



BRIEF



Workers fix a statue of Netaji on the eve of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Kolkata, Saturday.

Watery grave

Thane: Two boys drowned after they went for a swim in a water-filled pit at a firing range in Maharashtra's Thane city on Saturday, an official said. The incident took place at a firing range in Vartak Nagar area of the city around 3.30 pm, said Santosh Kadam, chief of the regional disaster management cell of the Thane Municipal Corporation. Cousins Gautam Walmiki (12) and Nirbhay Chouhan (15) had ventured into the pit for a swim when they drowned unable to gauge its depth, the official said.

Militants killed

Srinagar: Two militants belonging to proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Acting on specific input about the presence of militants in Kilbal area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

Mishap

Balalore: At least six people were killed and 20 others injured after a coal-laden truck hit a bus from behind in Odisha's Balasore district on Saturday, police said. The accident occurred around 1.40 pm on National Highway 16 in Bidu area when the goods vehicle rammed into the bus causing it to fall into a roadside ditch, a senior officer said. "The bus was standing on the road to lift passengers when the mishap happened. It was going from Mayurbhanj to Bhubaneswar."

Arrested

New Delhi: An engineer was arrested for allegedly extorting money from a woman after threatening to leak her private photographs and videos on social media, police said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Sahil Sachdeva (32), a resident of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, they said. A woman lodged a complaint at the Shahdara Police Station alleging that he met Sachdeva on a matrimonial site in October 2021, a senior police officer said.

Busted

Thane: Two persons have been arrested and a minor detained in connection with a racket involved in generating fake SIM cards in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Saturday. A huge stock of activated black SIM cards and fabricated identity cards were seized from the accused, said Yogesh Chavan, deputy commissioner of police Zone-II Bhiwandi.

Weather
High 29 Low 16

PM TO DMs and CMs

'Set time-bound targets for govt prog to increase ease of living'

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked district magistrates to work on time-bound targets to increase ease of living for people and asserted that the country's goal today is to achieve 100 percent saturation of services and facilities.

Modi also called for a direct and emotional connection between administration and the public to ensure 'top to bottom' as well as 'bottom to top' governance flow.

In his remarks at the virtual interaction with DMs and some chief ministers, Modi said the teamwork of Centre, states and local administration was yielding good results in aspirational districts.

"Today, aspirational districts are eliminating the



Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the DMs of various districts on the implementation of key government schemes, through video conferencing, in New Delhi, Saturday.

barriers to the progress of the country. With the efforts of all of you, aspirational districts are becoming accelerators of growth instead of impediments," he told the DMs.

The prime minister said that these districts have

Aspirational districts

Launched by the prime minister in January 2018, the aspirational districts programme aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country. The prime minister said various ministries and departments of the government have prepared a list of 142 districts that are not so much lagging in development but are weak on one or two parameters.

'Work to achieve 100 % saturation of services and facilities'

The prime minister drew the attention of the officers towards the changed mindset and reiterated that today, the country's goal is to achieve 100 percent saturation of services and facilities. "We have a long way to go compared to the milestones we have achieved so far and have to work on a much bigger scale," he said and called for time-bound targets for taking roads to all the villages of the districts, Ayushman Bharat cards, bank accounts to every person, Ujjwala gas connection, insurance, pension housing for everyone.

proved that due to the elimination of silos in implementation, optimum utilisation of resources takes place. He emphasised the

exponential benefits of this reform and said when silos end, one plus one doesn't become two but eleven. "We see this collective power in

NAXALS ON RAMPAGE

Naxals kill police informer; torch vehicles used for road construction

Bijapur, Jan 22:

Naxals allegedly killed a 45-year-old police informer and torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work in separate incidents in Bijapur district, police said on Saturday.

The ultras killed a gopniya sainik (secret police informer) on Friday and dumped his body on Gangloor road under the Bijapur police station limits, additional superintendent of police (ASP) Pankaj Shukla said.

The police recovered the body of the man identified as Ando Ram, another official said, adding that further probe is underway.

In a separate incident, Naxals torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work at

About the incidents

The ultras killed a gopniya sainik (secret police informer) on Friday and dumped his body on Gangloor road under the Bijapur police station limits. In a separate incident, Naxals torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work at Cherkanti Patelpara village under Bijapur police station limits on Friday. The ultras set fire to a truck, a JCB machine and another heavy vehicle.

Cherkanti Patelpara village under Bijapur police station limits on Friday, the official said. The ultras set fire to a truck, a JCB machine and another heavy vehicle, which were being used in the construction work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), he added.

PRESS PREVIEW

R-Day parade to have 25 tableaux, 16 marching contingents, 17 military bands

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

This year's Republic Day parade will have 16 marching contingents, 17 military bands and 25 tableaux of various states, departments and armed forces, the Indian Army said in a statement on Saturday.

The Army will be represented by a mounted column of cavalry, 14 mechanised columns, six marching contingents and a flypast by advanced light helicopters of its aviation wing at the Republic Day parade-2022 (RDP-2022), it said.

The mechanised columns of the Army will show one PT-76 tank, one Centurion tank, one MBT Arjun MK-I tanks, one APC TOPAS armoured



Tableau of Gujarat and Uttarakhand during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2022, in New Delhi, Saturday.

personnel carriers, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles, it stated.

One 75/24 Pack howitzer, two Dhanush howitzers, one PMS bridge-laying system, two Sarvatra

bridge-laying systems, one HT-16 electronic warfare system, two Taran Shakti electronic warfare systems, one Tiger Cat missile system and two Akash missile systems will also be part of the mechanised columns.

READY TO PERFORM



Uttarakhand tableau artists during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2022, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Election rallies ban extended till Jan 31

With relaxations for Phase 1, 2

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

The Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31, but gave relaxation for physical public meetings of parties or contesting candidates for phase 1 from January 28 and for phase 2 from February 1. The commission has also enhanced the limit of people allowed for door-to-door campaign. Instead of five, now 10 people, excluding

security personnel, will be allowed for door-to-door campaigns.

The ban on roadshows and rallies for next month's state polls was extended till the end of this month on Saturday by the Election Commission but with certain relaxations for the first two phases of voting due on February 10 and 14.

The decision came after the election body held a meeting earlier in the day with the Union Health Secretary and the Chief Health Secretaries of the five states to review the restrictions given the surge in coronavirus cases.

'60% COVID deaths in 'third wave' among partially or completely unvaccinated'

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

A study by a private hospital has said that 60 per cent of the patients who died during the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic were either partially or fully unvaccinated.

The study by Max Healthcare said the deaths reported were largely among those aged over 70 and those suffering from multiple co-morbidities such as kidney diseases, heart diseases, diabetes, cancers etc.

"In our hospitals, out of 82 deaths so far, 60 per cent

was seen in the partially or unvaccinated population," it said in a statement.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has also been stressing that the fatalities are occurring among those patients who are immunocompromised and have co-morbidities. The comparative study of the three waves of the pandemic also said that only 23.4 per cent of the patients required oxygen support during the third wave of the pandemic, as against 74 per cent during the second wave and 63 per cent during the first wave.

Across the network of hospitals, there have been 41 admissions of minors.

"However, no deaths have been reported in this age-group. Seven required paediatric ICU while two were on ventilators," it said. The hospital said that when Delhi had logged 28,000 cases during the second wave in April, all hospital beds were occupied with zero ICU beds available, while during this wave when a higher number of cases was reported last week, there was no crisis of availability of hospital beds.

BONANZA FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES

'Tax-free PF limit may be raised to Rs 5 lakh'

New Delhi, Jan 22:

The government may double the limit for tax-free contributions in provident fund for all salaried employees to up to Rs 5 lakh per annum in the forthcoming union budget 2022-23, a report has said, in order to bring them at par with government employees.

Though the government had in the last union budget for 2021-22 announced capping of tax-free annual provident fund (PF) contributions to Rs 2.5 lakh for availing tax-free interest income, the limit was later raised to Rs 5 lakh for those funds where employers don't contribute. The limit was raised by amending the finance bill.

However this change benefitted only a small section of top government officials, who contribute higher amounts in general PF. Now, according to a report in media, the government may raise the limit to ? 5 lakh per annum for all salaried employees.

According to the report, the government has received several representations towards enabling this provision. These representations basically stressed on the point that since the provision benefitted only government employees, it should be non-discriminatory and all salaried employees should be brought under its ambit.

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Three from Ambikapur held for attempting to hunt wild animals

Anuppur, Jan 22 (PTI):

Three men from Chhattisgarh have been arrested for allegedly attempting to hunt wild animals in a forested area of Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, a forest official said on Saturday.

The state forest department had received information that some people were hanging around near the thick-forested Kirar Valley area, some 12 km from the district headquarters, on Friday night. Anuppur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dr AA Ansari said.

Forest officials intercepted a man in a car at the spot and on questioning him, found that two of his accomplices had ventured into the jungle, he said.

Arrested

Forest officials intercepted a man in a car at the spot and on questioning him, found that two of his accomplices had ventured into the jungle. Those arrested are Sohrab Firdausi (32), Vakeel Firdausi (33) and Arif Firdausi (35). A rifle, 35 cartridges, one empty cartridge, two knives, a torch and blood-stained plastic bags were seized from them.

We arrested Sohrab Firdausi (32), Vakeel Firdausi (33) and Arif Firdausi (35). We recovered a rifle, 35 cartridges, one empty cartridge, two knives, a torch and blood-stained plastic bags among other things from them, Ansari said.

The trio admitted that they were planning to poach wild animals, he said.

Six dead, 23 injured in fire at Mumbai high-rise

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

At least six persons were killed and 23 others injured in a major fire that broke out on the 19th floor of a residential building in Tardeo area of central Mumbai on Saturday morning, officials said.

The blaze erupted around 7 am in Sachinam Heights building, a ground plus 20-storey structure located opposite Bhatia Hospital at Gowalia Tank, when many of its residents were still asleep, an official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed



Smoke billows out after a blaze on the 18th floor of Kamla building in Tardeo area of Mumbai, Saturday.

grief over the incident and announced on Twitter that ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be provided to the family members of each

deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), and added that the injured would be given Rs 50,000 each.

PM Modi, Maha govt announce ex-gratia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced on Twitter that ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be provided to the family members of each deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), and added that the injured would be given Rs 50,000 each. Maharashtra Tourism Minister Aadiya Thackeray, who visited the site, said the government will provide a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of each deceased.

Gandhi's favourite hymn dropped from R-Day Beating Retreat Ceremony

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

One of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite Christian hymns "Abide With Me" has been dropped from this year's Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29, according to a brochure released by the Indian Army on Saturday.

"Abide With Me", written by Scottish Anglican poet and hymnologist Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, has been part of the Beating Retreat ceremony since 1950. This year's ceremony will conclude with 'Sare Jahan Se Acha', the

brochure stated. The Beating Retreat used to end with the "Abide With Me" hymn.

The brochure also listed 26 tunes that will be played at this year's ceremony at Vijay Chowk. The 26 tunes that will be played at this year's ceremony include 'Hey Kanchha', 'Channa Bilauri', 'Jai Janam Bhumi', 'Nriya Sarita', 'Vijay Josh', 'Kesaria Banna', 'Veer Siachen', 'Hathroi', 'Vijay Ghosh', 'Ladaakoo', 'Swadesh', 'Amar Chattan', 'Golden Arrows' and 'Swarn Jayanti', according to the brochure.

Necessary arrangements made for paddy procurement till extended date

- Both Rapid Antigen and RTPCR to be conducted for people above 60 years of age
- Vaccination found effective after analysis of Covid deaths

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Paddy procurement in the state has been extended for seven days. Accordingly, the government has issued instructions to make proper arrangements in all the paddy procurement centers. On Saturday, Chief

Secretary also reviewed the paddy procurement status through video conferencing.

After the virtual meeting, Collector instructed the officials related to the paddy procurement process to make a strategy for the necessary preparations. He said that the paddy arrival is likely to increase in the last days. In view of the possible increase and keeping in view the number of left over farmers, necessary arrangements for systematic paddy procurement, tokens etc should be made so that there is no problem at the last moment.

Farmers must get bene-

fits and at the same time, the officials must check that any fake purchases are not made at the societies. Along with this, he said that the lifting of paddy from all societies should also be done at the earliest.

For this, the officials were asked to make a plan with full preparation so that by April 15, the paddy is fully lifted from all the committees. There was a serious discussion regarding Covid control in the virtual meeting.

The concerned top officials informed in the meeting that when the data of Covid deaths is reviewed in the state, it

was found that those who got the vaccination were safer. Still some people have not received the second dose.

The officials were asked to identify those people and get them vaccinated with the second dose. The officials were instructed that in case of Covid patients / suspects of above 60 years ago, both the rapid antigen as well as RTPCR tests should be conducted.

Along with this, Chief Secretary also instructed to provide booster dose to the frontline workers. In the meeting, instructions were also given to work on the possibilities of new

employment in the district under the Employment Mission.

The Collector has directed all the officers in this regard so that maximum employment can be created through innovations and other means. Employment opportunities are being identified in urban and rural areas according to the needs of the local market.

Accordingly, facilities of training etc will also be provided. Collector has invited proposals from all the concerned officers in this regard. The works of Jal Jeevan Mission were also reviewed in the meeting.

Man bludgeoned to death

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Body of a man was found lying on roadside in Smriti Nagar Chowki area on Saturday morning. The unidentified assailants had smashed his face with stones, possibly to hide the identity of the deceased.

Police are trying to identify the deceased and trap the unknown murderers. An offence has been registered under section 302 of IPC.

According to information, people spotted the body lying on a vacant plot near Jharokha Hotel in Smriti Nagar. Supela Police team led by Inspector Suresh Dhruv reached the spot and investigations were launched.

CSP Rakesh Joshi and other senior officers also



visited the crime scene. After preparing inquest, the body was sent for autopsy.

Police informed that there were injury marks on the face, mouth and eyes. Prime facie it appeared that the assailants had deliberately smashed his face to hide the identity. An empty liquor bottle, beedi, handkerchief and chappals were found near

the body. The unidentified deceased had reportedly visited the residence of BSP employee Haldhar Rathore at Sector 6 on Friday. He had introduced himself as an employee of SMS-2 and had borrowed Rs 200 from him. Police are trying to identify the deceased and are also examining the CCTV footages of nearby places.

Virtual events to be held on 12th National Voters' Day

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: 12th National Voters' Day will be celebrated on January 25. As the theme of the NVD, this year, is making elections inclusive, accessible and participative, the events will be organised by involving people with disabilities, women, senior citizens and vulnerable sections of society.

These efforts are being made to improve the registration of electors in the electoral rolls and

ensure effective participation in the election



process. Looking into the ongoing pandemic, all the

events will be conducted through an online platform.

National Voters' Day will be celebrated in a virtual way in all departments. In view of the Covid 19 transition, the state government has directed all the heads of departments to celebrate Voters' Day through an online platform.

On the occasion, all the officers and employees will take oath, sign a declaration and upload the same on social media platforms.

Workforce to be increased under MGNREGA



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: The administration is going to increase the workforce for the projects being conducted under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

This decision has been taken to provide employment opportunities to the people during the Covid transition period. On Saturday, District Panchayat Chief

Executive Officer Ashwini Dewangan inspected the construction works being done under MGNREGA in various places.

Dewangan inspected the ongoing plantation work in Gram



Panchayat Nagapura, pond construction work in Gram Panchayat Borai and Panchayat Samoda, and pond deepening and Gauthan construction work being conducted at other places.

He instructed to increase the workforce under MGNREGA in the ongoing works so that the development work can be accelerated and the people can get employment nearby during the third wave of Covid.

Body recovered from river Sheonath

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Body of a 25-year-old youth was recovered from River Sheonath on Saturday morning. The deceased is a resident of Ramnagar, Bhilai and worked at a saw mill. Police have lodged a complaint and investigations are on.

According to information, some people spotted a body in the Ganiyari Anicut of River Sheonath. Team of Jeora Sirsa Chowki immediately reached the spot and the body was fished out. The deceased was a young man and was wearing a black T Shirt and jeans.

Police collected information about the missing persons of the district and



within a few hours the deceased was identified as Vikas Gupta (25) son of Anandi Prasad Gupta a resident of Rajiv Nagar of Ram Nagar Ward in Vaishali Nagar Police Station limits.

The family members informed the cops that

everything was fine at their home. The family members were surprised how Vikas reached Ganiyari and why. He worked at a Saw Mill in Ramnagar.

He had a love marriage about four years ago and the couple has a one-and-a-half year old child. He was the youngest among three brothers in the family. On Friday, he had left home to go to work at around 08:30 hrs. Later, his wife discovered that Vikas's mobile was switched off.

She contacted his work place and found that he had not reached there. After this, the family members started searching for him. Next morning, the body was recovered from the river.

Ex-GM (M&U) S S Seth no more

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: SS Seth, (88) Ex-General Manager (Maintenance & Utilities) breathed his last on Saturday, January 22. He has left behind his wife Pushpa Seth and three sons Pankaj Seth, Anuj Seth, and Gaurav Seth and their families.

Starting his career with SAIL, Bhilai Steel Plant in the year 1958 as an young engineer in the Coke Ovens Department and superannuated as General Manager (M&U). Many innovative projects like Water Recycling, Reclamation Department, etc. were introduced during his regime as GM.

A well-known speaker he was a regular faculty of



SS Seth

BMTC and was associated with Institution of Engineers, Bhilai Chapter, as Honorary Secretary. He was also a good singer and was mentor of Metallurgical Music Makers. His last rites will be performed on January 23, at 11:00 hrs at Ramnagar Muktidham.

Durg University to accept couriered semester answer sheets till Jan 31

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: Hemchand Yadav University (Durg University) would accept the answer books of semester examinations to be sent by post only till January 31.

Giving this information, the Registrar of the University, Dr CL Devangan said that a partial amendment has been made in the notification of online semester examination 2022 by the university.

As per the notification issued earlier, it was not allowed to submit the answer scripts by post by

speed post or by courier in the colleges. In this regard, the principals of the colleges and the students of remote areas had requested the Vice Chancellor of the university, Dr Aruna Palta, to grant permission to submit the answer sheets of the semester examinations in the colleges by post.

Taking immediate cognizance of this in the interest of the students, the Vice Chancellor Dr Palta directed the examination department that such students who are unable to submit the answer book by appearing in the college due to some reason,

should be allowed to submit the answer books in their respective colleges by post till 31 January 2022 under any circumstances.

According to Dr Palta, answer books received by post after January 31 will not be accepted. The final question paper of the university examination will be uploaded on January 25.

Therefore, sufficient time of 6 days is being provided to the students to submit the answer sheets by post. Students and principals and professors of all colleges should keep in mind the prescribed time period.

Bhilai-Charoda Mayor chairs first MiC meeting after assuming office

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: The newly elected Mayor of Bhilai Charoda Municipal Corporation, Nirmal Kosre convened the first meeting of the Mayor in Council on January 21 after winning the urban body election and assuming office. Many issues including the annual tender of placement employees, were tabled by the corporation officials before the Mayor's Council.

The table of contents for the meeting included: the purchase of 02 new vehicles for the Mayor and the Chairman; approval of revised expenditure for supply of high-skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour (62 workers), consideration and decision for permission to invite tender for 34 works out of 164 approved works under infrastructure head; decision related to the rate and financial approval of 30 nos of e-rickshaw purchase under 14th Finance Commission;

sending the proposal for purchase of new LED street lights under Indira Path Prakash Yojana to the government; shifting

of the kiosks located on the main road Sirsa Chowk; changing the site of construction work in ward no 19 (current ward no 20) under Pauni Pasari scheme; approval of revised expenditure for supply of unskilled labour (97 workers); reserving 01 shop of GE Road in place of shop no 15 in the ground floor of Palika Bazar for Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Stores scheme; decision on sending proposals for site change of various works approved under infrastructure head.

All the matter tabled before the Bhilai-Charoda Mayor in Council, were unanimously passed/forwarded after the approval of the council, except for the first agenda where the Mayor Nirmal Kosre refused to accept a new vehicle until the desired improvement in the financial condition of the corporation is achieved.

It is noteworthy that all the members of the council including the Mayor were present in the meeting. Santosh Tiwari from Housing, Environment and Public Works Department; M Johny from Water Works

Department, Devi Kumari Bhalavi from Health and Medical Department, Mohan Sahu from Revenue and Markets Department, Dipti Verma from Women and Child Development Department, Manoj Kumar from Food and Civil Supplies Department, Ishwar Sahu from Rehabilitation and Planning Department, Santoshi Nishad from Law and General Administration Department were present in the meeting. Corporation commissioner Kirtiman Singh Rathore apprised the members of the council about the agenda of the meeting through the corporation secretary. Executive Engineer Sunil Jain, Assistant Accounts Officer RK Devangan, Assistant Health Officer AK Chandrakar, Assistant Engineer Devendra Pandey, Assistant Public Information Officer Lingeswar Rao were present in the meeting. This information was provided by Vikas Chandra Tripathi, of Public Relations Department of the Corporation.

Spreading garbage or burning plastic waste, be ready to pay fine!



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 22: If you are throwing garbage or littering waste anywhere in the city (road, park or open public place) then watch out and be ready to pay fine, for Durg Municipal Corporation is all set to charge penalty for doing so. One may have to pay a fine ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 2000. On the instructions of

Municipal Corporation Durg Commissioner Haresh Mandavi, the staff under the leadership of Nodal Officer and Assistant, Health Department Javed Ali would not spare anyone found emptying garbage on road, drain and outside the shop.

Along with this, the sanitation inspectors of all the zones have been asked to charge fine from whoever is seen

polluting the city. In this sequel, on Saturday, fine of Rs 2000 was recovered from on Raj Kumar Sahu for emptying garbage on the road in Ward 35.

Similarly, taking action against those who spread waste in Ward no 44, Ward 20 Aditya Nagar, Ward 22, Ward 52, Ward 7, Ward 53, Ward 28 and Ganjpara, a total fine of Rs 3000 was collected during the proceedings.



Health department team including sanitation inspector Jasveer Singh Bhuwal, Suresh Bharti, Rajendra Sarrahe, Manohar Sendre, Raju Singh, Ramlal Bhatt explained to the shopkeepers, barbers and hair saloon shop owners to not throw the cut hair or other waste on road else they might be charged a fine of Rs 500. Similarly those throw-

ing plastic waste and burning garbage will also be charged fine. Anyone caught burning plastic waste will be fined Rs 500.

In case caught when dumping garbage from residential buildings into the road or street or pull cart vendors selling things such as chat, tea, juice, vegetables are found dumping leftovers on the roadside then they will be fined.

CM announces extension of paddy procurement period by a week

Instructs to ensure lifting of paddy directly from societies

78.92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy procured so far

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Taking a major decision in the interests of the farmers in Chhattisgarh the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced extension of the period of paddy procurement during the review of the support price of paddy procurement in the state through video conferencing at his residence office today. Paddy will now be procured from farmers in the state till February 7. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Amarjit Bhagat also attended the meeting through video



conferencing. Baghel directed officers to ensure arrangements for lifting of paddy by millers directly from the societies. With saving of the transportation cost of the procured paddy, custom milling would become faster, he said. He directed to expedite the custom milling work besides ensuring 100% off-take of paddy by the month of April. Apart from procurement of paddy, the Chief Minister also asked to pay special attention towards payment to farmers. The Chief Minister de-

scribed the deposit of 6 lakh metric tonnes of rice in FCI in today's situation as an achievement and appreciated it. Rice should be stored in FCI continuously as per the target, he emphasised. Food Secretary Topeshwar Verma informed that 78.92 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured in the state as on January 21, which is 75 percent of this year's target. He informed that 24 lakh 5 thousand farmers have registered for selling paddy this year. The registered area of paddy is 30

lakh 21 thousand hectare. This year the number of registered farmers has increased by 2 lakh 52 thousand and area has increased by 2 lakh 28 thousand hectare, which is 11.76 percent and 8.20 percent more respectively than last year. He said that so far about 19 lakh farmers have sold paddy. The value of paddy procured on support price is Rs 15 thousand 335 crore, he said, adding that 100% amount has been paid to the farmers. This year 71 thousand bales of gunny bags were

made available by the farmers, for which a total amount of Rs 88.20 crore has been paid.

He informed that 41 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been lifted. Adequate gunny bags are available in the state for the purchase of paddy. Now 1.30 lakh bales of gunny will be required for the procurement of paddy in the remaining period in the state, whereas 1.52 bales of gunny are available for this.

Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr Kamalpreet Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister Siddharth Komal Singh Pardeshi, Food Secretary Topeshwar Verma, Co-operative Secretary Himshikhar Gupta, csc MD Niranjana Das and other officers were present.

BJP for minimum 15 days extension of paddy procurement

● Sai writes letter to CM seeking action against officials over extra weighing of paddy from farmers during procurement

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday termed the extension of paddy procurement process for 7 days after January 31 to be inadequate and raised demand to increase it by minimum 15 days.

In a statement issued here, the BJP Kissan Morcha President Shyam Bihari Jaiswal claimed that the Chief Minister

Bhupesh Baghel has made an announcement to increase the paddy procurement for 7 days under pressure from the opposition BJP which had recently submitted memorandum to Governor seeking extension of paddy procurement date. Terming the above extension to be inadequate for smooth conduct of paddy procurement from the farmers, the BJP Kissan Morcha President raised demand to increase by 15 days after January 31. Jaiswal claimed that incessant rains and adverse weather had played spoilsport in the paddy procurement whereas the weather would further be adverse for next three-four days. He said that the Chief Minister should

make amendments in his order on paddy procurement date extension and added that any such decision would make farmers grateful to him to ensure smooth paddy procurement.

Meanwhile, the State BJP President Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday has written a letter to the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel urging him to take action against the officials and employees over weighing more paddy than the actual weight from the farmers during the paddy procurement process. He further stated that nearly 315 farmers are not able to sell their paddy due to denial to them from token for paddy procurement in village Belsonda in Mahasamund District.

CM's tribute to Netaji on his birth anniversary

Raipur: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has paid tribute to the great hero of freedom struggle and founder of Azad Hind Fauj Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary on 23rd January. Paying homage to Netaji, Baghel said that Netaji gave a new direction to the freedom struggle. He infused new enthusiasm among the countrymen with slogans like "You give me blood, I will give you freedom". The Chief Minister has said that Netaji strengthened the freedom movement by forming the Azad Hind Fauj. Netaji will always be remembered for the struggle and invaluable contribution made for India's independence.

