

CENTRAL Chronicle

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75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



आप सभी प्रदेशवासियों को
गणतंत्र दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



श्री मिथिलेश स्वर्णकार
अध्यक्ष, क्रेडा



1
सौर सुजला योजनांतर्गत
लाख



सोलर सिंचाई पंप की
सफलता पूर्वक स्थापना

विनीत:

छत्तीसगढ़ सोलर बिज़नेस वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन
रायपुर (छ.ग.)

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| संरक्षक
• कँवलजीत सिंह खुराना
• राजेश अग्रवाल | अध्यक्ष
जयकिशन बजाज | उपाध्यक्ष
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विवेक आडिल | कोषाध्यक्ष
हरिनारायण गुप्ता |
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छत्तीसगढ़ शासन के सौर सुजला योजना से पंप लगावो, अपन बंजर जमीन खेत ला उपजाऊं बनावो...

Discussion on 'Ch'garh State Electric Vehicle Policy' held

Every possible support will be provided to the establish the electric vehicle park and its manufacturing units

More charging stations will be set up as per the requirement

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, 24 Jan: Transport Minister Shri Mohammad Akbar said that in view of the existing global problem of air pollution, there is a dire need to promote the use of electric vehicles. Chhattisgarh Government is committed to provide every possible support to the mission of promoting electric vehicles and solar energy in Chhattisgarh. Transport Minister Mr. Akbar was addressing the officials regarding the formulation of Chhattisgarh State Electric Policy in the meet-

ing of the Inter-departmental Committee held under the aegis of the Transport Department at his residence office in Shankar Nagar, Raipur today.

In his address to the meeting, Transport Minister Akbar said that as per the vision of Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel, we are determined to make Chhattisgarh an 'Electric Vehicle Hub' and a pollution-free state. Keeping in view the demand for sustainable energy and the need to reduce air pollution, the use of solar energy is being reflected upon as the main option. Most vehicles in Chhattisgarh run on petrol and diesel, and to meet this huge demand of fuel, we depend on other countries and the increasing fuel prices affect the entire economy. Under these circumstances, electric vehicles have emerged as a good alternative. For this, every possible initiative is being taken to promote use and circulation

of electric vehicle in Chhattisgarh.

Regarding the formulation of Chhattisgarh State Electric Vehicle Policy, Transport Minister Shri Akbar said that it is also necessary to build electric vehicle parks and charging stations for systematic running and charging of electric vehicles in the state. Some urban bodies and companies have set up their own charging stations and there is a need to set up more such stations for the convenience of people. Solar energy is the best option for Chhattisgarh, because of the state's geographical location, hence the solar charging stations can be set up in the state for charging the vehicles run on solar energy.

He said that Chhattisgarh Government is providing various facilities to encourage the use of electric vehicles, which includes motor vehicle tax exemption on e-carts and e-rickshaws for five years, loan for battery operated e-

rickshaws which is provided by Chhattisgarh State Entrepreneur, Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation. Government of Chhattisgarh has implemented Nirman Shramik E-Rickshaw Sahayata Yojana, under which Chhattisgarh Unorganized Workers State Social Security Board provides Rs 50 thousand as a lump sum grant. Electric vehicles are also exempted from the permits under section 66 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. On this occasion Principal Secretary Forest and Industries Mr. Manoj Pingua, Secretary Transport Mr. S. Prakash, Commissioner Transport Mr. Dipanshu Kabra, Assistant Transport Commissioner Mr. Shailabh Sahu, Leapdraft Consultant Mr. Nitin Singla and the officials of Industries, Urban Administration, Nava Raipur Development Authority, CREDA etc. and other concerned departments were also present.

Two arrested under Excise Act

Raipur: Two persons have been arrested under Excise Act from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, identified as Kamal Singh Markandey was arrested by Kharora police from Chedia Road after he was nabbed carrying 100 bottles of country liquor. The accused was later booked under Section 34-2 of Excise Act. The other one, identified as Shukla Jogi from Urla after he was nabbed carrying 19 bottles of country liquor. The accused was later booked under Section 34-1 of Excise Act.

FULL-DRESS REHEARSAL



A full-dress rehearsal was held for R-Day parade at the main local police ground for the final R-Day programme on Jan 26.

BJP to stage demo near Anupam Garden today

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 24: With the objective to register protest over burning of "Neki Ki Diwar" near Anupam Garden recently, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would stage a day-long dharna on Tuesday near Anupam Garden.

According to the information received, former Minister and BJP spokesperson Rajesh Munat, BJP Raipur President Shrichand Sundrani, Leader of Opposition in Raipur Municipal Corporation Meenal Choubey, former RMC Speaker Prafull Vishwakarma would be present during the demonstration.

BJP Corporators too would join the protest on Tuesday. It is notable that the principal opposition BJP had warned the RMC administration and police administration to take prompt action against the miscreants who have burned the "Neki Ki Diwar" which was constructed by the previous regime.

