

BRIEF

Channels blocked

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has ordered the blocking of 35 YouTube channels and two websites which were running anti-India propaganda and spreading fake news "in a coordinated manner". These websites and YouTube channels were being operated from Pakistan, I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra told a press conference on Friday.

Maoist surrenders

Hyderabad: A Maoist couple surrendered before the police in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district of Telangana on Friday, police said. Vemula Nanga alias Tree (30) joined the outlawed CPI (Maoist) in 2013 and was presently working as a supply team section commander, a police release said. Podium Adami alias Manjula (28) joined the organisation in 2014 and was now working in doctors supplying team, said the release.

Illegal firearms

Shahjahanpur (UP): Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Friday arrested two gun manufacturers and recovered a large quantity of finished and semi-finished illegal firearms. Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar said that on a tip-off, a raid was carried out at a brick kiln lying closed in the Tehbarganj area and arrested two persons. Five country-made pistols, a large number of machines and semi-finished illegal firearms besides raw material were also recovered, he said.

Liquor ban

Bhopal: Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti on Friday sought total prohibition in the party-ruled Madhya Pradesh, a demand endorsed by her colleague and Lok Sabha MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur who, however, added that "liquor works as a medicine under ayurved if consumed in a limited quantity". Former chief minister Bharti, in a series of tweets in Hindi, said in the first phase of her move for total prohibition, she had discussions with senior RSS workers, Madhya Pradesh BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Booster doses

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Union Government, Maharashtra Government and the Mumbai civic body to file reply to a petition seeking a policy for administering booster doses of anti-coronavirus vaccines. Advocate Aditya Thakkar, appearing for the Centre, told a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Anil Kilor that guidelines have been framed for administering 'precaution doses' to senior citizens and front-line workers.

Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with eternal flame at National War Memorial

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM) here on Friday.

The Amar Jawan Jyoti will be put out and people can now pay their respects at the eternal flame at the NWM, military officials said.

After India defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was constructed as a memorial for Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. It was inaugurated by the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, on January 26, 1972.

In a short ceremony on Friday afternoon, a part of the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame was taken and merged with the flame at the NWM 400 metres away. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal



Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, merges Amar Jawan Jyoti flame with flame at National War Memorial, in New Delhi, Friday.

B R Krishna presided over the ceremony, the military officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on February 25, 2019, inaugurated the NWM, where names of 25,942 soldiers have been inscribed in golden letters on granite tablets. Ex-servicemen ex-

pressed mixed reactions on the Centre's decision to merge the flames.

Former Army Chief General Ved Malik supported the government's decision, stating that it is "a natural thing" to merge flames now as the NWM has been established and all ceremonials related to

remembrance and honouring soldiers killed in action are being held there.

Former Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur, however, tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter and requested him to rescind the decision.

Netaji's grand statue to be installed at India Gate: PM

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

Ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday that a grand statue of the iconic freedom fighter will be installed at India Gate as a symbol of India's "indebtedness" to him.

Till the statue, made of granite, is completed, a hologram statue of his would be present at the same place, he said, adding that he will unveil the hologram statue on January 23, the birth anniversary of the Azad Hind Fauj founder. "At a time when the en-



An artist prepares a sculpture of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ahead of his 125th birth anniversary, in Kolkata, Friday.

tire nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue,

made of granite, will be installed at India Gate. This would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him," Modi tweeted.

Most people feel I-T exemption limit could be raised from Rs 2.5 lakh: Survey

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

A majority of respondents (64 per cent) feel that the Union Budget 2022-23, to be unveiled on February 1, will increase the basic income tax exemption limit from the current Rs 2.5 lakh, according to a pre-budget survey by KPMG in India.

As many as 36 per cent of the survey respondents felt that the 80-C deduction limit of Rs 1.5 lakh will be increased, while 19 per cent felt that the standard deduction could be increased for salaried class from the current Rs 50,000. Sixteen per cent of

the respondents felt the Budget could provide for tax-free allowances/perquisites for salaried individuals keeping in mind the work from the home arrangement provision of internet connection, furniture and earphones.

KPMG in India's pre-budget survey was conducted in January 2022. About 200 finance professionals participated in the survey.

As many as 64 per cent of the respondents said they expect the basic I-T exemption limit to be raised from Rs 2.5 lakh a year.

Goa: Utpal Parrikar to contest election from Panaji as independent

Panaji, Jan 21 (PTI):

Utpal Parrikar, the son of former Goa chief minister late Manohar Parrikar, on Friday quit the BJP.

He would contest the coming Assembly elections in the state from Panaji as an independent candidate, he announced. The ruling party has fielded incumbent MLA Atanasio Monserrate from the Panaji seat which Manohar Parrikar had represented for a long time.

I was left with no other choice. I have resigned from the party and I would be contesting as an independent from Panaji," Utpal Parrikar told reporters.

He also said that resignation was a formality but the

Active COVID-19 cases highest in 235 days

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

India added 3,47,254 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,85,66,027 which includes 9,692 cases of the Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The active cases have increased to 20,18,825, the highest in 235 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,88,396 with 703 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

There has been a 4.36 per cent increase in Omicron cases since Thursday, the ministry said. The active cases comprise 5.23 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has de-



A healthcare worker collects a swab sample of a man for COVID-19 test, amid a surge in the coronavirus cases, at KN Katju hospital in Bhopal, Friday.

creased to 93.50 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 94,774 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 17.94 per cent while the

'Isolation' not mandatory for foreign arrivals testing COVID positive

New Delhi: Travellers arriving in India from any country who will test positive for COVID-19 shall be treated/isolated as per the laid down standard protocol and will not mandatorily be managed at an isolation facility, authorities have said. According to the revised Guidelines for International Arrivals' released on Thursday, the new norm will apply from January 22 till further order. The rest of the provisions have remained the same in the revised guidelines. The existing guidelines state that travellers coming from any country including from those considered at-risk' shall be managed at isolation facility and treated as per laid down standard protocol.

weekly positivity rate was recorded at 16.56 per cent, according to the health ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,60,58,806, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.27 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in

the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 160.43 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

Mortal remains of Indians killed in drone attack in Abu Dhabi reach Punjab

Amritsar, Jan 20 (PTI):

The mortal remains of the two Indians who were killed in a drone attack in Abu Dhabi reached Punjab on Friday.

On January 17, Hardev Singh (35) and Hardeep Singh (28), and a Pakistani national, all staff of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company were killed and six others injured in suspected drone attacks near the UAE capital's airport. The attacks were claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The body of Hardev Singh is being taken to Bagha Purana village in

Punjab's Moga district, while that of Hardeep Singh has reached his native village, Mahisampur, which is nearly 35 km away from here, officials said.

An inconsolable Kanupriya Kaur received her husband Hardeep Singh's body.

Kaur, who arrived in India on Thursday from Canada, was married nine months ago, said a relative of the family Rajbir Singh, who brought the body to the village from the Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport here.

BJP names 85 more UP candidates

Aditi Singh from Rae Bareli, ex-IPS officer Arun from Kannauj

New Delhi: The BJP on Friday fielded Aditi Singh, who left the Congress to join it, and Asim Arun, who recently quit the IPS, in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls as it released a list of 85 more candidates. The list also includes incumbent MLA Hariom Yadav, a distant relative of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Hariom Yadav quit the opposition party recently. The BJP has named both Singh and Yadav from their current seats of Rae Bareli and Sirsaganj respectively, while Arun, a Dalit, will contest from Kannauj, a reserved seat.

BJP will "always remain in my heart. It is a difficult choice for me, I am doing it for the people of Goa. No one should be worried about my political future, people of Goa will do it, he said. The BJP had offered

him "other options" (constituencies other than Panaji), Parrikar said.

I am fighting for the values which I believe in. Let people of Panaji decide. I cannot negotiate with my party, he added.

Six members can be registered using one mobile number on Co-WIN: Govt

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Union health ministry on Friday said that against the earlier limit of four, now six members can be registered for Covid vaccination on Co-WIN using one mobile number.

It also said that a new utility feature has been introduced under the Raise an Issue section of Co-WIN and through this, a beneficiary can revoke the current vaccination status from fully vaccinated to partially vaccinated or unvaccinated status and also partially vaccinated to unvaccinated status. "The vaccination status can be corrected by the bene-

ficiaries, where in occasional isolated cases, the vaccination certificates are generated due to inadvertent data entry errors by the vaccinator in updation of vaccination data of beneficiaries," the ministry said. It said that after submitting the online request through Raise an Issue, the change may take three to seven days to appear.

On change of vaccination status, the ministry said such beneficiaries can get their due vaccine dose, may be at the nearest vaccination centre, according to existent standard guidelines, once a new vaccination status is successfully updated in the system.

Padma Shri awardee sent to jail in minor girl sexual abuse case

North Lakhimpur, Jan 21 (PTI):

A court in Assam's Lakhimpur district on Friday remanded renowned innovator and Padma Shri awardee Uddhab Kumar Bharali to judicial custody in connection with a case of alleged sexual abuse of a minor girl he was fostering.

A day after his interim anticipatory bail was cancelled by the Gauhati High Court, Bharali surrendered before District Special Judge Rasmita Das at North Lakhimpur town.

The court sent Bharali to 14 days' judicial custody, following which he was taken to the district jail, North Lakhimpur.

IAS rules row: Govt says states not sending sufficient officers for central deputation

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

States are not sparing sufficient number of IAS officers for deputation which is affecting the functioning of the central government, the Centre said on Friday, defending its proposed changes in the service rules which gives it power to overrule states on such matters.

Sources in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said a trend of decreasing representation of IAS officers, up to the Joint Secretary-level at the Centre, has been noticed as most of the states are

not meeting their Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) obligations and the number of officers, sponsored by them to serve at the Centre are much lesser. The DoPT has recently proposed changes in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, that will take away the power of states to override New Delhi's request for seeking officers on central deputation.

The move has evoked sharp criticism from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to roll back the proposal claim-

ing it will affect the states' administration.

According to DoPT sources, the number of IAS officers on CDR has gone down from 309 in 2011 to 223 as on date. The percentage of CDR utilisation has gone down from 25 per cent in 2011 to 18 per cent as on date, they said.

In spite of increase of IAS officers at deputy secretary/director level in IAS from 621 in 2014 to 1,130 in 2021, the number of such officers on central deputation has gone down from 117 to 114 during the period, sources said. Hence, the number

of officers available under the central deputation is not sufficient to meet the requirement of the Centre, they said.

The non-availability of sufficient number of officers at the Centre is affecting the functioning of the central government since the Centre needs the services of these officers to obtain fresh inputs in policy formulation and programme implementation, sources said.

The Centre also needs them to utilise their vast field experience by way of providing vital inputs for policy planning and formulation.

Weather
High 27 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,757.00
SENSEX 59,464.62

BULLION
GOLD 48,510
SILVER 65,510

Combination of hard-work and smart-work ensures success

Additional Collector gives success tips to the students



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: Free coaching for PSC, Bank, Railway and other competitive examinations is being conducted by the district administration. The programme is being funded from District Mineral Trust and the coaching classes are being organized at JRD School, Durg.

On Friday, Additional

Collector Nupur Rashi Panna inspected the coaching centre and gave success tips to the students. She enquired about the coaching centre and about their day to day activities of the students. Addressing the students, she said that the combination of hard-work and smart-work ensures success.

She further said that it is certain that you have

achieved 50% success if you are studying with enthusiasm. She suggested the students not waste their time on social media, mobile internet etc.

Students can make best use of this time. For the preparation of current affairs, she asked the participants to read at least one newspaper daily and remember the important things. She further suggested them to prepare

daily notes and revise at the end of the week.

This will help in preparation of current affairs. She added that smart-work means focus on strategy, studies according to the syllabus and basic understanding of the subject.

She further said that sometimes students waste their time by paying more attention to non-essential study material or less important study material which makes it difficult to achieve success.

Along with this, she said that due to the advent of the Internet in the present era, a lot of material is available there. She cautioned the students that with the presence of other features on the internet, there is a possibility of losing concentration. So try to take the help of textbooks as much as possible, she concluded.

Multifarious events organised on NCC Day



At Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu University, Durg

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: Multifarious events were organised by 1-Chhattisgarh Cavalry Regiment NCC on the occasion of Vijay and NCC Day at College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry, Anjora which comes under Dau Shri

Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu University.

A prize distribution ceremony was organised during which cheques, certificates and prizes were distributed among the winners of the competitions. Commanding Officer Col Harendra Tiwari, Dr Kiran Kumari and other NCC officials were present. Prizes were distributed among 22 winners out of the 10 participants in quiz, essay writing and poetry competition.

The winners were feted

with cheques, certificates and medals. Seven NCC cadets of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry College, Anjora won the prizes. Bhumika Kaushik won the second prize in poetry writing while Priyanka Singh was awarded third prize in essay competition.

In the quiz competition organized on the occasion of Vijay Diwas on December 16, second and third year NCC cadets Apoorva Pandey and Bhavesh Sanghani got second prize and Mandeep Kumar Gupta got third prize. Such events enhance the talent and leadership ability of the students and they are motivated to do good work in the society, said Vice Chancellor Dr NP Dakshinakar.

The physical and mental abilities of the cadets are developed by participating in the competitions. Congratulating the winners, Dr SK Tiwari, the Dean, encouraged them to do good works in future as well.

NSPCL provides Rs One Crore for strengthening health infrastructure



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: The NSPCL management has handed over a cheque of Rs One Crore to Collector Dr Sarveshwar Narendra Bhure to strengthen the health infrastructure in the district. This amount has been given from the CSR funds to strengthen the health infrastructure. This amount will be utilised for Covid-19 infra-

structure and some portion will be spent for the new Community Health Center in Dhamdha. On the occasion, the Collector said that through its CSR funds, NSPCL has helped in strengthening the health infrastructure.

It is worth mentioning that earlier upgradation work has also been done in the district hospital with the amount received from CSR and DMF. This up-

grade helped a lot in improving the arrangements at the hospital. Collector praised the NSPCL management and said that it is our priority to improve the health infrastructure.

The contribution of the NSPCL management is commendable. Additional Collector Nupur Rashi Panna was also present on the occasion. She also appreciated the NSPCL for this contribution.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: On Friday, the activists of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha staged demonstration and burnt the effigy of state's Chief Minister at Palsaypara in Durg. They condemned the Chief Minister for comparing the Bharatiya Janata Party with Pakistan.

It needs to be mentioned here that reacting to the raids conducted by Central Agencies on several leaders of Opposition, CM Bhupesh Baghel had compared Bharatiya Janata Party with Pakistan cricket team while interacting with media persons at Lucknow Baghel had said, "Like it is said about Pakistan that not 11 but 13 plays including umpires, likewise, BJP fights polls with central agencies".

CM compares BJP with Pakistan Cricket Team; BJYM stages demo



Criticising the Chief Minister for such comments against BJP, the activists of BJYM staged demonstration. Police team reached the spot and tried to prevent the effigy burning. However the demonstrators dodged the cops and managed to set the effigy on fire.

Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha District President Nitesh Sahu, BJP Office Secretary Neeraj Pandey, District IT Cell Convenor Raja Mahobiya, BJYM District General Secretary Gaurav Sharma, BJYM District Secretary Manish Sahu, Former Councilor Narendra Chandel, Media Incharge Chandrakant Sahu, Rahul Bhatt,



Himanshu Singh, Bunty Deshmukh, Rahul Patil, Piyush Malviya, Omprakash Pandey, Abhishek Sahu, Golu Thakur, Yash Devangan, Rakesh Devangan, Dheeraj Devangan, Shubham Kom, Mohit Tamarkar, Monty Ghanshyam Kandara, Harsh Tembhekar, Ritik Sharma and others were present.

Nitesh Sahu said that as the Uttar Pradesh elections are getting closer, the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, who is the senior observer of AICC, is getting annoyed after exploring the party's condition in UP. They demanded that the CM must apologize for making such a statement.

Mayor Neeraj Pal expressed displeasure over slow progress of development works

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: Mayor Neeraj Pal is constantly taking meetings of officers for the development of all the 70 wards. In the last two days, he has taken meeting of officers of zone number 3, 4 and 5. On Friday he took a meeting of the officers of Nehru Nagar Zone 01. He expressed displeasure with the Executive Engineer of Nehru Nagar for the stalled work of Supela Sheelta pond since long.

The Mayor said that Supela Sheelta Talab is one of the main ponds of the city. The funds have also been approved for its renovation, yet the delay. He asked the officials why no initiative is being taken to get this work completed. The people are being deprived of the benefits due to the delay.

Such negligence in development work will not be tolerated. He directed to start the work at the earliest and complete it. He also expressed ire about the slow pace of tarring work of roads in HUDCO which is to be completed at a cost of Rs 17 lakhs and asked to complete the work soon.

Here it is noteworthy that beautification and development work of Supela Sheelta pond is to be done at a cost of about Rs 88 lakhs. But the development work in the pond has been stalled for a long time. The agency has stopped the work after doing some work. The officials of Nehru Nagar zone could not give a clear information about the work of the pond.

Irrked with it the Mayor adjourned the meeting and asked



the officials to come prepared in the next meeting.

Superintending Engineer UK Dhalendra, Zone Commissioner Manish Gaikwad, Executive Engineer Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Engineer Alok Pashine, Deputy Engineer Gaurav Agarwal and Shweta Verma and other officers and others were present.

At the meeting, the Mayor

gave instructions to complete these works on time. The Mayor has sought information about the progress of development works under Nehru Nagar area from the year 2016-17 till now. The list of agencies which are not working even after taking the work will also be prepared. Among other things discussed at the meeting was the beginning of the construction of

community building at Pili Mitti Square in ward number 5, construction of lawn tennis and volleyball court behind Agrawal Bhawan in Priyadarshini complex to be completed should be completed in the first week of February, pending works due to lack of clearance from BSP.

The Mayor asked to provide list of beautification of gardens under Nehru Nagar zone, start the work of HUDCO Kalibari Dome shed, quality work in installation of paver block, completion of beautification work in Sahastrabahu Udyan by the end of February, and retender for the Dome shed work in Karma Bhawan. The Mayor has given instructions to start the construction work near ward number 5 Laxmi Nagar Rajiv Chowk within 2 days.

DMC recovers fine of Rs 1100 from shopkeepers against use of banned polythene

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: On the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, on Friday the market department staff took action of confiscating banned polythene from 13 shopkeepers in Patel Chowk and Fish Market Indira Market and recovered a fine of Rs 1100 from those having kept banned polythene.

Here it needs a mention that the Corporation is no longer tolerant in the use of polythene carry bags which continue to be sold even after ban on polythene of the thickness less than 75 microns, raids were started against polythene. Nodal Officer and



Licensing Officer Javed Ali, In-charge Market Officer Thansing Yadav, Ishwar Verma, Bhuvandas Sahu and the team conducted raids in Patel Chowk, Indira Market fish market shopkeepers. The polythene was confiscated. Along with this, a fine of Rs 50-100 was also collected from 13 shopkeepers for

selling polythene of thickness less than 75 microns. Banned polythene was found in these shops which collected a total of Rs 1100. Nearby vegetable shopkeepers in the market area were explained on the need to stop the use of polythene carry bag and were warned not to use polythene.

Mobile Medical Team conducts first ever camp in township

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: The credibility of the Mobile Medical Units being operated under the Mukhyamantri Slum Health Scheme was felt in the Bhilai Township on Friday. For providing the benefits of government schemes to the people, Corporator Vashisht Narayan Mishra initiated to organise a free medical check-up camp near Sector 1 Cricket Stadium. This camp was conducted by the Mobile Medical Unit of Chief Minister's Slum Health Scheme, BSP personnel and retired personnel took full advantage of this camp. Ward Corporator Vashisht



Narayan Mishra said that during the Corona period and elections, the entitled people are unable to get proper medical treatment in the Sector 9 Hospital of BSP. He added that there is no referral facility for the retired BSP personnel. It was felt that the working and retired personnel could never take advantage of the

health scheme of the state government. The need of mobile medical unit was felt in the township also.

A large number of people reached the medical camp site for getting medical examination and consultation. After getting examined in OPD, they also got medicines. People got relief during the camp as

they did not have to wait in long queues. They got free medicine, free treatment and free check-up. 40 types of medical tests were done free of cost in the camp. Considering the increasing number of patients at the camp, arrangements of two mobile medical unit vehicles was made.

It needs to be mentioned here that the Mobile Medical Units of Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana are used for providing medical facilities in the slums. For the first time, these units reached the township. The camp got an enormous response as a large number of people reached there for medical examination, consultation and medicines.

Police busts inter-district gang of goat thieves

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 21: Police have busted a gang of thieves which was operating in Durg and Kawardha and had stolen sheep / goat from various places. Police have recovered the stolen goats and seized the SUV which was used in the crime. The accused used to move in a SUV, conduct recce and commit thefts.

Inspector Shruti Singh (SHO, Anda Police Station) informed that on the intervening night of January 18, some unidentified thieves had stolen 13 nos of sheep and 01 goat from village Nikum. A case was lodged under section 457,380 of IPC and taken up for investigation. Taking the matter seriously, Senior Superintendent of Police Badri Narayan Meena directed the Additional Superintendent of Police (Durg



Rural) Anant Sahu and Police Sub-Divisional Officer (Patan) Devansh Singh Rathore to inspect the crime scene and supervise the investigations. The investigation team collected information from the villagers and examined the CCTV footages. The network of informers was also activated and after collecting strong clues, three suspects were taken in custody. During interrogation, they confessed to have committed the crime. The accused are identified

as Arun Kumar alias Chhotu Dhritalhare (28) son of Asha Ram Dhritalhare a resident of slums near Bhilai Nagar Railway Station; Bhagwan Das Joshi aka Khargosh (25) son of Sadhran Joshi a resident of slums near Bhilai Nagar Railway Station and Mohammad Ishaq (28) son of Mohammad Sheikh Mustaq a resident of Vishwa Bank Colony, Bhilai 3.

A total of 14 sheep / goats were recovered from the possession of the accused. A Mahindra Scorpio SUV bearing registration number CG07 BD 9580, used in the crimes, was also seized from them. They confessed to have stolen 10 goats from Pipariya of Kawardha district, 12 nos goats from Bhasnikala; 10 nos goats from Amapendri and several other areas.

Inspector Shruti Singh, Assistant Sub-Inspector Dinesh Verma, Assistant Sub Inspector Sundaral Netam, Head Constable Kamlesh Sahu, Constable Ashwani Yadu, G Samuel, Tejeshwar Sahu, Yashwant Thakur, Harishchand Sinha and civil team officers Chandrashekhar Soni and Akash Tiwari played vital role in arresting the accused.

Collector instructs for 100% vaccination of children in schools at earliest

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: District Collector Sourabh Kumar has told district level nodal officers of COVID control and prevention to ensure 100% vaccination of school children in the age group of 15-18 years in all the schools of the district at the earliest. Chairing a meeting of district level nodal officers through video conferencing here today he also instructed to increase the number of COVID testing. He told to provide test reports to the people soon after the test. Those who have got the first vaccine of corona, should compulsorily get the second dose on time, he said in his ap-



peal to the people.

Reviewing the number of corona infected patients in the district, he directed the nodal officers to do the tracing work expeditiously. Patients willing to stay in home isolation can register themselves at home-

isolation.cgcovid19.in.

Home-access medicines will also be provided to corona infected patients living in home isolation. He instructed to take regular action against those who come out of the house without masks. Noting

that many corona infected people are not following the process of home isolation he instructed to take legal action against such people. Important issues including home isolation, creation of micro-containment zones, contract tracing, arrangement of oxygen in hospitals, corona examination of people coming from outside, availability of beds and medicines in government hospitals were discussed in detail. Chief Executive Officer of District Panchayat Mayank Chaturvedi, Additional Collectors Gopal Varma and BC Sahu and all the concerned officers and nodal officers were present.