Members of Guru Ghasidas Sahitya Evam Sanskriti Akademi meet CM



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Members of Guru Ghasidas Sahitya Evam Sanskriti Akademi, led by Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Dahriya, paid courtesy call on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here today. They extended New Year's greetings by presenting a flower bouquet to Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Baghel gave his best wishes and congratulated Smt. Meena Shastri on being appointed as the Additional Advocate General of the state. President of Guru Ghasidas Sahitya Evam Sanskriti Akademi KP Khande, General Secretary Dr JR Soni, JK Shastri, Councilor Sunderlal Jogi along with other members were present on the occasion.

Godhan Nyay Yojana is being run as a mission: Baghel

Gauthans are being developed as Rural Industrial Parks to boost rural livelihood opportunities

process of setting up 148 oil extraction mills and 188 pulse mills begin in Gauthans

CM virtually transfers amount of Rs 4.21 crore to cattle rearers

Raipur, Jan 22: Godhan Nyay Yojana, the first of its kind scheme started by Chhattisgarh government has been accepted as a model scheme in the whole country. People of across country and the world will get a glimpse of this scheme through state's tableaux which will be rolled down on the Rajpath on the upcoming occasion of Republic Day,



said Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. He was addressing a programme organized at his residence office today to transfer funds to beneficiaries under Godhan Nyay Yojana.

Chief Minister said that this scheme is being operated on a mission mode in Chhattisgarh. Rural Industrial Parks are being developed rapidly here with the aim of boosting livelihood opportunities in the Gauthans established in the villages. Now, the work of setting up oil ex-

traction mill and pulse mill has been started in Gauthan to promote income generating activities. In the first phase, oil extraction mills are being established in 148 Gauthans and pulse mills in 188 Gauthans of the state.

Chief Minister virtually released an amount of Rs 4 crore 21 lakh to cattle rearers, Gauthan committees and women Self-Help Groups associated with state-run Gauthan. This includes payment of Rs 2 crore 76 lakh in lieu of

purchase of cow dung in the last fortnight and Rs 87 lakh and Rs 58 lakh to Gauthan committees and women SHGs respectively as dividend. So far, Rs 122 crore 17 lakh has been paid to cattle rearers in lieu of purchase of cow dung while Rs 45.31 crore to Gauthan Committees and Rs 29.46 crore to women Self-Help Groups.

"The scheme has proved to be beneficial in reducing cost of agriculture in the state by promoting use of organic manure among farmers. Crop diversifica-

tion is also being encouraged and processing of agricultural produce is being arranged in Gauthans. This will boost the income of the farmers", said the Chief Minister.

Heaping praise on the women SHGs engaged in the work of manufacturing vermi-compost, super-compost and other products from cow dung, Baghel said that more than 10.38 lakh quintals of vermi compost and more than 4.36 lakh quintals of super compost manure has been produced by these women so far. This has helped to give a boost to organic farming in the state and overcoming chemical fertilizer shortage. These women have earned an income of Rs 50 crore 57 lakh so far by adopting various income generation activities in Gauthans. This has instilled a new confidence in women's groups, making them self-reliant. Agriculture Production

Commissioner Dr Kamal Preet Singh gave detailed information about the progress of Godhan Nyay Yojana at the beginning of programme. He said that 10,591 Gauthans have been approved in the state so far, out of which 7,933 are fully operational. Over 61.07 lakh quintals of cow dung has been procured in Gauthans under Godhan Nyay Yojana so far. He also gave information about production and sale of Vermicompost and other income generating activities being conducted in Gauthans.

Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo, Secretary to Chief Minister Siddharth Komal Pardeshi, State Nodal Officer of Godhan Nyay Yojana Dr S Bharathidasan, and Director (Horticulture) Matheswaran V. Joint Secretary Agriculture KC Paikra along with other senior officials were present on the occasion.

Chhattisgarh's tableau on 'Godhan Yojana' all set to roll out on Rajpath



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Chhattisgarh's tableau, depicting the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana', is ready to mesmerize the audience at Rajpath during the Republic Day celebrations. The tableau was today showcased to the national media by Defence Ministry during a press preview at R R Camp.

Tribal dancers, who will be accompanying the tableau, also performed 'Kaksar' dance in front of the media.

The tableau portrays the various ways in which this scheme addresses the multiple global concerns at once by synergizing traditional knowledge and scientific approach to the use of rural resources.

The obverse of the tableau depicts rural women collecting cow dung and taking them to the collection centers in Gauthans for sale. These



women are in traditional tribal costumes. They are wearing hand made clothes and jewellery. One of these women is shown preparing products from cow dung and taking them to the market to sell. The flower pots decorated around them symbolize the cultivation of vegetables and floriculture in gauthans. Downstairs there is a decoration of diyas made of cow dung. These diyas symbolize the self-dependence and self-confidence of women in rural areas.

Rear side of the tableau depicts the development of gauthans into Rural Industrial Parks. Women are developing their own enterprises by using new technologies and machines. They are running small industries in the villages. The middle section shows how the goals of environmental protection, organic farming, nutrition, employment and income improvement can be achieved by placing cow at the center of the rural economy. Lastly, the view of rural woman painting symbolizes the development of traditional crafts and arts in the state. The tableau depicts evolving water management systems, increasing productivity and a happy farmer in a mural style. In this sequence, women of self-help groups are shown preparing various products and vermi compost from cow dung.

Possibility of sudden rain: Collector tells officers for protection of procured paddy

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Collector Sourabh Kumar has directed the Deputy Registrar Co-operative Institutions, Chief Executive Officer, District Co-operative Central Bank and District Marketing Officer for necessary action to ensure protection of paddy procured on support price from sudden rainfall.

Keeping in view the possibility of rain from 22 to 24 January 2022, he asked to keep 1 layer of dunnage

in platforms and 2 layer of dunnage on the ground for protection of paddy from sudden rain. Similarly, keeping in view the possibility of rains, the stacks of paddy procured in the procurement centers should be completely covered with cap cover and tarpaulin. Moreover tokens should be issued in limited quantity according to the weather. Additional staff can be appointed in the procurement centers for the protection of paddy as per the requirement.

Apply precaution dose to pensioners as soon as possible

Collector gave instructions to expedite the vaccination work

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Collector Sourabh Kumar took a review meeting of district level nodal officers for effective prevention and control of corona virus through video conference here on Saturday.

The Collector instructed the pensioners in the district to get the corona vac-



cine as soon as possible. Tracing the people who had got the first corona vaccine in the district and motivate them to get the second dose of corona. He said that contract tracing of corona patients should be done promptly and special care should be taken that no one is left behind. For the status of beds in government and private hospitals of the dis-

trict, information can be taken at govthealth.cg.gov.in.

In the meeting, important topics 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.

On this occasion, Additional Collector Gopal Verma, B.C. Sahu along with all the concerned officers and nodal officers were present.

Forest Minister Akbar performed Bhoomi Pujan of Sahu Samaj community building

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: State Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment, Law-Legislative and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mr. Mohammad Akbar performed virtual bhoomipujan of community building approved with an amount of Rs.19.50 lakh for Sahu Samaj in village Kalyanpur of Sahaspur Lohara Janpad Panchayat.

In this virtual Bhoomi Pujan program, the officials of Sahu Samaj of



Tehsil and District level of Lohara block were specially present. Addressing the Sahu community, Akbar said

that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh Government is making tireless efforts in the direction of social upliftment and welfare of all sections.

He said that the Government of Chhattisgarh is working to provide benefits by making schemes and programs for the economic upliftment of the villages, poor, farmers, forest dwellers to youth and women's groups. Addressing the Sahu community, Akbar said

that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh Government is making tireless efforts in the direction of social upliftment and welfare of all sections. He said that the Government of Chhattisgarh is working to provide benefits by making schemes and programs for the economic upliftment of the villages, poor, farmers, forest dwellers to youth and women's groups.

We are constantly making efforts towards the interest of all the society

and its social upliftment and in the same way we will continue to work to take the society forward. Anand Sahu, a senior social worker of Sahu society, expressed his gratitude to Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu and Cabinet Minister and Kawardha MLA Mohammad Akbar for this gift. In the program, Tehsil President of Sahu Samaj, Mr. Tukaram Sahu, Mr. Jholaram Sahu, Ram Khelavan, District Secretary Mr. Deepak Sahu along with senior and enlightened people of the society were present.

100% placement at IIIT-NR for 4th consecutive year

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: International Institute of Information Technology, Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR) has once again recorded 100 percent placement for the fourth consecutive year, with all B. Tech students passing out in 2022, who were interested in pursuing jobs, securing placements in top companies including multinational giants and big startups.

More than 45 companies participated this year in the campus recruitment process for hiring B. Tech. and M.Tech. students from various departments. The highest package per annum for this year has gone up to approximately Rs. 57 lakh per annum and the average package went for Rs. 12.61 lakh per annum, which is considerably more than the last year. Students who bagged the highest offers are Chinky Karda from Atlassian, Ananya Saxena from Microsoft, and Shivam Upadhayay from PharmEasy.

As per the placement office IIIT-Naya Raipur, this year average CTC for 25 percent of the batch



Ananya Saxena



Chinky Karda



Shivam Upadhayay

stands at Rs. 20.67 lakh per annum, while average CTC for 50 percent of the batch is Rs. 18.19 lakh per annum. The students have been offered roles in various fields such as Software Development, Data Analyst, Consultant, Business Analyst, and more.

The analysis of placement results for this year indicates that IIIT-NR is fast emerging as a preferred institute for recruitment by top IT companies like American Express, Codenation, Carl Zeiss, Ericsson, Media.net, etc. There were many companies which participated in the campus drive for the first time this year; namely PharmEasy, KPMG, Big Basket, Cyware, Steradian

Semiconductors, Teradata, Blogvault, Tekion Corp, Credgenics, etc.

Revisit of the old companies at IIIT-NR campus proves that the talent pool being created by the institute is quite useful for the latest industry requirements. Recruiters have appreciated the performance of the students from the previous batches, which is evident by the fact that they are visiting again and looking for more students. The performance of the students is also attracting several new companies in looking out to recruit talent from IIIT-NR.

Director of IIIT-NR, Dr. Pradeep Sinha, said that the institute is quite satisfied with the performance

of the students who participated in campus placement, and believes that every student has worked hard in these tough times. He attributed the recent performance of the students to the Board members, faculty, and students as well as to the support provided by the State Government, NTPC, and their officials.

The placement in-charge, Dr. Amit Agrawal, said that the institute has invested in preparing students for the online process which had started reaping results. He further added that the 100 percent placement reflects the relentless hard work put in by students to prepare themselves for virtual online tests and interviews.

Who will listen to pains of these tribal children ?



Govt opened school 10 years back but did not construct building

Sheikh Hasan Khan, Ramkrishna Dhruv

Mainpur, Jan 22: The tribal block Mainpur of Gariabandh district is far away from the light of education and education department officials instead of paying attention towards the improvement of education are more interested in purchasing items for education for reasons best known to them. The students of this tribal block are interested to receive education but are denied due to absence of school buildings in many places.

This correspondent visited village Dhruvagudi, on NH 130 C and 55 km from block headquarter Mainpur. In 2001-02 on the

demand of villagers a High School was opened in this village. Keeping in view the increasing number of students, in 2012-13 High School was upgraded to Higher Secondary. 10 years back High School was opened in this village but till date school building has not been constructed for High School and Higher Secondary sections. The villagers have tried their best to get school building sanctioned but their demand has fallen on deaf ears. As a result in one additional room of the middle school building and in the verandah of this dilapidated school building Class X and XII classes are conducted. This dilapidated building is kept supported by a wooden pole so that its roof does not come crashing down. The students are studying here risking their lives and officials wait for some mishap to take place some day. As

there is shortage of rooms many students of Class IX and XI have been given un-declared holiday and they are denied education for want of space in school.

Students in different classes

Out of a total of 218 students in Class IX, 60 in Class X, 51 in Class XI and 43 in Class XII. Sufficient number of 9 lecturers, are posted in this school.

No inspection of Education Department even after school by the side of NH

As per the instructions of administration, academic session started from November last year but with the concurrence of parents school is running for the last five months. Even after the school is situated adjacent to NH no inspection has been done by the officials of the education department.

This shows the serious-

What officials say

"In only one additional room on the verandah students of Class X and XII are attending classes and under such conditions are forced to declare holiday for Class IX and XI. The officials from block to the district level have been apprised of the problem personally and through letter but officials have turned nelson's eye from this problem. This school has been made board exam centre and students from Sagda will come here to appear in the board examination, it is a big problem that where these students will sit. There are sufficient teachers and sufficient furniture were also sent but due to lack of space many furniture had stolen."

Motilal Komrara Principal

"As there is no school building, no classes of Class IX and XI can be conducted. Many a times higher officials have been informed about it."

R R Singh Block Education Officer induction

ness of education department in improving the condition of education in this tribal block.

Villagers are collecting donations to raise 'tents' for studies

As the examinations are nearby and students of Class IX and XI are not able to attend classes due to shortage of rooms, villagers are collecting donations to raise tent on the school ground so that classes can be run of these students.

Food Minister laid foundation stone of the bridge

To be built at a cost of Rs 8.91 crore

Raipur, Jan 21: State Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Amarjeet Bhagat on Thursday performed Bhoomipujan of high level bridge and approach road construction work on the river Mand from Lalmati Pathrai to Sarmana road at a cost of Rs. 8 crore 91 lakh 76 thousand. The length of this high level bridge will be 154 meters. Minister Bhagat said that the people of the area were



demanding for the construction of the bridge for the last many years which has now been completed. The government of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is going to construct a high level bridge to facilitate the

movement of the people here. He said that the scale of development in any area is determined by the road, bridge and transport facilities located in that area. With the construction of this bridge, people

will get relief from traveling long distances during rainy days and it will be easy to reach Mainpat. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, work is being done to strengthen the economic condition of the people through various public welfare schemes. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, farmers will now be given input assistance of Rs 9000 per acre. Farmers will also be able to take advantage of input assistance amount by taking crops other than paddy.

ADB, PHE officials inspect deplorable road

Central Chronicle News

Dongargaon, Jan 22: On publication of news about road being in deplorable condition from Dongargaon to Jevartala and increase in number of road accidents, EE from ADB Department and PHE department and Nagar Panchayat Dongargaon engineer arrived here on Thursday. During this EE Maheshwari gave instructions to the employees working under him and asked the officer from PHE department to apply for tender. When asked as to why there is so much of



delay, Mr Maheshwari just brushed off the question saying that notice board is installed at the Zero-Point and left without answering to any other questions raised. One of the person's accompanying him informed that we are sup-

posed to complete the work by June end and as such would complete it by March-April.

EE was not wearing mask
With increase in number of corona cases, the district administration

has asked all the wear mask and maintain social distancing.

But the administrative officer was himself not wearing the mask and was conducting inspection and issuing instructions to persons in group of 15-20 persons.

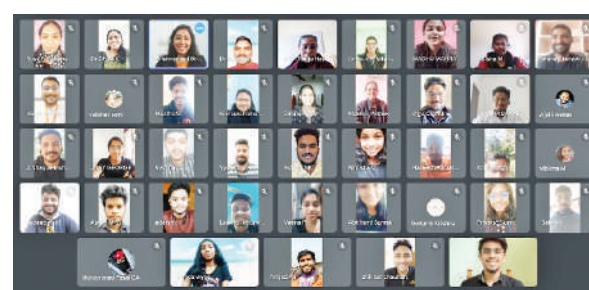
This in some way is passing wrong message to common men.

In this team of officials, the EE along with many others were not wearing mask and in such conditions the very appeal by the local administration to wear mask proves to be meaningless and ineffective.

MSW Induction Program organized at IGNTU

Central Chronicle News

Amarkantak, Jan 22: The Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh organized the Induction Program for its 6th Batch of MSW Students from 17- 22 January 2022. The week long program was inaugurated by Prof. Ranju Hasini Sahoo the Head of the department Social Work and Dean Social Sciences. It is a unique attempt by the Department of Social Work to familiarize the students with the course and has been organized since inception of the Department. Resources Persons from various prestigious institutions and development sector were invited for the week long program to give a theoretical and



practical training to the students. Dr. Anju Sosan George from Kerala, Dr. Ram Shepherd Bheenaveni from Texas University, USA, Dr. Mridusmita Duara, KKHSOU Assam, Ms. Swathi Murali from H a q d a r s h a k Empowerment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore, Mr. Dalton, Film Critic Delhi, Dr. V. Sayee Kumar, Counseling therapist, Chennai, Dr. Sreeni KR Payagri Innovation Solutions, IIT Madras, Dr. Jitendra Singh NCC

Officer, IGNTU and Mr. Guddo, IGNTU were the speakers in the program. The speakers covered various topics in the program includes, soft skills, research, field work, social work methods, NCC, NSS etc.

The students acquired various skills includes, soft skills, research methods, role of social work in community development and community sensitization, role of professional social workers. The senior shared their experiences with the junior stu-

dents. While inaugurating the session the Head of the department Prof. Ranju Hasini Sahoo, stressed that this is an important event where the newly admitted students trained in many aspects which they are going to learn in coming two years, further Prof. Sahoo applauded the efforts of the Department and its activities in the campus. Participants expressed their happiness as they gained exposures on various themes. Faculty members Dr. Ramesh B, Dr. Nagalingam and Dr. Divya K took sessions on various themes. Dr. Krishnamani Bhagabati was the convener of the program. Prof. Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi, the Vice Chancellor of the IGNTU appreciated the efforts of the department for conducting such an important event.

Forest Minister gave financial assistance of Rs 10.75 lakh

To 43 Nacha Gammat families going through unemployment due to Covid transition

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: State Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment, Law, Legislative and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mohammad Akbar gave 10 lakh to 43 parties of folk artist Nacha Gammat, who were going through unemployment for the last two years during the period of Covid transition. Help is being provided by providing financial assistance of Rs. 10.75 lakh. Akbar provided financial assistance of Rs 7.50 lakh to 29 teams of folk artist Nacha Gammat family of Kabirdham district. The approved financial amount will be sent



to the remaining other dance-gammat folk artists. Minister Akbar got to know about everyone's well being by discussing directly with all the folk artist members through video conferencing from his residence located in Shankarnagar, Raipur. Member of C h h a t t i s g a r h Shaktambhari Board, Hari Patel and Municipal Council President, Rishi Kumar Sharma were also present in the program

on this occasion. It is worth mentioning that last year, in village Samnapur, a felicitation ceremony was organised by the Chhattisgarh Lok Kalyan Nacha Gammat family in the courtyard of the Devi Shakambhari temple of Patel community. Cabinet Minister Akbar attended the conference. In the conference, 43 parties of folk artist Nacha Gammat, who came from different districts of Chhattisgarh,

had demanded financial help during the Corona period. In which 35 teams were from Kabirdham district. After listening to the demand of the folk artists by the Minister Akbar, it was announced to give financial assistance of Rs 10.75 lakh to all the parties from their voluntary donation. Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar while addressing said that the folk artists and families associated with dance and music of the state have an important role in bringing alive the art-culture and traditions of Chhattisgarh. With the special efforts of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, meaningful efforts have been started to keep the art, culture and traditions of Chhattisgarh alive in the state. To save the culture and traditions, the artists and craftsmen of the state have got a platform by the

formation of the Sanskriti Parishad. This will help in the expansion, promotion and protection of artists of Chhattisgarh's literature, music, dance, theatre, painting, sculpture, cinema and tribal and folk arts. This effort of Chhattisgarh government is commendable. Due to the interest of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for the preservation, promotion and propagation of dance-song, festival, faith and culture of the tribal community and cultural exchange of art tradition, a glorious event of National Tribal Dance Festival has started in the state. Due to this tribal art and culture has been broadcast on the world stage. Rajim Kumbh is now known as Rajim Maghi Punni Mela.

Maghi Punni Mela is a symbol of faith for the people of Chhattisgarh and the government has revived the years old tradi-

tion of organizing it. By organizing Sirpur Mahotsav, the art-culture of Chhattisgarh is promoted and artists get a platform.

Sahitya Akademi, Kala Akademi, Tribal and Folk Kala Akademi, Chhattisgarh Film Development Corporation, Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog and Chhattisgarh Sindh Academy divisions have been formed under the Sanskriti Parishad. There is a plan to develop Film City in Nava Raipur. In Nava Raipur, near Purkhauti Mukhtangan, a huge Mukhtakashi museum of tribal art, craft and tradition and folk life of the state 'Purkhauti Mukhtangan' is being developed, under which the distinctive form of tribal ancient culture, various dimensions of multicolored culture of Chhattisgarh 'Amcho' After 'Bastar', 'Surguja block' is being developed.

CM releases calendar based on tourism and biodiversity



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 22: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the calendar of the year 2022 based on tourism and biodiversity of Jashpur at his residence office here this evening. Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Shakuntala Sahu, MLA Mr. Vinay Jaiswal, Mrs. Sangeeta Sinha, Mrs. Anita Yogendra Sharma, members of Chhattisgarh Home Construction Board Mr. Ajay Sahu and Mr. Vinod Tiwari were present on the occasion.

terfalls, mountains, wildlife, religious places, tea gardens, adventure sports and festivals of tribal life in Jashpur district. Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Shakuntala Sahu, MLA Mr. Vinay Jaiswal, Mrs. Sangeeta Sinha, Mrs. Anita Yogendra Sharma, members of Chhattisgarh Home Construction Board Mr. Ajay Sahu and Mr. Vinod Tiwari were present on the occasion.

School children take part in debate, essay writing competition

On occasion of Amrit Mahotsav

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jan 22: On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav, 75th anniversary of India's Independence, a block level debate and essay competition was organized in the meeting room of Swami Atmanand English Medium School, Konta.

In this competition 40 students selected at cluster level from different clusters of Konta block participated. In the debate competition organized under the Amrit Mahotsav program of Independence, the participants debated on the topic "Democracy or Monarchy".



Similarly, children wrote essays on the topic "Youth of the twenty-first century".

Academician CH Rajasekhar was present as the chief guest in this competition organized at Swami Atmanand

Excellent English Medium School, Konta. Addressing the program on this occasion, he encouraged the participants.

On this occasion Block Education Officer SK Deep, Assistant Block Education Officer P.Srinivas, BRC Mahendra

Bahadur Singh, Head Teachers Sushil Shrivastava, Shashi Kumar and teachers from various institutions were present. The program was conducted by T. Srinivas Vasu, the head teacher of Swami Atmanand English Medium School.

Winning participants were rewarded

Kumari Josna Sodi Class 12th Government Higher Secondary School, Konta stood first in essay writing competitions, Sodi Ramesh Class XII DAV Public School Konta stood second, and Kumari Gilleswari Nishad Class XII Government Higher Secondary School, Konta, stood second. In the debate competition, Ku.Gazal Kori, D.A.V Public School, Konta, first place, Ku. Preeti Baghel Government Higher Secondary School, Dornapal, second and CH Krish, D.A.V. Public School, Konta, third place. Received. In opposition, the first position was bagged by Ku. Manasa Patel D.A.V Public School, Konta, second place, Deborah Morla D.A.V. Public School, Konta and the third place was bagged by Rajesh Kattam Government Higher Secondary School, Konta.

Teaching, exams to be held in online, blended mode

In all govt, private Schools, Colleges in the district

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Jan 22: Collector and DJM Kuldeep Sharma in line with the guidelines issued by the health department of Chhattisgarh has issued fresh instructions in view of control of Corona virus.

Seeing the rise in number of Corona cases, Collector has directed to carry out teaching work in all the government, private schools, Colleges for academic session 2021-22 in online mode.

As per the orders issued, he has directed to put a ban on physical presence of anyone in Schools or Colleges and all the classes



be held in online mode. The teaching and non-teaching staff have been asked to be called on 1/3rd roster system.

During the roster duty days, the teaching staff will teach from the schools/ college and otherwise from home itself through online mode and it should be done as per the time table fixed for the

College. In the same way the non-teaching staff of the College should be called as per roster duty and rest of the staff should work from home system either using mobile phones or through online procedure.

For academic session 2021-22, the exams of all the first and third semester be organised in online and blended mode. The Universities will be issued detailed instructions on approval from working council and under no circumstances, no officer or employee would go on leave without prior sanction and do not leave the headquarters.

Action by Dongargarh Police against illegal liquor sale

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 22: Under the direction of senior police officers and SDOP Krishna Kumar Patel, a team was formed at the police station level to maintain peace in the area under the leadership of Inspector-in-Charge, Inspector Shiv Chandra.

According to information received Ritesh Larokar, operator of Mehfil Dhaba in Dongargarh city, and Rajesh Singh Thakur, operator of Mann Hotel, were selling liquor to the people from the back door. Similarly Ved Narayan Sinha, a resident of Raka was also engaged in the



trade of liquor sale. To confirm the information that Sinha is selling liquor near Bazar Chowk and Harvinder Singh near Railway Chowk, immediate siege raids were taken at the above places. During the raid, 40 nos. of country

liquor was seized from the possession of Ritesh Larokar, operator of Mehfil Dhaba, 32 nos. from the possession of Rajesh Thakur, operator of Maan Hotel, and 32 nos. English liquor was seized in the possession of Ved Narayan Sinha. After

taking action against Section 34(2) of the Excise Act, after presenting them in the court on judicial remand, the three accused were admitted to the sub-jail Dongargarh.

The role of Sub-Inspector BR Bison, Assistant Sub-Inspector Dhannalal Sinha, Assistant Sub-Inspector RK Anant, Principal constable Ajit Toppo, constable Manoj Harmukh, constable Mithlesh Sahu, Gajendra Bharadwaj in the said action was commendable. According to Inspector-in-charge of the Police Station Shiv Chandra, Police action against illegal business will continue.

Savitri Sahu elected in-charge sarpanch

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Jan 22: After the election for the vacant post of Sarpanch in Jairamnagar Gram Panchayat under Janpad Panchayat was conducted, Savitri Bhagwat Sahu, the female Panch of dependent village Khaira, was elected Sarpanch in-charge after voting by the panchs.