Through the above demonstration, the former Minister Rajesh Munat once again wants to get the people united in his Raipur West constituency. With no appropriate action on the burning of the prominent spot, the Raipur West MLA and Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay is on target of the opposition BJP.

BJP demands termination of Daharia from Cabinet



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 24: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday launched attack on the Minister for Urban Administration Dr Shiv Daharia for his behaviour with the people from his Legislative Assembly segment Aarang when they had approached him for redressal of the grievances related to the region.

Addressing a joint press conference, the former MLA Navin Markandey and BJP Spokesperson Sanjay Shrivastava termed the behaviour of Minister Daharia to be unacceptable.

BJP sought resignation from the Minister Daharia apart from action against those who have been involved in manhandling of the people with him. BJP leaders stated that his action would not be tolerated in the democratic state.

Former MLA Markandey said that instead of taking steps to solve the grievances of people, the Minister is resorting to abusing methods with his associates. He added that the insult of people who have voted Congress to power, would not be accepted and is an insult to the trust of people. Meanwhile, the former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh through his twitter handle, termed the behaviour of Minister Daharia to be the true face of Congress and stated that the ruling party has been exposed with their approach to serve the people.

Rare open heart surgery to remove tumour from beating heart

Perhaps the first case in Ch'garh

HOD Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery Dr Krishnakant Sahu and team perform this operation

Raipur, Jan 24: Doctors in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial Hospital, affiliated to Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College Raipur have infused a new life in a 30-year-old youth by successfully performing a rare open heart surgery to remove tumour from beating heart. The patient had a complaint of breathlessness for the last four months and he was coughing up blood for the last 2



months. This open heart surgery was performed to remove tumour from right atrium of the patient said Dr Krishnakant Sahu, Head of Department of Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgery. According to him this is a case of Eustachian valve tumour which is very rare.

This young man had gone to various hospitals for treatment but was not

getting relief. In the meantime on the advice of someone, he consulted Dr Krishnakant Sahu, Heart, Chest and Vascular Surgeon of Ambedkar Hospital. After investigation, it was found that the disease was not in the lungs but in the heart.

It was also confirmed in the investigation that the patient has a large tumor with size of 4X4 cm in the

right atrium which was affecting heart's pumping and valve mechanism. Usually such lumps that are located inside the heart raise risk of paralysis, Dr Sahu said. Had this open heart surgery not performed immediately this condition of the patient would have been fatal within next few days, he said. Talking to the reporters Dr Sahu said that this operation was performed through a special technique called beating heart open heart surgery. Normally the patient is given support of heart lung machine in open heart surgery in which the heart chamber is opened. With this, cardioplegia solution is used to stop the heart and then heart chamber is opened. The heart-lung machine

was used to remove the tumor of the right atrium. But due to the position of the tumor in the right chamber of the heart the operation was carried out without stopping the heart. This special technique is called 'removal of right atrium tumour on beating heart open heart surgery'. The patient is now ready to go back home with recovery after six days. The team which carried out this rare surgery comprised surgeons-Dr Krishnakant Sahu and Dr Nishant Chandel, cardiac anaesthetist-Dr Tanya Chouda, perfusionists-Chandan and Digeshwar, nursing staff-Rajendra Kumar Sahu, Narendra Markam, Chouvaram and Munesh and technicians-Bhupendra and Harish.

BoM's net profit jumps 110.70% to Rs 325 cr

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 24: Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Thursday reported a 110.70% y-o-y rise in its net profit at Rs 325 crore during the October-December quarter. A S Rajeev, Managing Director and CEO, BOM attributed this growth in profit to higher net interest income, growth in all business segments including retail, agriculture and MSME loans and an improvement in the asset quality.



on December 31, 2020. Net NPA fell to 1.24% from 2.59% in the comparable period last year. The bank's provision coverage ratio has gone up to 93.77% from 89.55% in December 2020.

The December quarter operating profit rose by 28.12% to 1,162 crore. The aim was to reach 1,500-crore quarterly profit next year, Rajeev said.

The Bank is planning to raise funds for its expansion plans, Rajeev said. The bank would raise between 500 and 750 crore Tier I capital through the QIP route by February 15, 2022, Rajeev said.

They would also look at raising another 1,000 crore in the first quarter of FY23, he said. BoM had raised 1,000 crore in October 2021 through a

Tier II bond issue to Life Insurance Corporation. In July 2021, the bank has raised Rs 403 crore capital through QIP at 23.70 per share.

For the first time, BOM's total business had crossed 3 lakh crore mark to reach 3,15,620 crore making its entry into the mid-size bank segment, Rajeev said.

Deposits grew by 15.21% y-o-y to Rs 1,86,614 crore while advances during the quarter, while advances grew by 22.98% y-o-y to +1,29,006 crore. The bank's CRAR stands at 14.85% and does not include the profits for this year and the 1,073-crore Covid provisions. The bank was also making 250-crore profit from sale of priority sector lending certificates.