RSU to hold examinations online in view of COVID-19

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: In view of the increasing cases of COVID-19 infection, Pt Ravi Shankar University has decided to conduct examinations online this time also. Notably this time there will be no minimum attendance requirement to appear in the exams.

A meeting of the Standing Committee was held on Friday under the chairmanship of Dr Girishkant Pandey, Registrar, Pt Ravi Shankar University, regarding the conduct of semester examinations.

Considering quality of education and competitiveness, the methodology for conducting, evaluation and result of semester examinations December 2021-January 2022 was discussed at the meeting.

Question paper will be sent to the students through online (e-mail) etc. on the scheduled examination day. Candidates will send the answers to the questions by writing them at home. The time limit for writing the answer and the last date for sending the answer will be decided by the uni-

versity. Calculation of question paper wise marks will be done by giving 50 percent weightage of the average of the total marks obtained in the previous year and 50 percent weightage of the marks obtained in the current exam (Exam from Home). Marks will be calculated on the basis of the question paper-wise score of the examination (Exam from Home) for the candidates of the first semester of the undergraduate/postgraduate/diploma/certificate semester examination.

Bike borne miscreants attempt robbery

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: Three unidentified bike borne miscreants attempted to rob a pedestrian at VIP Road near Rose Plant Valley.

According to police, complainant Jawahar Sharma was walking to his house through VIP Road when three unidentified miscreants riding a single bike came from behind and suddenly stopped him by blocking his way. Straightly those three surrounded the complainant and asked to give him all the cash and valuables he was carrying. With complainant refusing to part with anything, one of those drew out a knife attacked the complainant on his hand and thereafter they

REMOVAL OF HOARDINGS



The hoardings near public places illegally places are being removed by RMC authorities here on Friday.

Two arrested under Excise Act

Raipur: Two persons were arrested under Excise Act from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, identified as Tarun Nishad, was arrested by Nawapara police from village Parsada after he was nabbed carrying 18 bottles of country liquor. The other one, identified as Lalit Kumar Verma, was arrested by Vidhan Sabha police after he was nabbed carrying 20 bottles of country liquor near Kachna BSUP Colony. Both the accused were later booked respectively under Section 34-1 of Excise Act.

Bike lifted

Raipur: Unidentified lifter escaped with Honda Activa bike CG04-KQ-4106, where it was parked by owner Vimal Mishra near HP Petrol Pump in Raipura. The lifting was later complained in DD Nagar police station where an offence has since been registered under Section 379 IPC against unidentified lifter and further investigation is now underway.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti on 23rd

Raipur, Jan 21: Rich tributes will be paid to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his birth anniversary on January 23, 2022 morning at Jai Stambh Chowk. The Culture Department of Raipur Municipal Corporation will organize tribute programme at Railway Station Chowk at 10:30 am and also at the venue of Statue of Netaji in Telibahdha Chowk.

RMC Culture Department in-charge officer and in-charge superintendent engineer Hemant Sharma said that tribute programmes would be held at all such places with compliance of COVID-19 protocol.

Two IAS and IPS officer given additional charge

Raipur, Jan 21: The state government has issued fresh posting order to two IAS officers. In this IAS Dr Alok Shukla has been given additional charge of Gramodyog and Science & Technology Deptt and Maninder Kaur Gandhi has been given charge of Public Health and Family Welfare and Medical Department. Order in this regard has been issued by GAD from the state secretariat.

IPS officer given additional charge
IPS officer of 1992 batch Arun Dev Gautam has been given additional charge that of Director

Public Prosecution. The state government under rule-12 of IPS Wages 2016, has declared the non-cadre post that of Director Public Prosecution as equivalent to that of Addl. Director General of Police (ADGP) in terms of prestige and responsibility that of IPS. It is notable here that IPS Arun Dev Gautam is at present working as Secretary Home and Jail Department (on state deputation) and as Addl DG Home Guards and Citizens Safety and along with this he would be having additional charge of Director PP on temporary basis till further orders.

CGMSC chairman, 2 Directors took charge



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: The newly appointed President of Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation, Dr. Pritam Ram, Director Dr. KK Dhruv and Dr. Vinay Jaiswal, MLA took charge here. Newly appointed Speaker Dr. Pritam Ram is MLA from Lundra assembly constituency of Surguja district, while Director Dr. Vinay Jaiswal is MLA from Manendragarh and Dr. KK Dhruv from Marwahi assembly constituency. The newly appointed

chairman and directors thanked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. The President Dr. Pritam Ram and the Director duo have directed the Health Minister T.S. Singhdeo and Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey. The Chairman and Director duo visited the CGMSC office in Nava Raipur, where the officers and employees welcomed them by presenting them with a bunch of flowers. On this occasion, the officials of CGMSC gave them detailed information about the working of the corporation.

Indo-Western fusion band 'Swaraag' musical performance gets response

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: A very popular Indo-Western fusion band "Swaraag" performed in Raipur on January 21. This is their 3rd show in Raipur post lockdown. The band will be performing more and more shows in Raipur in the future. The show got good response from audience in Raipur "Swaraag" who are also the runners up in the singing reality show Rising Star 3 are shooting their own 4 songs directed by the famous Rajasthani filmmaker Sunny Mandavarra in Udaipur the songs will be released soon.

About the new songs shoot in Udaipur the band says - Music can be a constructive way to express who you are and



what you are feeling, especially when it comes to launching songs of different genre and style, as this time we will be releasing 4 songs. So audience will get to know dif-

ferent avatars of Swaraag. "Swaraag" made a very good use of the first 21 days lockdown period by making and releasing the song "Ja Ja Re

CoronaVirus" which was an instant hit with the netizens.

The band features Pratap Singh (Founder/Team Coach), Arif Khan (Zitar player), Asif Khan (Lead Singer), Tasruf Ali (Saxophone), Rishab Rozar (Guitar), Arif Khan (Khartal/Morchang player), Sajid Khan (Drummer) and Seif Ali Khan (Tabla Player). They bring forth the best of the traditional Rajasthani music amalgamated with modern instruments to create a mellifluous experience for the audience. With more than 1000+ performance worldwide, Swaraag flavours are Sufi Fusion, Rajasthani Folk Fusion, Instrumental Fusion and Bollywood Mashup.

Fraud dupes bank customer of Rs 2.99 lakh

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: In a bizarre fraud registered in Pandri police station, unidentified phone called siphoned Rs 2.99 lakh from a bank customer by sending him mere Rs 5.

According to police, complainant Anurag Suryavanshi recently received two calls from phone number 89262-20884 and 84530-15357 wherein the caller told him of making a payment in his bank

account. Thereafter the caller extracted the details of his bank account. However, sharing these vital details turned out to be major mistake the called instantly siphoned Rs 2.99 lakh from his bank account.

Pandri police meanwhile have registered an offence under 420, 34 IPC against the holders of both the above mentioned phone numbers and further investigation is now underway.

Two police inspectors reshuffled

Raipur, Jan 21: In a swift reshuffle in Raipur district police, two inspector rank officers have been shifted from one place to another. According to police, Inspector Kamala Pusam, who till now was in Police Reserve

Lines has been made the new in-charge of Rakhi police station.

Similarly, Inspector Krishnachand Sidar who till now was in-charge of Rakhi police station has been shifted to Traffic Police department.

COVID-19: Ch'garh records 5,649 new cases, 15 deaths

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: Chhattisgarh's COVID-19 count rose to 10,81,178 on Thursday with an addition of 5,649 fresh cases, while the death toll rose to 13,697 after 15 more patients succumbed to the infection in the state, an official said. Chhattisgarh also reported 13 more cases of the highly contagious Omicron variant of coronavirus, which took the number of people affected by the new strain to 21, the official said. The state's positivity rate stood at 10.78 per cent, he said.

The rate indicates the percentage of people who test positive for the virus of those overall who have been tested. On Wednesday, the state had recorded 5,625 cases and nine deaths. The number of recoveries reached 10,35,745 after 167 people were discharged from hos-

pitals, while 5,752 others completed their home isolation during the day, the official said.

The state now has 31,736 active cases. Raipur district reported 1,442 new infections, taking the case-

load to 1,80,048, including 3,171 deaths. The district has 8,095 active cases, the official said. Durg recorded 1053 cases followed by Raigarh 413, Rajnandgaon 334, Korba 267, Bilaspur 256 and Janjgir-Champa

207, among other districts, he said. With 52,411 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,58,24,622, the official said.

Meanwhile, Director of Chhattisgarh Epidemic Control Dr Subhash Mishra said "Of the 13 Omicron cases, seven were reported from Rajnandgaon and three each from Raipur and Durg district." Among the new Omicron patients, two were minors - a 13-year-old girl from Durg and a 17-year-old boy from Raipur, he said. None of the new patients had any travel history outside the country, Dr Mishra added. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 10,81,178, new cases 5,649, death toll 13,697, recovered 10,35,745, active cases 31,736, total tests 1,58,24,622.

Sample testing for screening of COVID-19 infection expedited

Raipur: Sample testing for identification of COVID infected people has been expedited in the state. Last week, nearly 1,44,870 samples were tested between January 14-20. Health Minister T.S. Singhdev has instructed the department to test maximum number of samples for COVID-19 on a daily basis. As per the instructions, Health Department has increased the number of tests per day

in all the districts. An average of 49 thousand 267 samples are being tested daily across the state, whereas in the last week of December last month, between Dec 25-31, the average was 20,256. Number of samples tested on 14 Jan was 60,257, it was 56,717 on 15 Jan, 32,563 on 16 Jan, 38,064 on 17 Jan, 50,258 on 18 Jan, 54,600 on 19 Jan, and on 20 Jan, 52,411 samples were tested across the state.

Nearly 3.45 lakh samples tested last week

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Meeting to be held again to consider the demands of Farmers Welfare Committee

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Housing and Environment and Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Mohammad Akbar, an important meeting was convened on Thursday in respect of the farmers agitating in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar at his residence office located at Shankar Nagar, Raipur. Urban Administration Minister and Arang MLA Dr. Shivkumar Dahria, MLA Abhanpur Mr. Dhanendra Sahu and Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Subrat Sahoo and Director Village and City Investment Mr. Jai Prakash Maurya and senior officers of Nava Raipur Development Authority were present in the meeting.

Even after the stipulated time in the meeting, none of the officials and members of the new capital affected Farmers Welfare



Committee were present in the residence office of Housing Minister Akbar located at Shankar Nagar. During this, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria informed that prior consent was given for the presence of the Chairman of Farmers Welfare Committee, Mr. Rupan Chandrakar and Executive Chairman of the Committee in the meeting. Dr. Dahria said

that the Farmer Welfare Committee asked to give a letter in writing to attend the meeting, the attendance was informed in writing also, but the officials of the Farmers Welfare Committee did not attend. Now after discussion with the Kisan Kalyan Samiti, a separate date will be fixed again.

It is worth mentioning that last day, Forest and Climate Change Minister Mohammad Akbar donat-

ed paddy with great humility and respect to the farmers of Nava Raipur, who came to his official residence office in Shankarnagar to ask for Chherchhera. On this occasion, he extended his greetings and best wishes to all the officials and farmers of the Kisan Manch Committee on the occasion of Chherchhera festival and Shakambhari Jayanti.

On this occasion, the office bearers and members of Kisan Manch Committee had submitted a memorandum to Minister Akbar regarding the demands of rehabilitation and resettlement in Nava Raipur.

Minister Akbar had discussed with the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and the officials of Nava Raipur Development Authority regarding the demands of the farmers and assured that their demands would be properly resolved.

'ROUNDAABOUT IN THE MIDDLE'



The roundabout in front of RMC's head office has landed in controversy as the site of its construction has been objected by many corporators as well and still no final decision in this regard has been taken.

CM expresses concern over the sudden increase in number of deaths due to COVID

Raipur, Jan 21: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has expressed serious concern over the sudden increase in number of deaths due to COVID-19. Soon after receiving the information about death of 15 patients today due to COVID-19, Chief Minister directed Principal

Secretary, Health Department to ensure audit of each one of this death case. Baghel has directed the senior administrative officers to ensure proper arrangements for prevention of COVID-19 infection and to provide better treatment facilities to the infected patients.

Chief Minister has given instructions to hospitalize the COVID infected patients based on their health condition. Considering the increasing number of COVID cases and the number of deaths due to COVID-19, Chief Minister has directed all the District

Collectors of the state to take special vigilance. Collectors have been instructed to ensure strict adherence to the COVID guidelines and to make special arrangements for continuous monitoring of the health condition of patients in home isolation.

Annual Table Calendar and Monthly Newsletter of NIC Ch'garh released

● Software developed by NIC brought promptness, transparency and tightness in government work

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: National Informatics Centre Chhattisgarh's Annual Table Calendar (Infograph) 2022 and Monthly Newsletter were released by Joint Secretary General Administration and Public Works, Sanjay Agarwal in a brief program organized at Mahanadi Mantralaya



Bhawan. At the beginning of the program, State Informatics Officer Dr. Ashok Kumar Hota gave information about the achievements of NIC in the year 2021 through power point presentation. Joint Secretary, Sanjay Aggarwal appreciated the work of NIC and said that the role of NIC has been important in making technology easy, simple and

easy to implement and reach the masses. He said that NIC has played an important role in making every scheme of the government technically accessible to the people and getting its benefits.

NIC has developed many softwares for government schemes and programs, which have made easy access to the beneficiaries. There has been in-

creased transparency and promptness in government work. He said that NIC has made government work much easier by preparing software. With this, apart from saving time, transparency, promptness and tightness have also come in government work. On this occasion, Deputy Director General and Chhattisgarh State Coordinator Mr.

Sanjay Kapoor from NIC Headquarters New Delhi joined the video conferencing. Appreciating the work of NIC Chhattisgarh, he said that Chhattisgarh is doing better than many states in the technical field. NIC Chhattisgarh has also done many public works for the Amrit festival of independence, which is commendable. On this occasion, District Informatics Officers of all the districts were also connected through video conferencing. The program was conducted by the Technical Director Mr. Satyesh Kumar Sharma and the vote of thanks was given by the Additional State Informatics Officer Mr. TN. Singh.

IIT Bhilai crosses 100 placements

Raipur, Jan 21: The third batch of graduating students from IIT Bhilai witnessed an outstanding start to the placements this session, with 23 students getting placed on the very first day.

Students received offers from some of the top international and national companies like Google, Paytm, AirAsia Technology Centre, Truminds Software Systems, Radisys India Pvt Ltd, Deloitte Consulting India Pvt Ltd, Jio Platforms Limited, L&T Infotech, Applied Data Finance and TCS (Digital), and Atonarp Microsystems India Pvt Ltd. Around 104 students have got placed so far, with a total 115 offers made, in-



cluding 11 pre-placement offers. So far, two students have grabbed the highest paying jobs of 27.43 LPA, while the maximum number of students have received offers from Paytm with a package of 21 LPA. The average annual CTC of all the students placed is 14.39 LPA. The Centre

for Career Planning and Services (CCPS), IIT Bhilai commenced its placements for the session 2021-2022 in September last year. The CCPS is confident that the students will take forward the phenomenal first impression in the industry by securing greater heights.

CAIT to organise 'Seedha Samvad' on Jan 27

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 21: CAIT National Vice President Amar Parwani, Chairman Mangal Maloo, Amar Gidwani State President Jitendra Doshi, States Working President Vikram Singh Deo, Parmanand Jain, Vashu Makhija, State General Secretary Suriender Singh, State Working General Secretary, Bharat Jain, State Treasurer Ajay Agrawal and state media incharge Sanjay Choubey informed that at a time when much hue & cry is being made over current e-commerce business of India which has witnessed grave adverse impact on domestic trade, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) which is continuously raising the voice of the traders on e-commerce issue in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA), All India Consumer Products

Distributors Association (AICPDF), All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA), All India Jewelers & Goldsmith Federation (AIJGF), Computer Media Dealers Association (CMDA), has taken a step forward by convening a 'Seedha Sanwad' a joint meeting of offline and online stakeholders of the e-commerce trade on forthcoming 27th January at New Delhi to thrash out the issue and make recommendations to the DPIIT of Ministry of Commerce on e-commerce policy which is currently under the draft stage.

CAIT National Vice President Mr. Amar Parwani & State President Mr. Jitendra Doshi while stressing the need of such a meeting said that CAIT is of a considered opinion that all sorts of goods traded or all kinds of services provided in India through any digital mode including social commerce must

have to be brought under the ambit of e-commerce. Sharp differences exist among e-commerce stakeholders about the conduct of online business in the Country.

Therefore, it is more necessary that a broad unanimity must be arrived on basic fundamentals of e-commerce business among the stakeholders to provide input to the DPIIT which is framing the e-commerce policy. Being the largest stakeholder of the retail trade, the CAIT has taken an initiative with other leading organisations of different verticals, to convene such a meeting, which is the need of the hour. Both Mr. Parwani & Mr. Doshi clarified that CAIT is not averse to e-commerce or any e-commerce company but of the strong view that law of the land and the policies must be complied with both letter & spirit, which can not be denied by any stakeholder.

Poor quality water pipeline causing inconvenience

● To villagers in Gram Konari

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 21: The carelessness on part of PHE department in rural areas has come to fore and with incident of pipe leakage and bursting, the villagers of Gram Konari area made to face water crisis almost on daily basis.

As per information in this regard, the PHE department got an overhead tank constructed along with expansion of pipeline work. But the quality of pipes used is not upto the mark and it fails to bear the water pressures and gets punctured on & off. In this case, Sarpanch informed that the PHE deptt has not handed over the overhead water tank and pipeline to the Gram Panchayat so far.

On the other hand, the villagers and sarpanch have urged the Sub-engineer and contractor to find out an amicable solution to the problem, but so far



no solution has been chalked out.

As per information in this regard from villagers, this overhead water tank was constructed by PHE department to ensure that the villagers do not face any water problem, but now it has become a bone of contention.

As per information in this regard, no sooner water is released in the pipeline, it gets burst from some or the other place and due to which water cannot reach into houses of the villagers. In this case, the public reps wanted to talk to the engineer Vijay Kumar Kanoria and contractor, but they did not take any initiative. It is

worthwhile to mention here that due to frequent bursting of pipeline, around 250 families in the village is getting affected. In this regard Sarpanch informed that he tried to held talks with Engineer Kanoria, but he just brushed off the matter taking no responsibility. On the other hand, when the contractor tried to talk to the contractor, he did not receive his phone.

No action by PHE Deptt: In Dongargaon Janpad Panchayat and Nagar Panchayat area there are many works of PHE department which are pending and which till date have not been completed. For this complaint against the Engineer has been made many times and it has also been brought to knowledge of the local administration through the media, but to no avail. Despite this no action has been taken against the Engineer of PHE so far and with day-to-day work of villagers getting affected on daily basis, it is leading to great deal of resentment among them.

Collector directs SP to file FIR against land mafia

● For irregularities in land compensation cases and acquisition of land going against the rules

Korba, Jan 22: FIR will be filed against the land mafia on charges of selling one piece of land many times and irregularities in land acquisition for Hardibazar Tarda bypass road in the district and the District Collector Ranu Sahu sent letter in this regard to the District SP on Thursday.

It is notable here that land of the farmers was acquired for construction of by-pass road from Hardibazar to Tarda. But the land mafia sold one piece of land many times and showed irregularities in land acquisition cases, apart from sidelining of rules in the compensation cases and complaints in this regard were received by the Collector.

So taking the complaints into account, Collector got this entire case investigated and massive irregularities have come to fore in the Land Revenue Conduct and Acquisition rules of the land acquisition cases. It is going against the rules, it is by showing acquisition of less than 5000 sq. ft. land, the cases of compensation were sanctioned. Apart from this the land of many other Khasaras was acquired, which does not come into border to the above by-pass road.

So it is due to sheer violation in the acquisition rules and regulations and irregularities in the compensation cases, the government was made to face huge revenue loss. Complaint in this regard was made to the Collector and senior officials many times and taking the same into account the Collector ordered for inquiry and directed the SP to file FIR against the land mafia involved in it.

Farmers protest MGNREGS work on their private land

● After complaint, officials pay visit, issues instructions to halt the work

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 21: Carelessness in MGNREGS work in Gram Chichdo of Janpad area has come to fore and in this the construction agency started the work

outside the sanctioned area in some private land of others. But even after complaint by the land owners in this regard, the department instead of taking action has shown them the doors. After this the media persons intervened and then the work was stopped.

This entire case is that of Tarbandh in Gram Chichdo and it is covered about 80% with private land. For deepening of



this 'Tarbandh' the MGNREGS of Janpad branch started

work of deepening on Kh. No. 499/1 few days

back. But in last three days they started deepening work in Kh. No. 444/1 and 2. This land belongs to Neerabai and Kevaldas.

Officers reach to conduct inspection

With complaint in this regard on Wednesday, a combined team of the

Janpad CEO Lekhran Chandravanshi and Programme Officer Vidya Chandrakar reached village Chichdo. It is on holding talks with the villagers, Panchayats reps and land owners and after inspection of the site, immediately issued order to stop the work and the officer said that notice will be issued to the concerned.

It is worthwhile to mention here that for last many years such types of

works is being carried out in the land of the victimised farmer without his consent or permission. And to claim for compensation the victimised farmers are made to wander from pillar to post and so far no action has been taken.

What officers say Till the issue is resolved, the work has been halted at the controversial site. According to farmers, majority of land

in this 'Tarbandh' belongs to other farmers and for which the farmers are demanding compensation. In this regard MGNREGS PEO Vidya Chandrakar informed that this work was sanctioned on government's land Khasara and in the on the spot inspection it was proved that it is being carried out in some private land. In this regard the concerned have been issued notice.

CKAF demands rectification in seniority list of teachers

Submits memo to Jt. Director Education

Kondagaon, Jan 21:

The procedure of promotion of teachers in the state has been started and for this seniority list and claims/ objections are being invited. Along with this details of movable, immovable assets of teacher, CR is being prepared and seeing all this the entire Education department is busy in completing the procedure seriously. In this regard, a delegation of Chhattisgarh Karamchhari Adhikari Federation (CKAF) under leadership of Neelkanth Shardul met Joint



Director Hemant Upadhyay of Education div. Bastar Jagdalpur and submitted him a memorandum and urged him to make promotion into senior posts. In other words, CAKF asked the department to first promote

Upper Grade Teacher (UGT)/ head masters of primary schools as Head Master Middle School/ lecturer, so that there are many vacant posts of Upper Grade Teachers (UGTs)/ Head Masters and those in post of Asst.

Teachers can be promoted into it. In this way teachers of all cadres will get benefitted in large number, they added. Along with this after the promotion the posting to a teacher be made in Sankul area/ block area.

District convener of Federation said that the existing seniority list is full of discrepancies and faults and it is only on its cent percent correction that the final seniority list be prepared and then the promotion procedure be completed.

The delegation had detailed talks with the Joint Director on all the above points and it comprised of KK Nag, Ramesh Babu, Pateria and Hemlata Pateria.

CSPDCL snaps off power line of 'Mangal Bhavans'

Coming under Nagar Palika Khairagarh; power restored on after demand of 15 days to clear payment



Khairagarh, Jan 20: The electricity department snapped off the power connection of Nagar Palika Khairagarh's cultural building, Dilip Singh Mangal Bhavan and CMO's residence on charges of having an outstanding amount of above Rs 10 lakh against them. After this Palika demanded 15 days time in writing and then its connection was restored.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the total outstanding amount of electricity bill of Nagar Palika's Water Works,

Streetlight and other buildings is around Rs 1 crore. But on Wednesday electricity department staff went to recover only the outstanding amount that of the 'bhavans' run by Nagar Palika and snapped off the power connection of NNagar Palika and CMO's residence and other cultural buildings of Nagar Palika Khairagarh.