It is noteworthy that a fortnight ago, the Sarpanch and Sarpanch Panch Pati of Jairamnagar Gram Panchayat were dismissed from the post by the SDM on the charges of financial irregularities. Keeping this in mind, on



the orders of the administration, the election program of the in-charge sarpanch was kept here in which two women panchs of dependent village Khaira tried their luck. As a result, after voting, 11 votes were cast in favor of

Savitri Bhagwat Sahu and that of 07 votes were cast in favour of rival candidate Priya Sahu. Thus, Savitri Bhagwat Sahu was elected in-charge sarpanch. After being elected Sarpanch in-charge,

Savitri Bhagwat Sahu expressed gratitude to all the Panchs and took a pledge to develop the village with the cooperation of all the Panchs. Later with her associates visited the Sati Dai temple in Jhiriya and bowed their heads.

On this occasion Panchayat Secretary Kailash Patel, Panch Tularam Sharma, Sonu Bhargava, Raju Pandit, Dharmendra Yadav, Kamal Agarwal, Pardeshi Jagat, Hanuman Jagat, Shatrughan Yadav, Shiva Sen, Dev Prasad Sahu, Kapil Yadav, Shatrughan Sahu, Gaurishankar Sahu, Monu Eminent villagers including Bhargava were present.

Society without internal politics can move forward: Sahu

Meeting of newly formed body of GPM held in Keshav Kunj



Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marvahi, Jan 22: Only that society surges ahead wherein there is no politics in the organisation and therefore all should work rising above party politics for the welfare of the society, says District Vaishya Taiilik Sahu Samaj (VTSS) state president Ashok Sahu in newly elected three Presidents of three cells of GPM held a meeting here on Thursday.

Sahu said that there should be work for associating more and more members with Samaj instead of breaking them. The chief guest in this meeting was regional president Ashok Sarju Prasad and it was chaired by Rajendra Rudra Pratap Sahu and Rekha Dinesh Sahu-regional president Mahila cell of VTSS.

The guests first offered prayers to idols of Goddess Banjari, Maa Karma and Danvir Bhamashah and lighted the traditional

lamp. In this meeting the Presidents of three cells of GPM formed their working committee and due consent was passed with which

District President Keshav Sahu, Yuva Prakosth President Nilesh Sahu issued the list of their new office bearers and in the same way Mahila cell District President Sarita Ashwini Sahu also issued her list of Samiti members. In the meeting held, dis-

cussions were held to take samaj forward and ensure self-sufficiency of people of samaj and hosts of other issues.

Thereafter Ashok Sahu extended greetings to the newly formed working committee of three in GPM and laid emphasis on having alertness and promptness towards responsibility of the society.

The regional President Mahila cell Rekha Sahu also extended greetings to newly appointed members and appealed all present to take the Samaj to new heights. She also put forth her views on ensuring active participation of all the 'teej-tyohar' (festival) to be organised in the near future and for extending help to each other's problems as well.

Rajendra Prasad gave wonderful speech about social activities. Meeting was attended by all the office bearers of District Vaishya Sahu Samaj from its different cells.

New venue of fair yet to see light of the day!

No progress in leveling work; no chance of completing all RCC work in 30 days

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 22: The state's famous Rajim Madhi Punni Mela will be starting in a month's time from now and the most debatable issue is as to how all RCC structure can be constructed in just 30 day? So far only 2 acre land has been levelled, whereas the total area of Mela's venue is around 54 acre.

In this land mainly a farm land, there are bushes and crop leftover still remaining on the ground. Meanwhile near the embankment on banks of the river, there is a big hole and it may take long time to level it and loads of soil/murrum will be required to do it. In all there is not much of progress from what was left few days back.

The then District Collector Nileshshir Sagar has not shown much of an interest in getting this venue prepared during his



term, but the people of the region are very much hopeful on newly appointed District Collector Namrata Gandhi, who is expected to speed-up the

work on his assuming office. It is notable here that the Minister for Home and Tourism Tamradhwaj Sahu had conducted inspection of the venue last

on Dec 21 and at that time the then Collector Nileshshir Sagar, SP JR Thakur, DFO Mayank Agrawal, SDM Avinash Bhoi, and other officers from various departments were present. At that time HM has directed the officers to complete the soil levelling work within a week's time and has asked to deploy more JCB's and tractors so as to complete the work early.

Petrol pump dealers denying convenience to consumers

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 22: In the midst of rising prices of petrol and diesel, instead of increasing the facilities available in petrol pumps, the facilities set by the government are not being taken care off in the petrol pumps located in the urban areas.

Many petrol pumps located within the city are being operated in the midst of dense population, which is like inviting an accident. At present, 2 petrol pumps are operating in the inner area of the city and two petrol pumps in both the ends of the city limits in Bor Talav Road and



Khairagarh Road. According to Assistant Food Officer Ashish Ramte from time to time, the petrol pump operators have been instructed to continue the facility provided to the consumers, but it does not

seem to be being followed. Consumers are not able to take advantage of the facility provided, meanwhile the petrol pump operators make arrangements for a few days, but after a few days again the same situa-

tion remains the same. In the name of facility available to consumers in petrol pumps, air cooler and water cooler for drinking water has definitely been installed, but it is not usable and consumers have to face more difficulties due to lack of transport system.

There are also complaints of excessive theft of petrol and diesel in the name of nozzle setting by the petrol pump operators, and the consumers have to bear the brunt. Assistant Food Officer Ashish Ramte has said that on receipt of complaints, and if the complaint is confirmed, action will also be taken.

समस्त श्रीमान् पब्लिक नोटरी महोदय दुर्गा (छ.ग.) शपथ पत्र

मैं शपथकर्ता राजेश कुमार पिता श्री चेमाचलम, उम्र 37 वर्ष, निवासी बन्दा, नंबर 6/ए सड़क नं. 37/बी, सेक्टर 07, फिलॉस, तहसील बंजिला दुर्गा (छ.ग.) का हूँ जो कि निम्नलिखित कथन शपथपूर्वक करता हूँ : 1. यह कि मेरा नाम व पता उपरोक्त अनुसार है। 2. यह कि मैं भारतीय सेना में नायक के पद पर पदस्थ था जो कि सेवानिवृत्त हो चुका हूँ, तथा मेरा आर्मी नंबर -14651510X है जो कि मेरे उक्त सर्विस रिकॉर्ड में मेरी पत्नी का नाम SIRISHA RAJESH दर्ज है। 3. यह कि मेरी पत्नी का आधार कार्ड संख्या 5145 7407 9439 है जिसमें मेरी पत्नी का नाम SIRISHA दर्ज है जो कि सही एवं सत्य है एवं समस्त दस्तावेज में भी यही नाम अंकित है। 4. यह कि मैं अपने उक्त सर्विस रिकॉर्ड में दर्ज अपनी पत्नी के नाम से RAJESH विलोपित कर केवल नाम SIRISHA दर्ज करवाना चाहता हूँ, जिसके सम्बन्ध में यह शपथपत्र प्रस्तुत है। 5. यह कि मेरे द्वारा दी गई जानकारी सही एवं सत्य है कोई जानकारी या बात छुपाया नहीं गया है यदि कोई जानकारी असत्य पाई जाती है तो मैं शपथकर्ता स्वयं जवाबदार रहूँगा। अतः यह शपथपत्र उपरोक्त तथ्यों को सत्यता में नाम सुधार हेतु शासकीय गजट प्रकाशन हेतु सक्षम अधिकारी के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करना है।

शपथकर्ता

TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Branch Address: 1st Floor, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Tikrapara, Raipur, CG 492001 and also at 11th Floor, PS Srijan Tech Park, DN 52, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

1. LOAN ACCOUNT 211191983 & 8643411: KUNAL JAISWAL, 2. LOAN ACCOUNT 21771537: DR. SAYEED AHMED

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the below Borrower/ Co-Borrower that the below described immovable properties are mortgaged to Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd. (Secured Creditor/TFCSL), the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd. (Secured Creditor), pursuant to notice under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) (No. 54 of 2002). The following immovable properties will be sold on the below mentioned dates on "As is where is basis" & "As is what is and whatever there is & without recourse basis". The sale shall be completed by the Authorised Officer of TFCSL having its branch office at 1st Floor, Pujari Chambers, Pachpedi Naka, Tikrapara, Raipur, CG-492001 and also at 11th Floor, PS Srijan Tech Park, DN 52, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal. The Details of Loan Accounts, Obligors/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) Names, Outstanding amounts due as per notice Under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI, Act, Type of Possession of mortgaged property, Reserve Price and EMD are mentioned as follows:

Sr. No.	Loan A/c No.	Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues and date of Demand Notice	Type of Possession (Constructive/ Physical) and date	Reserve Price Earnest Money (EMD)	Sale Auction Date
1.	211191983 & 8643411	(1) Kunal Jaiswal, H. No. 45/4mottal Nehru Nagar, East Bhillai, Dist. Durg, Bhillai - 490020. (2) Kunal Jaiswal, 'Neco Gardens', Flat No. -72, Lotus', 7th & 8th Floor, Survey No. 208/2 Viman Nagar, Lohagagan, Pune - 411014, Maharashtra. (3) Vijay Kumar Jaiswal, H. No. 45/4mottal Nehru Nagar, East Bhillai, Dist. - Durg, Bhillai - 490020. (4) Xtreme Agro Farms Private Limited, Represented By Mr. Kunal Jaiswal, 4/1Priyadarshini Parisar (West), Bhillai Durg, Bhillai - 490020. (5) Krish Capital Private Limited, Represented By Mr. Vijay Kumar Jaiswal, 4/1Priyadarshini Parisar (West), Bhillai Durg, Bhillai - 490020.	Rs. 1,88,53,464.95/- and Rs. 1,34,28,665.14/- respectively totalling to Rs. 3,22,82,130.09/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty-Two Lakhs Eighty-Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty and Nine Paise Only) as on 20th May 2021	Symbolic Possession taken on 24-08-2021	Rs. 94,79,500.00/- (Rupees Ninety-Four Lakhs Seventy-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)	1st March 2022
2.	21771537	(1) Dr. Sayeed Ahmed, House No. D/8, Shailendra Nagar, Behind Memom Nursing Home, Raipur - 492001. Also At Yaswant Hospital, Tatyapara Chowk, G.E. Road, Raipur - 492001. (2) Shahin Sheikh, House No. D/8, Shailendra Nagar, Behind Memom Nursing Home, Raipur - 492001. (3) Sayeeda Bano, House No. D/8, Shailendra Nagar, Behind Memom Nursing Home, Raipur - 492001.	Rs. 99,73,594.76/- (Rupees Ninety-Nine Lakhs Seventy-Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Four and Seventy Six paise only) as calculated up to 3rd AUGUST 2021	Symbolic Possession taken on 3-12-2021	Rs. 7,80,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)	2nd March 2022

Description of Secured Assets: Plot No. 19, Block No. 4, Comprising Of Area - 330.00 Sq. Mt. Situated At Priyadarshini Parisar (West) Awasiya Yojna, Bhillai, Kosa Nagar, Ward No. 03, Tahsil & District, Chhattisgarh, Butted And Bounded By - North - Plot No. - 1, House; South - Plot No. 18, Open Land; East-Plot No. 2, House & West-Road. **Encumbrance Details: NA**

Description of Secured Assets: All That Land Measuring About 1500 Square Feet Along With Two Storied Building Measuring About 900 Sq. Ft On The Ground Floor And 900 Sq. Ft In The First Floor, Situated At Plot/H.No.-D-08, Kh. No. 293/1, Raipur Vikas Pradhikaran Rda Shailendra Nagar, Scheme No. -27, Mauza- Shailendra Nagar, Yojna No. 027, P.C. No-114, Ric Raipur, Lieutenant Arvind Dixit Ward No.-47, Rmr, Raipur, Tah & Dist. Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. North : 30 Ft. Road, South: 40'X 60' Land in Rows, East: Plot No. D-09 (Corner), West: Plot No. D-07. **Encumbrance Details: NA**

The E-auction will take place through portal <https://disposalhub.com>. The Date of E-Auction, Bid Submission and Inspection of Property are as follows:

Sr.No.	Loan A/c No.	Date and time of E-Auction	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	Date and Time of Inspection
1.	211191983 & 8643411	1st March 2022, 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each.	26th February 2022 Till 5 p.m.	Till 25th February 2022 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM.
2.	21771537	2nd March 2022, 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each.	26th February 2022 Till 5 p.m.	Till 25th February 2022 between 11 AM to 5.00 PM.

The description of the properties that will be put up for sale are in the Schedule. The sale will also be stopped if, amount due as aforesaid, interest and costs (including the cost of the sale) are tendered to the 'Authorized Officer' or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such secured debt, interest and costs has been paid. At the sale, the public generally is invited to submit their tender personally. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with this sale shall, however, directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the rules/conditions prescribed under the SARFAESI Act, 2002. All the Bids submitted for the purchase of the property shall be payable by Earnest Money as mentioned above by way of a Demand Draft forwarding the "TATA CAPITAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD." payable at Kolkata.

Note: The intending bidders may contact the Authorized Officer Mr. Anaranya Das Gupta, at Mobile No. +91-9073356560.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale, please refer to the link provided in secured creditor's website, i.e., <https://www.tatacapital.com>, or contact Authorized Officer or Service Provider - M/s NexGen Solutions Private Limited, Name: Client Service Delivery (CSD) of our Sales Partner through E-mail ID: csd@disposalhub.com, Tel. No.: +91 124 4 233 933, Mobile No. +91 98100 29926

Place: - Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Date- 21st January 2022

Sd/- Authorized Officer
Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd.

BRIEF

Recovered

Shillong: A large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from an underground pit in Meghalaya's South West Khasi Hills district. Acting on a tip-off, the BSF in a joint operation with Meghalaya police launched a search operation in the dense forest area along the Lakma Nallah that flows from India to Bangladesh and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition hidden underground, a BSF spokesperson said.

Draft

New Delhi: The Delhi University released a draft Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 2022 (UGCF-2022) formulated in accordance with the National Education Policy and sought feedback from stakeholders. The Draft UGCF was criticised by a section of teachers saying that it was not discussed in the Academic Council meeting of the university.

Campaign

Srinagar: A man was arrested in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly running a "scandalous" online campaign against Kashmiri students studying outside the Union territory, police said. The person has been identified as Iftikhar Ahmad Dar; they said. Police arrested Iftikhar Ahmad Dar from Anantnag for carrying scandalous online campaign against Kashmiri students studying outside, causing anguish.

Gold

Ghaziabad: Two men, who allegedly swindled Rs 28 lakh from a jeweller, were nabbed here. During a routine check at the Hapur road trisection here, police from GT Road Kotwali intercepted vehicle and recovered money, 10 mobile phones and sim cards, and five fake AADHAAR cards.

'CBI seems to be protecting accused in judge murder case'



● Court wants that main conspirator be brought to book

Ranchi, Jan 22 (PTD):

Jharkhand High Court has slammed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for its "laxity" in probing the murder of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, and observed that it seems that the agency was trying to quit the investigation and even protect the accused.

The division bench of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice SN Prasad,

while reading the report of the narco-analysis test of the two accused, said that when the auto-driver and his accomplice knew that Anand was a judge before hitting him, how could the CBI come up with the theory of murder for robbing a mobile phone?

Rejecting the CBI's theory, the bench said that the agency has failed to get down to the bottom of the matter.

"The investigation into the case raises a question on the credibility of the CBI. It seems that the agency is now tired of the case and wants to quit the investigation, which is

why it is making up stories so that the accused are not charged with murder. The probe is going in such a direction that it appears that the CBI is trying to protect the accused," the bench noted.

The narco-analysis test report was read out in the court. In the report, the autorickshaw driver's assistant Rahul said, "Lakhan was driving the autorickshaw fast. I was sitting on the left side. The judge was jogging slowly. He had a handkerchief in his left hand. Lakhan hit the judge intentionally and he collapsed on the ground." The report found that someone had assigned them the task to kill the judge. The bench said that when the report of the narco-analysis test conducted by the CBI says that both the accused knew the judge beforehand and they did not find his mobile phone, how can the investigating agency say that he was murdered for a mobile phone?

Four candidates file nomination for 'auctioned' sarpanch post

● Consensus candidate for Kotia region

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22 (PTD):

At least four candidates filed their nomination papers for the alleged "auctioned" sarpanch post of Bileisarada gram panchayat in Odisha's Bolangir district.

Apart from Susant Chhatra, who had reportedly won the bid by promising to pay Rs 44,000 for the development of the Jagannath temple at the village under Puintala block, his nephew, Bilasini Sharma and Prabhudutta Panda have also filed their nomination papers.

Following media report of the alleged "auction" of sarpanch post at Bileisarada gram panchayat, Odisha's State Election Commissioner AP Padhi on Thursday had asked the Bolangir Collector to ensure that no willing person is obstructed from filing nomination papers for the post of sarpanch.

Chhatra claimed that he own the bidding and agreed to pay Rs 44,000 if he wins the elections uncontested.



Odisha State Election Commission.

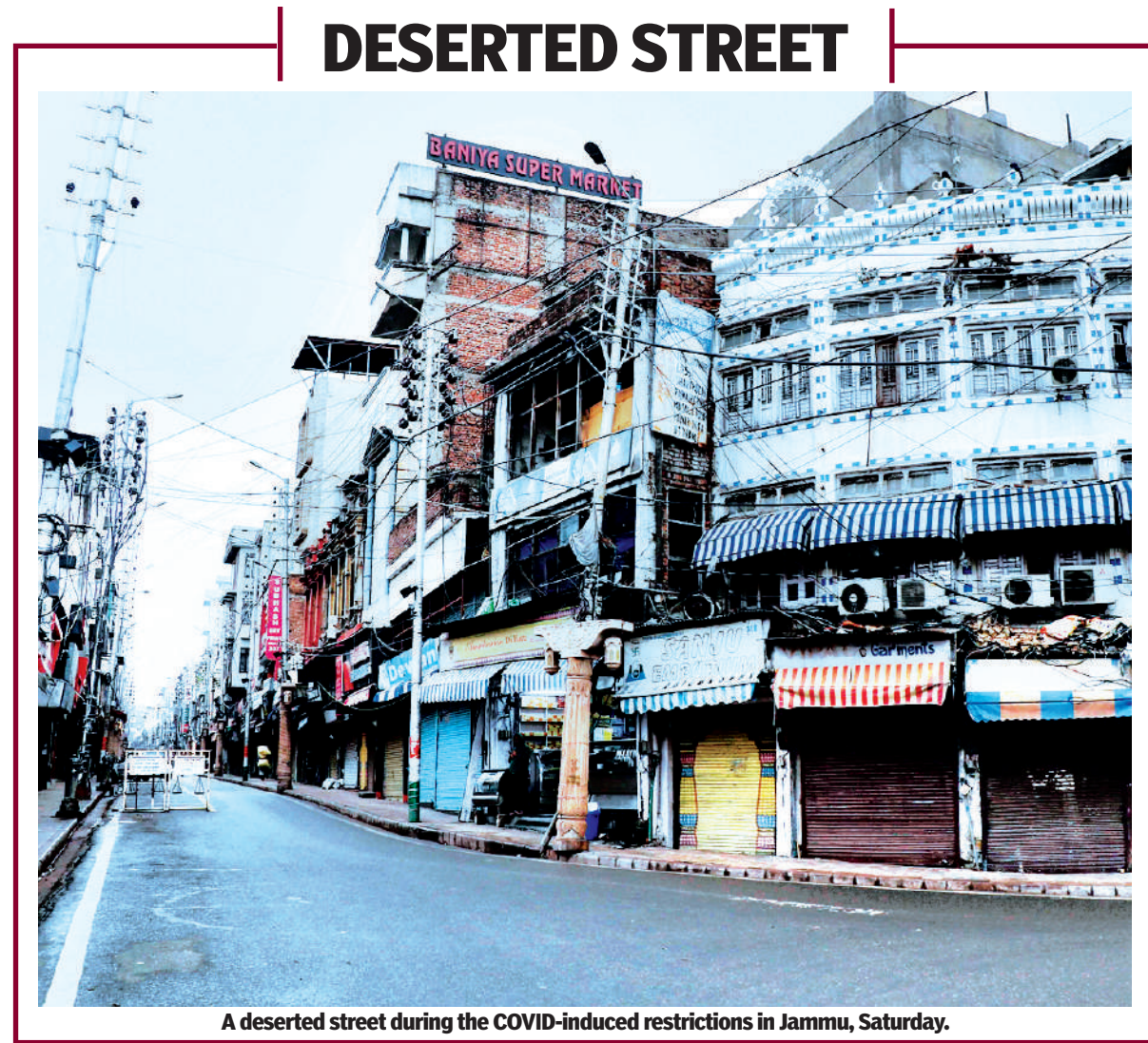
He said money would be spent for the development of the Jagannath temple at the village. The auction was done at a meeting attended by the heads of three villages - Bandanakata, Kasurpali, and Bileisarada - at the Jagannath temple where the alleged bidding took place.

Meanwhile, in Koraput district, as unanimously decided by three major political parties - BJD, BJP and Congress - consensus candidate Mamata Jani, a graduate of Thuria village, has filed nomination papers for Zilla parishad member post in the election to Kotia panchayat.

Jani was selected by rul-

ing BJD and opposition BJP and Congress for the post. She filed her papers at the sub-collector's office on the last day of filing nominations. The three parties had decided to field a consensus candidate in order to thwart any attempt by Andhra Pradesh to meddle in the panchayat elections in Kotia gram panchayat.

Though the parties had decided to select consensus candidates for different posts instead of going for elections, two other candidates, one of them being a dissident Congress leader and another person have also filed nomination for the Zilla Parishad member post as Independent candidates.



A deserted street during the COVID-induced restrictions in Jammu, Saturday.

DESERTED STREET

'2021 watershed year for armed forces in J&K, Ladakh'

Udhampur, Jan 22 (PTD):



GoC Lt Gen YK Joshi

A top army officer on Saturday called 2021 a watershed year for the armed forces on Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

He said the troops displayed boldness in standing up to the aggressive designs in the two Union Territories.

General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, northern command, Lt Gen YK Joshi said there has been a reduction in terrorist-related incidents and stone pelting activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

There has been a reduction in terrorist related incidents, stone pelting activities and protests as a result of tireless efforts of the security forces and the people of J&K, Joshi said, addressing the northern command in-

vestiture ceremony at its headquarters here in J&K. Earlier in the ceremony, he presented GOC-in-C's appreciation to 40 units and GOC-in-C's Certificates of Appreciation to 26 units for their overall 'outstanding' and 'distinguished' performance in the command theatre.

The GOC-in-C's Appreciation were given for performance of units in Operation Meghdoot, Operation Rakshak, Operation Northern Borders, and

other operations in the command.

The GOC-in-C's Certificates of Appreciation were given for performance of units in Operation Snow Leopard, which was launched after China refused to move back and restore status quo ante in eastern Ladakh.

The ceremony was a solemn occasion to appreciate and recognise the professionalism in operational roles performed by the units during their tenure in northern Command, a defence spokesman said. The army commander praised all ranks of the northern command for their dedication and devotion to duty in the highest traditions of the Indian Army. He also conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the brave men who laid down their lives in internal security challenges.

Karnataka crosses six crore COVID-19 tests

Bengaluru, Jan 22 (PTD):

Karnataka Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Saturday congratulated healthcare workers and district authorities as the state crossed six crore COVID-19 tests.

"Testing has been one of the cornerstones of Karnataka's success in fighting Covid. We have completed crore tests since the beginning of the pandemic, third highest in the country. Congratulations to all the health workers and district administration who made this possible," the minister tweeted.

Later speaking to reporters, the minister said when the pandemic started in early 2020, National Institute of Virology units were used to conduct tests and Karnataka used to send samples to NIV centres in Pune.

Karnataka gradually established labs across the state and now we have about 268 testing facilities including 99 government and 169 private labs, he added.

According to him, Karnataka has tested 6,01,14,815 samples so far including 1,14,12,162 Rapid Antigen Test and 4,87,02,653 RT-PCR tests.

While 1,41,96,065 samples were tested in 2020,

4,23,91,357 samples were tested in 2021 and so far 35,27,393 tests have been conducted in 2022, he explained.

Sudhakar said, "Testing plays a vital role in this battle against pandemic. Karnataka has always been aggressive in testing and tracking and it has been one of our cornerstones in this direction against COVID. Karnataka has now achieved another milestone by crossing 6 crore tests."

Further, the minister said that both Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education departments have always religiously followed 5T strategy of Test, Track, Trace, Triaging and Technology.

"We have set up 3,678 comprising of 3,102 government and 666 private swab collection centres, which is one each for every 20,000 population. We have labs in government hospitals, medical colleges and also private hospitals," Sudhakar explained.

He also said that initially only 10 to 12 government labs had COVID testing facility which has now increased to 57. "With 108 NA extractors and 139 RT-PCR machines we have capacity to test 1,20,800 samples per day in Government facilities," the minister said.