Fraud cheats Rs 36 lakh from firm owner

Raipur, Jan 24: In a bizarre instance of fraud registered in Telibandha police station, a fraud has reportedly duped the complainant of Rs 36 lakh by running away with the amount of sale amount for last 2 years. According to police, complainant Vinod Kumar Verma is owner M/s. Siria Infrastructure Company. Verma had in year 2020 has given the power of attorney to accused Ashok Jan for doing all the business in his favour. While the power of attorney legally transferred, the accused forged the power of attorney and duped the complainant of Rs 36 lakh by not selling him the goods purchased.

Police meanwhile have registered an offence under Section 430, 409, 120 B IPC and further investigation is now underway.

CM Baghel to hoist the flag in Jagdalpur on R-Day

● **Assembly Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant will hoist the national flag at Korea District Headquarters**

Raipur, Jan 24: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will unfurl the national flag at Jagdalpur, Bastar district headquarters on January 26 on the occasion of the upcoming Republic Day. Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Speaker Dr. Charandas Mahant will hoist the flag at Koriya district headquarters. The state government has released the list of chief guests to hoist the national flag in the district headquarters on Republic Day. Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu to hoist the flag at Mahasamund, Health

Minister T.S. Singhdeo at Kawardha, Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey at Rajnandgaon, Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar at Durg, School Education Minister Dr. Premsai Singh Tekam at Korba, Industries and Commerce Minister, Kawasi Lakhma at Dantewada, Food Minister, Amarjit Bhagat at Gariaband, Revenue Minister Jai Singh Agarwal at Gorela, Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahria at Ambikapur, Women and Child Development Minister Mrs Anila Bhedia, Kanker, Higher Education Minister Umesh Patel will hoist the flag at Balodabazar and Public Health Engineering Minister Guru Rudra Kumar at Mungeli. On

Republic Day, the Deputy Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha, Manoj Singh Mandavi will unfurl the flag at Raigarh, Parliamentary Secretary Gurudayal Singh Banjare at Balod, Parliamentary Secretary Vikas Upadhyay at Bilaspur, Parliamentary Secretary, Chandradev Rai at Janjgir, Parliamentary Secretary Chintamani Maharaj at Jashpur and Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Sori to hoist National Flag at Kondagaon. MLA Mr. Brihaspat Singh at Surajpur, MLA Mrs. Anita Sharma at Dhantari, MLA Mrs. Mamta Chandrakar at Bemetara, MLA Mr. Vinay Jaiswal at Bahrampur, MLA Mr. Chandan Kashyap at Sukma, MLA Mr. Santram Netam at Narayanpur and MLA Mr. Vikram Mandavi will hoist the flag at Bijapur.

CM greets people of the state on National Tourism Day

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 24: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has greeted people of the state on the occasion of National Tourism Day on January 25. In his congratulatory message, Mr. Baghel said that tourism is an important part of the economy. Tourism industry not only provides people an opportunity to learn about the local cultural, geographical, natural, historical sites, but also opens new avenues of liveli-

hood for thousands of families. This is the reason why state government is working on an action plan to promote tourism in the state by developing its ancient heritage.

Baghel said that the tourism sector of Chhattisgarh with its rich archaeological heritage and natural diversities, is establishing its identity at national level.

Archaeological evidence of the coexistence of Shaiva, Vaishnava, Buddhist and Jain sects can be found in Sirpur

Sitabengra cave in Ramgarh of Sarguja, oldest theater, Chitrakot in Bastar, waterfalls of Tirathgarh, Kutumsar caves, and many such places of archaeological, religious and tourism significance are located in Chhattisgarh. Champaran has special religious significance as the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi. Places where Lord Shri Ram visited during his exile in the holy land of Chhattisgarh are being developed as Ram Van Gaman Path.

Chamber's delegation met CM to legalize shops operating in non-commercial areas

Raipur, Jan 24: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Amar Parwani, General Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Executive President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Aggarwal said that, on January 24, 2022, a delegation of the Chamber under the chairmanship of Chamber President, Amar Parwani, made a request to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to legalize the shops running in posh, residential and non-commercial areas. Chamber State President, Amar Parwani told the Chief Minister that the business class is overwhelmed by the important steps taken by you in this difficult time in the interest of traders. The public and business class of the

state are benefiting from the welfare schemes launched by the government for the benefit of all sections. Mr. Parwani informed that there has been a continuous expansion of the population as well as the area in the city, so the needs of the people have also increased and shops/commercial establishments have opened in the residential areas as per the requirement of the goods, as a result of which shops in residential areas have been opened.