It was on disconnection of power lines in the presence of Nagar Palika officers, the Palika administration sought 15-days time in writing from the

electricity department to pay off the outstanding amount and the power line was reconnected.

In this electricity dept has not taken any action on the outstanding amount of Nagar Palika's Water Works, streetlights and others, as it would have led to no water supply to denizens of city and now it is for sure that if the Nagar Palika administration does not clear-off the outstanding within 15 days, then the department will cut the power line again.

What Officers Say

There is an outstanding electricity bill of Rs 10 lakh on Mangal Bhavan and cultural bhavans of Nagar Palika Khairagarh and it is failing to get the payment of the same on time that electricity dept has to take action. But it was on written assurance of payment within 15 days that the connection was restored and it is only after 15 days that final action will be taken, if no payment is made.

Chagan Sharma EE- CSPDCL, Khairagarh

Since Nagar Palika Khairagarh is not having sufficient funds, therefore this connection was snapped off and funds have been demanded from the state government and the power company has been asked to give 15 day time for clearing of the outstanding amount.

Seema Bakshi, CMO Nagar Palika Khairagarh

Prof. Rajan Yadav felicitated in 'Devarhat'

In the 30th 'Ahir Nritya Kala & Cher-Chera Mahotsav'



Khairagarh, Jan 21:

In the 30th 'Ahir Nritya

Kala & Cher-cherah Mahotsav 'Devarhat' held in Lormi, Prof. Dr Rajan

Yadav of Indira Kala Sanget Vishwavidyalaya (IKSV) Khairagarh, was felicitated in the hands of chief guest LS MP Bilaspur Arun Sav last on Jan 17.

It was for special contribution in the field of folk art, 'Ramkatha', and literature that the President of Mahotsav Dr Mantram Yadav and in the presence of well-known litterateurs of state and country, Dr Rajan Yadav was presented with felicitating letter and memento.

On this occasion Dr Rajan Yadav also recited a poem in Chhattisgarh and delivered a lecture on state's rich art & culture.

Problems of 'Aadabahir' of Gond Samaj solved



Kondagaon, Jan 21: Members of Koyavanshiya Muria, Gondwana Samaj Samanway Samiti district Kondagaon held meeting in Dhanora last on Jan 1 after prayers to natural power 'Sala-Magra Budhal' at Gondwana Bhavan under chairmanship of Manher Singh Korram.

In this the application by the members of Smaj of Satpara of Gram Dhanora was taken into consideration and after discussions the problems of 'Aadabahire' of 'Gond Samaj' was sorted out the it was included into 'Pratik Pen' system. Meeting was attended by Divisional Executive Secretary Tirumal Rameshwar Usendi, working committee member, District Kondagaon and all the office bearers of District Kondagaon and Keshkal block level viz. Raj Gayanti, Raj Manjhi, Gayanti, Pujari, Patel, Pargana Manjhi and other seniors of the samaj.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद कवर्धा, जिला-कवीरधाम (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक / 1239 / न.पा.प. / लो.नि.वि. / 2021-22 कवर्धा, दिनांक 18/01/2022

मैनुअल परतति निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सहाय श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म / टेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु मैनुअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	कार्य विवरण	अनु. लागत राशि (लाख में)	नि.प्र. प्रदाय करने हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि
1	वार्ड क्र. 01 से 03 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	02.02.2022
2	वार्ड क्र. 04 से 06 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
3	वार्ड क्र. 07 से 09 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
4	वार्ड क्र. 10 से 12 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
5	वार्ड क्र. 13 से 15 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
6	वार्ड क्र. 16 से 18 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
7	वार्ड क्र. 19 से 21 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
8	वार्ड क्र. 22 से 24 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
9	वार्ड क्र. 25 से 27 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---

2- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है साथ ही यह जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट www.uad.cg.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद कवर्धा

Yuvodaya Champ acts as bridge between villagers-admn

Provides ration-card to 10 villagers

Kondagaon, Jan 21:

The Kondagaon district administration along with UNICEF is taking the development works and schemes of the government and administration through voluntary workers of Yuvodaya Champ Kondanar Abhiyan to villages in naxal infested area. Apart from this they are also taking the griev-



ances of the villages to the administration and acting as bridge between the two and trying to benefit the villagers. In the applica-

tions received under public grievances redressal camp held in highly sensitive naxal infested area of Gram Becha, Kilam,

Burgum, Kadenar, Nedwal and Dodem, the villagers raised demand to make 'ration cards' for them. It was informed that even making of ration card of villagers it has not being delivered as the distance to these villages is very much and not so easily accessible. So the Yuvodaya Champ Kondanar taking up initiative reached to such hyper-sensitive naxal infested area of above villages and provided ration cards to 10 villagers.

Work with willpower and on alert mode to prevent infection: Commissioner



Korba, Jan 21:

Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey has directed the zone commissioners and field staff of the corporation to work with full willpower by staying on alert mode to prevent Covid infection. Take action on those who reach wearing public places without mask, make social distancing and Covid protocol mandatory and make the common people aware of Covid infection continuously, he said addressing the meeting of zone commissioners and reviewed the work related to control, prevention, safety and management of corona infection.

Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr. B.B. Borde along with officers of Police Administration and Health Department were present in the meeting. Giving directions to the zone commissioners,

Commissioner said that it is necessary that the common people should be more and more aware of it to prevent, protect and stop the speed of infection. He said that there are 04 zones of the corporation, where the positivity rate is high, so work on alert mode by keeping special focus here.

Commissioner directed that continuous action should be taken against those who do not wear masks; social distancing should be compulsorily followed in markets, shops etc. Commissioner also directed that the patients living on Corona positive home isolation should follow the isolation rules completely, for this they should be continuously monitored. Ward-wise teams should reach outside the premises of the patients and verify that they are present at their homes and

are not leaving the house, nor any outsider is entering their house.

He said that the home isolation rule should be strictly followed and if the rules are violated by any person, then necessary legal action should be ensured. Tehsildar Mr. Salame, DPM of Health Department, Ashok Singh, Zone Commissioner AK Sharma, RK Maheshwari, Vinod Shandilya, Akhilesh Shukla, NK Nath, Tapan Tiwari, Health Officer Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Assistant Engineer Sunil Tande, Motilal Bareth and other officials was present in the meeting.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE SUB DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE RAIPUR DIST. RAIPUR (C.G.) AFFIDAVIT

I Nisha Genani age 34 years W/o Mr. Jay Makhija R/o H.N. 588/1, Kundan Kutir, Kachna Raod Khamharidh, Shankar Nagar Near sahu bhawan Raipur, (C.G.) Pin 492007 do hereby solemnly declare as under:-
1- That I am the mother of Reeti Batra born on 29/12/2013 and her birth Certificate was issued by the Register Raipur Municipal Corporation Government of Chhattisgarh with registration no. 001012014000764 date of registration 16/01/2014, date of issue 16/01/2014.
2- That I'm married with Mr. Jay Makhija, and residing in the above-mentioned address with my husband and daughter.
3- That, post my marriage with Mr. Jay Makhija, I've changed my daughter's surname and her name after the change shall remain as below:-
* As in the Birth Certificate REETI BATRA
* Changed name REETI MAKHJIA
4- That, my daughter shall henceforth be called as REETI MAKHJIA.
5- That in support of this Affidavit, my daughter's name changed shall be publicized in leading newspaper circulating in the area.
6- That, the statement made above are true and correct and we have not concealed any information or misrepresented any facts.
Verification:-
I Nisha Genani W/o Mr. Jay Makhija do hereby verify that the contents of Para 1 to 6 above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge hence I verify and signed on this day of 01/01/2022 at Raipur (C.G.) Date 21/01/2022
Place Raipur Deponent

Chola
Enter a better life

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai- 600 001.
Branch Office: Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park, G.E. Road, Raipur C.G-492001, Contact No: Prakash Verma-9981343191, Anshul Agrawal-9713436260

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of M/s Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Physical Possession, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS', 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' and 'WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS', Particulars of which are given below:-

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding
Loan Account No. X0HELA10001823038 Borrower and Co-borrower names 1. ABDUL WAHEED KHAN, 2. ABDUL GAFFAR KHAN, 3. HASEENA BEGAM, 4. MEHAR AFRIN KHAN, Plot No. 37, Khan Manzil, Side-G, Street No. 8, Subhash Nagar, Bhillai-491001 5. RIYA AGENCY, Kadir Manzil, Mukl Nagar, Behind, Panchsheel School, Bhillai- 491001.	15-07-2020 & ₹ 71,58,908.94/- as on 14-07-2020	All That Piece And Parcel Of Diverted Khasra No.767/103 Area-0.022 Hect./2320 Sq.Fts./ 215.61 Sq.Mtrs And Plot No.38 & Part Of Plot No.-38 Situated At Mouza- KASARIDIH, Ward No.-43, PH.No.18, NPN-Durg, RIC- Drug-01, Drug-491001. East- House Of Mathura Bai, West- Land Of Vinod And Pramod, North- 20 Ft. Road, South- 4 Ft. Gali.	₹ 60,00,000/-	₹ 6,00,000/-	₹ 9,036,347.85/- as on 19.01.2022 together with further interest, penal interest, costs and charges thereon till the date of payment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING AUCTION PROCESS

1. Date of Auction	28.02.2022	3. Date of Inspection of Property	22-02-2022 to 23-02-2022 (In business Hours)
2. Place of Submission of Bids and Place of Auction	Shop No.- 416, 4th Floor National Corporate Park, Infront Of Maruti Business Park G.E Raod Raipur C.G-492001	4. Last date for Submission of Bids	26.02.2022 before 5.00 pm

* A bidder may, on his own choice, avail the facility in the auction by making application in prescribed format which is available along with the offer/tender document on the given office address mentioned hereunder. Sale is strictly subject to terms and conditions incorporated in this advertisement and the prescribed Bid / Tender Document. This notice is also to be treated as a 30 days notice under Rule 8(5)(c) and 8(6) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002, (Rule 8 and 9)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

1) The property is sold on 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is There is Basis'. 2) The Bidder is obliged to exercise full due diligence in all respects, including to inspect each of the details of the property mentioned above on the scheduled date & time. 3) Submission of bids to M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited would be construed a deemed acceptance by the bidder that (i) he/she/it has exercised due diligence in all respects; (ii) is satisfied with all details/measurements of property; (iii) Acknowledges full knowledge of terms and conditions that govern the auction and (iv) Waives all his/her/its rights to make any contrary claims against company at any future date. 4) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Authorized officer if the borrower/guarantor pays the entire outstanding amount in full before sale, no sale will be conducted. 5) The Bidder shall remit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c, along with the bid form in a Sealed Cover addressed to The Authorized Officer, M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited up to 5.00 P.M on 26.02.2022. Please note that, in reference to successful bidder(s), EMD is adjustable against the sale consideration receivable by M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. Also, EMD is refundable to the unsuccessful bidder(s). 6) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and the balance within 15 days by Banker's Cheque / DD drawn in favour of M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited for the respective Loan A/c Number. 7) In case the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on sale being knocked down in his/her/its favour and/or the balance amount, within 15 days the deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited without any prior intimation. 8) The charges / fees payable for conveyance such as stamp duty, registration fee, maintenance charges electricity charges etc., shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, property tax or any other dues to the Government or local body or any other authority in respect of the property under sale. 9) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn / postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reason therefor. 10) The Sale will only be in favour of successful bidder and not his/her nominee. 11) This Notice is also to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general. The borrower has absolute right for the redemption of property till the confirmation of the sale Process.

M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited are not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As is Where is Basis', 'As is What is Basis' and 'Whatever is There is Basis'.

For further details, contact the Authorized Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.
Date: 22.01.2022, Place: Durg (C.G.) Authorised Officer/ M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited



Regional Office: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6. Phone: +91-79-26421671-75

Demand Notice to Borrowers

The under mentioned account turned into N.P.A and demand notice is issued by Bandhan Bank Ltd. to the following borrower(s) under sec.13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (The Act), 2002 which was returned unserved. Hence, this notice is issued to you all and public at large through publication.

Name of and borrower(s), Loan Account No.	Description of mortgaged property (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of NPA	O/S Amount as on Date of Demand Notice	Date of Pasting of Notice
Mr. Sudesh Diwan Mrs. Padma Diwan Guarantors Mr. Hem Lal Sahu S/o Ramdayal Sahu 854/210	All that piece and parcel of Part of KH No. 944/23 and 996/23, New 944/30, 996/30, PH No. 16/2, BB No. 237/247, Ward No. 24, Shradha Nagar, Gaurav Path, Near Indoor Stadium, Dhamtari-493773 bounded by: North: Seller Land, East: Land of Diwan, West: Road, South: Sharma Land	06.01.2022/ 05.01.2013	Rs. 7,70,749.66	12.01.2022

Demand made against you through this notice to repay to the Bank dues mentioned against your name with interest, costs and charges within 60 days from the date hereof, failing which the Bank will further proceed to take steps u/s. 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. The borrowers'/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Dhamtari
Date: 22/01/2022

Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

BRIEF

Racket

Mumbai: The crime branch of Mumbai Police busted an on-line gambling racket and arrested a man from Kharghar in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, an official said. The accused was identified as Wasim Piyas Ansari (43). Ansari, who repairs computers, and his associates allegedly ran a gambling racket which operated through mobile phones. Money was collected through bank accounts set up by using forged documents, the official said.

Duping

Gurugram: Police have booked a couple and three others for allegedly siphoning off over Rs 2.5 crore from their business partner. Rizwan Khan, a resident of Sector 52, alleged in his police complaint that he met the key accused Mukesh Talwar through a friend named Amandeep a few years ago. The trio set up a business in 2019, and in 2020, they began exporting face masks.

Caught

Bhopal: An employee of the Housing Board was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000 to issue a no-objection certificate (NOC) for construction of a house in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal. The accused employee Prahlad Shrivastava allegedly tried to injure himself with a knife when Lokayukta officials tried to nab him at his office. A policeman from raiding team sustained injury while trying to prevent accused from harming himself.

Raised

Jaipur: The Rajasthan government decided to increase the guest limit in marriage functions from 50 to 100 in cities from January 24. The number of guests allowed at marriage functions in rural areas of state was already capped at 100 in view of coronavirus pandemic. Weekend curfew will now be limited to municipal areas only from Sat 11 pm to Mon 5 am whereas night curfew will be effective everyday from 11 pm to 5 am.

Inspired

New Delhi: Inspired by gangster films like "Pushpa", three juveniles allegedly killed a man in Delhi's Jahangirpuri in order to become famous in the world of crimes. All three have been apprehended, they added. The accused had also made a video clip of the act and wanted to upload it on Instagram. CCTV footage revealed that there was a scuffle between the deceased and the accused, who were apprehended subsequently.

Jailed

Gurugram: A court here sent a man to 10-year jail and imposed a fine of Rs 55,000 on him in a rape case. He will have to undergo additional imprisonment of two years if he fails to pay the fine on time. Jaiveer Singh, a resident of Haliyaki village in Pataudi area, had raped the woman in 2020.

Channi to file defamation case against Kejriwal



Charanjit Singh and Arvind Kejriwal

Chandigarh, Jan 21 (PTI):

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday said he would file a defamation case against AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal, who has dubbed him as a dishonest man after the ED carried out raids at many places including at the premises of the Congress leader's nephew. Channi alleged that Kejriwal was in the habit of levelling accusations to malign the image of others and that in the

past it was seen how he had to later apologise to BJP leaders Nitin Gadhkar, late Arun Jaitley and SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia.

Speaking to reporters in his constituency in Chamkaur Sahib, he claimed that Kejriwal has now crossed all limits and that he has requested his party to give permission to file a defamation case against the AAP leader. "I will file a defamation case against Kejriwal and have requested my party to give

permission to do so. I am compelled to do this...he is dubbing me as dishonest and he has put that on his Twitter handle," he said.

Opposition parties, particularly the AAP, have stepped up attacks on Channi and the Congress in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate raids.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal had said that Channi will be defeated from his Chamkaur Sahib seat in next month's assembly polls, while stressing that people were shocked to see crores of rupees being seized from the home of Channi's nephew.

Asked to comment on this, Channi replied, "Now, what has happened, money has been from someone else, raids are conducted on someone else, but he (Kejriwal) is dubbing me as dishonest by putting photos showing bundles of notes (seized during ED raids) with my photo over social media".

'Bihar heading for midterm polls with NDA in turmoil'

Patna, Jan 21 (PTI):

Bihar is tipped for midterm polls as constituents of the ruling NDA are at each other's throat, former ally and Lok Janshakti Party chief Chirag Paswan claimed here on Friday.

Paswan claimed that likelihood of early polls became evident when Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, "who does not venture out until faced with elections", recently planned a state-wide tour.

He was replying to queries from journalists about recent squabbles between Kumar's JD(U) and the BJP, primarily over the manner in which liquor prohibition law is being implemented in the state.

"Since the day assembly polls results came out, I



LJP chief Chirag Paswan greeting supporters at Chatbara, Hazipur on Friday.

have been saying that this government is not going to last. The straw in the wind is now for all to see," said Paswan who heads a splinter group of Lok Janshakti Party. An ugly spat ensued after a JD(U) spokesman took potshots

at state BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal over his offer of help to family members of those who died in a hooch tragedy in West Champaran district last year. Jaiswal is also engaged in a war of words with Upendra Kushwaha,

CROWD BUYING FLOWERS



Vendors and customers crowd at a wholesale flower market, in Kolkata, Friday.

DSLISA moves HC for recovery of cost imposed on Juhi Chawla

Lawsuit had sought direction over harm of 5G technology

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Delhi High Court Friday said it will hear on February 3 a plea by Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) seeking the execution of the order directing Juhi Chawla and two others to deposit Rs 20 lakh as costs in its favour on a lawsuit against the 5G technology. Counsel for the Bollywood actress told Justice Amit Bansal that an appeal against the single judge order is pending before a division bench,



Juhi Chawla

which will be considered on January 25, and urged the court to defer hearing on the execution petition for the time being. Lawyer Saurabh Kansal, appearing for Chawla and other respondents, stated that the single judge did not have the jurisdiction to impose costs. In the execution petition filed through lawyers Saurabh Kansal and Pallavi S Kansal, DSLISA has sought assistance from the court by seeking issuance of warrants of attachment and sale of the movable and immovable properties for recovery or directions for civil imprisonment of Chawla and others.

Free education, farm loan waiver, anti-mob lynching law: ASP(K)

Noida, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) on Friday launched its manifesto for the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, announcing free quality healthcare and education for all, fertilizer and seeds to farmers and writing off all farm loans.

The manifesto was shared on social media by party president Chandra Shekhar Aazad, who will be fighting his debut assembly poll from the Gorakhpur (Urban) seat against UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. If voted to power in UP, the ASP (K) promised fixing a minimum support price (MSP) on all crops and payment to sugar cane farmers within 10 days. Keeping in mind the inflation, it said



Chandra Shekhar Aazad

all tolls would be made free for commuters. The party said the Muslim Wakf will be freed of mafia and government control and the benefits would be used for uplifting the community. After clearing encroachment on Wakf properties, schools and universities would be built on them, it added. The ASP (K) promised passing an anti-mob lynching law under an in-

dependent panel of retired judges. The less than two-year-old political outfit promised to create 80 lakh employment opportunities in the state. It also resolved to implement reservation in contractual government jobs for Class C and D and regularizing the job after 5 years of work.

The ASP (K) has also promised to re-start all pension schemes. All types of agricultural loans will be waived, fertilizers and seeds will be given free to all the farmers. A 50 per cent subsidy on the purchase of equipment used in agriculture will also be given and agricultural markets will be formed in every village within 30 days of formation of the government, the manifesto read.

Digvijaya sit-in near CM's residence over plight of project-hit people

Bhopal, Jan 21 (PTI):

Veteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh on Friday staged a sit-in protest near Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's residence to highlight the plight of people affected by Tem and Suthalia irrigation projects. Former chief minister Kamal Nath met Chouhan at the state hangar and later joined Singh at the protest site.

Congress spokesman Narendra Saluja said that it was a courtesy meeting, as Nath had travelled to Bhopal from Chhindwara, while Chouhan was on his way to Chidavad village in Dewas district. The



Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath with farmers during a sit-in protest at MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's residence in Bhopal, Friday.

Congress leader and a large number of his supporters staged the sit-in near the chief minister's residence singing "Raghupati Raghav Rajaram", as the police

blocked the road leading to Chouhan's house in the Shyamla Hills area.

Earlier, a public relation department official had informed that Chouhan had granted time to Singh for a

meeting around 12 noon on January 23, and the message was flashed prior to 11 am. However, Singh and his supporters went ahead with the scheduled sit-in to highlight the woes of people affected by Tem and Suthalia projects in Rajgarh, Bhopal and Vidisha districts.

Singh had warned of staging a sit-in before the chief minister's official residence if the latter did not give him time to meet by January 20.

The senior leader had later informed that he was granted time to meet the chief minister on January 21 at 11.15 am. However, Chouhan cancelled the appointment, citing other exigencies.

Fishermen given compensation for releasing protected marine species

Rs 40.78 lakh in three years

Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTI):

Fishermen in the coastal districts of Maharashtra have received Rs 40.78 lakh as compensation in the last three years for safely releasing 260 protected marine species, including Olive Ridley and green sea turtles, that were accidentally caught in their fishing nets. This compensation is being paid as part of the scheme jointly launched by the state forest and fisheries departments in December 2018, which is aimed at conserving the rare and protected marine creatures, it said.



Fishermen at sea near coast of Maharashtra.

So far, 138 Olive Ridley turtles, 67 green sea turtles, 5 hawksbill turtles, two leatherback sea turtles, 37 deer sharks, six giant guitar fish, humpback dolphin, four finless

porpoises have been released into the sea, it said.

Speaking during a programme here, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said that the

Mangrove Cell (Kandalvan Pratishtan) has paid Rs 40.78 lakh compensation to the fishermen who released the marine creatures back into sea, for the damage caused to their fishing nets.

The cell has done a commendable work for the protection of marine biodiversity and similar such serious efforts are needed for the conservation of biodiversity in the state, he said. Thackeray also called for an extensive public awareness drive for this initiative.

Environment Minister Aadiya Thackeray said the state government has undertaken ambitious steps for the protection and conservation of mangroves.

'Congress didn't respond to Sena's pre-poll alliance plan in Goa'

Congress to be blamed if BJP wins: Raut

Panaji, Jan 21 (PTI):

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said that he agrees to the view expressed by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) that the Congress should be held responsible if the BJP wins the next month's Goa Assembly elections and continues to occupy power in the state. He said that although the Sena had presented a proposal to the Congress to form a pre-poll alliance along with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Goa Forward Party (GFP), the



Sanjay Raut

grand old party did not respond to its plan. Raut was talking to reporters after announcing the party's first list of nine candidates for the February 14 assembly elections, which it will be jointly contesting with the Sharad Pawar-led NCP. Goa has a total of 40 assembly seats. TMC leader

Abhishek Banerjee had said that if the Congress fails to dislodge the BJP from power in Goa, the Congress' state in-charge P Chidambaram should take the responsibility and resign. He said the TMC had approached Chidambaram with a formal offer for pre-poll alliance, but nothing happened in that direction.

