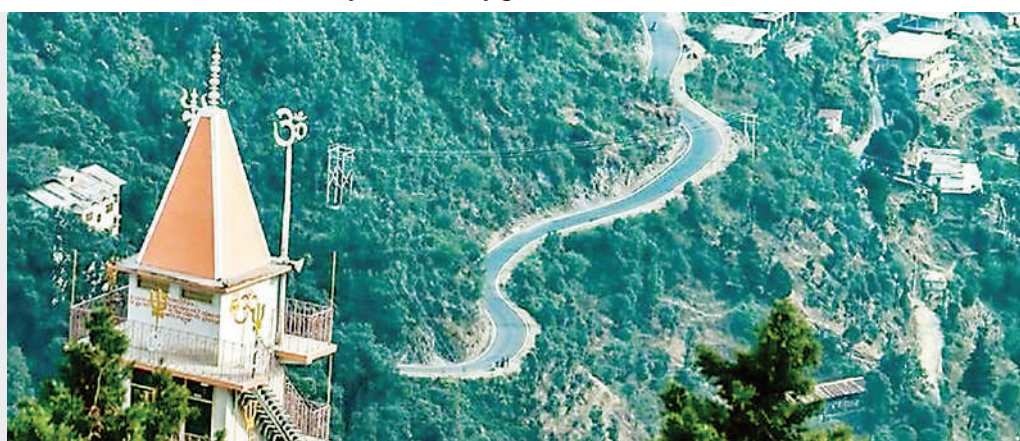
A different game is going on between Ukraine and Russia, a multi axis conflict seems a spark away. NATO aircrafts hauling to smell the danger but Russian EW isn't even started yet, very interesting development and a situation which has very important lessons.

**Hana Mohsin @girlplot_**

Never in my whole adult life did I hear the filth that I have heard in the past 7-8 months. And I studied in Delhi university so that's saying something. My vocabulary really didn't need an upgrade. Just so sick of the rot in this society.

Commander Vikram@w_karve

#JustSaying If patriotism was the main reason for people joining the military - then - most politicians would have joined the armed forces instead of politics. Presumption In democracy - politicians are the most patriotic citizens #humor #politics #military #patriotism #job.

**Vertigo_Warrior@VertigoWarrior**
Every corner of my great Bharat is divine..!**Kenter J@kenterjoya**

My two cents: How is the Covid night curfew in Itanagar even helping? It's not like Itanagar has a happening nightlife it can boast of. Better focus on violations like not wearing masks, gatherings etc instead of restricting movement in general.

Sonal Gogate@Sonal_Gogate

I bunked my Yoga class today because I decided to sleep in. Just now I found out that the class didn't take place today! So as it happens I didn't bunk it after all! And I was the only one who slept in. Really happy that I got to sleep in and didn't miss yoga! Grinning face #yoga #sleep.

'Don't go ahead with amendment to IAS (Cadre) Rules'

Kolkata, Jan 20 (PTD):

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday wrote yet another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to withdraw the proposal to amend IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, as it would "create a fear psychosis among officers and impact their performance". In the letter to the PM on the issue, her second in a week, Banerjee said the amendment will "destroy" the federal polity and basic structure of the Constitution.

She warned him of "greater movements" in case the Centre does not reconsider its decision. "I humbly urge you to kindly reconsider this move by the central government and not to go ahead with the proposed amendments



and request you not to push us to the points of greater movements on this issue to protect the soul of this great democracy that India is and has been (sic)," the CM wrote. Banerjee also said that the proposed changes, if implemented, will "irreparably damage the spirit of mutual accommodation between the Centre and the state". The Union government has proposed an amendment to IAS (Cadre) rules, which would enable it to post IAS

officers on central deputation, bypassing reservations of state governments. On January 13, too, the CM had written to Modi, requesting him not to go ahead with the amendment.

"I'm constrained to invite your kind attention to the issue of IAS Cadre management yet again, twice in a week's time. I had written to you on this, conveying my reservations... but I had to write again, further reiterating

my points, because the central government has, meanwhile, further accentuated its stand, proposing yet another revised draft, taking the matter to further non-federal extremes," she wrote in her letter to Modi on Thursday.