In almost every district of Chhattisgarh, in large number of residential colonies, small and big shops are running in the mohallas, through which, apart from providing the necessities to the people around, more than 10 lakh people are also getting employment in the state. And

along with the receipt of revenue from the shops to the government, the GDP contribution of Chhattisgarh is also growing. Parwani further said that the ban imposed by the Chief Minister on the registry of small plots has been removed, due to which the people of the state have got a lot of relief and the government is also getting revenue. Parwani requested that shops / business establishments operating in residential areas, mohallas should be legalized by the government under the regularization scheme. This scheme of regularization of shops/commercial establishments built in residential colonies, mohallas and bringing relaxation in the rules of land use and construction, will be a great gift from to the business class. Parwani

requested that these shops/commercial establishments opened in residential colonies and mohallas should be recognized as valid from the Chhattisgarh government, for this, the government should facilitate regularization in the minimum fee rate so that the government receives revenue as well as traders, and become stress free too. Raipur West MLA Vikas Upadhyay was specially present on this occasion. Chamber State President Amar Parwani, Working President Rajendra Jaggi, Manmohan Aggarwal, Secretary Nilesh Mundhra, Shankar Bajaj, Jitendra Golda Jain, Lokesh Sahu, Rakesh (Janak) Wadhvani, Jayant Mohta were prominently present in the delegation.

Bakery burgled

Raipur: Unidentified burglars on the intervening night of Jan 22-23 by breaking open the shops shutter lock. Owner Irfan Memon came to know about the burglary when he arrived to open it for the day. Further entering inside he found that cash drawer containing Rs 8500 and a laptop computer, all totaling to Rs 19000 were missing. Tikrapara police, meanwhile, have registered an offence under Section 457, 380 IPC against unidentified burglar and further investigation is now underway.



BRIEF



A security personnel stands in front of the Red Fort ahead of Republic Day 2022, in New Delhi, Monday.

Paddy

New Delhi: The Centre has procured 606.19 lakh tonne of paddy in the ongoing 2021-22 marketing season so far, with maximum quantities being purchased from Punjab, the Union Food Ministry said on Monday. "Till now, about 77 lakh farmers have been benefited with the minimum support price (MSP) value of Rs 1,18,812.56 crore," the ministry said in a statement.

Dismissed

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, who has been booked under the NDPS Act. Majithia's counsel Ashrdeep Singh Cheema said the court of Justice Lisa Gill dismissed the anticipatory bail plea. Cheema said, the high court was requested to extend the interim protection for seven days for moving the Supreme Court. However, the counsel said the detailed order is awaited.

Booked

Indore: A man was booked for allegedly forcing a 25-year-old married woman to convert and marry him after blackmailing her with objectionable photographs, a police official said on Monday. Asif Yousuf Sheikh, a resident of Mhow town near here, had clicked the victim's photographs without her knowledge and was threatening to circulate them if she did not convert to Islam and marry him, the official said.

Seized

Mumbai: The Anti Narcotics Cell of Mumbai Crime Branch arrested three people in two raids and seized ganja and mephedrone from them, an official said on Monday. The raids were conducted on Sunday by the Kandivali and Ghatkopar units of the ANC, he added.

Jail term

Bulandshahr: A special POCSO court here on Monday sentenced two men to 20 years of imprisonment each for raping a girl, some six years ago. The Additional District Judge of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Court - 2 had earlier held Praveen and Pushendra, residents of Surkharu village under Jahangirabad police station limits, guilty of raping a minor whose village comes under Ahmadgarh police station limits, in 2015.

Weather
High 27 Low 10

MARKET
NIFTY 17,149.10
SENSEX 57,491.51

BULLION
GOLD 48,418
SILVER 63,850

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

'Priority to empower girl child in Govt's development initiatives'

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

On the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said immense priority is accorded to empowering the girl child in every development initiative undertaken by his government, and asserted that the focus is on ensuring dignity as well as opportunities to her.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) awardees, through video conferencing, in New Delhi, Monday.

India celebrates the National Girl Child Day, an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, every year on January 24

"National Girl Child Day is an occasion to reiterate our commitment and further strengthen ongoing efforts to empower the girl child," Prime Minister Modi said. "It is also a day to celebrate the exemplary accomplishments of the girl child in different fields," he said in a tweet. "In every development initiative undertaken by our Government, we accord immense priority to empowering the girl child and strengthening our Nari Shakti," Modi said.

Our focus is on ensuring dignity as well as opportunities to the girl child, he said in another tweet. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said on National Girl Child Day, appreciate a #BetiBharatKi and encourage her by celebrating her achievements. "Kind, fierce, determined, confident, passionate and so on ... This is how I describe my daughters who are the reason for immense pride, joy and laughter in our household. On National Girl Child Day, appreciate a #BetiBharatKi and encourage her by celebrating her achievements, Irani

MAJOR SUCCESS

Two secret tunnels by Pak detected: BSF

Six intruders killed in 2021

Jammu, Jan 24 (PTI):