"I agree with the comments of Abhishek Banerjee. We had also tried to hold talks with Congress. We had held a meeting with (Congress leaders) Dinesh Gundu Rao, Digambar Kamat and Girish Chodankar with the proposal that Congress, NCP, GFP and Sena should form an alliance," he said.

'World worse now due to COVID-19, climate, conflict'

United Nations, Jan 21 (AP): As he starts his second term as UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres said the world is worse in many ways than it was five years ago because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and geopolitical tensions that have sparked conflicts everywhere but unlike US President Joe Biden he thinks Russia will not invade Ukraine.

Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that the appeal for peace he issued on his first day in the UN's top job on Jan. 1, 2017 and his priorities in his first term of trying to prevent conflicts and tackle global inequalities, the COVID-19 crisis and a warming planet haven't changed.

'The secretary-general of the UN has no power,' Guterres said. 'We can have influence. I can persuade. I can mediate, but I have no power.'

Minor incursion by Russia could complicate West's response



Map shows situation in Ukraine.

Washington, Jan 21 (AP):

Short of an all-out invasion, Russian President Vladimir Putin could take less dramatic action in Ukraine that would vastly complicate a US and allied response. He might carry out what President Joe Biden called a 'minor incursion' perhaps a cyber-attack leaving the US and Europe divided on the type and severity of economic sanctions to impose on Moscow and ways to increase support for Kyiv.

Biden drew widespread criticism for saying that retaliating for Russian aggression in Ukraine would depend on the details. 'It's one thing if it's a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not do,' he said. Biden and top administration officials worked to clean up his comments. Biden stressed that if 'any as-

sembled Russian units move across the Ukrainian border, that is an invasion' and it would be met with a 'severe and coordinated economic response.' But even if the 'minor incursion' remark was seen as a gaffe, it touched on a potentially

problematic issue: While the US and allies agree on a strong response to a Russian invasion, it's not clear how they would respond to Russian aggression that falls short of that, like a cyberattack or boosted support for pro-Russian separatists fight-

ing in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among those expressing concern about Biden's 'minor incursion' remark. 'We want to remind the great powers that there are no minor incursions and small nations.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date :- 18.01.2022 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE 01. For tender detail please visit http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in 02. Bid Due Date - 27.01.2022 03. Concern Division - Manendragarh Division. S. N.I.T.No./Online System Number Name of work P.A.C. in lacks

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Regional Office : Vidhan Sabha Road, Post - Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) 492005 Ph : 0771-4046190, Fax : 0771-4070119, Email : srmcg.fci@nic.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER For and on behalf of Food Corporation of India (FCI), General Manager (R) Raipur, invites online tender under TWO BID SYSTEM through e-tendering at GeM Portal (www.gem.gov.in) from intending parties for appointment of contractor on Regular basis for Godown Handling, RH-H&T, ITC & RTC operation for a period of Two Years under the terms and conditions as stipulated in the tender form.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड धमतरी (छ.ग.) Email ID- eedha-phe-cg@nic.in Telephone Number-07722-238719

Table with 4 columns: क्र., निविदा क्र./दिनांक, कार्य का विवरण, अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में). Lists various construction and renovation work items with their estimated costs.

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT OF INDIA BAHAUDUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG NEW DELHI - 110 002 F. No. : 4-1/2022(DEB-1) Date: 16.01.2022 Advertisement No. : 02/2022

Public Notice Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) are recognized/declared entitled by the UGC for offering ODL and/or Online programmes as per the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendment.

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Chennai

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भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-17012022-232682 CG-DL-E-17012022-232682 असाधारण EXTRAORDINARY भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii) प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, जनवरी 17, 2022/पौष 27, 1943 NEW DELHI, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022/PAUSHA 27, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th January, 2022 S.O. 207(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O. 4533(E) dated the 1st November, 2021, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH130CD on the stretch of land from Km 62.35 to Km 78.08 (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) Nagri) in the district of DHAMTARI in the state of CHHATTISGARH;

SCHEDULE Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH130CD in the stretch of land from Km. 62.35 to Km. 78.08 (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) Nagri) in the district of DHAMTARI in the state of CHHATTISGARH.

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey No., Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No. Lists land parcels for acquisition in DHAMTARI district.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India सौ.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-17012022-232692 CG-DL-E-17012022-232692 असाधारण EXTRAORDINARY भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii) प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th January, 2022 S.O. 201(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, number S.O.4685 (E) dated the 11th November 2021 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH130CD on the stretch of land from Km 9.38 to Km 62.35 (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) Kurud) in the district of DHAMTARI in the state of CHHATTISGARH;

SCHEDULE Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the Newly Proposed (Raipur-Visakhapatnam) Km. 9.38 to 62.35 in the stretch of land from NH130CD (Office of the Sub Divisional Officer (Rev.) Kurud) in the district of DHAMTARI in the state of CHHATTISGARH

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Survey No., Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No. Lists land parcels for acquisition in DHAMTARI district.



CENTRAL Chronicle

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Reform scope of cadre

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi again on the proposed amendment to the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, insisting that it would create a fear psychosis among officers and impact their performance. The Union government has proposed an amendment to the rules, which would enable it to post IAS officers on central deputation, bypassing reservations of state governments. The central deputation of officers has always been a point of contention between the Centre and states, with the latter not recommending an adequate number of officers even when required by the Centre. This leads to a shortage of officers for key posts at the Centre. The government should reform scope of state public services cadre to resolve the issue. These amendments will be tabled in the upcoming session of Parliament, which will begin on 31 January. The Centre has sought the states' response before 25 January. As per draft proposal, in specific situations, where services of cadre officers are required by the central government in public interest, the central government may seek the services of such officers for posting under the central government and the state government concerned shall give effect to the decision of the central government within the specified time. This amendment actually questions the state's jurisdiction over its cadre officers. The IAS rule says that the Centre recruits the officers, but when they are allotted their state cadres, they would come under the state government. This is how the federal structure work. All India Service officers work under the state government, unless they are on deputation to the Centre, and follow the orders of the chief minister. When on deputation, they follow the orders of the central minister concerned, or of the PM.

They must tender their advice freely and fairly, but the final decision is that of a political master. Only 153 Indian Administrative Services officers were appointed on central deputation under the central staffing scheme in 2018-19, according to the data of personnel ministry. As per some reports, several IAS, IPS and IRS officers anonymously have said that there is a palpable sense of vulnerability, insecurity and concern among officers at union government, which they are wary of expressing publicly, but do so in the safety of closed WhatsApp groups with their peers from the services. While several officers who support union government policies have started taking to Twitter and Facebook to throw their weight behind the government, those critical or sceptical are taking to closed WhatsApp groups to express their fears. This environment has led to officers fearing deputation to union government unless they share the perceived ideology. The union government should resolve the issue in coordination with states, so that doubts of cadres is also addressed. Scope of both state and union public services needs to be reformed. The central staffing scheme, which is in operation for decades, provides a systematic arrangement for selection and appointment of eligible officers from the participating services at the level of deputy secretary, director, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary in the Central government. In a PIL in the Supreme Court in January 2021, it was requested that the Rule 6(1) of the IAS Cadre Rules be struck down because states have to bear the brunt of arbitrary actions taken by the Centre, while the Rule makes it difficult for the Centre to enforce its will on a state that refuses to back down. Raising the scope of state public service commissions can satisfy states, but union public service commission officers also need to be accommodated.

Healthy legal debate

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton Nariman has expressed concern over the rising instances of hate speech and calls for genocide against minorities in the country while lamenting that silence and endorsement of leaders of the ruling party to such increasing incidents of communal bigotry was unfortunate. Calling for doing away with sedition laws, Nariman said freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution is the single most important and cherished human right. After a seven-year term, Justice Nariman retired in August last year as judge of the Supreme Court. Among his key verdicts is the 2015 landmark decision Shreya Singhal versus Union of India, in which the court struck down Section 66A of Information Technology Act, holding that the provision was arbitrary and unconstitutional. The provision was routinely used to book individuals for comments made on social media. The expression of perspective by retired judge should be welcomed in a democracy for healthy legal debate regarding issue of hate speeches. Justice Nariman had begun his speech by delving into the history of 'rule of law'. He started by saying, "The rule of law has not come down as manna from heaven.

As a matter of fact it has involved centuries of struggle. First between a monarch and an elected member of parliament and in its second phase, between elected members of parliament and other so called branches of government. But to begin at the beginning we must go back in Anglo Saxon jurisprudence to the year 1066 in which two cataclysmic events took place, one was Haley's comet passed over England and most of the World and the second was victory of William of Normandy over King Herald in England. The speech by retired judge puts union government in a bind. So far Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept quiet regarding perceived instances of hate speeches across India. Some political analysts say that by not responding to such speeches, the government is trying not to give any credence to such hate ideologues. But the silence of union government should also not be perceived as endorsement of hate speeches. The law is working as Yati Narsinghanand has been arrested with ongoing investigation. The perspective of retired judge should not be viewed as either in support or opposed to any political party or ideology. As a citizen, retired judges have right to express their opinion freely.

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.

POTATO FIELD WITH SCARECROW

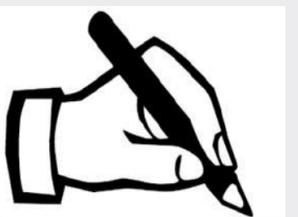


A farmer sprays pesticide to a young crop of potatoes in a field with scarecrow installed near Bangaluru, Karnataka.

India should take position in SAARC to remove Pakistan



RK SINHA



It is a matter of utter bafflement that Pakistan is extending an invite to India to attend the long-pending summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, recently said that if India does not want to participate in the meeting in person, it can participate in the summit virtually. Before inviting India to participate in the SAARC summit, Pakistan should have recalled the cold, lifeless, and disrespectful welcome it offered our then Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh. When Rajnath Singh went to Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, to attend the conference of the Home Ministers of SAARC countries, he was received very poorly. Unfortunately but not surprisingly, Pakistan failed to be accommodative of other religions that its neighbors' practice. Pakistan has continuously committed such atrocities one after the other. Thus, proving that it does not know how to follow or respect the religions of its neighboring nations. The handiwork of Pakistan has completely disrupted the SAARC movement. Now, out of the blue, they have come up with the brilliant idea of organizing the SAARC summit. Could Pakistan kindly clarify, why has it not punished the culprits of the Mumbai terror attacks yet? Why is the ongoing case against those criminals lying frozen in its tracks? India has been telling it time and again that the terrorist Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind terrorist behind the Mumbai terror attacks, should be put in jail immediately. However, Pakistan not only ignored such requests but also in doing so, proved its lack of will

to fight terrorism. They never showed interest in ending terrorism in South Asian countries. They have never deterred from nurturing and funding the anti-national forces in Kashmir or Punjab. The 19th SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad in November 2016. But, that year the terrorist attack was carried out in Uri, India by Pakistani terrorists in which 17 Indian soldiers were martyred. After this attack, India had refused to participate in the SAARC summit. India's stand was absolutely right. What to do with a country which has become a factory of terrorism? Those who know Rajnath Singh closely know that he never shied away from telling the truth. Referring to Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani, who was killed in Kashmir in Islamabad, he said that glorification of terrorism should stop and terrorists should not be given martyr status. Terrorism is not good or bad. Rajnath Singh was pointing towards Pakistan only while stating the same. Pakistan was furious by this direct attack of Rajnath Singh. But, no one could stop Rajnath Singh from speaking the truth. Now Shah Mehmood Qureshi is claiming that SAARC is an "important forum". India has never denied this, but, when did Pakistan ever allow SAARC to grow and fulfill the purpose for which it was established? Will answers to such questions be provided by Qureshi? The SAARC was established on 8 December 1985 by Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. After this, in April 2007, Afghanistan also got a place as its 8th member. Despite this, SAARC did not

promote any kind of economic cooperation among the member countries. If Pakistan is left out, then all the SAARC countries want to work together. On one hand, Pakistan is inviting India to the SAARC summit and on the other hand, it never deters from trying to pass a resolution against India from the Organization of Islamic Nations. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, had taken a strong initiative to revive a dying organization by inviting leaders of 7 states to his swearing-in ceremony in the year 2014. It was assumed then that SAARC would emerge as a powerful platform and would usher in a new era of development and cooperation in South Asia. But, Pakistan did not live up to India's expectations. After Imran Khan became the Prime Minister there, the opposition to India became more intense and vocal. India had also promised all possible cooperation of SAARC countries in fighting the global pandemic Covid-19. The way India fought to defeat the Coronavirus, was witnessed by the world including SAARC member nations. The 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu was the last summit to be held. Pakistan was supposed to host the 19th Summit in 2016. It was cancelled after India refused to attend in the wake of the Uri terror attack, and Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Afghanistan also withdrew from participation. India-Pakistan hostilities have increased since the last SAARC summit in 2014. In 2016, Pakistan-supported terrorists attacked Pathankot Air Base in Punjab and an army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir. India retaliated by carrying out surgical strikes on terror camps in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Similarly, a terror attack on the convoy of Indian paramilitary forces in Pulwama in 2019 was met with India carrying out air strikes against the terror bases in Balakot, Pakistan. While the complexities of India-Pakistan ties have affected regional integration by way of SAARC, the situation in Afghanistan is also a major impediment. There is still no consensus across the world, not just in South Asia, about recognizing the

Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. The holding of a SAARC summit would thus be difficult since, barring Pakistan, no other member countries would be comfortable sharing the round table with the Taliban's representatives. In a broader sense, China's growing economic and strategic engagements across South Asia have rendered the concept of regional integration irrelevant to a great extent. With China looking to expand its sphere of influence across different regions, the role of regional institutions has become limited. After the announcement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, China has invested heavily in South Asian countries in connectivity and infrastructure projects. Scholars working on India's diplomacy must have understood very well that SAARC has no future. SAARC has also completely lost its usefulness. Now this organization has remained only on paper. So what are the options available to India? India's path is quite clear. India will have to strengthen its relations with all the countries other than Pakistan which are members of SAARC. India is constantly striving in that direction too. India has solid and cordial relations with all these countries. Another option is before the SAARC countries. By removing Pakistan from the SAARC summit, it can create a new productive organization. They have already seen the extent to which Pakistan has derailed SAARC. Everyone is aware of the background of Pakistan's conflict with India and Bangladesh. While Pakistan itself was a part of India before 1947, Bangladesh was part of Pakistan before 1972. Today, India-Bangladesh's constant opposition is a vital part of Pakistan's foreign policy. So how can India or SAARC expect a cooperative relationship with a country like this? That is why now at least India has to think seriously about the situation ahead, in terms of its relations with other nations and the SAARC movement.

(RK Sinha is senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical neglect

Sometimes, it makes me go crazy how our past historians ignored and neglected ultimate heroes, as a result, they were lost in oblivion. One such legend is Kondaji Farzand, a Maratha warrior. When Great Shivaji wanted to conquer Panhala Fort, but he was taken aback due to the demise of his 'Fighting Machine' Tanaji Malusare. Then came forward a pupil of Tanaji and his name was Kondaji Farzand. When Shivaji asked him how many men do he need to capture the Panhala fort, Kondaji Farzand replied with a bang and said 60. He wanted 60 men with a highly skilled Army of only Marathas. Kondaji managed to secure the fort with just 60 highly dedicated and skilled soldiers and defeated 2500 Mughal Army in just a 3.5-hour-long battle. Such was the valour of the legend. Greats like Lachit Barphukan, Tanaji Malsure, Kondaji Farzand, Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib, Uyyalawada Narshimha Reddy and many more have hardly found space in the school history books. Since independence, there has always been a deliberate attempt to glorify Mughal kings. They are projected as secular, brave, competent, larger than the life image. When it came to Cholas, Mauryas, Ahoms, Marathas, Rajputs, Sikhs and a few others, they hardly found space. Most of the kings of these kingdoms or dynasties were marked as inferior to Mughals in every respect. Today some crap politician like Aminul Islam dares to comment on Maa Kamakhya temple. Leave alone Aurangzeb, his father didn't have the courage and capacity to capture or rule Asom. Then, how come Aurangzeb allotted land to Maa Kamakhya Temple. Already, Aminul Islam had earlier said that Miya people came to Assam before the Ahoms. The author of the book (which was quoted by controversial Dhiming MLA) on whose basis he dared to comment on Maa Kamakhya history should be booked for distorting history. There is a big factory of the leftist brigade which is continuously working 24x7 to deface and distort Indian history and Sanatan civilization.

Julie, via email

Leaders combo

From students' point of view, Royal Combination means Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics in their TDC course. With the installation of the Modi government at the Centre a new combination often called the Royal Combination took place in the national security scenario. It is a known fact that PM Modi has always put the right person at the right place at right time. Accordingly, he put Ajit Doval as a chief security adviser, Late General Rawat as CDS, a new post which was as usual criticized by our oppositions comprising mainly INC, SP and the Leftists who have scant concern for the nation's security as their party and our neighbour concern was and are above the nation. On one occasion, we still remember when an Opposition leader named Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena abused him as a 'Sadak ka gunda', which meant street goon. On many past occasions, India was always at the receiving end of Pakistan's policy of hitting below the belt as seen in Mumbai 26/11 terror attack, Parliament attack and before that Kargil invasion. The then UPA government under Manmohan Singh was a mute spectator to ISI's misadventures even though our Armed forces were itching for revenge. But with Ajit Doval and General Bipin Rawat at government disposal, India started hitting back with the vengeance of any Pakistan's misadventure, the play Israel follows. Indian army took an eyeball-to-eyeball attitude towards China which has lifted the morale of our armed forces. In Kashmir too, the army was given a free hand to deal with the Pakistani insurgents and homegrown terrorists. CDS believed that one has to break an egg to make an omelette. As a loyal soldier, CDS Rawat was only answerable to his master and called spade a spade and he got things done even at the receiving ends of the opposition's tirade. The massive public ovation that General Rawat received at his funeral should give someone like Sanjay Raut a bloody nose.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Sandeep Mall @SandeepM

My Dadi and Nani are both 92. In great health. Don't need any support. Do everything on their own. Have been vegetarian life long. No protein shake, no supplements. I think I am slowly cracking the reason of that. Good sleep. Physically very active day. Better glucose management.



DBhowmikdhruba

Its not a mystery, shows diff bw Indian and Chinese strategic thinking! We are reactive while they have been proactive, they know after 5 yrs the gap in comprehensive national power bw both wud narrow down, India will have the border infra to threaten their flanks so they acted

Mona Patel@MonaPatel
The brahminy kites, symbol of Langkawi.

BN Sharma@BholaNath

Hate should have no place in our society, minds & behaviour; be it a speech or act in personal or political life, open or in disguised form, intended or unintentionally, verbally or non verbally, in friendly or unfriendly tone or tenor. It must be Opposed.

Chaitra Chidanand@CChid108

We struggle with marketing when we think of product & marketing separately. We think marketing comes much later, let's build product first. Instead of thinking how to create product, if we think of how to create a conversation piece, it'll take us one step closer to virality.

etienne@EtienneT_Esq

I often wonder what academia before computers was like. No emails so you just go home and read books and drink tea; your students have to actually go to office hours to ask questions; publication send rejections to your actual mailbox; no PowerPoints... what have we done.



K. C. Singh@ambkcsingh

Opposition ruled states protest new central deputation rules for IAS. Why this need to compel officers? Problem may be the work environment in Delhi i.e. 1. Imp posts going to officers of favoured state cadres; 2. PMO disempowering ministries.

BRIEF

Alliance



Mumbai: Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM) on Friday said it has entered into Sun Mobility to initially launch 10,000 units of cargo three-wheeler, Rage+, with swappable batteries. Omega Seiki Mobility chairman Uday Narang said it will allow us to add new value to products.

Logistics

Mumbai: Aviation firm ModAir said on Friday it has set up a tech-enabled air logistics company ModAir Express to cater to the cargo market, connecting Tier-II and Tier-III towns with the key cities across the country. Making same day delivery feasible, the newly launched company is a multi-phased project to ensure maximum coverage by linking north, east and other SEZ industrial hubs with Delhi, raising connectivity.

Plans



New Delhi: Alchemy Capital Management on Friday announced the launch of a new Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), which will invest in emerging companies. CEO Hiren Ved said it is a fund where the primary objective is to create the portfolio of the future.

Loss

New Delhi: RattanIndia Power Ltd (RPL) consolidated net loss widened to Rs 386.69 crore in the December quarter, compared to the same period a year ago, due non-operation of Nashik thermal power plant. The company had reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 69.09 crore in the quarter ended on December 31, 2020.

Raises



New Delhi: Toothsi on Friday said it has raised USD 9 million (over Rs 65 crore) in a debt funding round led by Stride Ventures. CEO Arpi Mehta said we aim to leverage our health tech doctor directed platform to provide Indians opportunity to improve appearance.

Launches

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Friday said it has launched its latest range of passenger vehicles in Bhutan. The company said it has launched the product range in association with Samden Vehicles, an authorised distributor of passenger vehicles in Bhutan.

Households free to install rooftop solar panel by any vendor

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on Friday said households are free to get rooftop solar panel installed by themselves or by any vendor of their choice and a photograph of the installed system for distribution utility is sufficient to avail benefits or subsidy under the government scheme.

Earlier under the rooftop solar scheme, the households were required to get that from the listed vendors only to avail the benefits and subsidy under the scheme.

The decision to simplify the rooftop solar scheme was taken in a review meeting chaired by Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy RK Singh.

According to the statement, after the review, the minister gave directions



for simplifying the Roof Top Scheme, so that the people are able to access it easily. He has directed that henceforth, it will not be necessary for any household to get the rooftop solar panel installed by any of the listed vendors.

The households may also install the rooftop solar panel by themselves or get the rooftop solar panel installed by any vendor of their choice, and in-

form the distribution company about the installation along with a photograph of the system, which has been installed.

The intimation to the Discom of the installation of the rooftop solar panel can be given either in the material form through a letter or application or on the designated website, which has been set up by every Discom and by the central government for

the Roof Top Scheme.

The distribution company will ensure that the net metering will be provided within 15 days of the information being received. The subsidy to be given by the government, which is 40 per cent for rooftop of up to 3 KW capacity and 20 per cent beyond that up to 10 KW will be credited to the account of the household by the Discom within 30 days of the installation.

In order to ensure that the quality of the solar panel and the inverter is according to the prescribed standard, the central government will publish from time to time the lists of solar panel manufacturers and inverter manufacturers whose products meet the expected quality standards and the price lists thereof, and the household can select the solar panels and inverter of his choice.

Rupee rises 8 paise at 74.43 against USD, gold rises slightly

Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTI):

The rupee advanced by 8 paise to close at 74.43 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday on the back of easing crude oil prices and dollar selling by banks and exporters.

However, the rupee's further recovery was restricted by continuous foreign fund outflows and sell-offs in domestic equities, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 74.50 a dollar and during the day, it witnessed an intra-day high of 74.40 and a low of 74.55 against the American currency.

The domestic unit finally settled at 74.43 (provisional) against the American currency, up 8 paise over its last close of

74.51. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, fell 0.13 per cent to 95.61.

"The Indian rupee appreciated on back of fall in crude oil prices, corporate dollar inflows along with exporters dollar selling and debt raising helped the rupee in trimming weekly losses," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

During this week, the local currency has depreciated 28 paise against the US dollar. On a weekly basis, spot USDINR marked the first loss in the last five weeks on the back of a surge in virus cases, higher crude oil prices and policy divergence between US Federal Reserves and Indian RBI, Parmar said.

Gold prices on Friday rose Rs 30 to Rs 48,410 per 10 gram in the futures trade as speculators created fresh positions amid a firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold contracts for the February delivery traded higher by Rs 30, or 0.06 per cent, to Rs 48,410 per 10 gram in a business turnover of 4,093 lots.