MATRIMONIAL

ब्राह्मण

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिये- 27/ 5' 3", पढी-लिखी, सुंदर, सुशील, गृहकार्य में दक्ष, जाति-ब्राह्मण कन्या हेतु सुयोग्य वर चाहिए. जाति/शिक्षा बंधन नहीं. संपर्क करें- मो.- 7415384900, 7389367165. (248215)

वधु चाहिये

बंगाली वधु चाहिए मैकेनिकल इंजीनियर स्वर्ण वर्णीक उम्र- 28, कद- 5' 2" स्वर्ण का व्यवसाय मोबाइल नम्बर - 9752377696. (63038)

वधु चाहिये

ब्राह्मण- 30/ 5' 7" फेवर ग्रेज्युएट हेतु सुन्दर, सुशील, गृहकार्य में दक्ष वधु चाहिए जाति बंधन नहीं, निर्धन भी स्वीकार्य, मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा/ बायोडाटा फोटो भेजे. मो.- 79871-77687. (248224)

बौद्ध

वधु चाहिये

वधु चाहिए- बौद्धिष्ट 31/ 5' 11", बी.टेक (मैकेनिकल इंजीनियर), सीनियर सेक्शन इंजीनियर इन नार्थ रेलवे (सेन्ट्रल गवर्मेन्ट) आय 11.2 लाख प्रतिवर्ष, पिता रिटायर्ड अधिकारी.- 9479205416. (248218)

सामान्य

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- उम्र 30 वर्ष, बी. कॉम, कम्प्यूटर डिप्लोमा, जाति गोटाया (कोल) जबलपुर (म. प्र.) संपर्क- मो.- +917000770787. (248205)

वैवाहिकी

वधु चाहिये

65/ 5' 4" / गवर्नमेंट प्रोफेसर (रिटायर्ड) एम.ए., पी.एच.डी./ पेशन - 48,000/- महिला हेतु वर चाहिए, तलाकशुदा, विधुर, घरजमाई, नौकरीपेशा स्वीकार - 8517899869, 789884957. (53039)

वैवाहिकी

वर चाहिये

क्रिश्चियन वर चाहिए (ओराव रामेन कैथोलिक) जन्म तिथि 20-11-89 ऊंचाई 5 फीट, बी.काम, एम.काम, बी.एड. मैरिज ब्यूरो क्षमा सरकारी लेक्चरर मो.- 9406212139. (53042)

तमिल/तेलगू

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- तेलगु 26/ 5' 2", बी.कॉम, गेरा अल्टर सुन्दर, गृहकार्य में दक्ष कन्या पिता व्यवसायी मध्यम वर्गीय परिवार हेतु सुयोग्य वर चाहिए अतिशोष विवाह (जाती बंधन नहीं) संपर्क-8815820463. (248217)

बंगाली

वर चाहिये

Suitable match for Bengali Kayastha Girl 32 yrs, 5' 3" working as govt. teacher in Raipur. Caste no bar in Bengali. Contact No- 7389428067, 9171876490. (248201)

वधु चाहिये

बंगाली वर चाहिए- बंगाली कन्या (क्षत्रिय) (डी.ओ.बी. 25-06-1996) 5' 1" अपोलो में स्टाफ नर्स के पद में कार्यरत हेतु शिक्षित वर को आवश्यकता है-मोबा. 99774-64252, 62647-69759 (Nb56460)

गुजराती

वर चाहिये

वर चाहिए- गुजराती 26/ 5' 1", बी. कॉम, रंग गेरा, अल्टर सुन्दर गृह कार्य में दक्ष कन्या पिता व्यवसायी परिवार हेतु सुयोग्य वर चाहिए अतिशोष विवाह (सभी गुजराती मान्य) -08224906578. (248216)

नावभारत मैट्रीमोनियल

जोड़ीयां स्वर्ग में बनाई जाती है...

अब इनको दुंदन और भी आसान

नावभारत मैट्रीमोनियल के साथ...

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

Contact: 0771-3000139, 8871246900

BRIEF

Shooting

Mexico City: A Canadian tourist was killed and two more wounded in a shooting at a hotel along Mexico's Caribbean coast. Authorities were searching for a Hotel Xcaret guest in the shooting. Authorities shared a photo of a man walking with a handgun. The Xcaret resort is south of Playa del Carmen. All three victims were taken to a hospital where one later died. It is just the latest brazen act of violence along famed Mayan Riviera.

Delays

Brasilia: Carnival festivities in Rio de Janeiro will be held in late April rather than the final weekend of February, as the number of coronavirus cases in Brazil spikes and the omicron variant spreads across the country. The decision was made respecting for the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil and the need, at this time, to preserve lives and join forces to drive vaccination throughout the country, said a statement.

Elections

Kathmandu: Nepal will hold three-tier elections within a year, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba announced, urging the country's electoral body to start preparing for the polls. Addressing the nation for the first time after he assumed the top executive post six months ago, Deuba said the tasks performed by the coalition government within a short period had created a strong foundation for political stability, good governance.

Encouraging

London: A pair of Indian-origin pharmacist brothers are using their restaurant business to offer a special 'Jabs with Kebabs' service this weekend to encourage their community in Kent, England, to come forward for their COVID-19 vaccines. Rav and Raj Chopra, who own popular restaurant Punjabi Grill in Gravesend, set up the walk-in vaccine centre after their father became unwell with COVID-19 last year. The duo is among volunteers.

Sought

St Paul: Prosecutors in the trial of three former Minneapolis police officers in US on civil rights charges in George Floyd's killing asked the judge to open at least parts of a hearing on the admissibility of some evidence. A jury was seated in a single day for Tou Thao, J Kueng and Thomas Lane, who are charged with depriving Floyd of his rights while acting under government authority.

Extremists

Abuja: The Islamic extremist insurgency in northeast Nigeria is a very, very dangerous (and) very threatening crisis that needs more than USD 1 billion in aid in 2022 to assist those hit by the decade-long conflict, United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said. He urged the world not to forget the continuing devastation caused by Boko Haram and its offshoot, the Islamic State West Africa Province, together blamed for killing residents.

China's success taming COVID-19 could make exit strategy harder

Communist Party gearing up for major meeting

Taipei, Jan 22 (AP):

The sweeping 'zero-tolerance' strategy that China has used to keep COVID-19 case numbers low and its economy functioning may, paradoxically, make it harder for the country to exit the pandemic.

Most experts say the coronavirus around the world isn't going away and believe it could eventually become, like the flu, a persistent but generally manageable threat if enough people gain immunity through infections and vaccines.

In countries like Britain and the US, which have had comparatively light restrictions against the omicron wave, there is a glimmer of hope that the process might be underway. Cases skyrocketed in recent weeks but have since dropped in Britain and may have leveled off in the US, perhaps because the extremely contagious variant is running out of people to infect. Some places already are talking



A woman wearing a mask walks past a coat of armour displayed outside a restaurant in Beijing.

about easing COVID-19 precautions.

China, which will be in the international spotlight when the Beijing Winter Olympics begin in two weeks, is not seeing the same dynamic.

The communist government's practice throughout the pandemic of trying to find and isolate every infected person has largely protected hospitals from becoming overwhelmed and staved off the deaths that have engulfed most of the world.

But the uncompromising approach also means most people in China have never been exposed to the virus. At the same time, the effectiveness of China's most widely used

vaccines has been called into question. New studies suggest they offer significantly less protection against infection from omicron, even after three doses, than people get after booster shots of the leading Western vaccines.

Together, those factors could complicate China's effort to get past the pandemic. Experts say if the country of 1.4 billion people were to relax restrictions, it could face a surge similar to what Singapore or Australia experienced, despite a highly vaccinated population.

'China's susceptibility to outbreaks is likely to be more because most people have not been exposed to the virus due to the

stringent measures that were put in place, thus lacking hybrid immunity, which is supposed to prove better protection than vaccination alone,' said Dr. Vineeta Bal, an immunologist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research.

'It is risky for China to reopen right now because omicron is spreading globally, and even if the variant doesn't cause major illness, it'll spread like wildfire,' she added.

Dali Yang, a professor who studies Chinese politics at the University of Chicago, said, 'It's a big challenge, for leaders, especially their rhetoric on saving lives. How do you justify opening up and then having tens of thousands of people dying in the process?'

Chinese President Xi Jinping has cited China's approach as a 'major strategic success' and evidence of the 'significant advantages' of its political system over Western liberal democracies.

The world's most populous nation was the only major economy to grow in 2020, and it accounted for a fraction of global deaths and infections.

ROAD AFTER EARTHQUAKE



A woman walks along a cracked road in Oita after a 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific coast in southwestern Japan, on Saturday.

Despite key win, Venezuela's opposition split over strategy

Barinas, Jan 22 (AP):

Iglenda Monzon lost her restaurant to Venezuela's protracted economic crisis. Her daughters then emigrated to Colombia to find work and left behind two children. She and the boys sometimes go hungry and often do not have running water, electricity or gas.

Theirs is a common tale across the troubled South American country, and

like millions of others desperate for a change, Monzon voted in the country's recent regional elections.

Her ballot contributed to a deeply symbolic opposition win in the heartland of the ruling socialist party. But just by casting a ballot, she stepped into the most divisive issue for parties seeking a new government whether or not to take part in elections most see as deeply unfair.

The gubernatorial victory in the northwest state of Barinas where the late President Hugo Chavez was born and his family governed for more than two decades has been celebrated by the opposition.

Voters like Monzon who contributed to that win see ballots as a tool for the change they crave.

'(Change) is by vote, it is the decision of the people. Those are our weapons: the vote.

Inflation skyrockets in Sri Lanka, food prices at record high

Colombo, Jan 22 (PTI):

Sri Lanka's benchmark inflation rate, measured by the National Consumer Price Index, accelerated to 14 per cent in December 2021, up from 11.1 per cent, the government statistics office said on Saturday, amidst a severe foreign exchange crisis.

This was for the second consecutive month after inflation recorded double digit growth for the first time in November since the index came to be compiled from 2014.

Food prices jumped 6.3 per cent while non-food prices rose 1.3 per cent in December, according to the National Consumer Price Index.

The food sub-index was up 21.5 per cent in 12 months to December 2021, while non-foods



also rose 7.6 per cent in the months, the statistics office said in a statement.

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, the government imposed import restrictions to try and stop dwindling of foreign reserves.

Sri Lanka currently banks on the Indian economic assistance with credit lines being made available to finance fuel

and food imports.

The island nation is currently facing a severe foreign exchange crisis with falling reserves.

The country is grappling with a shortage of almost all essentials due to the lack of dollars to pay for the imports.

Additionally, power cuts are imposed at peak hours as the state power entity is unable to obtain fuel to run turbines.

Where Ukraine's sunflowers once sprouted, fears now grow

Washington, Jan 22 (AP):

On a warm spring day in Ukraine 26 years ago, three men smiled for cameras as they planted symbolic sunflower seedlings in freshly tilled earth where Soviet nuclear missiles had once stood ready.

That placid scene was, briefly, a launchpad for hope that the demise of the Soviet Union would bury the threat of great power war and mark the start of lasting peace in an undivided Europe. Now, Ukraine is ground zero for worry that Russia will ignite a conflict that could engulf the region. On that early-June day in 1996, the American secretary of defense, William J Perry, joined his Russian and Ukrainian counterparts in ceremonies marking the completion of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. Under Western pressure, Ukraine had agreed to give up the weapons it inherited with the breakup of the Soviet empire in exchange for a Russian and Western security guarantee. Perry likened the moment to the parting of a dark cloud of Cold War fear.

It is altogether fitting that we plant sunflowers here at Pervomaysk to symbolize the hope we all feel at seeing the sun shine through again, he said, standing on a small concrete pad in the former



Aircrafts flying over a sunflower farm.

missile field, where SS-19 nuclear missiles once stood in underground silos, prepared to launch toward targets in the United States. Nearby, American, Russian and Ukrainian national flags waved in a warm breeze. That hopeful moment when American, Russian and Ukrainian officials grabbed white-handled spades to plant sunflowers has given way to fears of renewed conflict and a new cold war. Russian President Vladimir Putin stands accused by the West of violating that deal by targeting Ukraine with 100,000-plus troops. Now it is Russia that wants a security guarantee from the West as well as legal guarantees that Ukraine never be permitted to join the NATO alliance, even as Moscow readies for a potential invasion of a neighbor with inferior military might and none of the 170-plus nu-

clear-tipped missiles it once held. Moscow wants a stop to NATO's eastward expansion, which it asserts Washington promised in the early aftermath of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 in the context of the reunification of Germany.

The US and its NATO allies deny any such promise was given. The opportunity for countries to join NATO is

enshrined in Article 10 of the organization's founding treaty, and this open door policy was reaffirmed in 2008 when alliance leaders agreed that Ukraine and Georgia will become members of NATO but set no timeline and offered them no formal path to membership. Ukraine remains without a NATO invitation, and none is likely for the foreseeable future. Ukraine gave up its inherited nuclear weapons an estimated 1,900 warheads that at the time constituted the third-largest nuclear arsenal in the world after getting the security assurance it wanted. It is known as the Budapest Memorandum, named for the Hungarian capital in which it was signed in 1994 by the United States, Britain and Russia. Its words seem to defy the reality of Ukraine crisis.

Biden, Kishida agree to push back China's attempts at sea

Washington, Jan 22 (PTI):

US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida have agreed to "push back" against China's attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and highlighted the importance of the Quad grouping as a critical forum for promoting a

free and open Indo-Pacific region.

During the 80-minute virtual meeting, their first formal summit meeting, Biden said the age-old alliance between the US and Japan is the cornerstone of peace and security in the strategic Indo-Pacific region and

across the world.

"It was an honour to meet with Prime Minister Kishida to further strengthen the US-Japan alliance the cornerstone of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and around the world, Biden said in a tweet after the meeting.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK
 1) Tender Notice No. E-R-T-75-21-22
 Date: 18.01.2022
Name of work: Prevention of water logging in road under bridges in Bilaspur-Durg section. **Tender Value: ₹ 55,07,540/-.**
 2) Tender Notice No. E-R-T-76-21-22
 Date: 18.01.2022
Name of work: 1. Provision of Children park cum Open GYM at Nipania, Hathbandh and Tilda colony in Bilaspur-Durg section. 2. Construction of office for SSE/Signal/Belha. 3. Provision of seating arrangement at Belha station. **Tender Value: ₹ 31,52,224/-.** **Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 Hrs. on 17.02.2022.** **Opening of Tender: 11.00 Hrs. on 17.02.2022.**
 For further details/purchase of Tender document, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. DEN (C.O./Raipur or refer/ download tender document which is available on our website www.ireps.gov.in.
 Sr. Divisional Engineer (Line-I)
 PR/R/Engg./AN/136 S.E.C.R., Raipur
 South East Central Railway @secrail

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खाण्ड कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)
द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
 ऑनलाईन निविदाएं "प्रपत्र-ए" में प्रतिशत दर पर नीचे उल्लेखित कार्य के लिये DWSM, KABIRDHAM की ओर से कार्यपालन अभियंता एवं सदस्य सचिव DWSM द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था ई-प्रक्रियारमट वेब पोर्टल पर कार्य का विवरण :- कबीरधाम जिले के कवर्धा विकासखंड में स्वीकृत एकल ग्राम नल जल प्रदाय योजनांतर्गत पेयजल प्रदाय एवं इत्यादि कार्य।

निविदा सूचना क्रमांक/दिनांक	निविदा सिस्टम क्रमांक	योजना का नाम एवं विकासखंड	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)
207/ Dt. 13-01-2022	90509	विकासखंड पंडरिया के ग्राम अमनिया में रेड्रोफिटिंग नल जल प्रदाय योजना पेयजल प्रदाय एवं इत्यादि कार्य।	109.92

 उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रक्रियारमट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में 14.01.2022 से देखी जा सकती है।
 निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 29.01.2022
कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खाण्ड
कबीरधाम (छ.ग.)
 G-67024/1

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAVARI BASIN, RAIPUR (C.G.)
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)
System Tender No. : 91106/NIT No. : 06/SAC/2021-22,
Chhuikhadan, Dated : 20.01.2022
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 10.02.2022 at 17:30 Hour
Name of Work: Remodelling & C.C. Lining of Main Canal RD 0.00 to 7100 m., Sonesarar Minor, RD 0 to 1950 m., Amlipara R/s Minor RD 0 to 690m., Amlipara L/s Minor RD 0 to 750 m., Dhaneli Minor RD 0 to 930 m., 16 No. VRB., 1 No. Fall cum DRB, 1 No. Inlet, 4 No. H.R., 10 Nos. Fall & 46 No. Colaba structure in Lamani Division
Scheme in Block Khairagarh of Distt. Rajnandgaon.
Probable Amount of Contract: -Rs. 817.92 Lakhs
 The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 27.01.2022, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards.
NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.
Executive Engineer
Water Resources Division, Chhuikhadan
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godavari Basin
Raipur (C.G.)
 G-67046/1

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग, अम्बिकापुर मण्डल अम्बिकापुर
ज्ञाप क्र. 5599/सा-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/21-22 दिनांक 20/01/2022
निविदा निरस्तीकरण सूचना
 इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा क्र. 130 (आनलाईन टेंडर नंबर 90985) दिनांक 19.01.2022 जी नंबर 66975 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।
अधीक्षण अभियंता
लोक निर्माण विभाग, अम्बिकापुर मण्डल अम्बिकापुर
 G-67041/2

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता,
लोक निर्माण विभाग, रायपुर मण्डल क्रमांक 2 (धत्तीसगढ़)
ई-प्रोक्युमेंट निविदा सूचना
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)
 दिनांक 21.01.2022
 निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा "सी" श्रेणी एवं अधिक श्रेणी के उम्मीदवारों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 10.02.2022 है।

एन.आई.टी. क्र./ निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)
1	2	3
NIT NO. 124 Tender No. 91222	संभाग बलौदाबाजार के नये कोविड अस्पताल का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।	₹. 110.00 लाख
NIT NO. 125 Tender No. 91223	संभाग धमतरी अंतर्गत जमा मद कार्य, कोविड-19 के तहत मवन निर्माण एवं रेनोवेशन का कार्य।	₹. 105.00 लाख
NIT NO. 126 Tender No. 91224	संभाग गरियाबंद के अंतर्गत कोविड-19 अस्पताल का निर्माण एवं उन्नयन कार्य।	₹. 105.00 लाख
NIT NO. 127 Tender No. 91225	संभाग महासमुन्द के अंतर्गत कोविड-19 हेतु शासकीय भवनों का जीर्णोद्धार का कार्य।	₹. 110.00 लाख

 उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्युमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। (राशि ₹. 100.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर निर्धारित प्रपत्र में शपथ-पत्र एवं न्यूनतम राशि ₹. 10.00 के नान ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पर एनेक्चर-3 का शपथ पत्र (बिडकेपेसीटी उपलब्धता बाबत जानकारी एवं अन्य जानकारी एनआईटी के 2.10 में संलग्न प्रपत्रानुसार प्रस्तुत करें।) निविदा में होने वाले समस्त संशोधन का प्रकाशन केवल उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।
अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि., रायपुर मण्डल क्र. 2 (छ.ग.)
Chhattisgarh
 आपकी वी चाह, हमने बनाई राह
 G-67079/1



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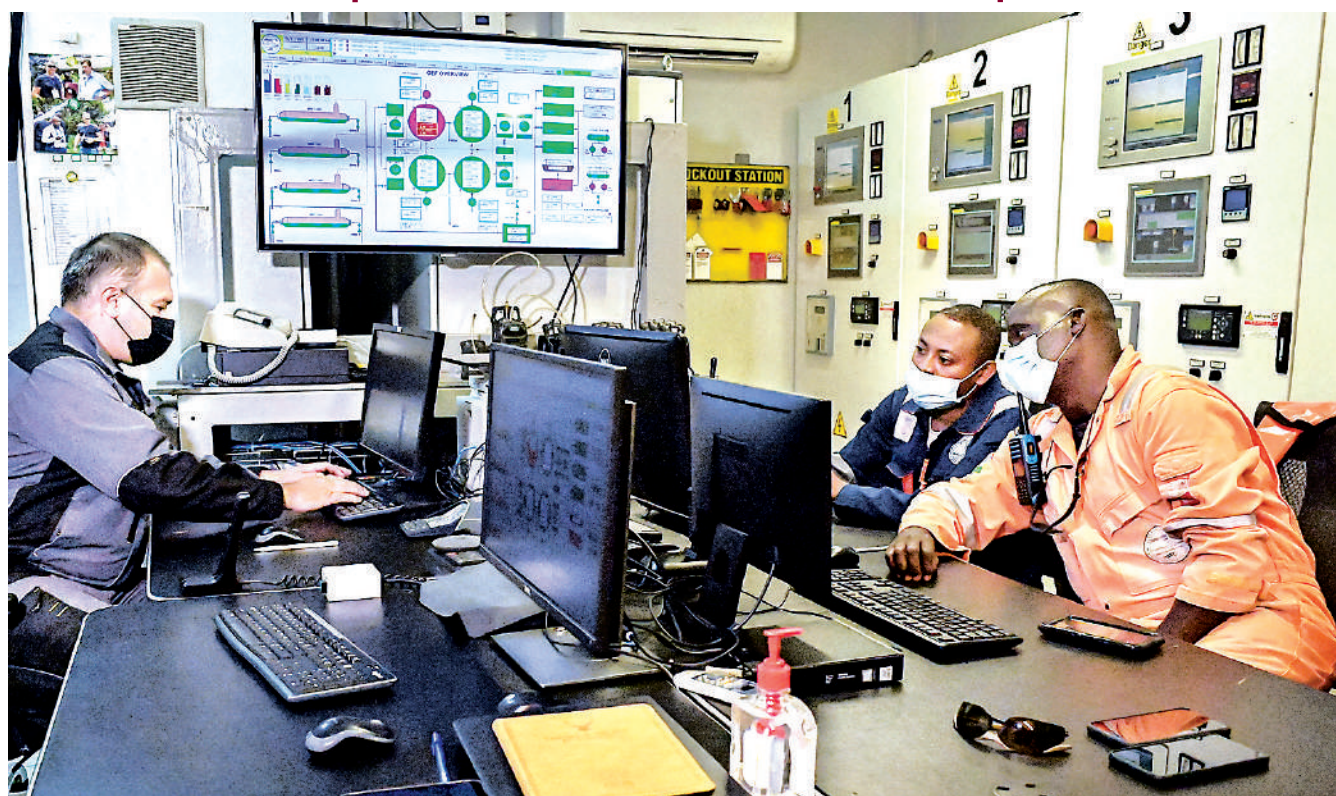
Long wait for NWM

The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM) in New Delhi. People can now pay their respects at the eternal flame at the NWM, military officials said. However, opposition parties, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticised the government's move. But it should be acknowledged that India waited too long for NWM and it is now fully realised. There had been long demand is for a prominent memorial on New Delhi's Central Vista, which can be visited freely by the Indian public, and where wreaths can be offered by national leaders on occasions like the Republic Day, and by visiting foreign dignitaries who choose to do so. The irony is evident, that the British exalted the memory of Indians who died for the empire, but India earlier found it bothersome to suitably commemorate those who fell in service of the republic. Anyone who has travelled along India's borders with China and Pakistan cannot have missed the lonely memorials at the places where Indian troops fought and died. Amongst the most stirring is the stark monument to Major Shaitan Singh and his 111 Kumaoni soldiers who battled to the last, holding up a major Chinese advance on the desolate, windswept plateau of Chushul. This Indian hero, a winner of the Param Vir Chakra, is honoured only in that unvisited war memorial near Chushul. The proposal for a 'National War Memorial' was discovered in the Assam state archives in Guwahati, predates independent India. A confidential memo, issued on March 3, 1945, from the War Department in New Delhi (in File No. 110-C/45, entitled 'Indian National War Memorial', in the Governor's Secretariat, Confidential Branch) declared that the Government of India (GoI) has been examining 'the question of the form that an Indian National War Memorial should take'. The memo orders that 'the establishment of a Military Academy on the lines of the United States Military Academy at West Point for the education and basic training together of future officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force would be the most suitable form for the memorial to take'. An Indian National War Memorial Working Committee was quickly constituted, which sent out a questionnaire to the provinces asking for their views on a range of subjects, including the setting up of feeder schools for the proposed academy-cum-war memorial. The questionnaire asked, keeping in mind the 'urgent need in India for leaders in all walks of life, including the fighting services', should 'practical steps not be taken to meet the requirement of the immediate future by the establishment of a certain number of residential high schools'. In 2009, when the defence ministry was headed by senior Congress leader AK Antony, it was Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar who had written a letter to the former and his deputy Pallam Raju for the construction of the memorial. He had also stated that the continued lack of progress in finalising the National War Memorial was an embarrassment for the entire country. The now Union Minister had suggested to the Memorial be built on the banks of Yamuna in the national capital as the then United Progressive Alliance government was struggling in finding land for the same. It took nearly a decade since Chandrasekhar first sought it for the war memorial to finally be constructed. The construction of the National War Memorial was completed in January 2019, and now with merging of Amar Jawan Jyoti flame, the longstanding demand of armed forces has been fulfilled.

Flawed liberal idealism

Tensions between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have reached the point of crisis. The government of Russian President Vladimir Putin is threatening a wider military incursion into Ukraine unless the US-led alliance makes several major security concessions, including a commitment to cease expanding eastward. Russia says that the United States and NATO have continually violated pledges allegedly made in the early 1990s that the alliance would not expand into the former Soviet bloc. The great tragedy is this entire affair was avoidable. Had the United States and its European allies not succumbed to hubris, wishful thinking, and liberal idealism and relied instead on realism's core insights, the present crisis would not have occurred. Indeed, Russia would probably never have seized Crimea, and Ukraine would be safer today. The world is paying a high price for relying on a flawed theory of world politics. Liberalism sees world politics differently. Instead of seeing all great powers as facing more or less the same problem, the need to be secure in a world where war is always possible liberalism maintains that what states do is driven mostly by their internal characteristics and the nature of the connections among them. It divides the world into 'good states' (those that embody liberal values) and 'bad states' (pretty much everyone else) and maintains that conflicts arise primarily from the aggressive impulses of autocrats, dictators, and other illiberal leaders. For liberals, the solution is to topple tyrants and spread democracy, markets, and institutions based on the belief that democracies don't fight one another, especially when they are bound together by trade, investment, and an agreed-on set of rules. After the Cold War, Western elites concluded that realism was no longer relevant and liberal ideals should guide foreign-policy conduct. US and European officials believed that liberal democracy, open markets, the rule of law, and other liberal values were spreading. Had US policymakers reflected on their own country's history and geographic sensitivities, they would have understood how enlargement appeared to their Russian counterparts. United States has repeatedly declared the Western Hemisphere to be off-limits to other great powers and has threatened or used force on numerous occasions to make that declaration stick. Realism explains why great powers tend to be extremely sensitive to the security environment in their immediate neighbourhoods, but the liberal architects of enlargement simply could not grasp this. It was a monumental failure of empathy with profound strategic consequences.

INSIDE BARGE FOR POWER



Engineers work inside the barge extracting methane gas on Lake Kivu, at the Kivuatt power plant in Kibuye, Karongi District, in the Western Province of Rwanda.