The Border Security Force (BSF) troops neutralized six intruders and apprehended three while trying to infiltrate through the India-Pakistan border last year, officials said on Monday. It also seized 17 weapons, over 900 rounds of ammunition, 30 explosive devices and over 38 kg of narcotics in 2021, they said. The BSF has relentlessly carried out anti-tunnel drives along the International Border, during which it detected two tunnels and made a huge

dent in the infiltration attempts of militants from Pakistan, they said. As much as 38.160 kg of narcotics, four AK-47 rifles, seven AK-47 magazines, 339 rounds of AK ammunition, 13 pistols, 32 pistol magazines, 371 pistol ammunition, 13 grenades, 233 other ammunition, 16 metres of cordtex wire (a kind of detonating wire), a wireless set, six mobile sets, a radio receiver, 13 detonators, 15 detonator fuses and four stickey mobs were among the recoveries made by the BSF along the International Border, the officials said. The troops also neutralized a Pakistani man who was trying to smuggle a consignment of narcotics from Kathua border. About 27.25 kg of drugs was seized from his possession, they said. The BSF troops also seized about 10.93 kg of narcotics from Akhnour along with fake Indian currency with a face value of Rs 2,75,000, they said. BSF Inspector General D K Boora said last year has been 'achievement oriented' with detection of tunnels and seizure of huge cache of arms, ammunition and narcotics. "The aim of the anti-national elements to spread disharmony by carrying out nefarious activities stands thwarted. The BSF is fully prepared and has augmented its resources to rise up to the challenges in 2022," he said.

DEMONSTRATION OF SKILLS



Paika martial artists demonstrate their skills as they pay tribute to Paika Bidroha leader Bakshi Jagabandhu on his death anniversary, during a protest demanding the 1st War of Independence tag for Paika Bidroha, in Bhubaneswar, Monday.

7-month-old baby diagnosed with rare genetic disorder

Only 13 in world suffer from same disorder

Bangaluru, Jan 24 (PTI):

A seven-month-old baby from Bengaluru has been diagnosed with 'BENTA' disease, an extremely rare primary immunodeficiency disorder, that is said to have affected only 13 others in the world. Only hope for survival is a blood stem cell transplant, according to DKMS BMST Foundation India, a Bengaluru-based blood stem cell registry, that is coordinating the search for a matching donor for him. Sharing her thoughts, Vijayendra's mother Rekha said: Being a moth-

er, I feel devastated to see my son going through so much pain and the only way he can survive is a stem cell transplant from a matching donor". "It will only take five minutes of your time to sign up online, and register with this simple process of filling a web form and submitting your cheek swab sample to help my baby survive this rare disease," she said. Due to the minimal therapeutic intervention available for BENTA disease, the treatment given to Vijayendra is experimental and is based on his reactions to previous treatments, the Foundation said in a statement on Monday.

About the disease

'BENTA' disease, an extremely rare primary immunodeficiency disorder, that is said to have affected only 13 others in the world. Only hope for survival is a blood stem cell transplant, according to DKMS BMST Foundation India, a Bengaluru-based blood stem cell registry, that is coordinating the search for a matching donor for him.

Calls on youngsters to support 'Vocal for Local'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged youngsters to support the 'Vocal for Local' campaign just as they had taken forward the cleanliness campaign in the country and asserted that the youth are at the centre of all policies being framed by his government. During an online interaction with the recipients of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, Modi also talked about the unveiling of the hologram statue of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose at the India Gate and said the "biggest inspiration we get from Netaji is - duty and nation first". "Taking inspiration from Netaji, you have to proceed on your path of duty for the country," the prime minister said.

courage her by celebrating her achievements. Educate, Encourage, Empower! Today is the day to renew our commitment towards providing equal opportunities to our girls. On National Girl Child Day, as we celebrate accomplishments of our daughters, we pledge to bridge the gender divide to build an inclusive & equal society, Irani said in another tweet.

'BJP playing religious card to get votes in UP elections'

Raipur, Jan 24:

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday accused the BJP of garnering votes in the name of religion and caste to come to power, and claimed the saffron party was doing the same in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. Talking to reporters at Swami Vivekanand Airport in Raipur before leaving for Uttarakhand, which will also go to polls next month, Baghel accused the central BJP-led government of wanting to take control over states through proposed amendments to the IAS (Cadre) Rules-1954. Baghel is the Congress's senior observer for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, scheduled to be



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel with Congress leader Harish Rawat and Uttarakhand Congress President Ganesh Godiyal, addresses a press conference in Dehradun, Monday.

held in multiple phases over the next two months. To a query on Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray's comments targeting the BJP on Sunday, Baghel said, The BJP has indulged in dividing people on religious lines to get elected to power. It did the same

Naxal killed in encounter with police

Narayanpur, Jan 24:

About the incident

A Naxal was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Narayanpur district on Monday, a senior police official said. The gunfight took place at around 1.30 am near a bridge in a forest, located about six km from Bharanda police station, when a team of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on a search operation. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxal and a muzzle loading gun were recovered from the spot. Besides, a huge cache of Maoist-related items was also seized from the encounter site, Jaiswal said. After the exchange of fire stopped, the body of a Naxal and a muzzle loading gun were recovered from the spot, he said. Besides, a huge cache of Maoist-related items was also seized from the encounter site, Jaiswal said, adding that the dead rebel was yet to be

identified. Search operation was underway in the area, he said. With this action, six Naxals have been killed in four separate encounters between the rebels and security forces in the state's Bastar region in the last one week.