Participants created fresh positions, leading to a rise in gold futures, analysts said. Silver futures on Friday eased by Rs 138 to Rs 65,241 per kg as participants reduced their bets on low demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, silver contracts for the March delivery declined Rs 138, or 0.21 per cent, to Rs 65,241 per kg in a business turnover of 7,886 lots.

Govt taking significant steps to boost startup ecosystem

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The government is taking significant steps such as resolving the angel tax issue, simplification of tax procedures, and self-certification, in a bid to boost the startup ecosystem of the country, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. He also said that huge opportunities are there for startups in tier 2 and 3 cities and areas like advertising, marketing, professional services, fitness and wellness, gaming and sports and audio-video services. Startups should leverage modern technologies for local and global markets, he said while speaking at the launch of NASSCOM's Annual Technology Startup Report. "We are trying to

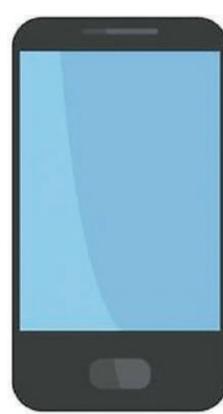


take significant steps to boost the startup ecosystem... We have the Budget coming up soon and all of us are anxiously waiting to see and hear what is done with some of the asks (recommendations)...," Goyal said. He added that the government is focusing on

reducing compliance burden to promote ease of doing business. Over 26,500 compliances have either been simplified, digitalised or completely removed from the statute and "we have been able to decriminalise almost 770 offences," he added. Talking

about Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), he said this platform would enable interoperability between e-commerce companies and provide small and large players an opportunity to reach the common man. "The next UPI moment can be the ONDC, which will help new-age technology in taking access to common man at affordable cost and also giving our startups new opportunities to grow in India," the minister said. "When compared to the UK, US, Israel, and China, 2021 has been an outstanding year for the Indian startup ecosystem, with the highest growth rate in terms of deals, both in seed stage and late-stage funding, and number of startups," Zinnov CEO Pari Natarajan said.

India smartphone market logs 169 mn units shipment



New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI): India's smartphone market registered its highest-ever shipments at 169 million units in 2021, according to a report by Counterpoint Research. Preliminary

data from Counterpoint Research's Market Monitor service said India's smartphone shipments crossed 169 million units in 2021 to register 11 per cent year-on-year growth from about 152 million units in 2020.

The market showed high resilience in a year that witnessed a second and more virulent COVID-19 wave as well as supply disruptions and price increases due to the ongoing component shortages, it added. The report said increased adoption and demand for 5G smartphones was one of the key factors for high shipments in 2021.

5G smartphones contributed to about 17 per cent of the overall shipments in 2021, registering 6x growth compared to 2020, it added.

Solar module making to jump 400% with Rs 50,000 cr investments



Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTI):

Local manufacturing of solar modules is set to soar by almost 400 per cent by fiscal 2025 compared to the last financial year with 30-35 GW of fresh module capacity at an investment of Rs 50,000 crore across the value chain, says a report.

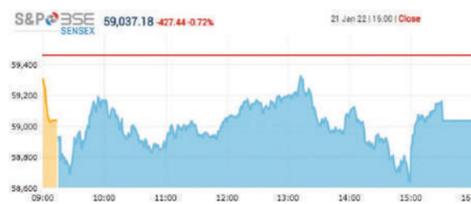
Rating agency Crisil's report is based on an

analysis of the capex plans of the top 11 domestic module manufacturers that account for 80 per cent of the current solar module installed effective capacity.

The solar module manufacturing value chain starts with poly silicon and/or ingots, which are converted into wafers. These wafers are used to

Sensex tumbles 427 pts, Nifty retains 17,600

Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTI):



Extending its losses for the fourth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex slumped 427 points on Friday, tracking weakness in Bajaj Finserv, L&T and Infosys amid a widespread sell-off in global markets. Relentless foreign fund outflows further weighed on the bourses, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index ended 427.44 points or 0.72 per cent lower at 59,037.18. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plunged 139.85 points or 0.79 per cent to 17,617.15.

Fag-end buying in some select blue-chip counters helped the bourses limit the losses.

Bajaj Finserv was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.37 per cent, followed by Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, L&T, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance and Infosys.

On the other hand, HUL, Maruti, HDFC twins, and TCS were among the gainers, rising up to 2.68 per

cent. In other Asian markets, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul, Shanghai and Tokyo closed in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading with deep losses in mid-session deals. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.9% to 7,518.47, while the DAX in Germany declined 1.2% to 15,720.00. In Paris, the CAC 40 lost 1.2% to 7,110.09. The future for the S&P 500 slipped 0.2% while the future for the Dow industrials was flat. In Asia on Friday, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.9% to 27,522.26 after Toyota Motor Corp announced production cuts due to parts shortages.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong edged 0.1% higher, regaining earlier losses, to 24,965.55. The Shanghai

Composite index shed 0.9% to 3,526.19.

Hong Kong-traded shares in e-commerce giant Alibaba fell 4.4% after a Chinese-made documentary suggested its financial arm might be implicated in a corruption probe.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Sydney dropped 2.3% to 7,175.80. South Korea's Kospi slid 1.1% to 2,830.82. Thailand's benchmark fell 0.5%. International oil benchmark Brent crude tumbled 1.92 per cent to USD 86.68 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market, as they sold shares worth Rs 4,679.84 crore on Thursday, according to stock exchange data.

Skoda starts production of Slavia

Mumbai, Jan 21:



On a continued product onslaught since 2021 and as part of the INDIA 2.0 project, SKODA AUTO India today announces the commencement of production of its premium mid-size sedan, the SKODA SLAVIA, from its plant in Chakan, Pune. Developed with a focus on the Indian market, the SLAVIA also marks the debut of an all-new sedan and the beginning of a new legacy for India and the world for SKODA AUTO. Powered by a 1.0 litre 3-cylinder turbo petrol and a 1.5-litre 4-cylinder turbo petrol, making 85kW (115ps) and 110kW (150PS) respectively, the SLAVIA will come with a choice of either a 6-speed manual, 6-speed automatic or 7-speed DSG transmission. Christian Cahn von Seelen, Chairman of

SKODA AUTO Volkswagen India Private Limited, said, "Four years ago, we pledged a renewed commitment to India with the announcement of the INDIA 2.0 project. Its success truly highlights the great collaboration between our teams across the globe and here in India. We have completed the first chapter with the successful launches of the two

SUVs. Today, with the production roll out of the SKODA SLAVIA, we are igniting the next stage of our INDIA 2.0 product campaign. The SLAVIA is a strong testament of our intent and capability in the Indian market. The SLAVIA will not only provide a boost to the premium sedan segment, but will also showcase SKODA AUTO's expertise, pedi-

gree and legacy with sedans in terms of design, packaging, dynamics, technology and value."

Zac Hollis, Brand Director, SKODA AUTO India, said, "The SLAVIA is an all-new value luxury sedan for India, specially developed and meticulously designed considering the requirements and expectations of our customers.

In times where interest for crossovers and SUVs is high, the SLAVIA is a measure of SKODA AUTO's confidence that it is the product and not the category or body shape that will drive customer demand.

We have already clocked in substantial growth over the last year and are rapidly expanding our network and customer touchpoints to bring more customers into the SKODA family.

B2B spending in India expected to grow 10.3% in 2022

■ Transactions among businesses improves economic recovery

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The total business-to-business spending in India is expected to rise by 10.3 per cent in 2022 with the spend of the country's businesses growing three times faster than the expectations from its comparable peers in other countries in the third quarter of last year, according to a study. The total business-to-business (B2B) spend for India rose 9.4 per cent in Q3 2021 on a year-on-year basis, as per the India Business Spend Indicator



(IBSI) report by American Express, India and Invest India in partnership with the Centre for Business and Economic Research (CEBR). Stating that the India spending is on the rise across nine key B2B categories, the report said, "it is expected to rise by 10.3 per cent in 2022." The study, which interviewed

500 financial decision makers in India on how their business spending habits are changing, found bullishness and greater confidence with 74 per cent of businesses expecting to spend more on technology and 72 per cent planning to make more capital investments in 2022.

Gems, jewellery exports grow 5.76% to USD 29 bn



New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI): Gems and jewellery exports in the April-December 2021 period grew by 5.76 per cent to USD 29.08 billion on account of healthy demand in major countries including the US, Hong Kong and Thailand, the GJEPC said on Friday.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said that exports in December 2021 rose by 29.49

per cent to USD 3.04 billion. "Holiday and festive demand was robust in important trading centres such as the USA, Hong Kong, Thailand and Israel. And we have every reason to believe that this momentum will carry through the end of FY2022, bringing us closer to the set target of USD 41.67 billion in exports," GJEPC chairman Colin Shah said in a statement.

Shivani Narayanan to play female lead in 'Bumper'

Bigg Boss Tamil' contestant and actress Shivani Narayanan has been roped in as the heroine of director Selvakumar's 'Bumper', which features actor Vetri of '8 Thottakkal' and 'Jivi' fame in the lead.

The Tamil film, based on the Kerala bumper lottery, will also feature actor Thangadurai in an interesting role.

Sources close to the unit say that the team shot the first schedule at the Peruvazhi Paathai route by obtaining the necessary permission from the Kerala government.

Says director Selvakumar, "Kerala bumper lottery forms the backdrop of this film. Vetri is playing the protagonist, and actor Hareesh Peradi is doing a very important character."

Vinoth Rathinasamy, who has worked in films such as 'Nedunlaivadai', 'MGR Magan', 'Aalambana' and 'Kadamaiyai Sei', is the cinematographer of the film.

The next schedule will commence soon, sources said and added that the shoot would be completed in February. Some important scenes are to be canned in Thoothukudi as well.

Govind Vasantha has scored the music for 'Bumper', which has been produced by S Thiagaraja for Vetha Pictures.

COLORS launches 'Hunarbaaz - DeshKi Shaan'

Your talent will shi- neno matter who you are, where you come from or what you do! India is a land brimming with talent, that is our pride and can be found in various nooks and crannies of the country. Giving these talented prodigies a platform to showcase their extraordinary 'hunar's and fulfil their dreams will be COL- ORS' new homegrown talent show 'Hunarbaaz - Desh Ki Shaan'. The show promises to open its arms to anyone and everyone who is talented, transcending all boundaries of religion, gender, socio-economic status, geographies, or physical abilities. Helming the show and taking charge to nourish these hunarbaaz and their crafts will be Bollywood's stalwarts; the legendary superstar Mithun Chakraborty, ace film-maker Karan Johar and the multi-talented diva Parineeti Chopra. Television's power couple Bharti Singh and HaershLimbachiyaa will be seen hosting the show with their tickling comic style and charm! Produced by Frames Production, 'Hunarbaaz- Desh Ki Shaan' will make



its much-awaited premiere on 22nd January 2022 and air every Saturday-Sunday at 9 pm.

The auditions round of 'Hunarbaaz- Desh Ki Shaan' saw an array of talent cutting across various genres. From flautists, acrobat dancers, stand up artists, rappers, beatboxers, magicians to gymnasts and many other hidden talents, the show will be packed with a powerful range of never-seen-before acts. While an 11-year-old Anirban from Kolkata will soothe your soul with

his flute playing ability, a magician from Mumbai, Rajesh Kumar will enthral the nation with his breath-taking act.

Spectacular acrobat duo Sanchita and Shubrato's performance will be a visual delight while Akash Singh's jaw-dropping pole act will raise the bar even higher. The contestants appearing on the show are extremely gifted and are backed by many inspirational stories that will leave the viewers in awe of them. Additionally, the show will give the live au-

dience power to choose their favorite Hunarbaaz and be the 'Super Judge'. For any contestant, 70% weightage of the overall score will lie with the live audience while judges will hold 30% weightage. To qualify, each contestant will need to secure a combined score of 80%.

Get ready to witness a lot of fun, entertainment, and exceptional hunar-with 'Hunarbaaz- Desh Ki Shaan' starting 22nd January 2022 every Saturday and Sunday 9 pm only on COLORS.



Swara Bhaskar: Post-Covid fatigue is a real thing

Actress Swara Bhaskar, who suffered from Covid, has recovered and is now back in the studio for the dubbing of her upcoming film 'Jahaan Chaar Yaar'. She says even though she feels happy to be back in work, her body requires more rest.

Swara said, "I was supposed to dub for this film earlier, but unfortunately, it got delayed due to COVID-19. I have been feeling very pressured about having to complete my work for the movie. As soon as I tested negative for COVID, I flew to Mumbai and headed for the dubbing straight from the airport. I am glad to be back at work and I am re-

ally enjoying dubbing as it is a process I enjoy in general too." However, she also mentioned how she is still taking more time to deal with the fatigue that happens post-Covid. "Covid fatigue is a real thing and I have realised that while being back at work, the weakness that it leaves is very real so I am trying to rest adequately and also ensuring that I continue working. I dub for 3-4 hours and rest for the entire day making sure I don't overwork myself," shared the actress.

The film 'Jahaan Chaar Yaar' is directed by Kamal Pandey, and it also features Meher Vij, Pooja Chopra and Shikha Talsania.



Who will Savita choose, her husband's life or her righteousness?

Sony SAB's Shubb Laabh Aapkey Ghar Mein's unexpected turn has stunned the audience as Savita (Geetanjali Tikekar) slaps Rohit (Mithil Jain) for making her do an interview where she is posing as 'Savita Maa', who treats people with her bhakti. However, Rohit continues to be in a denial and tries to convince his mother. This has made Savita extremely angry and hurt and so she leaves. She feels bad about Rohit's actions and she apologizes to Lakshmi Maa (Chhavvi Pandey) on Rohit's behalf. The organiz-

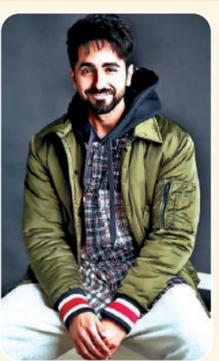
er demands Savita to do the interview as his money is on the line. But she refuses to do it because it is unethical. This will also lead people into thinking something she is not and decides that she will never do something like this. Annoyed with Savita's words, the organizers threaten Savita and Rohit and eventually kidnap Niranjana (Nasir Khan). Savita is now in a dilemma, if she does the interview, it will be unethical and against her values and morals, but if she doesn't, her husband's life is in danger.

Ayushmann: 'An Action Hero' is mounted at a scale that deserves to be shot in big locations

Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana, who is currently in London shooting for his next, 'An Action Hero', is excited to be shooting for the first time in the UK as it will help him explore the beauty of the country, its art and heritage.

The film, directed by debutant Anirudh Iyer, will see Ayushmann essaying the role of an action star, who indulges in real-life action for the reasons that will be revealed during the course of the film. The actor reveals that a film like 'An Action Hero' required a certain scale of canvas. Hence, shooting in London was essential.

He says: "This is the first time that I will be shooting in London and I'm quite excited to explore and see the beauty of the country from close quarters. 'An Action Hero' is mounted at a scale that deserves to be shot in big locations. So, while we will film in some gorgeous places of India, we will also shoot at some really breath-taking places in the United Kingdom which I'm sure the audiences will love to see on the big screen."



Talking about the blessings that come with the profession of acting, he says: "We actors are blessed because our profession takes us to remarkable places, makes us meet and collaborate with incredible people and also helps us make fantastical memories.

"Through the course of my career, I have always loved to travel to new places and thankfully I have been presented with opportunities that allow me to travel to so many beautiful locations in the world." 'An Action Hero' is being produced by Aanand L. Rai's Colour Yellow Production and Bhushan Kumar's T-Series.

HOROSCOPE SATURDAY JANUARY 22

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
You take inspiration from Hercules today! Your endurance will see you through adversities, asserts Ganesha. Despite this, your playful bantering will cheer your colleagues. You even manage to please your beloved, and that speaks volumes about you!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Beating deadlines, with whatever is handy, is what you will be focusing on today. No post-lunch siesta for you. The later part of the day, relaxing with your sweetheart, ought to make up for all the running around you had to do earlier, says Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Today you will be full of enthusiasm and enthusiasm. Therefore, whatever work you do, you will do it with full enthusiasm. Your imagination is amazing. Through him you will be able to complete all the work and in the afternoon you will organize successful events for future trends. Ganesha's blessings are with you.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
This day, you're liable to act very harsh and assertive towards your subordinates. You will insist that they follow your orders and do exactly as you say. Your rough handling will not go down well with your workers, or colleagues. Be sure that you are going to suffer and pay for that in the long run.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
You will be caught up in your daily routine so much that you will begin to think of ways to break free and do something new for a change. You need to spend more time with your family members and children to unwind. The evening will see you attending a party or a dinner with your friends, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
Today, there is likely to be a twist in your tale. Something is going to happen that is likely to make your life turn a corner. It may be a major breakthrough or a seemingly innocuous accident, but your life is likely to change significantly.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
Falling into a routine can be dangerous if it traps you in a rut. So, bear this in mind and take a break from the usual, says Ganesha. A little change will go a long way in helping you recharge your batteries. Your children's achievements will make you proud, even as afternoon will bring glad tidings on the financial front.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
Ganesha predicts that family matters will occupy most of your attention today. Your power of persuasion and your towering persona may help you get pending work done. Emotional issues may demand your attention as well, and you will handle them with practised ease. You will spend the night discussing intimate matters with your spouse.

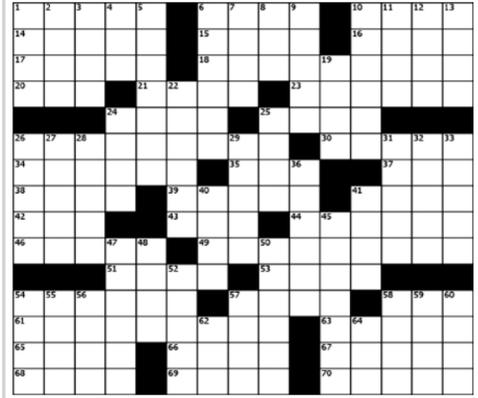
Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
You will spin out a plan on a daily basis and prefer to go with the flow, predicts Ganesha. The afternoon may see your peers giving you some bit of unnecessary tension due to approaching deadlines. In the evening, you may consider spending some time meditating to attain peace of mind.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
You will tackle work and commitments with a renewed zeal today, says Ganesha. Your enthusiasm may catch on at the workplace, contagious and inspiring as it is. On the career front, things will look up later in the day and opportunities will shower a plenty. Take a break when the stress begins to pile and indulge in some leisure activity of your liking.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31
Your colleagues will enjoy your flexible and positive attitude at work today, feels Ganesha. Polish your social skills and your smile, because today afternoon might turn out to be a carnival of people. Your evening may be more laid-back as you will find breathing space to relax with your loved ones.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
You may wobble under the burgeoning work pressure and may have to endure tremendous stress to meet deadlines and achieve set targets. But the hellish situation will fail to affect your state of mind as well as your ability to make sensible decisions, says Ganesha.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Honolulu greeting
 - Roasting rod
 - Marina sight
 - Aired again
 - Exhaust
 - Canyon feedback
 - Foe
 - Surgical procedure
 - Commercials
 - Burrowing animal
 - Certain leathers
 - Vatican leader
 - Casino game
 - Deep respect
 - Walk heavily
 - Pencil rubber
 - Luau souvenir
 - Laughing sound
 - Foal
 - Proficient
 - Tubs
 - Fruit beverage

- Briny deep
- Music system
- ___ Pan
- Aardvarks
- Crossword direction
- As well
- Igloo dweller
- Barking sounds
- Disencumber
- Dawdling
- Escape
- Overdue
- Sole
- Shoe fasteners
- Copied
- Music for two
- Move stealthily

- DOWN**
- Territory
 - Loan
 - Mine products
 - Deli meat
 - From now on
 - Taken illegally
 - Plumbing tube
 - Animosities
 - Concise
 - Falling star
 - Amino ___
 - Footwear
 - Coal measures
 - Parent's sister
 - Wagner works
 - Annoying person

SOLUTION 193

Anisimova upsets defending champion Osaka at Australian Open

Melbourne, Jan 21 (AP):

Defending champion Naomi Osaka didn't make it to a much-anticipated fourth-round contest against top-ranked Ash Barty at the Australian Open.

Amanda Anisimova, a 20-year-old American ranked 60th in the world, ensured that so-called final-before-the-final won't happen when she beat the four-time major champion 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5) Friday.

I knew I had to be playing sharp if I wanted to give myself a chance, said Anisimova, who took out Olympic champion Belinda Bencic in the second round and then accounted for the 2021 Australian Open champion.

After losing the first set, Anisimova knew she needed to get more aggressive or she would be out of the tournament. It worked. Anisimova saved two match points in the third set, serving to stay in the match, and ended it with an ace. She hit 46 winners to Osaka's 21. It's the fourth time Osaka has been unable to defend a major title, and the 11th time in a Grand Slam she has been knocked out in the third round, including last year's U.S. Open.

Barty advances
Barty advanced with a 6-2, 6-3 win over 30th-seeded Camila Giorgi on Rod Laver Arena, the match starting later and finishing earlier than the Osaka-

Anisimova contest on the adjoining Margaret Court Arena. Barty has only conceded eight games and spent less than three hours on court in the first three rounds at Melbourne Park. The Wimbledon champion and 2019 French Open winner is aiming to be the first Australian woman to win her home championship since 1978.

Azarenka overpowers Svitolina

Two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka's overpowered 15th-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-0, 6-2 to reach the fourth round at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2016. Before she had a chance to analyze both players she might meet next, a question was posed to her son about the two-time Australian Open champion's third-round performance. Five-year-old Leo, wearing his sunglasses in the news conference room and sitting on his mother's knee, responded succinctly: Awesome! Azarenka thanked her son, then listed the positive points from her perspective. Those included: The amount of aggressivity I could bring point after point, applying a lot of pressure, the consistency. Taking control of my end of the court." She will next play French Open champion Barbora Krejickova, who rallied from a set and a break down against 26th-seeded Jelena Ostapenko to win 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.



Amanda Anisimova of the US celebrates after beating Japan's Naomi Osaka in their women's singles match on day five of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on January 21.

Stupid to blame IPL for England's Ashes debacle: Pietersen



Muscat, Jan 21 (PTI):

Former captain and batting star Kevin Pietersen has said that it's "stupid" to blame the Indian Premier League for England's embarrassing 0-4 loss to Australia in the recently-concluded Ashes series. England great David Gower was "annoyed" after their Ashes defeat and said current skipper Joe Root had players who were "unavailable" because of the IPL. Pietersen, an Ashes winner in 2005, 2009, 2010-11 and 2013, laughed at the remark. "It is stupid. You can't blame the IPL for the demise of Test cricket in England. It's crazy. I've commented on it quite a lot. It's the system, it's the county cricket system, which is poor. So there's no blame," Pietersen, who is representing World Giants in the Legends League Cricket here, said during an interaction here on Thursday. "It's crazy to blame the Indian Premier League because if you have a look at the Test team, there's only maybe (Ben) Stokes (Jonny) Bairstow and (Jos) Buttler who play the IPL..."

Pant scores career-best 85 as India post 287/6 vs SA in 2nd ODI

Paarl, Jan 21 (PTI):

Rishabh Pant played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 85 off 71 balls as India managed to set up a competitive 288-run victory target against South Africa in the second ODI here on Friday.

Pant and skipper KL Rahul (55 off 79 balls) had added 115 runs in less than 19 overs, especially the former taking the South African slow medium pacers and spinners to cleaners.

But there dismissals in quick succession saw Proteas make a comeback on a Boland Park strip where stroke-making wasn't an easy proposition for a new batter.