India's tidal power potential hampered by high costs and environmental risks

MAYANK AGGARWAL



India is estimated to have a potential of around 54 gigawatts (GW) of ocean energy including tidal power (12.45 GW) and wave power (41.3 GW) but it is yet to be of practical use as the Indian government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) says the estimated potential of tidal and wave power is 'purely theoretical and does not necessarily constitute a practically exploitable potential'. A parliamentary panel has now asked the Indian government to go back to the drawing board and 'reassess' the potential of tidal, wave and ocean-thermal power to 'explore the practically exploitable potential'. Ocean energy refers to all forms of renewable energy derived from the sea including tidal power which is harnessed by converting energy from the natural rise and fall of ocean tides and currents to electricity. Wave energy in the form of motion of ocean waves can be extracted using energy conversion devices. In fact, it has been about 40 years since India started efforts to assess and harness tidal power but it is yet to achieve any solid breakthrough in its development even as the country made rapid strides in boosting other sources of renewable power. Prasad Kumar Bhaskaran, who works in the Department of Ocean Engineering and Naval Architecture at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur said that India has a good potential for extraction of tidal energy both along the eastern and western coasts of the country. 'There is potential for tidal energy in

India, but India is yet to develop a technology or major project for tidal energy,' he said. However, for wave energy, Bhaskaran said that though India has potential in the southern states, high wave activity prevails only during the southwest monsoon season. 'There is a potential to develop a wave energy project along the Kerala coast, the only suitable location to harness wave power in India,' he said.

One of the reasons, according to the MNRE, for not pursuing tidal power is 'exorbitant cost'. India had started two tidal power projects of 3.75 megawatts and 50 megawatts installed capacity in 2007 and 2011 in West Bengal and Gujarat respectively. But both these projects were dropped because of exorbitant costs. In the case of the 3.75 MW Durgaduan tidal power project in West Bengal, the project cost was Rs 238 crore which is about Rs 63.50 crore per MW. While in the case of the 50 MW tidal power project at the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, the estimated cost was Rs 750 crore which is about Rs 15 crore for every megawatt of power. The cost of power from such tidal power plants is too high, according to the MNRE, which states that the 'normative cost of installation of one MW solar, wind, biomass, hydro and thermal power plant is Rs 3.5 crore, Rs 5.5 crore, Rs 6 crore, Rs 10-15 crore, and Rs 5 crore respectively. However, the parliament's standing committee on energy, led by Janata Dal (United) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, was not convinced with the argument about costs. The committee said that comparing the project cost of tidal power 'that was arrived at around ten years back with the present project cost of solar, wind, hydro etc. is not justified.'

'The cost of tidal power may have come down in the last ten years as is the case with other renewable energy like solar power,' said the Committee while recommending to the MNRE to reassess the cost of tidal power to 'consider its economic viability and benefits in a longer time span.'

However, according to the report of the parliamentary panel, the ministry is not very confident about the development of tidal power due to financial, technological, environmental and other risks. 'Globally, tidal energy is not cost-competitive and is still at a nascent development stage. Efforts to set up tidal power projects in India could not succeed primarily due to techno-economic considerations,' said the ministry. The ministry informed the panel that tidal power represents the smallest share (about 535 MW) of the global installed capacity of renewable energy. It said two tidal power projects, 240 MW La Rance station in France (installed in 1966) and the 254 MW Sihwa plant in South Korea (installed in 2011), constitute more than 90 percent of the total installed capacity of tidal energy.

The ministry said that, at present, tidal power technologies are not cost-competitive and the main focus is on technology development. On this, the panel said that the MNRE may 'also evaluate global experience in this regard.' The panel exhorted the MNRE to actively work in the development of tidal power and asked to set up 'one demonstration/pilot tidal power project at the most favourable cost-effective location like Gulf of Kutch considering that the capital cost of a tidal power project is site-specific.' PK Bhaskaran of IIT Kharagpur, explained that the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat 'has a very good potential as the tidal range between high and low waters is about 11-12 meters.' The tidal range in the Gulf of Kutch is about 8 meters. The tidal currents can reach a strength of about 3 m/s. While on the eastern coast, the Sundarban region has a tidal range varying between 6-7 meters, which is also a potential region to extract tidal energy,' he said.

He emphasised on a recent initiative by the Indian government in collaboration with the United Kingdom to develop tidal power. 'To develop the tidal energy project, a joint team of researchers from the UK and India had undertaken research work in the

Sundarban region a couple of years ago. Suitable location in the upstream of Bidyadhri River has been identified for a demonstrative project, however, the work could not progress much due to COVID-19 situation,' informed Bhaskaran, who was a member of that joint team. Apart from disproportionately high cost, 'adverse environmental impacts that have not yet been fully documented' is another reason for the authorities to not actively pursue tidal power projects. The committee also noted that no study has been conducted for the assessment of the environmental and ecological impact of a tidal power plant. During one of its meetings, the MNRE had informed the parliamentary panel that 'a barrage across an estuary may environmentally impact a very wide area ranging for many miles upstream and downstream.' In August 2019, the central government had issued a notification clarifying that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, 'shall be eligible for meeting non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO)'.

The RPO is a mechanism under the Electricity Act 2003 by which the big consumers have to purchase a certain percentage of their total consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources. When the panel asked the ministry the rationale behind making tidal energy eligible for non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation in 2019 even when the country has not been able to harness any tidal power so far, the MNRE said it was 'in response to inquiries from industry' and the 'inclusion was made to take care of the possibility that projects for producing such energy might be set up.' The panel asked the ministry to actively follow up on the notification 'through appropriate incentives so that the country can have commercial tidal power projects by the year 2030.' (Mayank Aggarwal writes on environment, conservation, wildlife, water and renewable energy, based in New Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not surprised

I'm not at all surprised to hear that after burning for 5 decades, flames at Amar Jawan Jyoti (AJJ) will be put out at India Gate, merged with National War Memorial (NWM). The Amar Jawan Jyoti has a cenotaph and a monument to honour all soldiers, on a marble pedestal with a rifle and a soldier helmet on it. And the flame of AJJ was established to pay tributes to the soldiers who had died in the 1971 war, was inaugurated by none other than Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's bete noire then PM Indira Gandhi on Republic Day 1972. Actually, one can learn from Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi how to 'kill two birds in one stone' and its timing. Here also just as the country commemorated 50 years of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, the Defence Ministry of Modi government announced that AJJ to be put out and a part of the flame will be taken from India Gate to the flame at the NWM, around 400 meters away. On the same breath, one has to be recalled that just five months back in August 2021, when PM Modi all of a sudden announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna stands were renamed as Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna. The timing of the announcement is being seen to be in-synch with the prevailing sentiments following the performances of the men (ended a 41-year wait for an Olympic medal by taking the third spot) and women hockey teams (finished fourth after some heart-wrenching performances) in the Tokyo Olympics. These are nothing but well planned 'Gandhi-Nehru free India', and attempts to rewrite history, in PM Modi's name. Sadly, the Modi government may have forgotten that respecting history requires conservation of the old and keeps building new institutions, memorials. For example, does not Germany still maintain the Dachau concentration camp and the damaged dome of the church in Berlin? None of them is a symbol of pride for Germany but not like us as we demolished the Babri Masjid, the German preserve them to remind themselves of their past and conserve history. Hence, instead of extinguishing one for the other then why not both spark the fire of patriotism among all?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad
Urban-rural divide

It's felt that the urban-rural divide can be bridged by ensuring the prosperity of an entire region. For this, drastic steps need to be taken to bring urban and rural economies closer together. Undeniably, stronger connections between the urban and rural areas are a must to improve regional economic performance. The huge differences in the availability of physical and social infrastructure in rural and urban areas need to be reduced. Also, development in rural areas must be expedited through proper and adequate provision of infrastructure. Government should take initiatives to help urban and rural communities build collaborative partnerships for economic development. It needs to prioritize reduction in poverty and unemployment in rural areas. Besides, public healthcare infrastructure should be made sufficient. Quality educational institutions must be set up within the reach of poor rural people. The benefits of the government schemes for rural development should reach the target population. All sectors must be integrated so that the benefits of tremendous economic growth percolate down to all parts of society.

Dipen, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



R. Balakrishnan@BalakrishnanR
'Nobody gets along with (company-name) but everybody knows that you will make money working with him.' So much for investors seriously worried about governance or quality of management. Money is governance. More the money, the better the governance.

Aviral Bhatnagar@aviralbhat
98% of India's startups account for less than 25% of the total value created. Unicorns, which are 0.05% of India's startups account for 30% of the total value created. Very few founders have very big outcomes, most founders have very small outcomes.



Edward Luttwak @ELuttwak
More on fanciful China war scenarios. What is the first thing that happens? The end of China imports by sea, stopped at source, or at Straits, or in high seas. Stocks yes but soon enough it will be back to rice, sorghum and cabbage. Was there in 1976 saw pre-trade China, hungry.

DP Singh@MajDPSingh
How many of you are still for Bharat Ratna to FM SHF Manekshaw, MC? He was commissioned into 12th FF (Pak army now) fought WW2 for British empire & earned Military Cross. What a slave he was or was he mercenary as well? Thinking face Huh. Angry face Zipper-mouth face. Shall we forget his past as he won us 71?

**Suaad Al@SuaadS**

Yes we are in war country but have beautiful areas like Hadramout, Yemen.



Mani Sudhanshu@Mani
Passionate Rail enthusiasts, fans excited abt 50 years of B'bay Rajdhani! Trains started in 1969 (1st: Delhi-HWH), revolutionary then, but today almost the same travel time. If railwaymen loved IR as much as such fans, would we not improve it? Sleeper version of Train 18, anyone?

Arun Bothra@arunbothra
Social media has brought democracy of ideas. Only a few had chance to express themselves during TV-Newspapers age. Now everyone is free to express. But it also has pitfalls. Someone will always come up with an atrocious & unacceptable comment. Can it be really controlled?

BRIEF

Development

New Delhi: ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), has declared a 2019 gas discovery in deepsea block in Brazil as commercially viable and has now entered the development stage that will bring it to production. OVL had registered a major gas discovery in 2019 in its deep offshore block BM-SEAL-4, Brazil, located in the Sergipe Alagoas Basin. Brazil's Petrobras is the operator of the block with 75 per cent Participating Interest (PI) while OVL has the remaining 25 per cent stake.

Facility

Columbus: Intel will invest USD 20 billion in a new computer chip facility in Ohio, US amid a global shortage of micro-processors used in everything from phones and cars to video games. After years of heavy reliance on Asia for the production of computer chips, vulnerability to shortages of the crucial components was exposed in the US and Europe as they began to emerge economically from the pandemic. The US share of the worldwide chip manufacturing market has declined from 37% in 1990 to 12% now, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association, and shortages have become a potential risk.

Name

Houston: Energy giant Shell has dropped from its name the 'Royal Dutch' part, which it had carried for 130 years, following plans of a major overhaul announced recently. It is anticipated that Euronext Amsterdam and the London Stock Exchange will reflect the change in name on January 25. New York Stock Exchange will show the changed name on January 31. The board's decision to change its name to Shell plc on December 20, 2021, has now taken effect. The energy major's overhaul involves integrating its dual-share structure into a single line of shares and relocating its headquarters to London.

Education

Kochi: Noted education service provider Santamonica group has stepped into technological research in the education sector and announced the launch of 'Santa Monica-Innovance'. With its headquarters in Singapore, Santamonica-Innovance has set up its offices in Dubai, the US and European countries to partner with innovators and institutions to adapt the technology with Indian realities and circumstances. The company said the last two years saw 5.5 lakh schools shutting down in India without prior intimation due to the pandemic which in turn has affected more than 248 million students in the country. "We have not been able to reach out to them the same way like in the pre-pandemic period because the education system in the country is lacking adequate technology support."

Public wifi hotspots have potential to generate 2-3 cr jobs this year

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Setting up of 1 crore public wifi hotspots across the country by this year as envisaged under the present telecom policy has the potential to create 2-3 crore job opportunities, a senior government official said on Saturday.

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman while speaking at Broadband India Forum (BIF) event called upon wifi equipment makers to lower the cost of their products for the expansion of Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme which aims to set up wifi hotspots across the country.

"Given by conservative estimate of each hotspot enabling 2-3 direct and indirect employment opportunities, the creation of 10 million hotspots as per the NDCP (National Digital



Communications Policy) target by 2022 would potentially generate 20-30 million job opportunity in the small and medium scale sectors," Rajaraman said.

Public wifi hotspots have immense potential to act as catalysts for rural economy and as a means of rural livelihood besides propelling socio-economic growth by providing employment opportunities for millions of small local and village entrepreneurs.

"Sprawling manufacturing units will be needed to produce millions of access points for PM WANI

which is the core of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission and would lead to therefore more job creation," Rajaraman said.

According to the PM-WANI portal, over 56,000 wifi hotspots have been deployed across the country till date. Rajaraman said that he wants more entrepreneurs to join PM-WANI programme facilitated by C-DoT.

"We also want local communities to join PM-WANI scheme wholeheartedly. We will be happy to facilitate existing entrepreneurs in local neighbor-

hoods especially local cable operators, internet service providers, tourism operators etc to come forward and help proliferate WANI access points across the country," he said.

BIF announced the launch of BIF Connectivity Accelerator Programme in partnership with Meta (formerly Facebook) to enable entrepreneurs and startups build innovative connectivity solutions and support the public wifi ecosystem.

"This (BIF Connectivity Accelerator) virtual programme will give startups the opportunity to partner with BIF to help develop relevant use cases and help scale their businesses. We appeal to all stakeholders to come together and join hands with us to expeditiously and effectively implement this national mission," BIF president TV Ramachandran said.

TRIPS waiver proposal provides useful way to confront pandemic

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Patent waiver proposal by India and South Africa at the World Trade Organization (WTO) provides a useful way forward to confront some critical health-related aspects of the coronavirus pandemic effectively, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

He said that a successful resolution of the TRIPS waiver must, therefore, be at the core of the WTO response to the pandemic.

"TRIPS waiver proposal by India, South Africa supported by more than 100 other developing countries provides a useful way forward to confront some critical health-related aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic effectively. This is both a health and a moral imperative for all of us collectively," he said.

Goyal was speaking at the virtual informal WTO ministerial gathering organised by Switzerland.

India and South Africa are pushing for a decision



Decarbonisation among biggest post-pandemic challenges

New Delhi: Highlighting 'Australian way' of fighting COVID-19, Australia's PM Scott Morrison said his country is emerging from pandemic with one of the lowest death rates and one of strongest economic recoveries.

on their proposal for a temporary waiver of certain provisions of a WTO agreement on intellectual property rights to deal with the coronavirus pandemic.

In October 2020, India and South Africa had submitted the first proposal, suggesting a waiver for all WTO members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID. In May 2021, a revised proposal was submitted by them.

"Our top most priority should be to address the supply side constraints,

including IP barriers, to augment the manufacturing of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, essential for treatment, prevention and control of the ongoing pandemic," he added.

He said the WTO member countries should also be careful of attempts at using the pandemic as a veil for securing market access concessions from developing countries.

"Any future outcome should not require developing countries to relinquish their existing trade policy space," he added.

boAt, Dixon Technologies form joint venture

Mumbai, Jan 22:

Imagine Marketing Private Limited, ("Imagine Marketing" or "boAt") India's #1 Earwear brand (as per IDC India Monthly Wearables Tracker, November 2021 release under its flagship brand "boAt") announced a 50-50 joint venture with Dixon Technologies Limited ("Dixon"), an electronic manufacturing services provider in India to manufacture wireless audio products. Both the companies will come together to co-invest in the evolving Indian mobile accessory market, thereby paving the way towards "Make in India" in this category. The association will enable the companies to meet the evolving needs

of customers by delivering high-quality and aspirational lifestyle-focused hearable solutions, backed by quality manufacturing and robust R&D.

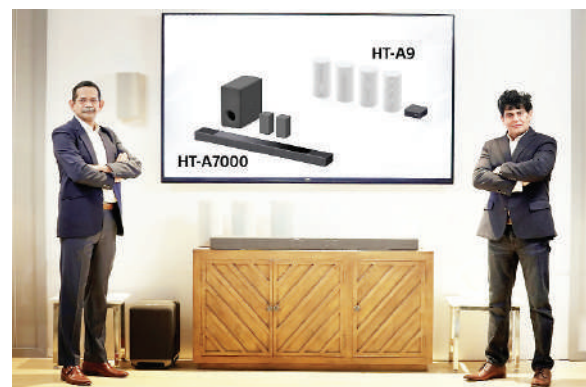
The joint venture is an important milestone in boAt's journey to establish a manufacturing base in India. Imagine Marketing owned boAt continues to make significant investments in the areas of design, research and development of products, technology relationships and supply chain and manufacturing. 'boAt Labs', the in-house research and development team comprising 25+ engineers has been instrumental in customizing and designing products specifically for the Indian consumer.

Sony India launched its premium Range of Home Theater System

New Delhi, Jan 22:

Sony India launched its premium Range of Home Theater System HT-A9 and HT-A7000 soundbar which offer a new and revolutionary multi-dimensional sound experience. Powered with the innovative surround sound technology 360 SSM technology that creates an incredibly immersive soundscape for any movie, music, or gaming experience you can feel as if your living room is a part of the action the action

With Sony's revolutionary 360 Spatial Sound and Sound Field Optimization, now feel sound coming from all directions. The HT-A9 and HT-A7000 home theatre systems are well regarded by sound profession-



als from the hollywood studios for its ability to recreate the theatrical experience and bring movies to life using the power of 360 Spatial Sound Mapping.

There's no need to rearrange furniture or precisely position the speakers - with Sound Field

Optimization, the A9 uses dual microphones in each speaker to ingeniously measure their relative height and position, allowing the system to generate twelve phantom speakers that completely encircle the room in immersive spatial sound.

PFRDA to discuss raising equity exposure in NPS to 75%

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) said it will discuss with the Centre a proposal to raise equity exposure in NPS to up to 75 per cent for the willing government employees, as is the case with the private sector employees.

The equity exposure for the NPS subscribers from other than the government sector was increased to 75 per cent three years ago. The investment option for government employees was eased after a lot of discussions in 2019 and became effective from April 2019, PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay said at a webinar organised by Centre for Policy



Research. "Currently, they have a maximum equity exposure of 50 per cent but that too 50 per cent we call auto kind of investment. So this auto choice is nothing but it follows a lifecycle fund pattern where up to the age of 35, it will be 50 per cent in equity and balance will be going into bonds and government securities. It follows the same dictum that as the age goes up, your ability to take risk goes down," he said.

5G coverage inside buildings to be challenge

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Telecom regulator Trai will soon come up with recommendations that will facilitate in improving telecom connectivity, especially 5G when it is rolled out, a top official has said.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) chairman PD Vaghela during a virtual event organised by Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) said that it will be difficult to get 5G coverage inside the building as signals will be transmitted on high frequencies which cover very small distances.

"Holistic approach will be required to ensure availability of digital infrastructure in building complexes, that also in a non-discriminate manner. There is a huge problem in



getting access to the buildings by the infrastructure providers, telecom service providers and other players. We have already prepared a consultation paper and very soon we will come out with a recommendation. This will require change in by-laws and working with the states very closely," Vaghela said.

He said that a time will come when revenue will become secondary for the states and they will push for digital connectivity.

Minister of State for Telecom Devusinh Chauhan said that digital

5G bands will not interfere with aircrafts

New Delhi: Proposed 5G services rolled out in India will be in spectrum bands that will have sufficient safeguards and will not interfere with civil aircraft altimeters, ITU APT foundation of India said. In India, there is no risk from 5G services to aircraft and we are fully safeguarded as we are only allocating 3300-3670 MHz, which is more than 500 MHz below the altimeter spectrum.

connectivity empowers people on the ground and the government is committed to support telecom infrastructure companies.

He said that while data usage in the country has been rising, the prices have been declining since 2014.

Institutional investments in real estate falls 81% in December qtr

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Institutional investments in real estate fell 81 per cent at USD 670 million during the December quarter because of lower inflow in office assets, according to JLL India. Institutional investments in 2021 (calendar year) fell 14 per cent to USD 4.32 billion, JLL India said in its 'Capital Markets Update Q4 2021'. During the October-December 2020 period, institutional investments stood at USD 3.5 billion.

The inflow in the entire 2020 calendar year stood at USD 5.03 billion.

Investments in office assets or portfolio fell to USD 1.32 billion in 2021 from 4.35 billion in 2020.

However, the inflows in housing segment during 2021 rose to USD 1.08 billion from USD 460 million in 2020.

VAAN Electric Moto launches e-bikes starting at Rs 59,999

Kochi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Indian lifestyle e-mobility startup VAAN Electric Moto Pvt Ltd has launched its electric bicycle-UrbanSport in the country. Union Minister of State for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, launched the Van Electric Moto brand in India in a virtually held event in Kochi.

The e-bike is available in two variants- UrbanSport and UrbanSport Pro, priced at Rs 59,999 and Rs 69,999 respectively and will initially go on sale in Kochi, before being launched in other high-potential markets like Goa, Bangalore, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Delhi in



the future. According to VAAN, the vehicles offer a maximum assistance (top speed) of 25 km/h, and a pedal assisted range of 60 kilometres.

VAAN claims that a full charge would require just half a unit of electricity, costing around Rs 4-5. The removable battery pack, with a net weight of 2.5 kg, would offer added convenience and would require 4 hours for a full charge.

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Assembly VD Satheesan

and the Chairman and Managing Director of OilMax Energy Pvt. Ltd, Kapil Garg jointly launched the VAAN e-bikes in the Indian market. Ernakulam MP Hibi Eden unveiled the VAAN brand logo in the event in which former MP Chandran Pillai was also present. Both the electric bikes get, compact 6061 aluminium unisex frames, saddle, rims and handlebar designed by Benelli Biciclette, the e-bike vertical of the Italian brand.

"VAAN has tied with them for engineering and supply chain and has worked closely with the Benelli team for the development of the UrbanSport duo," the group said in a release.

IMF calls for 'flexibility' being new year resolution of policy markers

Davos, Jan 22 (PTI):

Amid concerns over the world facing a significant inflation crisis, the International Monetary Fund said the one new year resolution the policy-makers globally should adopt is 'policy flexibility', even as the former IMF chief and now European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde asserted inflation numbers will gradually decline in Europe. Addressing the World Economic Forum's week-long online Davos Agenda 2022 summit on its last day, Lagarde also said there was nothing like "The Great Resignation" being experienced and Europe's employment participation numbers were nearly pre-pandemic levels. However, Brazil's Minister



of Economy Paulo Guedes said, "Central banks are sleeping at the wheel -- inflation will be a real problem very soon for the Western world." Speaking during a session on 'global economic outlook', IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the response to the pandemic crisis has been anything but orthodox and in a highly coordinated manner both central banks and finance authorities have prevented the world from falling into yet another great depression.

Imminent recovery for multiplexes pushed to FY-23 by third wave

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

The ongoing third wave of the COVID pandemic will push back the imminent recovery for multiplex operators to first quarter of next fiscal, a domestic rating agency said.

It can be noted that in order to arrest the surge in new cases, many states have adopted measures including shutting down of cinema halls if not imposing full lockdown.

Icra said the revenues in the December quarter are expected to be the highest since the onset of the pandemic but the same will drop in the last quarter of the fiscal. Once the restrictions are removed, the re-



covery is expected to be much faster, it said, noting that there is a robust content line-up of releases waiting in queue. The industry participants were pinning recovery hopes on the festive season in Q3 FY22 with

the strong content pipeline, increased pace of vaccination and relaxations in key markets like Maharashtra adding to the optimism, the agency's sector head for corporate sector ratings Jay Sheth said.

Domestic auto components industry to see 15-17% revenue growth

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

The domestic auto components industry is expected to see a revenue growth of 15-17 per cent this fiscal and 10-12 per cent in the next financial year on the back of recovery in automobile sales after having remained subdued in the last couple of years, according to a report.

Brickwork Ratings said the pent-up demand and a preference for personal mobility due to safety concerns led the recovery in automobile sales post relaxations in the lockdown. A pick-up in economic activity augurs well for commercial vehicle sales and in addition, the scrappage policy and strict inspection of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates



would boost the aftermarket of the auto component industry, it said in the report. The industry may again see double-digit growth in FY23, given that the impact of the Omicron variant is limited and that there is no further risk of new variants, it added. The industry is facing challenges such as an unprecedented shortage of semiconductor chips, high costs as well as the unavailability of raw materials and logistical issues related to exports.



Director Nagesh Kukunoor's much-awaited Telugu film 'Good Luck Sakhi', featuring Keerthy Suresh and Aadhi in the lead roles, will finally hit screens on January 28 this year.

Keerthy Suresh confirmed the release of her film on Twitter. She tweeted: "We are so excited for you guys to see 'Good Luck Sakhi' in theatres near you from January 28."

The film's release has been postponed twice. It was originally supposed to hit screens on November 26. The release however got postponed to December 10.

Worth a Shot, the production house behind the film, then said that "due to unforeseen issues" the film would be "arriving on New Year's Eve (December 31, 2021)". The film did not hit screens on December 31 as well. Finally, it is now all set to be released on January 28.

The film, billed as a romantic sports comedy with music by Devi Sri Prasad, is about how a girl, believed to bring bad luck to everyone, including her fiancé who meets with a premature death, emerges as a champion sharpshooter.

Keerthy Suresh-starrer 'Good Luck Sakhi' to be released on Jan 28



Naga Shaurya's upcoming romantic comedy titled 'Krishna Vrinda Vihari'

Director Anish R. Krishna's upcoming romantic comedy, featuring actor Naga Shaurya in the lead, has been titled 'Krishna Vrinda Vihari'.

The makers of the film released the title and the first look on the occasion of the actor's birthday on Saturday.

Produced by Ira Creations, the film has music by Mahati Swara Sagar and cinematography by Sai Sriram.

Krishna and Vrinda are the character names of the lead pair in the

film. In the first look poster, Naga Shaurya can be seen with a 'niluvu bottu' (vertical tilak) and 'gandham' (sandalwood paste). He can be seen sprinkling water with a betel leaf, which is usually done as part of Hindu rituals.

Unlike his roles in previous films, Naga Shaurya will be seen playing a funny character in this one.

Tipped to be a family entertainer, the shoot of 'Krishna Vrinda Vihari' is almost done, except for a song.

'The Kapil Sharma Show' turns into 'Mehfil-e-Nazam'

Sony Entertainment Television's number one comedy show The Kapil Sharma Show invited some of the most celebrated poets of the country in today's age, Sailesh Lodha, Popular Meeruthi, Sanjay Jhaala and M u m t a z Naseem. Deemed 'Kavi Special', the show will be taking on quite a unique route from its status quo and hosting a 'shayari' and 'kavita' sammelan with the esteemed guests, along with the usual comedy banter with host Kapil Sharma, and cast Kiku Sharda,



Krushna Abhishek, Chandan Prabhakar and Rochelle Rao.