The CM pointed out that the proposal's "very grain is against the foundations of our great federal polity and the basic structure of India's Constitutional scheme". "It will create fear psychosis and impact their performance, effectiveness and accountability to the state government. This will destroy the fundamental principle of the Services which postulates that an officer serving in connection with the affairs of the state is accountable to the state government alone," Banerjee emphasised.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Men ride a modified bicycle to raise awareness about organ donation, in Moradabad, Thursday.

SC to hear plea of journalist Tejpal for in-camera hearing

Of appeal in sexual assault case

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTD):

The Supreme Court would hear on Friday the appeal of journalist Tarun Tejpal against the Bombay High Court's order rejecting his plea for an in-camera hearing of the proceedings challenging his acquittal in a 2013 rape case.

A bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai has listed for hearing the plea of Tejpal whose application for conducting an in-camera hearing of the proceedings under section 327 of the CrPC was rejected by the Goa bench

of the Bombay High Court on November 24, last year. The acquittal of the former editor-in-chief of Tehelka magazine, who was accused of sexually assaulting his then-woman colleague in the lift of a five-star hotel in Goa in November 2013, by a sessions court in May 2021 was challenged in the Goa bench of the high court by the state government.

Senior advocate Amit Desai, who had appeared for Tejpal, had referred to the Law Commission and various judgements of high courts supporting his application for an

in-camera hearing. The high court, however, had rejected the submissions. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Goa government, had argued that the judgement (of acquittal of Tejpal) by the district court is in the public domain.

Section 327 applies for the purpose of inquiring into or trying any offence. It has limited application during inquiry or trial. The appeal is something very clear. Appeals, revisions, etc are neither investigation nor inquiry nor a trial, he had said.

Uproar over auction of farmers' lands in Rajasthan

Gehlot asks officials to stop it

Jaipur, Jan 20 (PTD):

BKU leader Rakesh Tikait on Thursday met in Rajasthan's Dausa farmers whose lands have been auctioned by commercial banks over the non-payment of loans, while peasants led by BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena protested against the action outside the chief minister's residence. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot asked officials to stop the auction of agricultural land of farmers.

Land attachment and auction is being undertaken by banks that are controlled by the Reserve Bank of India, he said,

urging the Centre to waive farmers' loans. Notably, many instances of land auction notices being issued to farmers who have been unable to pay back their loans have come to the fore recently.

Tikait, who is the spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, met farmers in Ramgarh Pachwara in Dausa district whose lands were auctioned by banks after they failed to repay their loans.

Talking to reporters, Tikait said, "Why was the auction done? An investigation should be carried out against bank officials and a case registered. You cannot auction a farmer's entire land for a small loan. It was an illegal auction. The land mafia have

their eyes on prime land." He claimed several farmers have received land auction notices. "We will meet bank officials on the issue and decide the future course of action," the BKU leader said.

Separately, a group of farmers from Dausa led by BJP MP Dr Kirodi Lal Meena managed to reach the high-security zone near Gehlot's residence here, demanding action against bank officials and cancellation of the land auction process. However, the protesters were dispersed and Meena was taken away in a bus by police officials.

"Approximately 15 lakh farmers in the state have taken loans worth Rs 10,000 crore from cooperative banks and they are

not being waived. The farmers who have come here have less than 5.5 acres of land and have received land auction notices," Meena told reporters from inside the bus. Recently, a farmer committed suicide in Ramgarh Pachwara and the police have not registered a case in the matter, he alleged.

A protesting farmer said, "My father had taken a loan from the Rajasthan Grameen Bank. Bank officials harassed my father, who committed suicide two months ago. Still, the bank auctioned 15 high lands for Rs 45 lakh a couple of days ago. We had taken a loan of Rs 3.5 lakh." Meena was later taken to the Secretariat here, where he met offi-

cial from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), according to a statement.