The two Iyers -- Shreyas (11 off 14 balls) and Venkatesh (22 off 33 balls) found it a real struggle to get going with ball not coming onto the bat as the momentum completely shifted.

India ended up with a score that was at least 20 runs less than what it could have been had Pant gone on to make a deserving maiden ODI hundred.

Shardul Thakur (40 not out off 38 balls) once again used the long handle well in the company of Ravichandran Ashwin (25 not out off 24 balls) to prop up the score somewhat.

Skipper Rahul dropped anchor at one end but it was more like his own runs than ones that would have really helped the team's cause as he stayed at the wicket for more than 30 overs opening the



innings and barely managed a fifty plus score.

It didn't hurt much during their stand as Pant with 10 fours and two sixes took charge to keep the run-rate at a healthy five plus per over.

Both slow left-arm orthodox Keshav Maharaj (9-0-52-1) and left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (9-0-57-2), who otherwise looked good, were made to look pedestrian by Pant.

He not only lofted them for a six each over long-on,

he played the sweep shot -- both slog sweep towards cow corner and the conventional ones square off the wicket to good effect. It was one such shot off Shamsi that brought about his downfall.

Before that, rookie pacer Sisanda Magala (8-0-64-1), in his second spell varied the pace of his deliveries well to force Rahul commit into an uppish flick-shot that was taken at short mid-wicket by Rassie van der Dussen.

Pathan brothers magic shoots down Asian Lions

Muscat, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Pathan brothers -- Yusuf and Irfan -- still have their magic intact as they spearheaded Indian Maharajas' clinical six-wicket win over Asian Lions in the Legends League Cricket T20 opener, here.

Yusuf smashed five sixes and nine boundaries in a 40-ball 80, while skipper Mohammad Kaif anchored their tricky 176-run chase with an unbeaten 42 to script the win with five balls to spare here on Thursday.

"It looked like he's coming straight from the IPL with the form he showed," Asian Lions skipper Misbah-ul-Haq summed up Yusuf's innings aptly.

Maharajas opted to field, and Irfan Pathan gave a double blow -- Mohammad Hafeez (16) and Mohammad Yousuf (1) -- in his very first over to derail the Asian Lions in the middle overs. Irfan bowled with a lot of variations, be it the cutters



or the slower ones to restrict the flow of runs in his tidy spell of 4-0-22-2. Irfan also smashed one six and two boundaries in a row in his unbeaten 21 from 10 balls, while Kaif sealed the chase with a boundary off Nuwan Kulasekara in the first ball of the final over.

"The credit should go to our bowlers, especially the way Irfan came in the middle overs and gave those crucial breakthroughs. At one point it seemed they were going to get past the 200-mark," Yusuf was full of

praise for his younger brother. It was Upul Tharanga (66 from 46 balls) who top-scored for the Lions, while skipper Misbah (44 from 30 balls) gave a fine helping hand before being dismissed in the final over. On a windy evening at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground, people started making a beeline much in advance to see so many former International stars under one roof for the first time at a ground that earlier hosted mostly Associated nations.

Sindhu enters semis, Prannoy crashes out of Syed Modi International

Lucknow, Jan 21 (PTI):

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu rallied from a game down to eke out a hard-fought win over Thailand's Supanida Katething to enter the semifinals of the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament here on Friday.

The top-seeded Indian beat her Thai rival, seeded sixth in the tournament, 11-21 21-12 21-17 in a quarterfinal match that lasted one hour and five minutes.

Sindhu will face fifth-seeded Russian Evgeniya Kosetskaya in the semifinals. In the men's singles, however, HS Prannoy crashed out of the tournament with a straight-game defeat to Arnaud Merkle of France in the quarterfinals. The fifth-seeded Indian, a former top 10 player, lost 19-21 16-21 to his French opponent in a 59-minute quarterfinal

match. Mithun Manjunath, however, advanced to the semifinals after beating Sergey Sirant of Russia 11-21 21-12 21-18 in a quarterfinal match that lasted one hour and one minute.

Manjunath will face Merkle in the semifinals.

In the mixed doubles event, the Indian pair of MR Arjun and Treesa Jolly beat the eight seeded French duo of William Villiger and Anne Tran 24-22 21-17 in the quarterfinal match that lasted 42 minutes. Arjun and Jolly will face compatriots and seventh seeded pair of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto in the semifinals.

In the women's doubles quarterfinals, India's Ramya Venkatesh Chickmenahalli and Apeksha Nayak conceded a walkover to eight seeded Malaysian pair of Anna Ching Yik Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing.

India to open T20 WC campaign against Pakistan on October 23 at the MCG

Dubai, Jan 21 (PTI):

In a blockbuster T20 World Cup opener for India, the team was on Friday drawn to clash with arch-rivals Pakistan on October 23 at the iconic MCG as the International Cricket Council (ICC) released the fixtures.

India had lost to Pakistan for the first time in an ICC tournament when the teams clashed in last year's T20 World Cup in Dubai.

India's second Super 12 match in Group 2 will be on October 27 in Sydney against a qualifier (runner up of Group A) and will be followed by matches against South Africa (October 30 in Perth) and Bangladesh (Adelaide Oval on November 2).

The Men in Blue's last Super 12 match is scheduled for November 6 against the winners of Group B at the MCG.

The Super 12s -- round two of the tournament,



with two groups -- will begin on October 22 with hosts and defending champions Australia playing New Zealand at the SCG on October 22 in a rematch of last year's men's T20 World Cup final.

The Black Caps will also face England at The Gabba on November 1 in a rematch of their epic semi-final encounter at the 2021 event. In Super 12s, Australia are in Group 1 with world number one England, New Zealand, Afghanistan plus the winner of Group A and the runner-up in Group B

from the first round. The semi-finals will be played at the SCG and Adelaide Oval on November 9 and 10, respectively. It will be the first time the Adelaide Oval will host a World Cup semi-final.

The MCG will host the final, which will be contested under lights on November 13.

In the first round, 2014 champions Sri Lanka and Namibia will play the opening match at Kardinia Park, Geelong on October 16. They'll be joined by two qualifiers in Group A.

Japan open title defence in style with 5-0 win over Myanmar



Pune, Jan 21 (PTI):

Powerhouse Japan showcased their overwhelming technical superiority as they secured an easy 5-0 win over Myanmar to begin their AFC Women's Asian Cup title defence in style here on Friday.

Japan had to wait till the 22nd minute to take the lead but once they did that there was no stopping the two-time defending champions, who toyed with their opponents in a lop-sided Group C match at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex.

Riko Ueki gave the Japanese the lead while strikes early in the second half from Yui Hasegawa and Hikaru Naomoto provided the 2011 World Cup runners-up a comfortable cushion. Substitute Yui Narumiya hit the fourth before Hasegawa sealed the win in injury time.

The Japanese showed the wide gap in class between the 13th and 47th ranked teams from the opening whistle. The hapless Myanmar had to defend in their own half with hardly an attacking move all through the match.

Skipper Dhull among five players unavailable for Uganda game after returning positive RTPCR tests

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

Five Indian players, including skipper Yash Dhull, were on Friday ruled out of team's final league game against Uganda in the U-19 World Cup after testing positive for COVID-19 in latest RTPCR tests.

Out of the six players, who were isolated before the match against Ireland on Wednesday, only all-rounder Vasu Vats tested negative, an ICC source told PTI.

The team, which has already qualified for the quarterfinals, is set to take on Uganda in the final Group B game on Saturday in Tarouba, Trinidad.

Skipper Dhull, Aaradhya Yadav and Shaik Rasheed, who had tested positive in the



Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), have returned positive reports in the RT-PCR test along with Manav Parakh,

who tested negative in RAT. Sidharth Yadav had already tested positive in the RT-PCR test before the

Ireland game.

"One positive out of this unfortunate situation is that the 11 who played against Ireland have all tested negative," said the ICC source.

Among the infected, Dhull has the worst symptoms but he along with the other players, "should be fine" before their quarterfinal on January 29 provided they top Group B.

India registered a thumping win over Ireland to qualify for the knockouts after barely managing to field a team in the wake of COVID outbreak in their camp.

All the infected players are required to undergo five days of isolation as per tournament protocols and can only rejoin the team after returning three negative tests within that period.

Indian women football team earns praise from Bhutia

Navi Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Indian women's football team could not force a win against Iran in its Asian Cup opener but the performance has drawn praise from the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia.

Bhutia, who watched the proceedings from the venue on Thursday, said the Indian team was unfortunate not to end on the winning side.

"I am extremely impressed by the manner the girls played. They were unfortunate not to get three points. The Iranian goalkeeper also came up with some amazing saves which further denies us," Bhutia said.

"Women's football has come a long way," said the former captain, who is the only second Indian to have played more than 100 matches for the country along with current skipper Sunil Chhetri.



From his own experience, Bhutia knows the first match was always tough but he was pleased at the manner the team operated tactically.

"The Blue Tigresses were so organised and maintained their shape all throughout. They were able to open up during the attacks, and narrow it down while defending all of which are hallmarks of a well-drilled squad," he said in a release from All India Football Federation.

SECURITY CHECK



Security personnel check a scooter of a commuter as they patrol ahead of Republic Day, at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, Friday. Security has been further beefed up in the Vally ahead of Republic Day.

Clubhouse app chat case: Mumbai cops arrest three from Haryana

Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTD):

Mumbai police have arrested three men in the age group of 19 to 22 from Haryana in connection with the chats on Clubhouse app, in which objectionable and abusive comments were allegedly passed against women, an official said on Friday. The cyber police station of the Mumbai crime branch made the arrests late on Thursday night.

While two of the accused - Jaishnav Kakkar (21) and Yash Parashar (22) - were held from Faridabad, the third one, identified as Akash Suyal (19), was nabbed from Karnal, he

said, adding that they are being brought to the city. Parashar is a law student, while Kakkar studied in commerce stream. Suyal has completed Class 12 education, the official said.

"A complaint had been lodged on January 19, 2022 by a woman at the Cyber police station, following which an FIR was registered. In her complaint, the woman had alleged that the participants of the Clubhouse chats had used objectionable remarks against women.

She also complained that her photographs as well as those of her childhood friend were used in the chat room on October 27

and November 27 last year during a discussion about women," Milind Barambe, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) said.

During the probe, police found that two chat rooms had been created on the Clubhouse app on January 16 and 19 (this year), he said. "Some of the participants discussed and made derogatory statements about women. They also talked about auctioning female body parts," he said.

Although there were around 300 participants in each of these two chat rooms, those who used objectionable language against women are the ac-

cused in the case, he said.

A Twitter user 'Jaimine' had uploaded a video of the Clubhouse chats, which were also shared on Instagram from an account named 'Lotus Watch'. As objectionable and abusive language against women was used, it created an uproar, the official said.

"A user named as KIRA XD was the moderator and the main speaker of those Clubhouse chats, which were widely circulated on social media on January 16 and 19. It was found that Akash Suyal had created the KIRA XD account and he was the alleged moderator and main speaker," he said.

Congress releases youth manifesto

Priyanka pitches herself as CM candidate

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTD):

Signalling the way forward for the Congress as Uttar Pradesh heads towards elections, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday pitched herself as the party's chief ministerial face as she released a youth manifesto for the state along with Rahul Gandhi.

The Congress general secretary, however, evaded queries on whether she would contest the assembly polls beginning next month. She also said the party would be open to a post-poll alliance if the need arose.

"Do you see any other face from the Congress party," Priyanka Gandhi



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra speaks at the launch of Youth Manifesto of UPCC, at AICC in New Delhi, Friday.

said when asked who would be the party's chief ministerial candidate in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls.

"You are seeing my face

everywhere," the Congress leader added while addressing a joint press conference with her brother and former party president Rahul Gandhi to re-

lease the 'Bharti Vidhan' (recruitment document) manifesto that promises a new vision for youth in the state and the creation of 20 lakh jobs, including eight lakh for women.

To a question on whether she would herself contest the assembly polls, Priyanka Gandhi said, "We have not yet decided." She said it would be known once that is decided.

The Congress general secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh said the party would certainly look at supporting other parties for government formation and was open to backing them if the situation were to arise after the elections.

Army chief takes briefing on operational preparedness

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTD):

Army chief General M M Naravane on Friday concluded his two-day visit to Bhopal where he was briefed by the commanders on operational preparedness and reforms that are being undertaken, an official statement said.

Lieutenant General JS Nain, Southern Army Commander, was also present during Naravane's visit, the defence ministry's statement noted.

"The COAS (Chief of Army Staff) was briefed by the Sudarshan Chakra Corps Commander and other commanders on operational preparedness and on the reforms being undertaken towards transforming the formation into a modern, cohesive, lean and agile war fighting force," it mentioned.

IMD issues 'orange' alert for rain in 19 MP districts

Bhopal, Jan 21 (PTD):

The India Meteorological Department on Friday issued an 'orange' alert for rain and thundershowers accompanied by lightning and hail in 19 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

It also issued a 'yellow' alert for moderate to dense fog cover in isolated places in Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Niwari, Chhatapur and Tikamagarh districts. Both alerts are valid till Saturday morning, an official said.

The orange alert is for Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Datia, Ashok Nagar, Sheopur, Morena, Bhind,

Neemuch, Mandsaur, Raltam, Rajgarh, Agar Malwa, Vidisha, Tikamgarh, Chhatapur, Niwari, Damoh and Sagar districts, he said.

PK Saha, senior meteorologist with IMD's Bhopal office, said an induced cyclonic circulation was lying over central parts of Madhya Pradesh, while another induced cyclonic circulation was over southern Pakistan and adjoining southwest Rajasthan, and these two systems were bringing in moisture to Madhya Pradesh.

He said cloudy weather conditions were likely to prevail for two or three days, giving a respite to

the people from the chill.

However, the minimum temperature is likely to start dipping in western MP after three days to mark the return of a fresh spell of cold, he added.

The lowest minimum temperature of 6 degrees Celsius in MP was recorded at Khajuraho in Chhatapur district, he said.

As per IMD data, the maximum and minimum temperature was recorded as 25.6 and 11.3 degrees Celsius in Bhopal, which is one above normal.

In Indore, it was 25.8 degrees Celsius, or one above normal, and 12.5 degrees Celsius, which was two above normal.

SANGAM MAGH MELA



Hindu devotees gather to take holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturdashi festival, during ongoing Magh Mela, in Prayagraj.

AG gives consent to initiate contempt proceedings against Yati Narsinghanand for remarks against SC

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTD):

Attorney General K K Venugopal on Friday granted consent to initiate contempt proceedings against 'Dharam Sansad' leader Yati Narsinghanand over his alleged remarks against the Constitution and the Supreme Court.

The consent has been granted in response to a letter by an activist, Shachi Nelli, seeking to initiate contempt against Yati Narsinghanand for his statements in an interview that went viral on Twitter on the January 14.

As per Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, the nod of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is a condition precedent to set the criminal contempt proceedings in motion before the apex court.

I find that the statement made by Yati Narsinghanand... is a direct attempt to lower the authority of the Supreme Court in the minds of the general public. This would certainly amount to contempt of the Supreme Court of India. I accordingly grant consent to initiate proceedings for criminal contempt of the Supreme Court of India, the AG said.

Narsinghanand is in custody after his arrest by the Uttarakhand police over his anti-Muslim hate speeches at the Haridwar 'Dharam Sansad'. In the letter, Nelli claimed that Narsinghanand made a vile and clear attempt at interfering in the course of justice by means of abusive rhetoric and baseless attacks on the integrity of the Constitution and the courts.

Warship docks in Mumbai German envoy stresses on free sea routes

Mumbai, Jan 21 (PTD):

German naval frigate FGS Bayern (F217) docked in Mumbai on Friday even as the European country's Ambassador to India said the Indo-Pacific region was of utmost importance and emphasised on free maritime routes. The warship, whose arrival here indicates strong defence ties between the two nations, was welcomed by an Indian Navy band at a ceremony.

The F123 Brandenburg class frigate will dock in Mumbai for a day and also conduct a passing exercise with the Indian Navy, officials added. Germany's Ambassador to India



German Navy personnel on board Bayern F217, a Brandenburg-class frigate, as it arrives at the Mumbai port, Friday.

Walter Lindner said his country and more and more European nations were convinced that the Indo-Pacific was one of

the most important regions on the planet. Sixty per cent of international trade goes through the Strait of Malacca and

through the area, 50 per cent of the world's population lives here, 50 per cent of the world's GDP comes from this area, and three of the biggest economies - the US, China and Japan - are placed around this Pacific, the envoy noted.

But on the other side, we have regional tensions. We have at least three nuclear powers here. So it is important you have free maritime, shipping routes, and on the other side, you have a peaceful area with stability the stability where conflicts are solved with mutual understanding. That's the message of our guidelines, which we brought out a year ago, Lindner told PTI.

Use drones to monitor mining operations: HC

Chennai, Jan. 21 (PTD):

The Madras High Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to use drones across the State to assess the quantum of minerals extracted and the areas under mining operations.

"The respondents are directed to conduct drone measurements hereinafter in all mining operations across the State of Tamil Nadu for purpose of assessing the mining operations and the minerals mined by the operators and determine the royalty to be collected and recover the same accordingly," Justice S M Subramanian said. The judge gave the di-

rection while disposing of a batch of writ petitions from the Associated Cement Companies Limited in Madukkarai village in Coimbatore challenging an order issued in March 2002 by the Director of Geology and Mining at Guindy here. The order directed the petitioner-companies to pay the royalty as was demanded in the impugned notices. The judge also directed the authorities to conduct 'drone measurements' operations wherever the mining operations are conducted by the writ petitioners and accordingly, assess the quantum of minerals/ limestone removed by them.

BSF deploys more troops, surveillance equipment along border

'winter strategy'

Jammu, Jan 21 (PTD):

The Border Security Force (BSF) has deployed additional troops along with anti-fog surveillance equipment on the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir as part of its "winter strategy" to foil infiltration bids and terror plans ahead of Republic Day celebrations, officials said on Friday. BSF troops guarding the

200-km International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir have been put on alert to ensure high-degree of security against infiltrating terrorists. "We have mobilised troops along the border. Extra troops have been deployed along with surveillance equipment along IB in view of the foggy weather and Republic Day celebrations," a senior officer told PTI. He said that operations and night domination exercises have increased along the border which witnesses dense fog during winters.

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BRIEF

Channels blocked

New Delhi: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has ordered the blocking of 35 YouTube channels and two websites which were running anti-India propaganda and spreading fake news "in a coordinated manner". These websites and YouTube channels were being operated from Pakistan, I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra told a press conference on Friday.

Maoist surrenders

Hyderabad: A Maoist couple surrendered before the police in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district of Telangana on Friday, police said. Venuma Nanga alias Tree (30) joined the outlawed CPI (Maoist) in 2013 and was presently working as a supply team section commander, a police release said. Podium Adami alias Manjula (28) joined the organisation in 2014 and was now working in doctors supplying team, said the release.

Illegal firearms

Shahjahanpur (UP): Special Task Force (STF) of Uttar Pradesh Police on Friday arrested two gun manufacturers and recovered a large quantity of finished and semi-finished illegal firearms. Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar said that on a tip-off, a raid was carried out at a brick kiln lying closed in the Tehbarganj area and arrested two persons. Five country-made pistols, a large number of machines and semi-finished illegal firearms besides raw material were also recovered, he said.

Liquor ban

Bhopal: Senior BJP leader Uma Bharti on Friday sought total prohibition in the party-ruled Madhya Pradesh, a demand endorsed by her colleague and Lok Sabha MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur who, however, added that "liquor works as a medicine under ayurved if consumed in a limited quantity". Former chief minister Bharti, in a series of tweets in Hindi, said in the first phase of her move for total prohibition, she had discussions with senior RSS workers, Madhya Pradesh BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Booster doses

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Union Government, Maharashtra Government and the Mumbai civic body to file reply to a petition seeking a policy for administering booster doses of anti-coronavirus vaccines. Advocate Aditya Thakkar, appearing for the Centre, told a division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Anil Kilor that guidelines have been framed for administering 'precaution doses' to senior citizens and front-line workers.

Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with eternal flame at National War Memorial

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM) here on Friday.

The Amar Jawan Jyoti will be put out and people can now pay their respects at the eternal flame at the NWM, military officials said.

After India defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was constructed as a memorial for Indian soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. It was inaugurated by the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, on January 26, 1972.

In a short ceremony on Friday afternoon, a part of the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame was taken and merged with the flame at the NWM 400 metres away. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal



Air Marshal BR Krishna, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, merges Amar Jawan Jyoti flame with flame at National War Memorial, in New Delhi, Friday.

B R Krishna presided over the ceremony, the military officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on February 25, 2019, inaugurated the NWM, where names of 25,942 soldiers have been inscribed in golden letters on granite tablets. Ex-servicemen ex-

pressed mixed reactions on the Centre's decision to merge the flames.

Former Army Chief General Ved Malik supported the government's decision, stating that it is "a natural thing" to merge flames now as the NWM has been established and all ceremonials related to

remembrance and honouring soldiers killed in action are being held there.

Former Air Vice Marshal Manmohan Bahadur, however, tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Twitter and requested him to rescind the decision.

Netaji's grand statue to be installed at India Gate: PM

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

Ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday that a grand statue of the iconic freedom fighter will be installed at India Gate as a symbol of India's "indebtedness" to him.

Till the statue, made of granite, is completed, a hologram statue of his would be present at the same place, he said, adding that he will unveil the hologram statue on January 23, the birth anniversary of the Azad Hind Fauj founder. "At a time when the en-



An artist prepares a sculpture of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose ahead of his 125th birth anniversary, in Kolkata, Friday.

tire nation is marking the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, I am glad to share that his grand statue,

made of granite, will be installed at India Gate. This would be a symbol of India's indebtedness to him," Modi tweeted.

Most people feel I-T exemption limit could be raised from Rs 2.5 lakh: Survey

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

A majority of respondents (64 per cent) feel that the Union Budget 2022-23, to be unveiled on February 1, will increase the basic income tax exemption limit from the current Rs 2.5 lakh, according to a pre-budget survey by KPMG in India.

As many as 36 per cent of the survey respondents felt that the 80-C deduction limit of Rs 1.5 lakh will be increased, while 19 per cent felt that the standard deduction could be increased for salaried class from the current Rs 50,000. Sixteen per cent of

the respondents felt the Budget could provide for tax-free allowances/perquisites for salaried individuals keeping in mind the work from the home arrangement provision of internet connection, furniture and earphones.

KPMG in India's pre-budget survey was conducted in January 2022. About 200 finance professionals participated in the survey.

As many as 64 per cent of the respondents said they expect the basic I-T exemption limit to be raised from Rs 2.5 lakh a year.

Goa: Utpal Parrikar to contest election from Panaji as independent

Panaji, Jan 21 (PTI):

Utpal Parrikar, the son of former Goa chief minister late Manohar Parrikar, on Friday quit the BJP.

He would contest the coming Assembly elections in the state from Panaji as an independent candidate, he announced. The ruling party has fielded incumbent MLA Atanasio Monserrate from the Panaji seat which Manohar Parrikar had represented for a long time.

I was left with no other choice. I have resigned from the party and I would be contesting as an independent from Panaji," Utpal Parrikar told reporters.

He also said that resignation was a formality but the

Active COVID-19 cases highest in 235 days

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

India added 3,47,254 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,85,66,027 which includes 9,692 cases of the Omicron variant, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The active cases have increased to 20,18,825, the highest in 235 days, while the death toll has climbed to 4,88,396 with 703 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

There has been a 4.36 per cent increase in Omicron cases since Thursday, the ministry said. The active cases comprise 5.23 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has de-

PARADE REHEARSALS



People take pictures of artists participating in the rehearsals for the Republic Day Parade 2022 at the India Gate, in New Delhi, Friday.