In conversation with his guests' host Kapil Sharma asked poet

Popular Meeruthi why he christened himself the name "Popular". The

world-renowned poet whose real name is Dr Syed Aijazuddin Shah said that it was a stage name, "actually I was working in Aakashvani Radio. So, everyone would say, "you are so popular, you come on the radio". Even though my pen name was something different at that point of time but, because I write poems that are satires, why not keep my name as "popular"? because those who write comedy poems and satires, they have different and unique pen names like "jhanjhat", "puchpuch", so I kept my name "popular" and people liked it a lot!"

A lot more stories await you this weekend! Tune in to The Kapil Sharma Show every weekend at 9.30 PM.

Shruti Haasan to conduct live Instagram sessions on social issues for b'day

Actress and singer Shruti Haasan will conduct a series of live Instagram sessions on various social issues as part of her birthday celebrations this year.

Sources close to Shruti, whose birthday falls on January 28, said the actress has been overwhelmed with all the love pouring in from her fans who have begun celebrating the month as her birthday month.

A source said: "This year, on her birthday, Shruti has decided to address issues pertaining to society. She will be doing a series of live sessions, starting January 27 on topics such as mental health, women in films and media, and sustainability in fashion."

"On January 27, the session will be on mental health, while on January 28, which happens to be her birthday, the session will be on

Women in Films and Media. On January 29, the topic will be Sustainability in Fashion."

"Through these live sessions, Shruti wants to draw attention towards topics that are usually brushed under the carpet or aren't discussed as often as they should be. All of the live sessions will have Shruti along with various influencers and hosts discussing these topics at length in an attempt to normalise these conversations in our day-to-day life."

Commenting on the same, Shruti said: "The idea behind the live sessions is to open up a discussion on these topics. There are many ways to celebrate one's birthday but my idea of a celebration is to open honest discussions, especially about the things I care about and believe need more talking. "My aim is to let more people in on these topics, get varied perspectives from others during the live and open up these issues for others to think, discuss, share and debate."



'Maddam Sir' completes 400 episodes



Sony SAB's value-driven show Maddam Sir has a celebration in store, as it is all set to complete 400 spectacular episodes on 17th January. With the concept of 'policing with heart', the show features Gulki Joshi as SHO Haseena Malik, Yukti Kapoor as Karishma Singh, Bhavika Sharma as Santosh, and Sonali Naik as Pushpa ji. While the show has received accolades

for its unique narrative, the appreciation has magnified with the adrenaline-packed performance of the star cast and has won a million hearts during its journey.

The entire team of Maddam Sir will be celebrating this landmark achievement by

cutting a cake on the sets. The success of the show is a reminder of consistent hard work and effort put forth by the cast and crew, and they will be spending some quality time together to mark the occasion. Keep watching Maddam Sir every Monday to Saturday at 10:30 PM only on Sony SAB.

HOROSCOPE SUNDAY JANUARY 23

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18
It's a day you may want to spend with yourself. But it may still not bring the desired peace and tranquility. An unpleasant situation may force you to deal with reality, says Ganesha. You now realise how much strength you derive from your devotion to God.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20
Of late, the harder you try, the more it seems you have to do. You are likely to put your foot down today and spend some time taking care of yourself and playing truant with your responsibilities. Recharge your batteries fully while you are at it, says Ganesha.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21
You are on your way to falling in love. Your prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

Cancer: June 22 - July 22
A shopping spree with your darling is likely to be the highlight of the day, even though you will be paying for almost everything. Though you have decided to be this lavish out of sheer love, your sweetheart will more than return the favour with a sweaty thank you 'return gift' in the evening.

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23
Well, today is just not your day. The prospects sure aren't looking too good. However, there's no point in getting anxious over this triviality. Remember, 'not good' does not necessarily mean bad. In any case, if it's a stressful day you have had, be sure to have an equally enjoyable evening.

Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22
Life is the best teacher, they say. And today, you even experience this. You may learn to survive the neck-tight competition in the market. This may invite a lot of envy, but nothing shall bother you. Ganesha reminds you of the adage, "To err is human, to forgive is divine," so, it's fine even if you commit some errors.

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20
Ganesha says that today the flow of your thoughts will continue to flow. Due to your unique imagination, you will complete every task well and will also be successful in organizing for future tasks. With the blessings of Lord Ganesha, you will definitely be on the path of success.

Leo: July 23 - Aug 23
Seems today is just one of those days when things simply refuse to go your way. It happens to the best of us, says Ganesha, and there isn't much one can do about it except slog it out and find that hidden reserve of moral support. On a brighter note, Ganesha observes the possibility of you meeting the right person who shall help you rekindle your imagination.

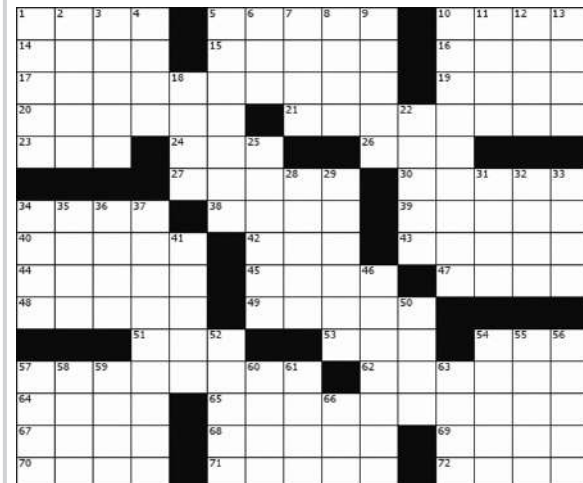
Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21
Going to private parties is a high probability today. All in all, make the most of it as you get nostalgic with old friends and make plans with new ones. Moreover, relatives will be pleased to meet you after a long time.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21
Ganesha sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do.

Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22
Today is the right time to start a new project, while older projects which had been postponed will be finished. Over the next week you will try to boost your energy levels. Parties will lead to a lot of entertainment and joy. Ganesha says children will bring home pride which will put you in even higher spirits.

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20
It's time to prove your extraordinary skills as a professional, says Ganesha. You will go out of your way, and even double your efforts to accomplish set goals, and chances are that you might succeed. Family and friends will be glad that could take out time to spend some happy hours with them.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- In the center of
- Plant stalks
- Gambling cubes
- Staff
- Jeweler's measure
- Exam type
- Uncertain
- Grinding machine
- Truck fuel
- Personal charm

- Jazz instrument, for short
- Raised railroads
- Chaps
- Slightest
- Alleviates
- "A ___ Is Born"
- Asian language
- Boutique
- Consumer
- Gore and Roker
- Ghastly
- Wed on the run

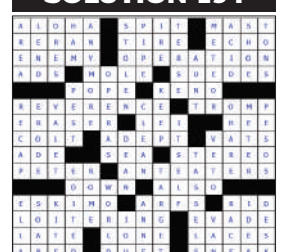
CROSSWORD 195

- Grating sound
- Land document
- Office notes
- Mature
- Min. part
- Always, poetically
- Friend (Fr.)
- Great conductors
- Bridal paths
- Gawk
- Unfriendly
- Scottish loch
- Movie music
- Common skin problem
- Thirst quenchers
- Made a seam
- Butterfly catchers
- Lettuce dish
- Disposable hankie
- Angry
- Famed canal
- Plant's beginning
- Look
- Yarn
- Molecule part
- Take back
- Put back to zero
- Gratified
- Threesome
- Insensitive
- Wonderland girl
- Signified
- Small landmasses
- Leonardo's "___ Lisa"
- Matured
- Besides that
- At one time
- Stash away
- Peruse
- Great anger

DOWN

- Corrosive substances
- Craze
- ___ finger
- Disappointing grades
- Frying pan
- Summer hue
- Clapton or Idle
- Trigonometry, e.g.
- Water vapor
- Controlled
- Purple flower
- Serene
- "___ Enchanted" (movie)
- Touch
- Actress ___ Witherspoon
- African desert

SOLUTION 194



India may try different options to avoid more humiliation

Cape Town, Jan 22 (PTI):

Indian team's strategy is expected to undergo paradigm shift with some players getting a subtle yet stern message to lift their games as they face an embarrassing possibility of a clean sweep against South Africa in the third ODI, here on Sunday.

India's strategy looked completely out of sync with modern day white ball game as the batters failed to keep the momentum in the middle overs and more importantly the bowlers, save Jasprit Bumrah, looked club class and without ideas of getting breakthroughs.

In two matches, India have been only able to pick up seven wickets - four in the first game when Proteas batted first and only three in the second.

Ravichandran Ashwin and especially Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the two senior-most bowlers looked far from threatening and the young Proteas batters like Rassie van der Dussen, Janneman Malan along with seniors like Quinton de Kock have feasted on the pedestrian stuff dished out by them.

With the two having flopped completely, it needs to be seen whether Rahul Dravid, the man who is currently calling all the shots as far as tactics is


Match starts 2 PM IST

concerned, takes a dim view and at least try out Jayant Yadav and Deepak Chahar in the next game which would lend some freshness to the attack.

Worse, the first two games were played on a Boland Park strip that didn't have a lot of pace and bounce and even skipper KL Rahul admitted that conditions were more familiar with what they get back home, compared to what they are used to getting in South Africa.

However at Newlands, there will be more pace

and bounce on the track and the Indian team that has been perennially struggling would want to avoid the ignominy of a 0-3 loss.

For skipper Rahul, the whole tour, save his match-winning hundred in the first Test, has been a nightmare. Although he is being seen as a long-term future leader, there hasn't been any spark whatsoever in his leadership that would make anyone sit up and feel that he is the one cut out for the job.

There hasn't been any tactical improvisations in

India: KL Rahul (captain), Jasprit Bumrah, Shikhar Dhawan, Rituraj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, R Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Prasidh Krishna, Shardul Thakur, Md. Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Navdeep Saini.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (captain), Keshav Maharaj, Quinton de Kock (wicketkeeper), Zubayr Hamza, Marco Jansen, Janneman Malan, Sisanda Magala, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne.

the two games so far which would inspire confidence in his leadership abilities.

Add to that, his own style of batting at the top of the order is outdated in modern ODIs and his inability to rotate the strike for the better part is also creating pressure on the later batters, who aren't as adept at maneuvering the strike.

It is a foregone conclusion that once Rohit Shara is back in action,

Rahul will lose his spot at the top of the order with Shikhar Dhawan scoring runs and at a better clip compared to his younger partner.

Virat Kohli's energy missing in Rahul

Virat Kohli may have scored 51 in the first game but what is visible is his lack of energy on the field having been sacked from ODI captaincy.

He is doing his routines without getting too involved. While it is fair that he wants Rahul to grow into the job somewhere the infectious energy that he brings into the field and which normally rubs off on other younger players has been missing in the two games.

Rahul would do well to imbibe some of it from his former captain.

'Mr' and 'Mr' Iyer

The two Iyers - Shreyas in batting and Venkatesh as an all-rounder haven't yet set the stage on fire and the main problem has been their inability to force the pace in the middle overs. England became a solid ODI outfit by scoring consistently in the middle overs and this young South African team has also followed that template in the series which is missing in Indian game. In all, massive improvement required in order to be competitive.

Hardik will be motivated to show what he is capable of as a leader: Kirsten

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Former India coach and Ahmedabad franchise team mentor Gary Kirsten feels Hardik Pandya is keen to show his leadership skills on the big stage and having a young and new captain will fare well for the side.

The flamboyant India all-rounder was roped in for Rs 15 crore and is set to lead the CVC-owned Ahmedabad team in the IPL.

"I am looking forward to working with Hardik as a young and new captain. I think he will be really motivated to come in and make a plan and show what he is capable of at this level of the game as a leader," Kirsten said on Star Sports' IPL: Selection Day'.

"He's a great player. What I have heard is that he is really keen to get into the mix and get involved. I think he understands the importance of this tournament. He is raring to go and get into the mix from a leadership perspective."

"So, I think that's really exciting for us to have a player with such a level of skill, motivated to do well in this competition," added Kirsten, who will also serve as the team's batting coach.

The franchise has also signed star Afghan spinner Rashid Khan and young Indian batter Shubman Gill and Kirsten was delighted with the


duo's signing.

"I am really excited by both of them. They are both high performers."

The South African was on lavish in his praise for Gill, who he feels has great flair and instinct.

"Gill is a fantastic player, who, in my view, should be playing for India. He is on the verge of that and has played already. With great flair and instinct for the game, he could be a match-winner on his own."

The 22-year-old Gill has already played 10 Tests and three ODIs but is yet to feature in a T20I for India.

"From a batting perspective, I am looking forward to working with him and helping him give the best out of an IPL season."

Rashid, on the other hand, has proved his mettle in several seasons of the IPL and various leagues across the world.

"Rashid Khan has gone around the world, proven his value anywhere, so that's an incredible signing for us. I am very excited to work with him. I haven't yet but I have seen him a lot, have met him

few times. "I am looking forward to that. Certainly, watching him on the field, he's a very competitive, young man that wants to do well for the franchise that he's been involved in," Kirsten said.

Rahul, Stoinis, Bishnoi because bring more than one facet: Goenka

The other new side in IPL - the Lucknow team has signed India limited overs vice-captain KL Rahul, big hitting Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi as its draft picks and team owner Sanjiv Goenka said the reason for picking the trio is that they are multi-dimensional players.

"There were multiple things. We were looking at not only building a team for one or two seasons, as we did in the case of Pune, but actually, building the foundation for a team, which will compete successfully for many years," said Goenka on said on Star Sports' IPL: Selection Day'.

"We were also looking for players with more than one facet, so not singular-dimension players. So, KL is not only an outstanding batsman, he's a great wicketkeeper."

Marcus is a great finisher, a good bowler, and a phenomenal fielder. Ravi brings a unique dimension to the spin department and is an exceptional fielder," he added.

U19 World Cup: Sri Lanka and South Africa secure Super League quarterfinal spots

Basseterre, Jan 22 (PTI):

Sri Lanka sealed their qualification for the last eight stage with a dramatic three-wicket victory over West Indies while South Africa defeated Ireland by 153-runs to also book their place in the quarterfinals of the ICC U-19 World Cup.

Dunith Wellalage took three wickets as Sri Lanka restricted the hosts to 250 before Sadisha Rajapaksa (76) Anjala Bandara (40) and Ranuda Somaratna's unbeaten 28 guided the Group D winners to a three-wicket success on Friday.

WI openers Shaqkere Parris and Matthew Nandu ensured they made a steady start, reaching the end of the fifth over for 20 without loss before Treveen Mathew removed the latter for seven.

Parris was then bowled by Wellalage for 16 before Teddy Bishop and Kevin Wickham combined for a fruitful partnership, taking the West Indies to 102 for two after 26 overs.



Bishop was eventually removed on 45 but Jordan Johnson picked up where his teammate left off as he raced to 26. Wickham reached his half-century before falling for 56. Two wickets in three balls in the 45th over stunted the hosts' momentum, though, with Wellalage accounting for Johnson as he fell three runs short of his fifty before Giovonte Depeiza was run out moments later by Anjala Bandara without scoring.

In response, Sri Lanka lost opener Chamindu Wickramasinghe in the first over. Sadisha

Rajapaksa and Shevon Daniel got their side back on track before Daniel was removed for 34.

Rajapaksa powered on regardless as he reached his fifty.

Anjala Bandara contributed 40 before his wicket fell with Rajapaksa (76) also falling the same bowler in the 40th over.

With 51 needed off 60 balls for victory, Shiva Sankar removed Wellalage (15) to set up a tense finale.

Mckenny Clarke bowled Raveen De Silva (13) but a nerveless 28 from 27 balls from Ranuda Somaratna saw Sri Lanka home.

Skipper Van Heerden leads from front in SA's 153-run win

In the day's other game, a blockbuster century from captain George Van Heerden propelled his side towards the Super League quarterfinals as South Africa defeated Ireland by 153 runs in Tarouba. Van Heerden made 111 from 93 balls while Dewald Brevis better known as 'Baby AB' contributed 96 to take South Africa's total of 315 for seven from their rain-reduced 47 overs before bowling out Ireland for 158.

Matthew Boast (3-26) and Liam Alder (3-20) were the standout performers with the ball for the young Proteas as they secured second spot in Group B and a Super League spot. The two sides started their all-important final Group B game level on points, with South Africa possessing a narrow advantage in the table thanks to their better net run-rate. With India all but assured of their place in the Super League last

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

India batter Shreyas Iyer and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal along with Australian dasher David Warner are expected to be the top draws as over 1,200 players registered themselves for the Indian Premier League mega auction scheduled for next month.

Apart from Shreyas and Chahal, the 10 teams are likely to be involved in bidding war for Indian players like senior opener Shikhar Dhawan, batter Ishan Kishan, the pace duo of Shardul Thakur and Deepak Chahar, the top two wicket takers of the last edition Harshal Patel and Avesh Khan, spinner Rahul Chahal and all-rounder Washington Sundar.

The above bunch of Indian players is expected to attract anywhere between Rs 7 to 15 crores (between USD 1 to 2 million)

Among foreign players, Warner, South African Kagiso Rabada are likely to


Chahal, Shreyas, Warner

fetch big bucks along with England's Mark Wood, Australia's Mitchell Marsh, New Zealand's Trent Boult and Pat Cummins. Veterans Faf du Plessis and Dwayne Bravo could still keep their franchise Chennai Super Kings interested.

"Total of 1,214 players (896 Indian and 318 overseas players) have signed up to be part of the IPL 2022 Player Auction," the IPL said in a statement on Saturday.

The two-day mega auction is slated to be held in Bengaluru on the February 12 and 13. This is

the initial list of players. All 10 teams will be sent the following which will the franchises will revert with the names of the players they are interested in. The list will then be pruned for the auction.

A total of 33 players have been retained/picked ahead of the Player Auction. The existing eight IPL Franchises have retained a total of 27 players, including MS Dhoni by Chennai Super Kings, Rohit Sharma by Mumbai Indians and Virat Kohli by Royal Challengers Bangalore. The two new IPL teams have picked six

players with Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul being named captain of the Ahmedabad and Lucknow franchise respectively.

Some of other other big names retained include Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, Kane Williamson, Jos Buttler and Glenn Maxwell to name a few.

The big names to miss out are Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Mitchell Strac, Sam Curran and Chris Gayle.

First player registration from Bhutan

More than 200 players who have registered are capped international players, while 62 uncapped foreign players have also thrown their hat into the ring. An unnamed player from Bhutan has registered for the lucrative league while a record number of 14 cricketers from USA have signed up for the auction.

Australia tops the overseas list with 59 players while 48 cricketers from South African have also put forth their names.

Halep into Week 2 at Australian Open for 5th straight year

Melbourne, Jan 22 (AP):

Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep is into Week 2 at Melbourne Park for the fifth consecutive year. The 14th-seeded Halep advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 victory Saturday over Danka Kovinic, a player who is ranked 98th and eliminated U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu in the previous round.

This was Kovinic's first appearance in the third round of a major.

Halep, by contrast, can count on plenty of experience in the latter stages of the sport's biggest events. She won the French Open in 2018 and Wimbledon in 2019 and made it to the final of the 2018 Australian Open before losing to Caroline Wozniacki.

I feel good, I feel more confident now because last year was a tough year, Halep said. "So now I just enjoy playing tennis, I'm happy."

None of the other players remaining the women's draw has won as many four-level titles as Halep's 23.

Halep's next opponent will be Alize Cornet, who celebrated her 32nd birthday with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over No. 29 Tamara Zidansek, a 2021 French Open semifinalist.



There has been discussions on how I need to play shots as per match situations: Pant

Paari, Jan 22 (PTI):

Rishabh Pant understands the value of his wicket and the reason why the team management often asks him to use his discretion in shot selection during important phases of various matches.

Pant was out to an atrocious shot during the second Test in Wanderers, which led to lot of criticism from all quarters and former skipper Virat Kohli stating that they have had a word with the talented southpaw.

"There are always positive talks that as an individual what I can do. All the strokes are there but how can I play with patience and according to the situation. So a lot of discussions happen," Pant, who since then had scored a hundred in the third Test at Cape Town and followed it with career-best


85 in the second ODI, told reporters during a virtual interaction.

"And whatever we discuss, we practise and after that try to implement in the match," he added.

De Kock made it easy for me: Janneman Malan

Paari, Jan 22 (PTI):

South Africa batter Janneman Malan was all praise for senior opener Quinton De Kock, whose attacking batting at the onset made it easier for him during the middle over during their seven-wicket chase.

"Quinton made it easy for me at the start. I just tried to give him as much strike as possible because I just wanted to let him go do his thing. He played a couple of ridiculous shots, which are good signs," said Malan, who hit 91 as South Africa chased down 288 to take a winning lead in the second ODI of the three-match series against India here on Friday.

"He is one of the best batters in the world when he gets going, so it was good to bat with him," the right-handed opener said

of the flamboyant De Kock, who hammered a quickfire 78 (66 balls, 7 fours, 3 sixes) to put South Africa on the road to victory.

Steady partnership became key

The ability of the Proteas batters to put in partnerships of significance, Malan, who hit 8 boundaries and 1 six in his 91, said was also a factor in their successes in this series. "We were happy to have two hundreds in the previous game, and maybe we could have had me or Quiny getting to a hundred here, but I'm very proud of the partnerships we had," said Malan, who had a 80-run stand with his skipper Temba Bavuma. "We had a hundred partnership and two 50 partnerships, which means the batters are coming in with good plans and good intent and building nice partnerships to make it easier for each other. So...very good signs," he added.

FIRE DRILL



Fire brigade and police personnel conduct a fire drill for public awareness, in Kolkata, Saturday.

Assembly polls in JK after delimitation: Shah

Statehood to be restored once situation normal

Jammu, Jan 22 (PTI):

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held after the completion of the ongoing delimitation process and statehood will be restored once the situation in the union territory becomes normal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

Virtually releasing India's first "District Good Governance Index", he said Jammu and Kashmir is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and multi-pronged efforts are being made for the all-round development of the union territory.

"As far as the democratic process is concerned, the delimitation process has started. After its completion, we will hold the (assembly) elections.

"Some people have said many things, but I want to tell you that I had given assurance in Parliament that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored. Once the situation in Jammu and Kashmir becomes normal, the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored," he said.

Shah said some people want to create confusion in the minds of the people of the valley and he wants to request everyone not to fall

into their trap. He said democracy has reached the lowest level of society after the implementation of the panchayati raj system and that is why some people are worried.

He said Jammu and Kashmir can be developed only through democracy, and people can be happy and youths can get jobs also through democracy.

"But to sustain democracy, peace is necessary in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to appeal to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir not to get instigated by the statements of vested interests. I want to tell the youths to have faith in Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, have faith in the Jammu and Kashmir administration," he said. Shah said some people are spreading lies for their narrow political interests.

"I want to appeal to everyone, especially the youths to ask these people some questions. Those who are saying that the valley's land will be usurped, they should be asked whose land has been taken away so far. By spreading such lies, they are trying to put a barrier in the development of Jammu and Kashmir."

"Those who were saying that violence will increase, they should be asked whether violence

has gone up or reduced. They had said no investment will come, but the fact is that already Rs 12,000 crore investment has come. Tourists arrivals have also gone up and Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards development," he said.

Shah said many changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir under the initiative of the local administration and the guidance of the prime minister. "I want to tell everyone, especially youths, youths of the valley, to give attention towards development and be part of the development process," he said.

RECORD IN INDIA '60 pc MLAs in Goa switched parties in last five years'

Panaji, Jan 22 (PTI): As many as 24 legislators in Goa, which is 60 per cent of the total strength of the 40-member state Assembly, have switched parties in the last five years, a report by an organisation has said. The Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in its report that with this, Goa has set a unique record, which is "unparalleled" in the history of Indian democracy. Assembly polls in Goa will be held on February 14. "In the five year tenure of the current Assembly (2017-2022), as many as 24 MLAs have changed their parties, which is 60 per cent of the total strength of the House.

Majority of parents in Maharashtra unwilling to send children to school

From Jan 24

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

About 62 per cent of surveyed parents in Maharashtra are unwilling to send their children to school from January 24, amid the state government's decision to allow reopening of schools from Monday.

The findings were based on a survey conducted by online community platform LocalCircle across tier-I, tier-II/III and tier-IV cities of the state that received 4,976 responses.

Of the total, 67 per cent



A worker sanitizes a classroom at a school ahead of its reopening, in Mumbai, Saturday.

respondents were men and the remaining 33 per cent women, the survey showed. Immediately after

the onset of the Omicron-led third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maharashtra government

had on January 8 ordered closure of all schools and colleges in the state till February 15 to contain the spread of the virus.

However, on January 20, the state education minister, contrary to earlier decision, announced that schools in the state for 1st-12th standard will reopen from January 24.

While the BMC has allowed schools to reopen in Mumbai, the Maharashtra government has allowed local bodies to take the decision on reopening schools after assessing the COVID-19 situation in their respective areas.

Atmosphere of violence prevails in country: Digvijaya

Bhopal, Jan 22 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday said an atmosphere of violence and hatred was being fostered in the country to target a section of society.

The Rajya Sabha MP, while speaking at a discussion on 'Journalism and Burning Issue' organised by Central India Press Club here, also claimed politicians should have tolerance and thick skins in a democracy, as it helped them to scale new heights.

Many a times an instance is given that when Partition was taking place

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru went in the midst of people and an old woman grabbed him by his collar and asked what she had got out of Independence. Nehruji replied what you have got is that you had held the prime minister by his collar. This democracy is missing nowadays," he said. Taking a swipe at the ruling dispensation, without taking names, and the prevailing times, Singh said. "Leave aside the collar, even if you say something from far off, people get upset. Sedition cases can be registered because you have become

a threat to the nation."

He said stand up comedians were now being seen as dangers to the nation, apparently a reference to some of them getting booked in the recent past, and asked how democracy would continue to be nurtured if politicians didn't have the strength to withstand criticism.

"An atmosphere of violence and hatred targeting a particular group is fascism's game plan. Identify an enemy and once your enemy is identified then declare him as anti-national and then anti-nationalism becomes nationalism of the day," he said.

World Bank approves Rs 1000 cr loan to WB Govt

To help people get gov't services

Kolkata, Jan 22 (PTI):

The World Bank has approved a loan of around Rs 1,000 crore to the West Bengal government primarily to support its effort to help the poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services," the statement read.

The loan under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation will strengthen the capability of this state to expand coverage and access to social assistance and targeted service for poor and vulnerable groups, it said.