BJP-AGP alliance sweeps polls

Guwahati, Jan 24 (PTI):

The ruling BJP-AGP alliance retained the Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council by winning 17 out of 22 seats, the Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) said on Monday. In an official release, the ASEC said the counting of votes passed peacefully during the day and BJP has bagged 14 constituencies, while its ally Asom Gana Parishad won three seats. The opposition Congress could pocket only four seats, while one went to an Independent candidate, it added. The Council, spread across five districts with headquarters in Titabar, is presently under the control of the BJP, led by Chief Executive Member Kumud Chandra Kachari, who won from the Baruaian constituency.

PUNJAB SEAT SHARING

BJP to contest on 65 seats, PLC on 37, SAD (Sanyukt) on 15

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

The BJP in Punjab will contest on 65 assembly seats, the Punjab Lok Congress on 37 seats and the SAD (Sanyukt) on 17 seats, BJP chief JP Nadda said on Monday as he announced the seat sharing agreement between his party and its allies for the February 20 state polls. Hailing Punjab as a "leader", especially in defence and food security of the country, he said, "Today Punjab needs special attention, it needs a double engine government and a bet-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and Punjab Lok Congress President Captain Amarinder Singh during a meeting ahead of Punjab polls 2022, in New Delhi, Monday.

ter coordination between the Centre and the state." Nadda announced the seat sharing agreement at a press conference here at the BJP headquarters in the presence of Punjab Lok Congress supreme Amarinder Singh and Shirromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

Woman, son, nephew dead as tanker hits motorcycle

Janjgir-Champa, Jan 24:

A woman and her minor son and nephew were killed after their motorcycle was hit by a tanker in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district on Monday, police said. The accident took place in Shivrinarayan police station area when the victims were heading to Ringni village of the district from Malhar town in neighbouring Bilaspur, a local police official said. Janjgir-Champa, located around 200 kilometres away from capital Raipur, is a neighbouring district of Korba. "The tanker rammed into the motorcycle near Rahaud petrol pump, killing Kirti Bhaina (40), her son Parmeshwar (12) and her nephew Om Beswar Bhaina (25), on the spot. After the accident, some people blocked the road in protest were pacified by local authorities," he said. A was registered and the truck was seized, while efforts were on to nab the driver, the official informed.

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National Girl Child Day observed to empower the daughters and raise legal awareness

Bhilai, Jan 24:

Under the directions of District and Sessions Judge Rajesh Srivastava (President, District Legal Services Authority, Durg), the sitting judges of Durg District Court conducted virtual conferences on the occasion of National Girl Child Day to spread public awareness about inequities that girls face in the society. The virtual events were organised in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Education. The prime reason for celebrating National Girl Child Day is to make people aware of daughters in the society, rights of the girl child, the importance of education for girls, health or nutri-

tion, etc. Till the last few decades, there was a practice of child marriage in the society. Girls were forced to marry at a young age. But now many laws have been made against this social ill.

Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the marriage of a man below the age of 21 years or a woman below the age of 18 years has been kept in the category of child marriage. Child marriage has been made a punishable offense under this Act. Also, an adult man who performs a child marriage or performs a child marriage shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to One Lakh rupees, or with both, but



no woman shall be punished with imprisonment. There is also a provision to annul the marriage of a minor child under this Act. Child marriage is a vivid example of the evil spread to the roots of society, gender inequality and discrimination.

Today the daughters of the country have a share in almost every field, but there was a time when people used to kill daughters in the womb. Since the independence of the country, the Government of India has been striving against discrimination between daughters and sons as well as against the atrocities faced by them. Many schemes and laws were implemented to ensure equal rights to the daughters. For this purpose, the country celebrates National Girl Child Day every year on January 24.

Through the online VC, the Judges spoke about the POC SO law. They said that children are compared with God, then why they face any kind of wrong behavior. Children may have

to go through many problems, both mentally and physically. POC SO e-box has been introduced by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to curb heinous crimes like molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse and pornography of children. If someone touches your children inappropriately, does wrong actions or dirty acts and shows them obscene pictures, then children can register a complaint online themselves without informing anyone. Parents must also tell their children about the POC SO e-box and make them aware. It is the duty of every person to help the children and save the children from being the victim of exploitation and punish the guilty under POC SO Act.

CM Bhupesh Baghel releases 'Vishist Parag'



Bhilai, Jan 24: While reporting the anti-insurgency operations of paramilitary forces in the naxal infested areas of Chhattisgarh, a Bhilai Nagar based Senior Journalist Komal Purohit Dhanesar came to know about some of the astonishing life stories of the brave jawans. She shared the idea of compiling these stories with Deputy Commandant Dr

Tarkeshwar Nath and with his support, she has beautifully penned down and compiled these stories in her book "Vishist Parag" which was formally released on January 23 during a gracious function held at CM House in Raipur.