A healthcare worker collects a swab sample of a man for COVID-19 test, amid a surge in the coronavirus cases, at KN Katju hospital in Bhopal, Friday.

'Isolation' not mandatory for foreign arrivals testing COVID positive

New Delhi: Travellers arriving in India from any country who will test positive for COVID-19 shall be treated/isolated as per the laid down standard protocol and will not mandatorily be managed at an isolation facility, authorities have said. According to the revised Guidelines for International Arrivals' released on Thursday, the new norm will apply from January 22 till further order. The rest of the provisions have remained the same in the revised guidelines. The existing guidelines state that travellers coming from any country including from those considered at-risk' shall be managed at isolation facility and treated as per laid down standard protocol.

weekly positivity rate was recorded at 16.56 per cent, according to the health ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,60,58,806, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.27 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in

the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 160.43 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

Mortal remains of Indians killed in drone attack in Abu Dhabi reach Punjab

Amritsar, Jan 20 (PTI):

The mortal remains of the two Indians who were killed in a drone attack in Abu Dhabi reached Punjab on Friday.

On January 17, Hardev Singh (35) and Hardeep Singh (28), and a Pakistani national, all staff of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company were killed and six others injured in suspected drone attacks near the UAE capital's airport. The attacks were claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

The body of Hardev Singh is being taken to Bagha Purana village in

Punjab's Moga district, while that of Hardeep Singh has reached his native village, Mahisampur, which is nearly 35 km away from here, officials said.

An inconsolable Kanupriya Kaur received her husband Hardeep Singh's body.

Kaur, who arrived in India on Thursday from Canada, was married nine months ago, said a relative of the family Rajbir Singh, who brought the body to the village from the Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport here.

IAS rules row: Govt says states not sending sufficient officers for central deputation

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

States are not sparing sufficient number of IAS officers for deputation which is affecting the functioning of the central government, the Centre said on Friday, defending its proposed changes in the service rules which gives it power to overrule states on such matters.

Sources in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said a trend of decreasing representation of IAS officers, up to the Joint Secretary-level at the Centre, has been noticed as most of the states are

not meeting their Central Deputation Reserve (CDR) obligations and the number of officers, sponsored by them to serve at the Centre are much lesser. The DoPT has recently proposed changes in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, that will take away the power of states to override New Delhi's request for seeking officers on central deputation.

The move has evoked sharp criticism from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to roll back the proposal claim-

ing it will affect the states' administration.

According to DoPT sources, the number of IAS officers on CDR has gone down from 309 in 2011 to 223 as on date.

The percentage of CDR utilisation has gone down from 25 per cent in 2011 to 18 per cent as on date, they said.

In spite of increase of IAS officers at deputy secretary/director level in IAS from 621 in 2014 to 1,130 in 2021, the number of such officers on central deputation has gone down from 117 to 114 during the period, sources said. Hence, the number

of officers available under the central deputation is not sufficient to meet the requirement of the Centre, they said.

The non-availability of sufficient number of officers at the Centre is affecting the functioning of the central government since the Centre needs the services of these officers to obtain fresh inputs in policy formulation and programme implementation, sources said.

The Centre also needs them to utilise their vast field experience by way of providing vital inputs for policy planning and formulation.

Six members can be registered using one mobile number on Co-WIN: Govt

New Delhi, Jan 21 (PTI):

The Union health ministry on Friday said that against the earlier limit of four, now six members can be registered for Covid vaccination on Co-WIN using one mobile number.

It also said that a new utility feature has been introduced under the Raise an Issue section of Co-WIN and through this, a beneficiary can revoke the current vaccination status from fully vaccinated to partially vaccinated or unvaccinated status and also partially vaccinated to unvaccinated status.

"The vaccination status can be corrected by the bene-

ficiaries, where in occasional isolated cases, the vaccination certificates are generated due to inadvertent data entry errors by the vaccinator in updation of vaccination data of beneficiaries," the ministry said. It said that after submitting the online request through Raise an Issue, the change may take three to seven days to appear.

On change of vaccination status, the ministry said such beneficiaries can get their due vaccine dose, may be at the nearest vaccination centre, according to existent standard guidelines, once a new vaccination status is successfully updated in the system.

Padma Shri awardee sent to jail in minor girl sexual abuse case

North Lakhimpur, Jan 21 (PTI):

A court in Assam's Lakhimpur district on Friday remanded renowned innovator and Padma Shri awardee Uddhab Kumar Bharali to judicial custody in connection with a case of alleged sexual abuse of a minor girl he was fostering.

A day after his interim anticipatory bail was cancelled by the Gauhati High Court, Bharali surrendered before District Special Judge Rasmita Das at North Lakhimpur town.

The court sent Bharali to 14 days' judicial custody, following which he was taken to the district jail, North Lakhimpur.

Weather
High 27 Low 13

MARKET
NIFTY 17,757.00
SENSEX 59,464.62

BULLION
GOLD 48,510
SILVER 65,510

CKAF demands rectification in seniority list of teachers

Submits memo to Jt. Director Education

Kondagaon, Jan 21:

The procedure of promotion of teachers in the state has been started and for this seniority list and claims/ objections are being invited. Along with this details of movable, immovable assets of teacher, CR is being prepared and seeing all this the entire Education department is busy in completing the procedure seriously. In this regard, a delegation of Chhattisgarh Karamchhari Adhikari Federation (CKAF) under leadership of Neelkanth Shardul met Joint



Director Hemant Upadhyay of Education div. Bastar Jagdalpur and submitted him a memorandum and urged him to make promotion into senior posts. In other words, CAKF asked the department to first promote

Upper Grade Teacher (UGT)/ head masters of primary schools as Head Master Middle School/ lecturer, so that there are many vacant posts of Upper Grade Teachers (UGTs)/ Head Masters and those in post of Asst.

Teachers can be promoted into it. In this way teachers of all cadres will get benefitted in large number, they added. Along with this after the promotion the posting to a teacher be made in Sankul area/ block area.

District convener of Federation said that the existing seniority list is full of discrepancies and faults and it is only on its cent percent correction that the final seniority list be prepared and then the promotion procedure be completed.

The delegation had detailed talks with the Joint Director on all the above points and it comprised of KK Nag, Ramesh Babu, Pateria and Hemlata Pateria.

CSPDCL snaps off power line of 'Mangal Bhavans'

Coming under Nagar Palika Khairagarh; power restored on after demand of 15 days to clear payment



Khairagarh, Jan 20: The electricity department snapped off the power connection of Nagar Palika Khairagarh's cultural building, Dilip Singh Mangal Bhavan and CMO's residence on charges of having an outstanding amount of above Rs 10 lakh against them. After this Palika demanded 15 days time in writing and then its connection was restored.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the total outstanding amount of electricity bill of Nagar Palika's Water Works,

Streetlight and other buildings is around Rs 1 crore. But on Wednesday electricity department staff went to recover only the outstanding amount that of the 'bhavans' run by Nagar Palika and snapped off the power connection of NNagar Palika and CMO's residence and other cultural buildings of Nagar Palika Khairagarh.

It was on disconnection of power lines in the presence of Nagar Palika officers, the Palika administration sought 15-days time in writing from the

electricity department to pay off the outstanding amount and the power line was reconnected.

In this electricity dept has not taken any action on the outstanding amount of Nagar Palika's Water Works, streetlights and others, as it would have led to no water supply to denizens of city and now it is for sure that if the Nagar Palika administration does not clear-off the outstanding within 15 days, then the department will cut the power line again.

What Officers Say

There is an outstanding electricity bill of Rs 10 lakh on Mangal Bhavan and cultural bhavans of Nagar Palika Khairagarh and it is failing to get the payment of the same on time that electricity dept has to take action. But it was on written assurance of payment within 15 days that the connection was restored and it is only after 15 days that final action will be taken, if no payment is made.

Chagan Sharma EE- CSPDCL, Khairagarh

Since Nagar Palika Khairagarh is not having sufficient funds, therefore this connection was snapped off and funds have been demanded from the state government and the power company has been asked to give 15 day time for clearing of the outstanding amount.

Seema Bakshi, CMO Nagar Palika Khairagarh

Work with willpower and on alert mode to prevent infection: Commissioner



Korba, Jan 21:

Commissioner Prabhakar Pandey has directed the zone commissioners and field staff of the corporation to work with full willpower by staying on alert mode to prevent Covid infection. Take action on those who reach wearing public places without mask, make social distancing and Covid protocol mandatory and make the common people aware of Covid infection continuously, he said addressing the meeting of zone commissioners and reviewed the work related to control, prevention, safety and management of corona infection. Chief Medical and

Health Officer Dr. B.B. Borde along with officers of Police Administration and Health Department were present in the meeting. Giving directions to the zone commissioners, Commissioner said that it is necessary that the common people should be more and more aware of it to prevent, protect and stop the speed of infection. He said that there are 04 zones of the corporation, where the positivity rate is high, so work on alert mode by keeping special focus here. Commissioner directed that continuous action should be taken against those who do not wear masks; social distancing should be compulsorily fol-

lowed in markets, shops etc. Commissioner also directed that the patients living on Corona positive home isolation should follow the isolation rules completely, for this they should be continuously monitored. Ward-wise teams should reach outside the premises of the patients and verify that they are present at their homes and are not leaving the house, nor any outsider is entering their house.

He said that the home isolation rule should be strictly followed and if the rules are violated by any person, then necessary legal action should be ensured. Tehsildar Mr. Salame, DPM of Health Department, Ashok Singh, Zone Commissioner AK Sharma, RK Maheshwari, Vinod Shandilya, Akhilesh Shukla, NK Nath, Tapan Tiwari, Health Officer Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Assistant Engineer Sunil Tande, Motilal Bareth and other officials were present in the meeting.

Collector-SP inspect interstate barrier Ghuritola



Koriya, Jan 21:

District Collector Kuldeep Sharma and Superintendent of Police Prafulla Thakur here inspected the illegal paddy arrival at the inter-state barrier Ghuritola on Wednesday and also inspected the Covid contact tracing. The Collector gave necessary directions to the transport, excise, forest and police personnel posted in the barrier after taking information about illegal paddy transport.

He said that paddy procurement is in its final stages, and during this, there is more possibility of illegal transportation. To prevent illegal paddy transport, joint teams of revenue and police should monitor the nakas, check posts as well as small roads and keep a watch on history-sheeters, coaches and middlemen, he instructed. Collector Sharma took information about the testing of those moving via the inter-state barrier and said that vehicles going directly to other districts are not stopped for Covid testing,

To probe illegal paddy arrivals

and instructed revamping the testing system to avoid the infection spread. Collector Sharma also observed the up-gradation work of Swami Atmanand English Medium School located in Manendragarh and as per reports Public Works Department has been made an agency for the upgradation work of the school.

While directing the subdivisional officer of the concerned agency, the collector said that the construction work should be completed within the stipulated time frame and quality construction as per the intention of the government to provide excellent educational infrastructure to the children should be done.

He inspected the school premises and also visited the library and science lab, along with this; instructions were given to submit the daily progress report.

No action taken against accused of PMAY scam



Jagdalpur, Jan 20:

40 family members, who were cheated in the name of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) from Sanjay Gandhi ward, have put their point of view through the execution of an affidavit accompanying the complaint letter in the police station.

The local units of BJP office bearers, supporting the victims have registered their protest in the case and have accused that ward Councilor Komal Sena has full protection of the Congress party, seeing that the victims are not getting justice. The BJP Municipal Board President said in this regard that the SP of the district will be informed of the case in detail at the earliest. Leader of Opposition Sanjay Pandey

alleged that the land mafia sand mafia is active in the entire state, and now in the Prime Minister's house allocation scheme also mafia is active. The leaders and representatives of the government is making false promises and are indulging in forgery, he said. Mayor Safira Sahu silence on the matter was also questioned by the leader.

Advocate L Ishwar Rao, BJP Municipal Board President Suresh Gupta Leader of Opposition Sanjay Pandey, Pankaj Acharya, Moti Ram Kashyap, Roshan Jha, Rinku Sharma, Ram Kumar Mandavi Rakesh Tiwari, Shashi Pathak, Ravi Kashyap, Dilip Jha, Satish Bajpai Shri Bhushan Singh, Shirish Mishra, Alok Tiwari, Prem Sethia, Raj Pandey were present.

Road widening by PWD for the second time in two years

Jagdalpur, Jan 21:

In the name of city beautification, another direct evidence of carrying out work without an action plan is being seen from Bodhghat Chowk to Railway Chowk, as the residents of the area were informed of their house/shop to be demolished, as part of the road widening plan. The residents reportedly met Leader of the Opposition Sanjay Pandey and City BJP President Suresh Gupta as they reached the affected site and listened to the affected people after meeting them.



the distance of the drain from the divider and two years ago, the Municipal Corporation got the drain constructed at the

prescribed site at a cost of about 30 lakhs and after the construction of the drain, about 5 months ago, shifting of

the electric pole has been done. In such a situation, 30 lakh rupees were spent in shifting the drain and pole made 5

months ago and again lakhs of rupees will be spent in making the drain bank and shifting the pillar.

Leader of Opposition Sanjay Pandey, has sought administrations intervention in the matter as if compromise is made in the widening of half a meter or 1 meter, then people's shop houses can be saved. Sanjay Pandey has accused the mayor of the corporation for the incident. On this occasion a large number of locals affected including Rajaram Todem, Roshan Jha, Govind Irani, Ram Kumar Mandavi, Shubham Agarwal, Jipte Thakur, Saurabh Agarwal, Dharam Kashyap, Bhuneshwar Yadav, Mustaq Raza were present.

Yuvodaya Champ acts as bridge between villagers-admn

Provides ration-card to 10 villagers

Kondagaon, Jan 21:

The Kondagaon district administration along with UNICEF is taking the development works and schemes of the government and administration through voluntary workers of Yuvodaya Champ Kondanar Abhiyan to villages in naxal infested area.

Apart from this they are also taking the grievances of the villages to the administration and acting as bridge between the two and trying to benefit the villagers. In the applications received under public grievances redressal camp held in highly sensitive naxal infested area of



Gram Becha, Kilam, Burgum, Kadenar, Nedwal and Dodem, the villagers raised demand to make 'ration cards' for them. It was informed that even making of ration card of villagers it has not being delivered as the distance

to these villages is very much and not so easily accessible. So the Yuvodaya Champ Kondanar taking up initiative reached to such hyper-sensitive naxal infested area of above villages and provided ration cards to 10 villagers.

Prof. Rajan Yadav felicitated in 'Devarhat'

In the 30th 'Ahir Nritya Kala & Cher-Chera Mahotsav'



Khairagarh, Jan 21:

In the 30th 'Ahir Nritya

Kala & Cher-cherah Mahotsav 'Devarhat' held in Lormi, Prof. Dr Rajan

Yadav of Indira Kala Sanget Vishwavidyalaya (IKSV) Khairagarh, was felicitated in the hands of chief guest LS MP Bilaspur Arun Sav last on Jan 17.

It was for special contribution in the field of folk art, 'Ramkatha', and literature that the President of Mahotsav Dr Mantram Yadav and in the presence of well-known litterateurs of state and country, Dr Rajan Yadav was presented with felicitation letter and memento.

On this occasion Dr Rajan Yadav also recited a poem in Chhattisgarh and delivered a lecture on state's rich art & culture.

Problems of 'Aadabahir' of Gond Samaj solved



Kondagaon, Jan 21: Members of Koyavanshiya Muria, Gondwana Samaj Samanway Samiti district Kondagaon held meeting in Dhanora last on Jan 1 after prayers to natural power 'Sala-Magra Budhal' at Gondwana Bhavan under chairmanship of Manher Singh Korram.

In this the application by the members of Smaj of Satpara of Gram Dhanora was taken into consideration and after discussions the problems of

'Aadabahir' of 'Gond Samaj' was sorted out it was included into 'Prakatik Pen' system.

Meeting was attended by Divisional Executive Secretary Tirumal Rameshwar Usendi, working committee member, District Kondagaon and all the office bearers of District Kondagaon and Keshal block level viz. Raj Gayanti, Raj Manjhi, Gayanti, Pujari, Patel, Pargana Manjhi and other seniors of the samaj.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद कवर्धा, जिला-कवीरधाम (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक / 1239 / न.पा.प. / लो.नि.वि. / 2021-22 कवर्धा, दिनांक 18 / 01 / 2022

मैनूअल परतति निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना			
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म / ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु मैनूअल निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-			
क्र.	कार्य विवरण	अनु. लागत राशि (लाख में)	नि.प्र. प्रदाय करने हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि
1	वार्ड क्र. 01 से 03 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	02.02.2022
2	वार्ड क्र. 04 से 06 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
3	वार्ड क्र. 07 से 09 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
4	वार्ड क्र. 10 से 12 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
5	वार्ड क्र. 13 से 15 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
6	वार्ड क्र. 16 से 18 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
7	वार्ड क्र. 19 से 21 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
8	वार्ड क्र. 22 से 24 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---
9	वार्ड क्र. 25 से 27 तक भवन/नाली/चबुतरा इत्यादि मरम्मत/संभारण कार्य (ल.मु.)	15.00	---

2- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापित निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी कार्यालयीन अवधि में कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है साथ ही यह जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाईट www.uad.cg.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
मुख्य नगरपालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद कवर्धा

BRIEF

Resumes

Islamabad: The stalled work on a major hydroelectric project constructed by a Chinese company in Pakistan has resumed, days after Islamabad agreed to pay compensation to 36 Chinese nationals who either died or were injured in a terrorist attack in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province last year. On July 13 last year, 10 Chinese nationals, mostly engineers, were killed and 26 others were seriously injured after a suicide attack.

Reforms

Kampala: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni urged UN Security Council reforms that would give Africa permanent representation there, saying such changes would prevent aggression against Africa. Museveni spoke at a meeting attended by high-ranking officials representing 10 of the African Union's 55 members.

Settles

Colombo: Sri Lanka has paid USD 500 million due on sovereign bonds from its badly depleted foreign reserves despite calls by experts to defer the payment and use the sum to import essential foods and medicine. The Indian ocean island nation is in its worst crisis in decades, with people facing shortages of essentials like milk powder, cooking gas and kerosene. TV reports show people in long lines waiting to buy propane.

Deepen

Tokyo: The foreign and defence ministers of Japan and France held talks as the two countries seek to deepen security ties in the Indo-Pacific region, where tensions have been rising amid China's military buildup and North Korea's nuclear and missile development. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, accompanied by Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi, described France as an indispensable partner in achieving the goal.

Cannabis

Bangkok: Thailand, which in 2020 became the first Southeast Asian nation to decriminalise the production and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, moved to further loosen regulations on the drug. The Public Health Ministry's Food and Drug Administration proposed that cannabis — which includes marijuana and hemp plants — be completely dropped from its official listing as a prohibited narcotic or psychotropic substance.

Fuel

Kampala: A dispute over COVID-19 testing fees for truckers has created a fuel crisis in Uganda, highlighting an economic impact of the pandemic in a landlocked country with virtually no fuel reserves of its own. Mandatory COVID-19 testing at the country's border with Kenya caused traffic congestion last week as Ugandan customs officials struggled to apply the rules amid opposition from truckers who demanded exemption.

Minor incursion by Russia could complicate West's response

Washington, Jan 21 (AP):

Short of an all-out invasion, Russian President Vladimir Putin could take less dramatic action in Ukraine that would vastly complicate a US and allied response. He might carry out what President Joe Biden called a 'minor incursion' perhaps a cyber-attack leaving the US and Europe divided on the type and severity of economic sanctions to impose on Moscow and ways to increase support for Kyiv.

Biden drew widespread criticism for saying that retaliating for Russian aggression in Ukraine would depend on the details. 'It's one thing if it's a minor incursion and then we end up having a fight about what to do and not do,' he said. Biden and top administration officials worked to clean up his comments. Biden stressed that if 'any assembled Russian units move across the Ukrainian border, that is an invasion' and it would be met with a 'severe and coordinated economic response.'

But even if the 'minor incursion' remark was seen as a gaffe, it touched on a potentially problematic issue: While the US and allies agree on a strong response to a Russian invasion, it's not



Map shows situation in Ukraine.

clear how they would respond to Russian aggression that falls short of that, like a cyberattack or boosted support for pro-Russian separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was among those expressing concern about Biden's 'minor incursion' remark. 'We want to remind the great powers that there are no minor incursions and small nations. Just as there are no minor casualties and little grief from the loss of loved ones,' he tweeted.

Complaints came quickly that Biden had made clear to Putin where and

how to drive a wedge between the US and its European allies, by using only a portion of the large military force he has assembled near Ukraine's borders to take limited action. Russian officials have said they have no intention of invading Ukraine, but the deployment of a large combat force along its borders, estimated at 100,000 troops, has created fear of a crippling land war. 'Deeply troubling and dangerous,' Rep Liz Cheney, a Wyoming Republican and a crucial ally of Democrats on some issues, tweeted about Biden's remark. 'A green light for Putin,' said

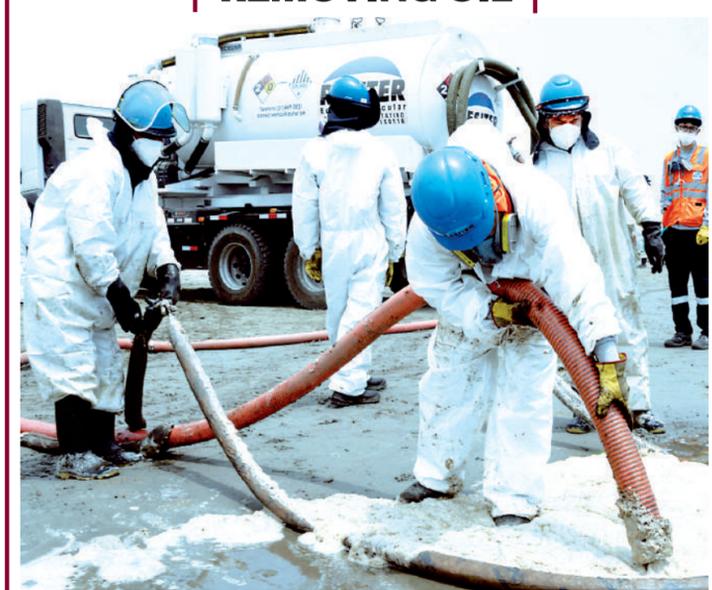
Republican Rep. Mike Garcia of California, one of many to use that phrase.

Among the possibilities for limited Russian military action: Putin could move much of the Russian ground force away from the border but further bolster the separatists who control the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine. That conflict has killed more than 14,000 people in nearly eight years of fighting.

Biden noted that 'Russia has a long history of using measures other than overt military action to carry out aggression paramilitary tactics, so-called gray zone attacks and actions by Russian soldiers not wearing Russian uniforms.'

In an analysis of the Ukraine crisis, Seth Jones, a political scientist, and Philip Wasielewski, a former CIA paramilitary officer, cited several possible scenarios short of an all-out Russian invasion. This could include Putin sending conventional troops into the Donbas breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as 'peacekeepers' and refusing to withdraw them until peace talks end successfully, they wrote in their analysis last week for the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

REMOVING OIL



Cleaning crews work to remove oil from a beach annexed to the summer resort town of Ancon, northern Lima.

'World worse now due to COVID-19, climate, conflict'

United Nations, Jan 21 (AP):

As he starts his second term as UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres said the world is worse in many ways than it was five years ago because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and geopolitical tensions that have sparked conflicts everywhere but unlike US President Joe Biden he thinks Russia will not invade Ukraine.

Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that the



Antonio Guterres

appeal for peace he issued on his first day in the UN's top job on Jan. 1, 2017 and his priorities in his first term of trying to

prevent conflicts and tackle global inequalities, the COVID-19 crisis and a warming planet haven't changed.

'The secretary-general of the UN has no power,' Guterres said. 'We can have influence. I can persuade. I can mediate, but I have no power.'

Before he became UN chief, Guterres said he envisioned the post as being 'a convener, a mediator, a bridge-builder and an honest broker to help find solutions that benefit everyone involved.'

Driverless trucks are set to take over roads in Texas

294,000 trucking jobs would be threatened

Dallas, Jan 21 (AFP):

A giant 18-wheel transport truck is barreling down a multi-lane Texas highway, and there is no one behind the wheel. The futuristic idea may seem surreal, but it is being tested in this vast southern US state, which has become the epicenter of a rapidly developing self-driving vehicle industry.

Before driverless trucks are allowed onto roads and highways, however, multiple tests must still be conducted to ensure they are safe. Self-driving lorries are operated using radars, laser scanners, cameras and GPS antennas that communicate with pilot software.

'Each time we drive a mile or a kilometer in real life, we re-simulate a thousand more times on the computer by changing hundreds of parameters,' explains Pierre-Francois Le Faou, trucking partner development manager at Waymo, the self-driving unit at Google's parent company Alphabet.



Autonomous truck is barreling down a multi-lane Texas highway in US.

Waymo is building a logistics center in Dallas that will accommodate hundreds of autonomous semi-trailers.

And it is by far not alone. Embark, a self-driving technology startup, operates an autonomous trucking lane between Houston and San Antonio, while Aurora, co-founded by a former Waymo employee, will open three terminals and a new 635-mile route (1,000 kilometers) in Texas this year.

In a sign of how competitive the autonomous trucking industry is, none of the three companies agreed to show AFP one of its vehicles.

'I think that everybody

who is in the autonomous trucking business is in Texas,' says Srikanth Saripalli, director at the Center for Autonomous Vehicles and Sensor Systems at Texas A&M University. 'Even if they don't advertise it.'

The companies didn't land in Texas by chance. The state has the largest number of truck drivers and many qualified engineers, its sunny climate is great for the trucks' sensors, and neighboring Mexico exports 85 percent of its goods to Texas by road.

Houston and Dallas are major freight hubs, and Texas's sprawling distances are ideal for long-haul transport.

Ankara, Jan 21 (AFP):

Festive garlands, white tablecloths and enticing bottles appear the moment passengers board the Eastern Express for an epic journey across Turkey's snow-capped Euphrates plateaus.

Named the Turistik Dogu Ekspresi locally, the train offers one of the expansive country's most coveted new experiences.

Its nine carriages wind their way around mountain bends on a 32-hour, 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) voyage from the capital Ankara to Kars, an ancient city near Turkey's rugged border with Armenia and Georgia.

The service was suspended less than a year after starting because of the coronavirus pandemic. But with restrictions easing, the sleeper is back. Tickets, though relatively pricey, are snapped up in minutes.

'The Ankara-Kars line is considered by travel writers to be one of the four most beautiful train lines in the world,' Turkish State Railways director Hasan Pezuk told AFP.



Passengers of the Eastern Express train have dinner at the restaurant of the train near Ankara.

'It is really a very special moment for me and my family,' says Zulan-Nour Komurcu, 26, who is celebrating her birthday with them on board.

'It's my present,' smiles the brunette, who has decorated her cabin with purple lights, hung a furry wreath on the door and set out biscuits and a porcelain teapot on an embroidered tablecloth.

The train runs twice a week from December 30 to March 31 to make the most of the snow-covered landscapes. Its route is a miniature version of Russia's Trans-Siberian railway,

says engineer Fatih Yalcin. 'There is always something to fix,' he says, his head deep inside an electrical cabinet.

'Last week it was minus 24 degrees Celsius (minus 11 degrees Fahrenheit)... The water was freezing,' he says, adding that it sometimes falls to minus 40. 'I intervene when required and without disturbing the passengers. Seeing them happy is a real pleasure for me.'

Depending on the compartment, there are prayers or alcohol. In the dining car, revellers can feast through the night

under a nightclub-style mirror ball.

This is where Ilhemur Irmak and her retired friends meet for tea as the sun sets in a blaze of colour. The 40 women hail from Bursa, a western province on the Sea of Marmara.

'We're in retreat from our husbands and our fathers,' says Irmak, triggering laughter all round.

Like most passengers, they embarked with their own provisions: a veritable feast of specialities and sweets.

Another faster and less festive train runs along the same route in around 20 hours, without the scenic stops. But this train was designed for the sheer joy of travelling through spectacular but hard-to-access provinces such as Kayseri, Sivas, Erzurum and Erzurum. And, of course, for partying through the night. Lawyer Yoruk Giris and his two friends have made sure their supplies last until the end. A party animal, he has brought out a white light garland, a plaster snowman, candles and a portable speaker blasting out Turkish rock.

Resort guests raise money as world rallies to help Tonga

Wellington, Jan 21 (AP):

The tranquil resort in Tonga sat behind a lagoon and reef break that was perfect for snorkelers and surfers alike. Guests who had never met before would sit together to eat delicious communal meals cooked by owner Moana Paea and her staff, or relax in rustic cabins tucked in the trees.

Then came the massive volcanic eruption and tsunami, which killed at least three people and left dozens more homeless. The waves swallowed up the Ha'atafu Beach Resort.

It's completely bare land. Coupled with the black ash from the volcano, it looks like a bomb site, said Paea's brother Alan Burling after viewing images online.

But now, dozens of former guests from New Zealand, Australia, the US and elsewhere are raising money to help Paea and her husband Hola start again.

It's just one of the ways the world is rallying to help the people of the remote Pacific island nation rebuild. Governments from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Britain, China and elsewhere have been sending fresh water and other much-needed supplies on military ships and transport planes.

Pita Taufatofua, who became a sensation as Tonga's bare-chested Olympic Games flag bearer, has started an online fundraising page to rebuild schools and hospitals that is already more than halfway to its goal of

raising 1 million Australian dollars (720,000). Tonga never had the luxury resorts of other Pacific destinations like Fiji or Tahiti, and tourists came expecting a more down-to-earth experience. At the Ha'atafu Beach Resort, the pandemic had already halted international tourism, and so the owners had pivoted to their renowned cooking.

New Zealand's acting high commissioner in Tonga, Peter Lund, was picking up some catering there on Saturday when the volcano erupted. Speaking by satellite phone from Tonga on Friday, he described what happened.

It's all a bit of a daze now, but I certainly heard this incredible thunder-clap, Lund said. He said

the resort staff told him it was too dangerous to stay and so he returned to his car. The waves were coming in. I got back onto the main road,' Lund said. 'And gradually the skies turned black and the volcanic ash started raining down.'

Lund's 30-minute drive back to the high commission in the capital, Nuku'alofa, turned into 90 minutes. Because the compound was built on higher ground, Tongans rushed to safety there and that night Lund had about 80 people stay.

Back at the beach resort, Moana Paea, her family and the others there had no time to save any of their belongings and ended up climbing a tree to survive, said Burling, who lives in New Zealand.

Like everyone else, she was very upset and very emotional, he said after managing to speak to his sister briefly by phone.

He said he hadn't yet told her about the online fundraising page he started, which has already exceeded its goal of 100,000 New Zealand dollars (67,000).

Moana, she doesn't really like the fuss, and probably wouldn't have wanted us to raise the money, Burling said. But she would have literally lost everything, and they have staff to support.

He said the resort had about 14 cabins, or fale, and could house 30 or 40 guests. It's too early to know whether they will rebuild. One worry is that the volcano could erupt again.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**

Regional Office : Vidhan Sabha Road, Post - Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) 492005
Ph : 0771-4046190, Fax : 0771-4070119, Email : srmcg.fci@nic.in

No. S&C/13/15/NIT/2022/02 Date: 22.01.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Food Corporation of India (FCI), General Manager (R) Raipur, invites online tender under TWO BID SYSTEM through e-tendering at GeM Portal (www.gem.gov.in) from intending parties for appointment of contractor on Regular basis for Godown Handling, RH-H&T, ITC & RTC operation for a period of Two Years under the terms and conditions as stipulated in the tender form.

Tender forms (Technical Bid & Price Bid) can be downloaded from FCI website www.fci.gov.in & www.gem.gov.in between 10:00 hrs on 22.01.2022 to 16:00 hrs on 11.02.2022 and can be submitted through GeM portal up to 11.02.2022 by 16:00 hrs. Technical bid of the tenders shall be opened online on 11.02.2022 at 16:30 hrs onwards at FCI, Regional Office, Kapa, Raipur in presence of the Bidders who wish to be present.

Note:

- Details Terms & Condition is available in FCI website (www.fci.gov.in) and GeM portal website (www.gem.gov.in).
- Bidders who wish to participate in the present NIT, it is requested to get registered in the GeM portal.
- A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 25.01.2022 at, FCI, RO, Raipur at 03:30 PM.

(Harish N.S.)
Asth. General Manager (Contract)
For General Manager (R)



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 292

Reform scope of cadre

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi again on the proposed amendment to the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, insisting that it would create a fear psychosis among officers and impact their performance. The Union government has proposed an amendment to the rules, which would enable it to post IAS officers on central deputation, bypassing reservations of state governments. The central deputation of officers has always been a point of contention between the Centre and states, with the latter not recommending an adequate number of officers even when required by the Centre. This leads to a shortage of officers for key posts at the Centre. The government should reform scope of state public services cadre to resolve the issue. These amendments will be tabled in the upcoming session of Parliament, which will begin on 31 January. The Centre has sought the states' response before 25 January. As per draft proposal, in specific situations, where services of cadre officers are required by the central government in public interest, the central government may seek the services of such officers for posting under the central government and the state government concerned shall give effect to the decision of the central government within the specified time. This amendment actually questions the state's jurisdiction over its cadre officers. The IAS rule says that the Centre recruits the officers, but when they are allotted their state cadres, they would come under the state government. This is how the federal structure work. All India Service officers work under the state government, unless they are on deputation to the Centre, and follow the orders of the chief minister. When on deputation, they follow the orders of the central minister concerned, or of the PM.

They must tender their advice freely and fairly, but the final decision is that of a political master. Only 153 Indian Administrative Services officers were appointed on central deputation under the central staffing scheme in 2018-19, according to the data of personnel ministry. As per some reports, several IAS, IPS and IRS officers anonymously have said that there is a palpable sense of vulnerability, insecurity and concern among officers at union government, which they are wary of expressing publicly, but do so in the safety of closed WhatsApp groups with their peers from the services. While several officers who support union government policies have started taking to Twitter and Facebook to throw their weight behind the government, those critical or sceptical are taking to closed WhatsApp groups to express their fears. This environment has led to officers fearing deputation to union government unless they share the perceived ideology. The union government should resolve the issue in coordination with states, so that doubts of cadres is also addressed. Scope of both state and union public services needs to be reformed. The central staffing scheme, which is in operation for decades, provides a systematic arrangement for selection and appointment of eligible officers from the participating services at the level of deputy secretary, director, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary in the Central government. In a PIL in the Supreme Court in January 2021, it was requested that the Rule 6(1) of the IAS Cadre Rules be struck down because states have to bear the brunt of arbitrary actions taken by the Centre, while the Rule makes it difficult for the Centre to enforce its will on a state that refuses to back down. Raising the scope of state public service commissions can satisfy states, but union public service commission officers also need to be accommodated.

Healthy legal debate

Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton Nariman has expressed concern over the rising instances of hate speech and calls for genocide against minorities in the country while lamenting that silence and endorsement of leaders of the ruling party to such increasing incidents of communal bigotry was unfortunate. Calling for doing away with sedition laws, Nariman said freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution is the single most important and cherished human right. After a seven-year term, Justice Nariman retired in August last year as judge of the Supreme Court. Among his key verdicts is the 2015 landmark decision Shreya Singhal versus Union of India, in which the court struck down Section 66A of Information Technology Act, holding that the provision was arbitrary and unconstitutional. The provision was routinely used to book individuals for comments made on social media. The expression of perspective by retired judge should be welcomed in a democracy for healthy legal debate regarding issue of hate speeches. Justice Nariman had begun his speech by delving into the history of 'rule of law'. He started by saying, "The rule of law has not come down as manna from heaven.

As a matter of fact it has involved centuries of struggle. First between a monarch and an elected member of parliament and in its second phase, between elected members of parliament and other so called branches of government. But to begin at the beginning we must go back in Anglo Saxon jurisprudence to the year 1066 in which two cataclysmic events took place, one was Haley's comet passed over England and most of the World and the second was victory of William of Normandy over King Herald in England. The speech by retired judge puts union government in a bind. So far Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept quiet regarding perceived instances of hate speeches across India. Some political analysts say that by not responding to such speeches, the government is trying not to give any credence to such hate ideologues. But the silence of union government should also not be perceived as endorsement of hate speeches. The law is working as Yati Narsinghanand has been arrested with ongoing investigation. The perspective of retired judge should not be viewed as either in support or opposed to any political party or ideology. As a citizen, retired judges have right to express their opinion freely.

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.

POTATO FIELD WITH SCARECROW

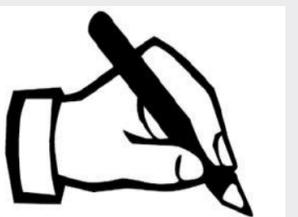


A farmer sprays pesticide to a young crop of potatoes in a field with scarecrow installed near Bangaluru, Karnataka.

India should take position in SAARC to remove Pakistan



RK SINHA



It is a matter of utter bafflement that Pakistan is extending an invite to India to attend the long-pending summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, recently said that if India does not want to participate in the meeting in person, it can participate in the summit virtually. Before inviting India to participate in the SAARC summit, Pakistan should have recalled the cold, lifeless, and disrespectful welcome it offered our then Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh. When Rajnath Singh went to Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, to attend the conference of the Home Ministers of SAARC countries, he was received very poorly. Unfortunately but not surprisingly, Pakistan failed to be accommodative of other religions that its neighbors' practice. Pakistan has continuously committed such atrocities one after the other. Thus, proving that it does not know how to follow or respect the religions of its neighboring nations. The handiwork of Pakistan has completely disrupted the SAARC movement. Now, out of the blue, they have come up with the brilliant idea of organizing the SAARC summit. Could Pakistan kindly clarify, why has it not punished the culprits of the Mumbai terror attacks yet? Why is the ongoing case against those criminals lying frozen in its tracks? India has been telling it time and again that the terrorist Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind terrorist behind the Mumbai terror attacks, should be put in jail immediately. However, Pakistan not only ignored such requests but also in doing so, proved its lack of will

to fight terrorism. They never showed interest in ending terrorism in South Asian countries. They have never deterred from nurturing and funding the anti-national forces in Kashmir or Punjab. The 19th SAARC Summit was to be held in Islamabad in November 2016. But, that year the terrorist attack was carried out in Uri, India by Pakistani terrorists in which 17 Indian soldiers were martyred. After this attack, India had refused to participate in the SAARC summit. India's stand was absolutely right. What to do with a country which has become a factory of terrorism? Those who know Rajnath Singh closely know that he never shied away from telling the truth. Referring to Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani, who was killed in Kashmir in Islamabad, he said that glorification of terrorism should stop and terrorists should not be given martyr status. Terrorism is not good or bad. Rajnath Singh was pointing towards Pakistan only while stating the same. Pakistan was furious by this direct attack of Rajnath Singh. But, no one could stop Rajnath Singh from speaking the truth. Now Shah Mehmood Qureshi is claiming that SAARC is an "important forum". India has never denied this, but, when did Pakistan ever allow SAARC to grow and fulfill the purpose for which it was established? Will answers to such questions be provided by Qureshi? The SAARC was established on 8 December 1985 by Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan. After this, in April 2007, Afghanistan also got a place as its 8th member. Despite this, SAARC did not

promote any kind of economic cooperation among the member countries. If Pakistan is left out, then all the SAARC countries want to work together. On one hand, Pakistan is inviting India to the SAARC summit and on the other hand, it never deters from trying to pass a resolution against India from the Organization of Islamic Nations. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, had taken a strong initiative to revive a dying organization by inviting leaders of 7 states to his swearing-in ceremony in the year 2014. It was assumed then that SAARC would emerge as a powerful platform and would usher in a new era of development and cooperation in South Asia. But, Pakistan did not live up to India's expectations. After Imran Khan became the Prime Minister there, the opposition to India became more intense and vocal. India had also promised all possible cooperation of SAARC countries in fighting the global pandemic Covid-19. The way India fought to defeat the Coronavirus, was witnessed by the world including SAARC member nations. The 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu was the last summit to be held. Pakistan was supposed to host the 19th Summit in 2016. It was cancelled after India refused to attend in the wake of the Uri terror attack, and Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Afghanistan also withdrew from participation. India-Pakistan hostilities have increased since the last SAARC summit in 2014. In 2016, Pakistan-supported terrorists attacked Pathankot Air Base in Punjab and an army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir. India retaliated by carrying out surgical strikes on terror camps in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Similarly, a terror attack on the convoy of Indian paramilitary forces in Pulwama in 2019 was met with India carrying out air strikes against the terror bases in Balakot, Pakistan. While the complexities of India-Pakistan ties have affected regional integration by way of SAARC, the situation in Afghanistan is also a major impediment. There is still no consensus across the world, not just in South Asia, about recognizing the

Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. The holding of a SAARC summit would thus be difficult since, barring Pakistan, no other member countries would be comfortable sharing the round table with the Taliban's representatives. In a broader sense, China's growing economic and strategic engagements across South Asia have rendered the concept of regional integration irrelevant to a great extent. With China looking to expand its sphere of influence across different regions, the role of regional institutions has become limited. After the announcement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013, China has invested heavily in South Asian countries in connectivity and infrastructure projects. Scholars working on India's diplomacy must have understood very well that SAARC has no future. SAARC has also completely lost its usefulness. Now this organization has remained only on paper. So what are the options available to India? India's path is quite clear. India will have to strengthen its relations with all the countries other than Pakistan which are members of SAARC. India is constantly striving in that direction too. India has solid and cordial relations with all these countries. Another option is before the SAARC countries. By removing Pakistan from the SAARC summit, it can create a new productive organization. They have already seen the extent to which Pakistan has derailed SAARC. Everyone is aware of the background of Pakistan's conflict with India and Bangladesh. While Pakistan itself was a part of India before 1947, Bangladesh was part of Pakistan before 1972. Today, India-Bangladesh's constant opposition is a vital part of Pakistan's foreign policy. So how can India or SAARC expect a cooperative relationship with a country like this? That is why now at least India has to think seriously about the situation ahead, in terms of its relations with other nations and the SAARC movement.

(RK Sinha is senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical neglect

Sometimes, it makes me go crazy how our past historians ignored and neglected ultimate heroes, as a result, they were lost in oblivion. One such legend is Kondaji Farzand, a Maratha warrior. When Great Shivaji wanted to conquer Panhala Fort, but he was taken aback due to the demise of his 'Fighting Machine' Tanaji Malusare. Then came forward a pupil of Tanaji and his name was Kondaji Farzand. When Shivaji asked him how many men do he need to capture the Panhala fort, Kondaji Farzand replied with a bang and said 60. He wanted 60 men with a highly skilled Army of only Marathas. Kondaji managed to secure the fort with just 60 highly dedicated and skilled soldiers and defeated 2500 Mughal Army in just a 3.5-hour-long battle. Such was the valour of the legend. Greats like Lachit Barphukan, Tanaji Malsure, Kondaji Farzand, Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib, Uyyalawada Narshimha Reddy and many more have hardly found space in the school history books. Since independence, there has always been a deliberate attempt to glorify Mughal kings. They are projected as secular, brave, competent, larger than the life image. When it came to Cholas, Mauryas, Ahoms, Marathas, Rajputs, Sikhs and a few others, they hardly found space. Most of the kings of these kingdoms or dynasties were marked as inferior to Mughals in every respect. Today some crap politician like Aminul Islam dares to comment on Maa Kamakhya temple. Leave alone Aurangzeb, his father didn't have the courage and capacity to capture or rule Asom. Then, how come Aurangzeb allotted land to Maa Kamakhya Temple. Already, Aminul Islam had earlier said that Miya people came to Assam before the Ahoms. The author of the book (which was quoted by controversial Dhiming MLA) on whose basis he dared to comment on Maa Kamakhya history should be booked for distorting history. There is a big factory of the leftist brigade which is continuously working 24x7 to deface and distort Indian history and Sanatan civilization.

Julie, via email

Leaders combo

From students' point of view, Royal Combination means Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics in their TDC course. With the installation of the Modi government at the Centre a new combination often called the Royal Combination took place in the national security scenario. It is a known fact that PM Modi has always put the right person at the right place at right time. Accordingly, he put Ajit Doval as a chief security adviser, Late General Rawat as CDS, a new post which was as usual criticized by our oppositions comprising mainly INC, SP and the Leftists who have scant concern for the nation's security as their party and our neighbour concern was and are above the nation. On one occasion, we still remember when an Opposition leader named Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena abused him as a 'Sadak ka gunda', which meant street goon. On many past occasions, India was always at the receiving end of Pakistan's policy of hitting below the belt as seen in Mumbai 26/11 terror attack, Parliament attack and before that Kargil invasion. The then UPA government under Manmohan Singh was a mute spectator to ISI's misadventures even though our Armed forces were itching for revenge. But with Ajit Doval and General Bipin Rawat at government disposal, India started hitting back with the vengeance of any Pakistan's misadventure, the play Israel follows. Indian army took an eyeball-to-eyeball attitude towards China which has lifted the morale of our armed forces. In Kashmir too, the army was given a free hand to deal with the Pakistani insurgents and homegrown terrorists. CDS believed that one has to break an egg to make an omelette. As a loyal soldier, CDS Rawat was only answerable to his master and called spade a spade and he got things done even at the receiving ends of the opposition's tirade. The massive public ovation that General Rawat received at his funeral should give someone like Sanjay Raut a bloody nose.

Ashim, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Chaitra Chidanand@CChid108
We struggle with marketing when we think of product & marketing separately. We think marketing comes much later, let's build product first. Instead of thinking how to create product, if we think of how to create a conversation piece, it'll take us one step closer to virality.

etienne@EtienneT_Esq
I often wonder what academia before computers was like. No emails so you just go home and read books and drink tea; your students have to actually go to office hours to ask questions; publication send rejections to your actual mailbox; no PowerPoints... what have we done.



Sandeep Mall @SandeepM
My Dadi and Nani are both 92. In great health. Don't need any support. Do everything on their own. Have been vegetarian life long. No protein shake, no supplements. I think I am slowly cracking the reason of that. Good sleep. Physically very active day. Better glucose management.

Mona Patel@MonaPatel
The brahminy kites, symbol of Langkawi.



DBhbowmikdhruba
It's not a mystery, shows diff bw Indian and Chinese strategic thinking! We are reactive while they have been proactive, they know after 5 yrs the gap in comprehensive national power bw both wud narrow down, India will have the border infra to threaten their flanks so they acted



BN Sharma@BholaNath
Hate should have no place in our society, minds & behaviour; be it a speech or act in personal or political life, open or in disguised form, intended or unintentionally, verbally or non verbally, in friendly or unfriendly tone or tenor. It must be Opposed.

K. C. Singh@ambkcsingh
Opposition ruled states protest new central deputation rules for IAS. Why this need to compel officers? Problem may be the work environment in Delhi i.e. 1. Imp posts going to officers of favoured state cadres; 2. PMO disempowering ministries.