Tram to mark Netaji's birth anniversary flagged off



A tram decorated with flowers and photographs of Netaji runs on a city street on the eve of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Kolkata, Saturday.

Kolkata, Jan 22 (PTI):

TMC MLA Madan Mitra on Saturday flagged off a tram here themed on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, calling it a "befitting" response to the Centre's rejection of West Bengal's Republic Day tableau that had the same theme.

Hitting back, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said Mitra's comments showed that the TMC was looking to reap political dividends from every project of the state government. The single-bogey tram was flagged off by Mitra, the chairman of West Bengal

Transport Corp Ltd, at the Gariahat depot in south Kolkata. The tram, named 'Balaka', has books on Bose and showcases posters and photos of the icon. It has been also been decked up with the Tricolor.

"This is Bengal's befitting response to New Delhi in the wake of the insult to the state and its people. Whenever New Delhi humiliates Bengal, we will give a strong response. Don't underestimate Bengal," Mitra said. The tram will ply for five days between Gariahat and Esplanade, he added. The BJP said Mitra is not even taken seriously by his party, TMC.

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BRIEF



Workers fix a statue of Netaji on the eve of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Kolkata, Saturday.

Watery grave

Thane: Two boys drowned after they went for a swim in a water-filled pit at a firing range in Maharashtra's Thane city on Saturday, an official said. The incident took place at a firing range in Vartak Nagar area of the city around 3.30 pm, said Santosh Kadam, chief of the regional disaster management cell of the Thane Municipal Corporation. Cousins Gautam Walmiki (12) and Nirbhay Chouhan (15) had ventured into the pit for a swim when they drowned unable to gauge its depth, the official said.

Militants killed

Srinagar: Two militants belonging to proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. Acting on specific input about the presence of militants in Kilbal area of the south Kashmir district, security forces launched a cordon and search operation there, a police official said.

Mishap

Balalore: At least six people were killed and 20 others injured after a coal-laden truck hit a bus from behind in Odisha's Balasore district on Saturday, police said. The accident occurred around 1.40 pm on National Highway 16 in Bidu area when the goods vehicle rammed into the bus causing it to fall into a roadside ditch, a senior officer said. "The bus was standing on the road to load passengers when the mishap happened. It was going from Mayurbhanj to Bhubaneswar."

Arrested

New Delhi: An engineer was arrested for allegedly extorting money from a woman after threatening to leak her private photographs and videos on social media, police said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Sahil Sachdeva (32), a resident of Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, they said. A woman lodged a complaint at the Shahdara Police Station alleging that he met Sachdeva on a matrimonial site in October 2021, a senior police officer said.

Busted

Thane: Two persons have been arrested and a minor detained in connection with a racket involved in generating fake SIM cards in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Saturday. A huge stock of activated black SIM cards and fabricated identity cards were seized from the accused, said Yogesh Chavan, deputy commissioner of police Zone-II Bhiwandi.

Weather
High 29 Low 16

PM TO DMs and CMs

'Set time-bound targets for govt prog to increase ease of living'

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked district magistrates to work on time-bound targets to increase ease of living for people and asserted that the country's goal today is to achieve 100 percent saturation of services and facilities.

Modi also called for a direct and emotional connection between administration and the public to ensure 'top to bottom' as well as 'bottom to top' governance flow.

In his remarks at the virtual interaction with DMs and some chief ministers, Modi said the teamwork of Centre, states and local administration was yielding good results in aspirational districts.

"Today, aspirational districts are eliminating the



Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the DMs of various districts on the implementation of key government schemes, through video conferencing, in New Delhi, Saturday.

barriers to the progress of the country. With the efforts of all of you, aspirational districts are becoming accelerators of growth instead of impediments," he told the DMs.

The prime minister said that these districts have

Aspirational districts

Launched by the prime minister in January 2018, the aspirational districts programme aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country. The prime minister said various ministries and departments of the government have prepared a list of 142 districts that are not so much lagging in development but are weak on one or two parameters.

'Work to achieve 100 % saturation of services and facilities'

The prime minister drew the attention of the officers towards the changed mindset and reiterated that today, the country's goal is to achieve 100 percent saturation of services and facilities. "We have a long way to go compared to the milestones we have achieved so far and have to work on a much bigger scale," he said and called for time-bound targets for taking roads to all the villages of the districts, Ayushman Bharat cards, bank accounts to every person, Ujjwala gas connection, insurance, pension housing for everyone.

proved that due to the elimination of silos in implementation, optimum utilisation of resources takes place. He emphasised the

exponential benefits of this reform and said when silos end, one plus one doesn't become two but eleven. "We see this collective power in

NAXALS ON RAMPAGE

Naxals kill police informer; torch vehicles used for road construction

Bijapur, Jan 22:

Naxals allegedly killed a 45-year-old police informer and torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work in separate incidents in Bijapur district, police said on Saturday.

The ultras killed a gopniya sainik (secret police informer) on Friday and dumped his body on Gangloor road under the Bijapur police station limits, additional superintendent of police (ASP) Pankaj Shukla said.

The police recovered the body of the man identified as Ando Ram, another official said, adding that further probe is underway.

In a separate incident, Naxals torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work at

About the incidents

The ultras killed a gopniya sainik (secret police informer) on Friday and dumped his body on Gangloor road under the Bijapur police station limits. In a separate incident, Naxals torched three vehicles engaged in road construction work at Cherkanti Patelpara village under Bijapur police station limits on Friday. The ultras set fire to a truck, a JCB machine and another heavy vehicle.

Cherkanti Patelpara village under Bijapur police station limits on Friday, the official said. The ultras set fire to a truck, a JCB machine and another heavy vehicle, which were being used in the construction work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), he added.

PRESS PREVIEW

R-Day parade to have 25 tableaux, 16 marching contingents, 17 military bands

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

This year's Republic Day parade will have 16 marching contingents, 17 military bands and 25 tableaux of various states, departments and armed forces, the Indian Army said in a statement on Saturday.

The Army will be represented by a mounted column of cavalry, 14 mechanised columns, six marching contingents and a flypast by advanced light helicopters of its aviation wing at the Republic Day parade-2022 (RDP-2022), it said.

The mechanised columns of the Army will show one PT-76 tank, one Centurion tank, two MBT Arjun MK-I tanks, one APC TOPAS armoured



Tableau of Gujarat and Uttarakhand during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2022, in New Delhi, Saturday.

personnel carriers, one BMP-I infantry fighting vehicle and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles, it stated.

One 75/24 Pack howitzer, two Dhanush howitzers, one PMS bridge-laying system, two Sarvatra

bridge-laying systems, one HT-16 electronic warfare system, two Taran Shakti electronic warfare systems, one Tiger Cat missile system and two Akash missile systems will also be part of the mechanised columns.

READY TO PERFORM



Uttarakhand tableau artists during a press preview, ahead of the Republic Day Parade 2022, in New Delhi, Saturday.

Election rallies ban extended till Jan 31

With relaxations for Phase 1, 2

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

The Election Commission on Saturday extended the ban on physical rallies and roadshows till January 31, but gave relaxation for physical public meetings of parties or contesting candidates for phase 1 from January 28 and for phase 2 from February 1. The commission has also enhanced the limit of people allowed for door-to-door campaign. Instead of five, now 10 people, excluding

security personnel, will be allowed for door-to-door campaigns.

The ban on roadshows and rallies for next month's state polls was extended till the end of this month on Saturday by the Election Commission but with certain relaxations for the first two phases of voting due on February 10 and 14.

The decision came after the election body held a meeting earlier in the day with the Union Health Secretary and the Chief Health Secretaries of the five states to review the restrictions given the surge in coronavirus cases.

'60% COVID deaths in 'third wave' among partially or completely unvaccinated'

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

A study by a private hospital has said that 60 per cent of the patients who died during the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic were either partially or fully unvaccinated.

The study by Max Healthcare said the deaths reported were largely among those aged over 70 and those suffering from multiple co-morbidities such as kidney diseases, heart diseases, diabetes, cancers etc.

"In our hospitals, out of 82 deaths so far, 60 per cent

was seen in the partially or unvaccinated population," it said in a statement.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain has also been stressing that the fatalities are occurring among those patients who are immunocompromised and have co-morbidities.

The comparative study of the three waves of the pandemic also said that only 23.4 per cent of the patients required oxygen support during the third wave of the pandemic, as against 74 per cent during the second wave and 63 per cent during the first wave.

Across the network of hospitals, there have been 41 admissions of minors.

"However, no deaths have been reported in this age-group. Seven required paediatric ICU while two were on ventilators," it said. The hospital said that when Delhi had logged 28,000 cases during the second wave in April, all hospital beds were occupied with zero ICU beds available, while during this wave when a higher number of cases was reported last week, there was no crisis of availability of hospital beds.

BONANZA FOR SALARIED EMPLOYEES

'Tax-free PF limit may be raised to Rs 5 lakh'

New Delhi, Jan 22:

The government may double the limit for tax-free contributions in provident fund for all salaried employees to up to Rs 5 lakh per annum in the forthcoming union budget 2022-23, a report has said, in order to bring them at par with government employees.

Though the government had in the last union budget for 2021-22 announced capping of tax-free annual provident fund (PF) contributions to Rs 2.5 lakh for availing tax-free interest income, the limit was later raised to Rs 5 lakh for those funds where employers don't contribute. The limit was raised by amending the finance bill.

However this change benefitted only a small section of top government officials, who contribute higher amounts in general PF. Now, according to a report in media, the government may raise the limit to ? 5 lakh per annum for all salaried employees.

According to the report, the government has received several representations towards enabling this provision. These representations basically stressed on the point that since the provision benefitted only government employees, it should be non-discriminatory and all salaried employees should be brought under its ambit.

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Three from Ambikapur held for attempting to hunt wild animals

Anuppur, Jan 22 (PTI):

Three men from Chhattisgarh have been arrested for allegedly attempting to hunt wild animals in a forested area of Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, a forest official said on Saturday.

The state forest department had received information that some people were hanging around near the thick-forested Kirar Valley area, some 12 km from the district headquarters, on Friday night. Anuppur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dr AA Ansari said.

Forest officials intercepted a man in a car at the spot and on questioning him, found that two of his accomplices had ventured into the jungle, he said.

Arrested

Forest officials intercepted a man in a car at the spot and on questioning him, found that two of his accomplices had ventured into the jungle. Those arrested are Sohrab Firdausi (32), Vakeel Firdausi (33) and Arif Firdausi (35). A rifle, 35 cartridges, one empty cartridge, two knives, a torch and blood-stained plastic bags were seized from them.

We arrested Sohrab Firdausi (32), Vakeel Firdausi (33) and Arif Firdausi (35). We recovered a rifle, 35 cartridges, one empty cartridge, two knives, a torch and blood-stained plastic bags among other things from them, Ansari said.

The trio admitted that they were planning to poach wild animals, he said.

Six dead, 23 injured in fire at Mumbai high-rise

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

At least six persons were killed and 23 others injured in a major fire that broke out on the 19th floor of a residential building in Tardeo area of central Mumbai on Saturday morning, officials said.

The blaze erupted around 7 am in Sachinam Heights building, a ground plus 20-storey structure located opposite Bhatia Hospital at Gowalia Tank, when many of its residents were still asleep, an official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed



Smoke billows out after a blaze on the 18th floor of Kamla building in Tardeo area of Mumbai, Saturday.

grief over the incident and announced on Twitter that ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be provided to the family members of each

deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), and added that the injured would be given Rs 50,000 each.

PM Modi, Maha govt announce ex-gratia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced on Twitter that ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh would be provided to the family members of each deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), and added that the injured would be given Rs 50,000 each. Maharashtra Tourism Minister Aadiya Thackeray, who visited the site, said the government will provide a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family members of each deceased.

Gandhi's favourite hymn dropped from R-Day Beating Retreat Ceremony

New Delhi, Jan 22 (PTI):

One of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite Christian hymns "Abide With Me" has been dropped from this year's Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29, according to a brochure released by the Indian Army on Saturday.

"Abide With Me", written by Scottish Anglican poet and hymnologist Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, has been part of the Beating Retreat ceremony since 1950. This year's ceremony will conclude with 'Sare Jahan Se Acha', the

brochure stated. The Beating Retreat used to end with the "Abide With Me" hymn.

The brochure also listed 26 tunes that will be played at this year's ceremony at Vijay Chowk. The 26 tunes that will be played at this year's ceremony include 'Hey Kanchha', 'Channa Bilauri', 'Jai Janam Bhumi', 'Nriya Sarita', 'Vijay Josh', 'Kesaria Banna', 'Veer Siachen', 'Hathroi', 'Vijay Ghosh', 'Ladaakoo', 'Swadeshi', 'Amar Chattan', 'Golden Arrows' and 'Swarn Jayanti', according to the brochure.

School children take part in debate, essay writing competition

On occasion of Amrit Mahotsav

Central Chronicle News

Konta, Jan 22: On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav, 75th anniversary of India's Independence, a block level debate and essay competition was organized in the meeting room of Swami Atmanand English Medium School, Konta.

In this competition 40 students selected at cluster level from different clusters of Konta block participated. In the debate competition organized under the Amrit Mahotsav program of Independence, the participants debated on the topic "Democracy or Monarchy". Similarly, children wrote essays on the topic "Youth of the twenty-first century".



Academician CH Rajasekhar was present as the chief guest in this competition organized at Swami Atmanand

Excellent English Medium School, Konta. Addressing the program on this occasion, he encouraged the participants.

On this occasion Block Education Officer SK Deep, Assistant Block Education Officer P.Srinivas, BRC Mahendra

Bahadur Singh, Head Teachers Sushil Shrivastava, Shashi Kumar and teachers from various institutions were present. The program was conducted by T. Srinivas Vasu, the head teacher of Swami Atmanand English Medium School.

Winning participants were rewarded

Kumari Josna Sodi Class 12th Government Higher Secondary School, Konta stood first in essay writing competitions, Sodi Ramesh Class XII DAV Public School Konta stood second, and Kumari Gilleswari Nishad Class XII Government Higher Secondary School, Konta, stood second. In the debate competition, Ku.Gazal Kori, D.A.V Public School, Konta, first place, Ku. Preeti Baghel Government Higher Secondary School, Dornapal, second and CH Krish, D.A.V. Public School, Konta, third place. Received. In opposition, the first position was bagged by Ku. Manasa Patel D.A.V Public School, Konta, second place, Deborah Morla D.A.V. Public School, Konta and the third place was bagged by Rajesh Kattam Government Higher Secondary School, Konta.

Teaching, exams to be held in online, blended mode

In all govt, private Schools, Colleges in the district

Central Chronicle News

Koriya, Jan 22: Collector and DJM Kuldeep Sharma in line with the guidelines issued by the health department of Chhattisgarh has issued fresh instructions in view of control of Corona virus.

Seeing the rise in number of Corona cases, Collector has directed to carry out teaching work in all the government, private schools, Colleges for academic session 2021-22 in online mode.

As per the orders issued, he has directed to put a ban on physical presence of anyone in Schools or Colleges and all the classes



be held in online mode. The teaching and non-teaching staff have been asked to be called on 1/3rd roster system.

During the roster duty days, the teaching staff will teach from the schools/ college and otherwise from home itself through online mode and it should be done as per the time table fixed for the

College.

In the same way the non-teaching staff of the College should be called as per roster duty and rest of the staff should work from home system either using mobile phones or through online procedure.

For academic session 2021-22, the exams of all the first and third semester be organised in online and blended mode. The Universities will be issued detailed instructions on approval from working council and under no circumstances, no officer or employee would go on leave without prior sanction and do not leave the headquarters.

Action by Dongargarh Police against illegal liquor sale

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 22: Under the direction of senior police officers and SDOP Krishna Kumar Patel, a team was formed at the police station level to maintain peace in the area under the leadership of Inspector-in-Charge, Inspector Shiv Chandra.

According to information received Ritesh Larokar, operator of Mehfil Dhaba in Dongargarh city, and Rajesh Singh Thakur, operator of Mann Hotel, were selling liquor to the people from the back door. Similarly Ved Narayan Sinha, a resident of Raka was also engulfed in the



trade of liquor sale.

To confirm the information that Sinha is selling liquor near Bazar Chowk and Harvinder Singh near Railway Chowk, immediate siege raids were taken at the above places. During the raid, 40 nos. of country

liquor was seized from the possession of Ritesh Larokar, operator of Mehfil Dhaba, 32 nos. from the possession of Rajesh Thakur, operator of Maan Hotel, and 32 nos. English liquor was seized in the possession of Ved Narayan Sinha. After

taking action against Section 34(2) of the Excise Act, after presenting them in the court on judicial remand, the three accused were admitted to the sub-jail Dongargarh.

The role of Sub-Inspector BR Bison, Assistant Sub-Inspector Dhannalal Sinha, Assistant Sub-Inspector RK Anant, Principal constable Ajit Toppo, constable Manoj Harmukh, constable Mithlesh Sahu, Gajendra Bharadwaj in the said action was commendable. According to Inspector-in-charge of the Police Station Shiv Chandra, Police action against illegal business will continue.

Savitri Sahu elected in-charge sarpanch

Central Chronicle News

Masturi, Jan 22: After the election for the vacant post of Sarpanch in Jairamnagar Gram Panchayat under Janpad Panchayat was conducted, Savitri Bhagwat Sahu, the female Panch of dependent village Khaira, was elected Sarpanch in-charge after voting by the panchs.

It is noteworthy that a fortnight ago, the Sarpanch and Sarpanch Panch Pati of Jairamnagar Gram Panchayat were dismissed from the post by the SDM on the charges of financial irregularities.

Keeping this in mind, on



the orders of the administration, the election program of the in-charge sarpanch was kept here in which two women panchs of dependent village Khaira tried their luck. As a result, after voting, 11 votes were cast in favor of

Savitri Bhagwat Sahu and that of 07 votes were cast in favour of rival candidate Priya Sahu. Thus, Savitri Bhagwat Sahu was elected in-charge sarpanch.

After being elected Sarpanch in-charge,

Savitri Bhagwat Sahu expressed gratitude to all the Panchs and took a pledge to develop the village with the cooperation of all the Panchs. Later with her associates visited the Sati Dai temple in Jhiriya and bowed their heads.

On this occasion Panchayat Secretary Kailash Patel, Panch Tularam Sharma, Sonu Bhargava, Raju Pandit, Dharmendra Yadav, Kamal Agarwal, Pardeshi Jagat, Hanuman Jagat, Shatrughan Yadav, Shiva Sen, Dev Prasad Sahu, Kapil Yadav, Shatrughan Sahu, Gaurishankar Sahu, Monu Eminent villagers including Bhargava were present.

Society without internal politics can move forward: Sahu

Meeting of newly formed body of GPM held in Keshav Kunj



Central Chronicle News

Gourela, Pendra, Marvahi, Jan 22: Only that society surges ahead wherein there is no politics in the organisation and therefore all should work rising above party politics for the welfare of the society, says District Vaishya Taiilik Sahu Samaj (VTSS) state president Ashok Sahu in newly elected three Presidents of three cells of GPM held a meeting here on Thursday.

Sahu said that there should be work for associating more and more members with Samaj instead of breaking them. The chief guest in this meeting was regional president Ashok Sarju Prasad and it was chaired by Rajendra Rudra Pratap Sahu and Rekha Dinesh Sahu regional president Mahila cell of VTSS.

The guests first offered prayers to idols of Goddess Banjari, Maa Karma and Danvir Bhamashah and lighted the traditional

lamp. In this meeting the Presidents of three cells of GPM formed their working committee and which was passed with due consent of all.

District President Keshav Sahu, Yuva Prakosth President Nilesh Sahu issued the list of their new office bearers and in the same way Mahila cell District President Sarita Ashwini Sahu also issued her list of Samiti members.

In the meeting held, dis-

cussions were held to take samaj forward and ensure self-sufficiency of people of samaj and hosts of other issues.

Thereafter Ashok Sahu extended greetings to the newly formed working committee of three in GPM and laid emphasis on having alertness and promptness towards responsibility of the society.

The regional President Mahila cell Rekha Sahu also extended greetings to newly appointed members and appealed all present to take the Samaj to new heights. She also put forth her views on ensuring active participation of all the 'teej-tyohar' (festival) to be organised in the near future and for extending help to each other's problems as well.

Rajendra Prasad gave wonderful speech about social activities. Meeting was attended by all the office bearers of District Vaishya Sahu Samaj from its different cells.



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 22: In the midst of rising prices of petrol and diesel, instead of increasing the facilities available in petrol pumps, the facilities set by the government are not being taken care off in the petrol pumps located in the urban areas.

Many petrol pumps located within the city are being operated in the midst of dense population, which is like inviting an accident. At present, 2 petrol pumps are operating in the inner area of the city and two petrol pumps in both the ends of the city limits in Bor Talav Road and Khairagarh Road.

According to Assistant Food Officer Ashish Ramte from time to time, the petrol pump operators have been instructed to



continue the facility provided to the consumers, but it does not seem to be being followed. Consumers are not able to take advantage of the facility provided, meanwhile the petrol pump

operators make arrangements for a few days, but after a few days again the same situation remains the same.

In the name of facility available to consumers in petrol

pumps, air cooler and water cooler for drinking water has definitely been installed, but it is not usable and consumers have to face more difficulties due to lack of transport system.

New venue of fair yet to see light of the day!

No progress in leveling work; no chance of completing all RCC work in 30 days

Central Chronicle News

Rajim, Jan 22: The state's famous Rajim Madhi Punni Mela will be starting in a month's time from now and the most debatable issue is as to how all RCC structure can be constructed in just 30 day? So far only 2 acre land has been levelled, whereas the total area of Mela's venue is around 54 acre.

In this land mainly a farm land, there are bushes and crop leftover still remaining on the ground. Meanwhile near the embankment on banks of the river, there is a big hole and it may take long time to level it and loads of soil/ murrum will



be required to do it. In all there is not much of progress from what was left few days back.

The then District Collector Nileshshir Sagar has not shown much of an interest in getting this venue prepared during his term, but the people of the region are very much hopeful on newly appointed District Collector Namrata Gandhi, who is expected to speed-up the work on his assuming office. It is notable here that the Minister for Home and Tourism

Tamradhwaj Sahu had conducted inspection of the venue last on Dec 21 and at that time the then Collector Nileshshir Sagar, SP JR Thakur, DFO Mayank Agrawal, SDM Avinash Bhoi, and other officers from various departments were present. At that time HM has directed the officers to complete the soil levelling work within a week's time and has asked to deploy more JCB's and tractors so as to complete the work early. Home Minister had also di-

rected to construct four-lane road upto the river from the Mela venue to PWD and also construct pathways on either side of the road. Minister Sahu had also directed to get the design and layout of Mela venue prepared by a well-known expert and Architect.

But as on date none of the above instructions by HM have been complied with and no action has been taken at ground-level. When our correspondent visited the site on 54 acre land near Choubeybandha Rajim near the River, neither any labour force was present, nor any supervisor or any officers/ employees was found present at the site. Set aside the JCB machines supposed to level the place too was found missing. The people nearby when contacted informed that work here is not being done for last 15-20

days. It is notable here that the Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu has been claiming over the last two years to construct new 'Mela' venue for Rajim Madhi Punni Mela, but so far it has not seen light of the day.

Contrary to this the farmers who have handed over their piece of land for Mela venue complained it to the Minister Sahu that the land given in exchange is full of pot-holes and uneven surface and it would cost another few thousands of rupees to get it levelled and to which the poor farmers say they cannot afford. So they made a request to the local administration to get it levelled. On this the Home Minister asked to solve farmers' problem immediately. But with no action on this there is great deal of resentment among the farmers.

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया शाखा - कर्गारोड (छ.ग.) **Central Bank of India** Branch-Kargiroad (C.G.)

Notice

Our Bank branch premises is going to be shifted to new Premises at Bus Stand Square, Kargiroad, Dist: Bilaspur, (C.G.). We would request all our valued customers to vacate the lockers allotted to them within two months from the date of this publication so as to avoid any damages to your goods kept inside the locker available. You also have the option to surrender the Locker as per your desire.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated. Please contact branch in case you have any further queries.

यूको बैंक **UCO BANK** Bilaspur Branch: M. V. Market, Telipara Road Bilaspur (C.G) Mail Id : bilasp@ucobank.co.in, PH No : 07752- 228480, 228380

APPENDIX IV [See rule - 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE & MOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the UCO Bank, M.V Market, Telipara Road, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) Branch under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 28.09.2021 calling upon the borrowers M/s. M.K Udyog (Proprietor: Late. Jasvir Singh Hora S/O. Late. Manjeet Singh Hora) Now Liability of Loan devolve upon all the legal heirs. Through Legal Heirs: Mrs. Jasmit Kaur Hora w/o Late. Jasvir Singh Hora & Mr. Mandip Singh Hora s/o Late. Jasvir Singh Hora, Mrs. Raspreet Kaur Hora d/o Late. Jasvir Singh Hora & All unknown legal heirs having Address-1: C/O M.K Udyog, Village: Chorbhatti Khurd, Kota Road, Bilaspur (C.G) & Address-2: Opposite EWS-1, 50, Nehru Nagar, Bilaspur (C.G)-495001, guaranteed by Late. Jasvir Singh Hora S/O. Late. Manjeet Singh Hora (Now liability devolve upon all the legal heirs)

to repay the total amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 5591474.54 (Rupees Fifty five lakh ninety one thousand four hundred seventy four and paise fifty four only) as on 28.09.2021 (inclusive of interest up to 28.02.2021) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and/or Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 19TH day of JANUARY of year 2022.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of UCO Bank, M.V market, Telipara Road, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) Branch for an amount Rs. 5591474.54 (Rupees Fifty five lakh ninety one thousand four hundred seventy four and paise fifty four only) as on 28.09.2021 (inclusive of interest up to 28.02.2021) PLUS FUTURE INTEREST AT THE APPLICABLE RATE ON THE AFORESAID AMOUNTS TOGETHER WITH INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, COST, CHARGES ETC, less repayments, if any, after issue of said notices.

The borrower's and/ or guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule of Immovable Property (Mortgaged with UCO Bank, Bilaspur Branch).