He handed over a memorandum to the CMO officials seeking a complete waiver of farm loans, the statement issued by Meena's office said. State BJP president Satish Poonia hit out at Gehlot, saying he is busy writing letters while farmers are being forced to commit suicides.

"Due to the promise made by Rahul Gandhi ji in 2018, lands of farmers of Rajasthan are being auctioned. Farmers are being forced to commit suicide. CM Gehlot is busy writing letters," he said. If the government has any honesty left, then it should waive loans of all farmers, he added.

KEEPING AWAY COLD



People warm themselves around a small fire on a cold winter morning, in Agartala.

Book on story behind creation of India's private forest sanctuary

To release on Jan 24

New Delhi, Jan 20 (PTD):

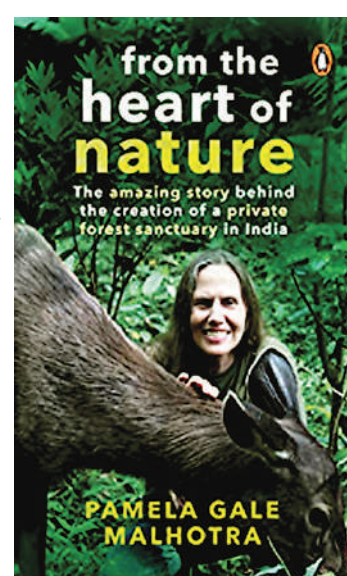
A new book, "From the Heart of Nature", tells an inspiring story of a couple transforming over 300 acres of barren land into India's only private wildlife sanctuary.

The book, written by Pamela Gale Malhotra, is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and will hit the stands on January 24.

Coming from two rich wisdom cultures, one Native American and one Indian, Pamela and her late husband Anil Malhotra made it their mission to salvage what they could in Kodagu, Karnataka, where years of coffee-growing had ravaged and denuded the land.

Today, in its near-original form, the SAI (Save Animals Initiative) sanctuary boasts a rich variety of indigenous trees and plants as well as numerous rare and threatened species of animals, some found nowhere else on the planet.

"It (the book) is the story of my sanctuary, of our sanctuary, and of the struggles my husband, Anil, and I have had to endure, the obstacles we had to overcome to turn my dream into the living sanctuary of life that it is today; a story of the sorrows and joys, the wonders and awe-inspiring experiences I have been privileged to have living here in the heart of Nature." The sanctuary itself is dedicated to



Union Ministry for Women and Child Development presented Pamela the Nari Shakti Puraskar for 'Outstanding Contribution to Women's Empowerment' at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

According to the publishers, in this deeply fascinating and inspiring personal narrative, Pamela recounts how she connected and communicated with animals and trees at both physical and spiritual levels, and "how the only way to save humanity is through understanding and preserving nature".

"Pamela's goal is to inspire others to join the mission of protecting Mother Nature and rewilding the Earth for the benefit of the present and future generations," they said in a statement. The book, priced at Rs 364, is presently available for pre-order online.

CHECKING COVID-19

Telangana govt to undertake door-to-door survey for fever

Hyderabad, Jan 20 (PTD):

The Telangana government would undertake a door-to-door fever survey in the State from Friday as part of measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

The survey would help in controlling the spread by identifying those suffering from fever and others, State Health Minister T Harish Rao told reporters here on Thursday.

Some people are asymptomatic despite testing positive for the infection, while some others are not getting themselves tested

in spite of having symptoms like fever, he said. The survey would help address such issues. He said a home-isolation kit, comprising medicines and others, would be provided to those with symptoms.

Observing that a similar survey and the provision of the same kits helped save many lives during the second wave of COVID-19, he said this has received appreciation from the NITI Ayog.

The State government is geared up to deal with the third wave as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had

ordered procuring two crore testing kits and one crore home-isolation kits, he said.

The Minister said 27,000 hospital beds have been provided with oxygen supply. Oxygen generation plants have been established in 76 hospitals and the generation capacity has increased to 340 MTs from about 130 MTs during the second wave.

The capacity would be enhanced to 500 MTs, he said. While 56,000 COVID beds are available in the State, the bed occupancy rate is below one per cent at present.