After releasing the book, Chief Minister appreciated her for revealing the untold stories of our brave soldiers. CM urged her to

continue moving ahead in the literary field and wished her a bright future ahead.

New Press Club of Bhilai Nagar President Bhavana Pandey, Electronic Media Association - Durg General Secretary Hitesh Sharma, Shahin Khan, Sangeeta Mishra, Pragayawatar Sahu and other media persons were present on the occasion.

Couple commits suicide due to financial stress

Bhilai, Jan 24:

In a shocking incident, a couple allegedly committed suicide by hanging at their rented house in Old Bhilai Police Station area of Durg District. The couple was facing financial crisis and were being harassed by the family members. Police have recovered suicide notes at the crime scene. After conducting an inquest, police have sent the bodies for autopsy. Further investigations are on.



On Monday morning, the house owner noticed suspicious silence in the room of Sushil Yadav. Later he knocked on the door and even tried to contact Sushil on mobile phone but they did not reply. Then the house owner informed Sushil's father who reached the spot within a few minutes. He also tried to get the door opened but failed in the attempt.

On information, a police team reached the spot and broke the door to enter the room. They found Sushil and his wife Sunita hanging from the ceiling hook. Police found two different suicide notes at the crime scene. They have mentioned financial problems as well as disputes with the elder brother and sister-in-law. Police have lodged a case and investigations are on.

wife and family of his elder son. Sushil's elder brother Sunil works in the Army and is posted in Siliguri.

According to the suicide note, Sushil was in financial trouble and had dispute with his elder brother. Due to this dispute only, father had asked Sushil and his wife to live separately after

which they had shifted to a rented house. Sushil worked in the SBI's agency which maintains cash in the ATM machines. During the second lockdown, he lost his job due to some reason and since then he was unemployed. He had got a job in some Solar Energy Company and had to join in a couple of days.

RLAMC organises multifarious events on National Girl Child Day



Bhilai, Jan 24:

On Monday, Rajiv Lochan Ayurved Medical College, Chandkhuri, Durg organised multifarious events on the occasion of National Girl Child Day under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava celebrations. Online competitions including poster making, speech, webinar, etc witnessed enthusiastic participation of students. At the outset, the programme

began with offering prayers to Lord Dhanwantari. Extending best wishes and greetings to the students, Principal Dr Vandana Fating spoke about the significance of girls in society and their rights. She emphasised on women empowerment and urged the girls to set an example before the society. College students Devanshi, Pallavi, Shivangi, Yogita, Rajeshwari and Pratibha participated in the



poster making competition while Namita, Geetanjali, Shivangi and Harsha delivered speeches on the relevant topic.

Dr Rumina Khan (Reader, Gynaecology) elaborated on the health issues of the girls and spoke about the simple ways to stay fit and healthy. Dr Neha Verma (Lecturer, Gynaecology) detailed the nutrition of girls as well as the government programmes being run to fight malnutrition

among adolescents and women. The programme was compeered by NSS student Pallavi Sinha. NSS Programme Officer Dr Leeladhar Sahu proposed the vote of thanks. Dr Shivhar Ophle, Dr Sumedha Kulkarni, Guneshwari Sahu, Dr Chandrakant Upadhyaya, Dr Yogeshwar Pandey, Dr Manoj Patel, all the faculty members, intern doctors and more than 100 students attended the virtual event.

RLC (C) issues order to recover Rs 52.47 lakhs from contractor

Bhilai, Jan 24:

In a significant victory of labourers, the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Raipur has issued an order to recover Rs 5247552 from a contractor of Indian Railways in connection with a case of illegal curtailment of wages. Durg Unit of Aam Admi Party has been struggling for the rights of these labourers.



when the labourers received salary in the month of August, they found that the amount was much less than mentioned in their service contract. Later they discovered that the balance amount has been shown as advance to the labourers, which was never paid. When the labourers complained, the railway officials did not take any action. Later the labour-

ers led by AAP leaders made a complaint with GRP after which irregularities to the tune of Rs 26,23,776 in salary disbursement were found in the investigation.

The aggrieved labourers then filed a dispute under the Payment of Wages Act before the Central Labour Commissioner (Central), Raipur. The labourers got relief as the Commission

acknowledged that the contractor has committed fraud of Rs 26,23,776 during July 2018 to May 2019. When the Principal Employer did not deduct the amount from the Security Deposit of the contractor to make payment to the labourers, the labourers again approach the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central). Taking the matter into serious cognizance, RLC (C)

again issued an order for recovery of Rs 2623776 from the contractor and imposed a fine of Rs 2623776.

On Monday, a delegation of aggrieved labourers led by AAP District President Meharban Singh met the District Collector and handed over the RLC(C) order to him. They requested the District Collector to ensure compliance of this order. Collector has issued orders to the tehsildar in this regard. Meharban Singh further informed that there has been an alleged fraud of about Rs 1.5 crores and a case of Rs 84 lakhs is pending in the Labour Department. Meharban Singh, Gudu Soni, Tuka Ram, Sonu Yadav, Omkar, Jitu and others were present.