Property No.1: Diverted Land situated at old PH No. 27 (New PH No. 28), Khasra No. 94/3, R.N.M Sakri, Mouja & Gram Panchayat: Chorbhatti Khurd, Vikas Khand & Tehsil: Takhatpur, Distt. Bilaspur(Chhattisgarh) Land area 0.33 Acre i.e. 14388 sq. Ft. Boundaries: North- Lala & Others Land, South- Grass Land, East- Grass Land, West- Land of Krishna.

(Property vide Registered Sale deed dated 22.04.2009 registered at Sub Registrar Office, Bilaspur vide Book No. Ad-1, Granth No. 15896, on Pages 65 to 74, Document Serial NO. 161)

Property owner: Late. Jasvir Singh Hora S/O. Late. Manjeet Singh Hora (Mr. Jasvir Singh expired on 04.10.2020)

Property No.2: Diverted Land situated at old PH No. 27 (New PH No. 28), Khasra No. 94/2, R.N.M Sakri, Mouja & Gram Panchayat: Chorbhatti Khurd, Vikas Khand & Tehsil: Takhatpur, Distt. Bilaspur(Chhattisgarh) Land area 0.07 Acre i.e. 3052 sq. Ft. Boundaries: North- Land of Ganesh, South- Land of Shiv, East- Grass Land & West- Grass Land.

(Property vide Registered Sale deed dated 30.04.2009 registered at Sub Registrar Office, Bilaspur vide Book No. Ad-4, Granth No. 296, on Pages 33 to 40, Document Serial NO. 58)

Property owner: Late. Jasvir Singh Hora S/O. Late. Manjeet Singh Hora (Mr. Jasvir Singh expired on 04.10.2020)

Schedule of movable Property (Hypothecated with UCO Bank, Bilaspur Branch)

All stocks, Plant & Machineries & Receivables in normal course of Business situated at M. K. Udyog, Village: Chorbhatti Khurd, Kota Road, Bilaspur (C.G.)

Dated: 19.01.2022

Place: Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)

(Authorized Officer)



CENTRAL Chronicle

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 293

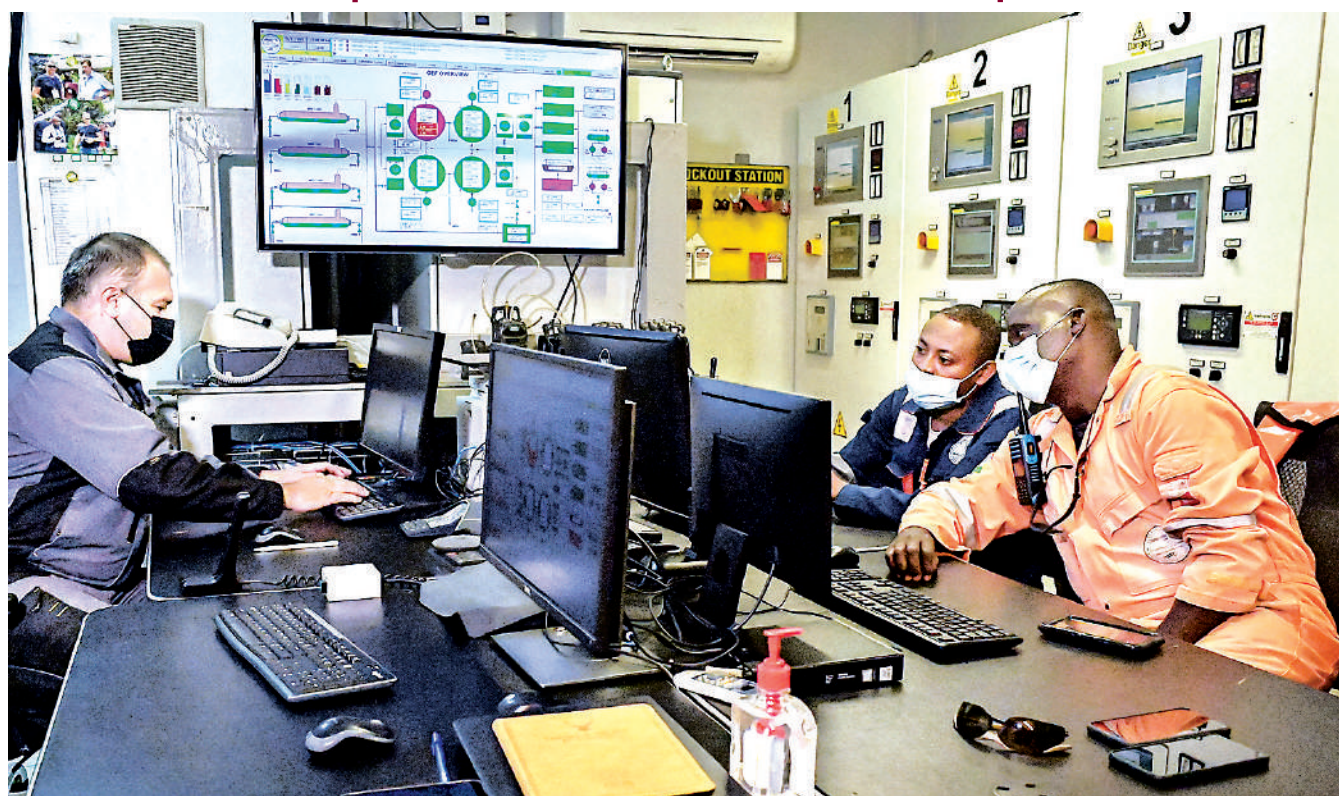
Long wait for NWM

The Amar Jawan Jyoti at the India Gate was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial (NWM) in New Delhi. People can now pay their respects at the eternal flame at the NWM, military officials said. However, opposition parties, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticised the government's move. But it should be acknowledged that India waited too long for NWM and it is now fully realised. There had been long demand is for a prominent memorial on New Delhi's Central Vista, which can be visited freely by the Indian public, and where wreaths can be offered by national leaders on occasions like the Republic Day, and by visiting foreign dignitaries who choose to do so. The irony is evident, that the British exalted the memory of Indians who died for the empire, but India earlier found it bothersome to suitably commemorate those who fell in service of the republic. Anyone who has travelled along India's borders with China and Pakistan cannot have missed the lonely memorials at the places where Indian troops fought and died. Amongst the most stirring is the stark monument to Major Shaitan Singh and his 111 Kumaoni soldiers who battled to the last, holding up a major Chinese advance on the desolate, windswept plateau of Chushul. This Indian hero, a winner of the Param Vir Chakra, is honoured only in that unvisited war memorial near Chushul. The proposal for a 'National War Memorial' was discovered in the Assam state archives in Guwahati, predates independent India. A confidential memo, issued on March 3, 1945, from the War Department in New Delhi (in File No. 110-C/45, entitled 'Indian National War Memorial', in the Governor's Secretariat, Confidential Branch) declared that the Government of India (GoI) has been examining 'the question of the form that an Indian National War Memorial should take'. The memo orders that 'the establishment of a Military Academy on the lines of the United States Military Academy at West Point for the education and basic training together of future officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force would be the most suitable form for the memorial to take'. An Indian National War Memorial Working Committee was quickly constituted, which sent out a questionnaire to the provinces asking for their views on a range of subjects, including the setting up of feeder schools for the proposed academy-cum-war memorial. The questionnaire asked, keeping in mind the 'urgent need in India for leaders in all walks of life, including the fighting services', should 'practical steps not be taken to meet the requirement of the immediate future by the establishment of a certain number of residential high schools'. In 2009, when the defence ministry was headed by senior Congress leader AK Antony, it was Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar who had written a letter to the former and his deputy Pallam Raju for the construction of the memorial. He had also stated that the continued lack of progress in finalising the National War Memorial was an embarrassment for the entire country. The now Union Minister had suggested to the Memorial be built on the banks of Yamuna in the national capital as the then United Progressive Alliance government was struggling in finding land for the same. It took nearly a decade since Chandrasekhar first sought it for the war memorial to finally be constructed. The construction of the National War Memorial was completed in January 2019, and now with merging of Amar Jawan Jyoti flame, the longstanding demand of armed forces has been fulfilled.

Flawed liberal idealism

Tensions between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have reached the point of crisis. The government of Russian President Vladimir Putin is threatening a wider military incursion into Ukraine unless the US-led alliance makes several major security concessions, including a commitment to cease expanding eastward. Russia says that the United States and NATO have continually violated pledges allegedly made in the early 1990s that the alliance would not expand into the former Soviet bloc. The great tragedy is this entire affair was avoidable. Had the United States and its European allies not succumbed to hubris, wishful thinking, and liberal idealism and relied instead on realism's core insights, the present crisis would not have occurred. Indeed, Russia would probably never have seized Crimea, and Ukraine would be safer today. The world is paying a high price for relying on a flawed theory of world politics. Liberalism sees world politics differently. Instead of seeing all great powers as facing more or less the same problem, the need to be secure in a world where war is always possible liberalism maintains that what states do is driven mostly by their internal characteristics and the nature of the connections among them. It divides the world into 'good states' (those that embody liberal values) and 'bad states' (pretty much everyone else) and maintains that conflicts arise primarily from the aggressive impulses of autocrats, dictators, and other illiberal leaders. For liberals, the solution is to topple tyrants and spread democracy, markets, and institutions based on the belief that democracies don't fight one another, especially when they are bound together by trade, investment, and an agreed-on set of rules. After the Cold War, Western elites concluded that realism was no longer relevant and liberal ideals should guide foreign-policy conduct. US and European officials believed that liberal democracy, open markets, the rule of law, and other liberal values were spreading. Had US policymakers reflected on their own country's history and geographic sensitivities, they would have understood how enlargement appeared to their Russian counterparts. United States has repeatedly declared the Western Hemisphere to be off-limits to other great powers and has threatened or used force on numerous occasions to make that declaration stick. Realism explains why great powers tend to be extremely sensitive to the security environment in their immediate neighbourhoods, but the liberal architects of enlargement simply could not grasp this. It was a monumental failure of empathy with profound strategic consequences.

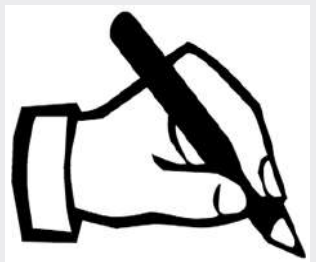
INSIDE BARGE FOR POWER



Engineers work inside the barge extracting methane gas on Lake Kivu, at the Kivuatt power plant in Kibuye, Karongi District, in the Western Province of Rwanda.

India's tidal power potential hampered by high costs and environmental risks

MAYANK AGGARWAL



India is estimated to have a potential of around 54 gigawatts (GW) of ocean energy including tidal power (12.45 GW) and wave power (41.3 GW) but it is yet to be of practical use as the Indian government's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) says the estimated potential of tidal and wave power is 'purely theoretical and does not necessarily constitute a practically exploitable potential'. A parliamentary panel has now asked the Indian government to go back to the drawing board and 'reassess' the potential of tidal, wave and ocean-thermal power to 'explore the practically exploitable potential'. Ocean energy refers to all forms of renewable energy derived from the sea including tidal power which is harnessed by converting energy from the natural rise and fall of ocean tides and currents to electricity. Wave energy in the form of motion of ocean waves can be extracted using energy conversion devices. In fact, it has been about 40 years since India started efforts to assess and harness tidal power but it is yet to achieve any solid breakthrough in its development even as the country made rapid strides in boosting other sources of renewable power. Prasad Kumar Bhaskaran, who works in the Department of Ocean Engineering and Naval Architecture at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur said that India has a good potential for extraction of tidal energy both along the eastern and western coasts of the country. 'There is potential for tidal energy in

India, but India is yet to develop a technology or major project for tidal energy,' he said. However, for wave energy, Bhaskaran said that though India has potential in the southern states, high wave activity prevails only during the southwest monsoon season. 'There is a potential to develop a wave energy project along the Kerala coast, the only suitable location to harness wave power in India,' he said.

One of the reasons, according to the MNRE, for not pursuing tidal power is 'exorbitant cost'. India had started two tidal power projects of 3.75 megawatts and 50 megawatts installed capacity in 2007 and 2011 in West Bengal and Gujarat respectively. But both these projects were dropped because of exorbitant costs. In the case of the 3.75 MW Durgaduan tidal power project in West Bengal, the project cost was Rs 238 crore which is about Rs 63.50 crore per MW. While in the case of the 50 MW tidal power project at the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, the estimated cost was Rs 750 crore which is about Rs 15 crore for every megawatt of power. The cost of power from such tidal power plants is too high, according to the MNRE, which states that the 'normative cost of installation of one MW solar, wind, biomass, hydro and thermal power plant is Rs 3.5 crore, Rs 5.5 crore, Rs 6 crore, Rs 10-15 crore, and Rs 5 crore respectively. However, the parliament's standing committee on energy, led by Janata Dal (United) leader Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, was not convinced with the argument about costs. The committee said that comparing the project cost of tidal power 'that was arrived at around ten years back with the present project cost of solar, wind, hydro etc. is not justified.'

'The cost of tidal power may have come down in the last ten years as is the case with other renewable energy like solar power,' said the Committee while recommending to the MNRE to reassess the cost of tidal power to 'consider its economic viability and benefits in a longer time span.'

However, according to the report of the parliamentary panel, the ministry is not very confident about the development of tidal power due to financial, technological, environmental and other risks. 'Globally, tidal energy is not cost-competitive and is still at a nascent development stage. Efforts to set up tidal power projects in India could not succeed primarily due to techno-economic considerations,' said the ministry. The ministry informed the panel that tidal power represents the smallest share (about 535 MW) of the global installed capacity of renewable energy. It said two tidal power projects, 240 MW La Rance station in France (installed in 1966) and the 254 MW Sihwa plant in South Korea (installed in 2011), constitute more than 90 percent of the total installed capacity of tidal energy.

The ministry said that, at present, tidal power technologies are not cost-competitive and the main focus is on technology development. On this, the panel said that the MNRE may 'also evaluate global experience in this regard.' The panel exhorted the MNRE to actively work in the development of tidal power and asked to set up 'one demonstration/pilot tidal power project at the most favourable cost-effective location like Gulf of Kutch considering that the capital cost of a tidal power project is site-specific.' PK Bhaskaran of IIT Kharagpur, explained that the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat 'has a very good potential as the tidal range between high and low waters is about 11-12 meters.' The tidal range in the Gulf of Kutch is about 8 meters. The tidal currents can reach a strength of about 3 m/s. While on the eastern coast, the Sundarban region has a tidal range varying between 6-7 meters, which is also a potential region to extract tidal energy,' he said.

He emphasised on a recent initiative by the Indian government in collaboration with the United Kingdom to develop tidal power. 'To develop the tidal energy project, a joint team of researchers from the UK and India had undertaken research work in the

Sundarban region a couple of years ago. Suitable location in the upstream of Bidyadhri River has been identified for a demonstrative project, however, the work could not progress much due to COVID-19 situation,' informed Bhaskaran, who was a member of that joint team. Apart from disproportionately high cost, 'adverse environmental impacts that have not yet been fully documented' is another reason for the authorities to not actively pursue tidal power projects. The committee also noted that no study has been conducted for the assessment of the environmental and ecological impact of a tidal power plant. During one of its meetings, the MNRE had informed the parliamentary panel that 'a barrage across an estuary may environmentally impact a very wide area ranging for many miles upstream and downstream.' In August 2019, the central government had issued a notification clarifying that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave, ocean thermal energy conversion, 'shall be eligible for meeting non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO)'.

The RPO is a mechanism under the Electricity Act 2003 by which the big consumers have to purchase a certain percentage of their total consumption of electricity from renewable energy sources. When the panel asked the ministry the rationale behind making tidal energy eligible for non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation in 2019 even when the country has not been able to harness any tidal power so far, the MNRE said it was 'in response to inquiries from industry' and the 'inclusion was made to take care of the possibility that projects for producing such energy might be set up.' The panel asked the ministry to actively follow up on the notification 'through appropriate incentives so that the country can have commercial tidal power projects by the year 2030.' (Mayank Aggarwal writes on environment, conservation, wildlife, water and renewable energy, based in New Delhi.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not surprised

I'm not at all surprised to hear that after burning for 5 decades, flames at Amar Jawan Jyoti (AJJ) will be put out at India Gate, merged with National War Memorial (NWM). The Amar Jawan Jyoti has a cenotaph and a monument to honour all soldiers, on a marble pedestal with a rifle and a soldier helmet on it. And the flame of AJJ was established to pay tributes to the soldiers who had died in the 1971 war, was inaugurated by none other than Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's bete noire then PM Indira Gandhi on Republic Day 1972. Actually, one can learn from Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi how to 'kill two birds in one stone' and its timing. Here also just as the country commemorated 50 years of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, the Defence Ministry of Modi government announced that AJJ to be put out and a part of the flame will be taken from India Gate to the flame at the NWM, around 400 meters away. On the same breath, one has to be recalled that just five months back in August 2021, when PM Modi all of a sudden announced that the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna stands were renamed as Major Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna. The timing of the announcement is being seen to be in-synch with the prevailing sentiments following the performances of the men (ended a 41-year wait for an Olympic medal by taking the third spot) and women hockey teams (finished fourth after some heart-wrenching performances) in the Tokyo Olympics. These are nothing but well planned 'Gandhi-Nehru free India', and attempts to rewrite history, in PM Modi's name. Sadly, the Modi government may have forgotten that respecting history requires conservation of the old and keeps building new institutions, memorials. For example, does not Germany still maintain the Dachau concentration camp and the damaged dome of the church in Berlin? None of them is a symbol of pride for Germany but not like us as we demolished the Babri Masjid, the German preserve them to remind themselves of their past and conserve history. Hence, instead of extinguishing one for the other then why not both spark the fire of patriotism among all?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee, Faridabad Urban-rural divide

It's felt that the urban-rural divide can be bridged by ensuring the prosperity of an entire region. For this, drastic steps need to be taken to bring urban and rural economies closer together. Undeniably, stronger connections between the urban and rural areas are a must to improve regional economic performance. The huge differences in the availability of physical and social infrastructure in rural and urban areas need to be reduced. Also, development in rural areas must be expedited through proper and adequate provision of infrastructure. Government should take initiatives to help urban and rural communities build collaborative partnerships for economic development. It needs to prioritize reduction in poverty and unemployment in rural areas. Besides, public healthcare infrastructure should be made sufficient. Quality educational institutions must be set up within the reach of poor rural people. The benefits of the government schemes for rural development should reach the target population. All sectors must be integrated so that the benefits of tremendous economic growth percolate down to all parts of society.

Dipen, via email



WHAT THEY TWEET!



R. Balakrishnan@BalakrishnanR
"Nobody gets along with (company-name) but everybody knows that you will make money working with him." So much for investors seriously worried about governance or quality of management. Money is governance. More the money, the better the governance.

Aviral Bhatnagar@aviralbhat
98% of India's startups account for less than 25% of the total value created. Unicorns, which are 0.05% of India's startups account for 30% of the total value created. Very few founders have very big outcomes, most founders have very small outcomes.



Edward Luttwak @ELuttwak
More on fanciful China war scenarios. What is the first thing that happens? The end of China imports by sea, stopped at source, or at Straits, or in high seas. Stocks yes but soon enough it will be back to rice, sorghum and cabbage. Was there in 1976 saw pre-trade China, hungry.

DP Singh@MajDPSingh
How many of you are still for Bharat Ratna to FM SHF Manekshaw, MC? He was commissioned into 12th FF (Pak army now) fought WW2 for British empire & earned Military Cross. What a slave he was or was he mercenary as well? Thinking face Huh. Angry face Zipper-mouth face. Shall we forget his past as he won us 71?



Suaad Al@SuaadS

Yes we are in war country but have beautiful areas like Hadramout, Yemen.



Mani Sudhanshu@Mani
Passionate Rail enthusiasts, fans excited abt 50 years of B'bay Rajdhani! Trains started in 1969 (1st: Delhi-HWH), revolutionary then, but today almost the same travel time. If railwaymen loved IR as much as such fans, would we not improve it? Sleeper version of Train 18, anyone?

Arun Bothra@arunbothra
Social media has brought democracy of ideas. Only a few had chance to express themselves during TV-Newspapers age. Now everyone is free to express. But it also has pitfalls. Someone will always come up with an atrocious & unacceptable comment. Can it be really controlled?

FIRE DRILL



Fire brigade and police personnel conduct a fire drill for public awareness, in Kolkata, Saturday.

Assembly polls in JK after delimitation: Shah

Statehood to be restored once situation normal

Jammu, Jan 22 (PTI):

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held after the completion of the ongoing delimitation process and statehood will be restored once the situation in the union territory becomes normal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

Virtually releasing India's first "District Good Governance Index", he said Jammu and Kashmir is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and multi-pronged efforts are being made for the all-round development of the union territory.

"As far as the democratic process is concerned, the delimitation process has started. After its completion, we will hold the (assembly) elections.

"Some people have said many things, but I want to tell you that I had given assurance in Parliament that the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored. Once the situation in Jammu and Kashmir becomes normal, the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored," he said.

Shah said some people want to create confusion in the minds of the people of the valley and he wants to request everyone not to fall

into their trap. He said democracy has reached the lowest level of society after the implementation of the panchayati raj system and that is why some people are worried.

He said Jammu and Kashmir can be developed only through democracy, and people can be happy and youths can get jobs also through democracy.

"But to sustain democracy, peace is necessary in Jammu and Kashmir. I want to appeal to the youths of Jammu and Kashmir not to get instigated by the statements of vested interests. I want to tell the youths to have faith in Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, have faith in the Jammu and Kashmir administration," he said. Shah said some people are spreading lies for their narrow political interests.

"I want to appeal to everyone, especially the youths to ask these people some questions. Those who are saying that the valley's land will be usurped, they should be asked whose land has been taken away so far. By spreading such lies, they are trying to put a barrier in the development of Jammu and Kashmir."

"Those who were saying that violence will increase, they should be asked whether violence

has gone up or reduced. They had said no investment will come, but the fact is that already Rs 12,000 crore investment has come. Tourists arrivals have also gone up and Jammu and Kashmir is marching towards development," he said.

Shah said many changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir under the initiative of the local administration and the guidance of the prime minister. "I want to tell everyone, especially youths, youths of the valley, to give attention towards development and be part of the development process," he said.

RECORD IN INDIA '60 pc MLAs in Goa switched parties in last five years'

Panaji, Jan 22 (PTI): As many as 24 legislators in Goa, which is 60 per cent of the total strength of the 40-member state Assembly, have switched parties in the last five years, a report by an organisation has said. The Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) said in its report that with this, Goa has set a unique record, which is "unparalleled" in the history of Indian democracy. Assembly polls in Goa will be held on February 14. "In the five year tenure of the current Assembly (2017-2022), as many as 24 MLAs have changed their parties, which is 60 per cent of the total strength of the House.

Majority of parents in Maharashtra unwilling to send children to school

From Jan 24

Mumbai, Jan 22 (PTI):

About 62 per cent of surveyed parents in Maharashtra are unwilling to send their children to school from January 24, amid the state government's decision to allow reopening of schools from Monday.

The findings were based on a survey conducted by online community platform LocalCircle across tier-I, tier-II/III and tier-IV cities of the state that received 4,976 responses.

Of the total, 67 per cent



A worker sanitizes a classroom at a school ahead of its reopening, in Mumbai, Saturday.

respondents were men and the remaining 33 per cent women, the survey showed. Immediately after

the onset of the Omicron-led third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maharashtra government

had on January 8 ordered closure of all schools and colleges in the state till February 15 to contain the spread of the virus.

However, on January 20, the state education minister, contrary to earlier decision, announced that schools in the state for 1st-12th standard will reopen from January 24.

While the BMC has allowed schools to reopen in Mumbai, the Maharashtra government has allowed local bodies to take the decision on reopening schools after assessing the COVID-19 situation in their respective areas.

Atmosphere of violence prevails in country: Digvijaya

Bhopal, Jan 22 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh on Saturday said an atmosphere of violence and hatred was being fostered in the country to target a section of society.

The Rajya Sabha MP, while speaking at a discussion on 'Journalism and Burning Issue' organised by Central India Press Club here, also claimed politicians should have tolerance and thick skins in a democracy, as it helped them to scale new heights.

Many a times an instance is given that when Partition was taking place

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru went in the midst of people and an old woman grabbed him by his collar and asked what she had got out of Independence. Nehruji replied what you have got is that you had held the prime minister by his collar. This democracy is missing nowadays," he said. Taking a swipe at the ruling dispensation, without taking names, and the prevailing times, Singh said. "Leave aside the collar, even if you say something from far off, people get upset. Sedition cases can be registered because you have become

a threat to the nation."

He said stand up comedians were now being seen as dangers to the nation, apparently a reference to some of them getting booked in the recent past, and asked how democracy would continue to be nurtured if politicians didn't have the strength to withstand criticism.

"An atmosphere of violence and hatred targeting a particular group is fascism's game plan. Identify an enemy and once your enemy is identified then declare him as anti-national and then anti-nationalism becomes nationalism of the day," he said.

World Bank approves Rs 1000 cr loan to WB Govt

To help people get gov't services

Kolkata, Jan 22 (PTI):

The World Bank has approved a loan of around Rs 1,000 crore to the West Bengal government primarily to support its effort to help the poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services," the statement read.

The loan under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation will strengthen the capability of this state to expand coverage and access to social assistance and targeted service for poor and vulnerable groups, it said.

Tram to mark Netaji's birth anniversary flagged off



A tram decorated with flowers and photographs of Netaji runs on a city street on the eve of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Kolkata, Saturday.

Kolkata, Jan 22 (PTI):

TMC MLA Madan Mitra on Saturday flagged off a tram here themed on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, calling it a "befitting" response to the Centre's rejection of West Bengal's Republic Day tableau that had the same theme.

Hitting back, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said Mitra's comments showed that the TMC was looking to reap political dividends from every project of the state government. The single-bogey tram was flagged off by Mitra, the chairman of West Bengal

Transport Corp Ltd, at the Gariahat depot in south Kolkata. The tram, named 'Balaka', has books on Bose and showcases posters and photos of the icon. It has been also been decked up with the Tricolor.

"This is Bengal's befitting response to New Delhi in the wake of the insult to the state and its people. Whenever New Delhi humiliates Bengal, we will give a strong response. Don't underestimate Bengal," Mitra said. The tram will ply for five days between Gariahat and Esplanade, he added. The BJP said Mitra is not even taken seriously by his party, TMC.

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