Nivedita Sharma makes Sri Sankara Vidyalaya proud

Bhilai, Jan 24:

Nivedita Sharma, daughter of Ashok Sharma and Santosh Sharma has brought laurels to her alma mater - Sri Sankara Vidyalaya, Sector - X. She has successfully qualified as Flying Officer in the most prestigious Indian Air Force.

She is under training since January 15, 2022, at Hyderabad.

Nivedita Sharma realised her childhood



dream of serving the nation by clearing the Airforce Common Admission Test.

She was inspired after joining NCC Airwing which also boosted her confidence. She is the first in the family to join the Airforce.

Teachers, Principal, Management and Staff of Sri Sankara Vidyalaya congratulated her on her overwhelming success and conveyed their best wishes to her in all her future endeavours.

BSP sets all time record in saleable steel production



Bhilai, Jan 24:

Bhilai Steel Plant set an all time high in saleable steel production on Monday, January 23, 2022. The Plant recorded best ever production of 19,920 Tonnes of Saleable Steel on January 23, 2022, surpassing the previous best record of 19,404 T on April 30, 2011.



ished steel. Rail & Strl Mill and Universal Rail Mill recorded finished rail production of 1794 T

and 2449 T, respectively. Merchant Mill produced 1571 T of Angle 50 structurals while Wire Rod Mill produced 1410 T of plain wire rods. Bar & Rod Mill recorded production of 2138 T of TMT bare of 10 mm while Plate Mill produced 3156 T of finished Plates.

Semis production included 4456 T of slabs produced by SMS 2, and 2284 T of blooms & 670 T of billets produced by SMS 3.

One Week AICTE-ISTE sponsored refresher program organised at SSTC Bhilai

Bhilai, Jan 24: Department of Information Technology (IT) Shri Shankaracharya Technical Campus, organised AICTE ISTE sponsored 6 days Faculty Development Programme (FDP) (online) on Cyber Security and Autonomy. It was conducted for faculties of AICTE approved institutes of India to enrich their knowledge on the security issues and its implementation in the digital platform. The FDP comprised of 17 sessions conducted with eminent speakers from India and abroad. The technical sessions were conducted by Dr Gaurav Varshney, IIT Jammu, Dr Dhiman Saha IIT Bhilai, Dr Sanjeet K Nayak IIITDM Kancheepuram, Dr Pili Subhakar MNIT Jaipur, Dr Bhaskar Mondal, NIT Patna, Dr Yamuna Prasad IIT Jammu and Damodar Sahu Wipro USA. To Aid Fit India Movement, sessions on stress management



were also conducted by Dr Indrani Kelkar TCS iON Hyderabad. Speakers discussed various Techniques in the implementation of Cyber Security and Cryptography. Importance of Cyber Autonomy and various tools to implement the algorithms were also discussed.

110 participants registered for the FDP, maximum being external from all over the coun-

try. The deliverables will ensure the enrichment of the quality of teaching learning process as well as strengthening research activities in the area of Cyber Security and Autonomy. Col B Venkat Director Faculty Development Cell AICTE and Prof Vijaya Vaidya Executive Secretary ISTE graced the inaugural event by their presence in the Inaugural session. Col B Venkat congratulated the

teaching fraternity for their work of imparting knowledge. Prof Vijaya Vaidya appreciated the wonderful organization of the FDP and specially the selection of eminent speakers from different IITs, NITs and even from outside India. Dr Latika Pinjarkar (Head IT Department) Chief Co-ordinator of the FDP briefed about the objectives and outcomes of this program. Dr Dolley Shukla Cordinator of

Program seamlessly managed the entire program. The entire team contributed to efforts.

Dr Jaspal Bagga Vice Principal SSTC discussed about the significance of upgradation of Faculty in Thrust areas in her address. Dr PB Deshmukh (Director SSTC) appreciated the theme of FDP and discussed about few case studies of related topic in the inaugural session.

Dr Pratapsinh Desai President ISTE New Delhi graced the valedictory session and appreciated the efforts of Department of IT and the institute in organizing the series of faculty development programs successfully. IP Mishra (Chairman, SGES, Bhilai), Jaya Mishra (President, SGES, Bhilai) congratulated the organising committee of the event for successful completion of the entire program.

Interrupted power supply today

Bhilai, Jan 24: Power supply will be interrupted in Khursipara Zone 2 & 3 on January 25, 2022. The power cut will be done from 07:00 hrs to 14:00 hrs. The shutdown will be taken by MSDS for transformer maintenance.

'State Govt policies are being implemented in total'

Konta, Jan 24:

State's minister Kawasi Lakhma, during the virtual meeting of the aspirational district by the Prime Minister said, the achievement of vaccination among the Naxalite activities in Sukma and said that the Prime Minister's appreciation confirms this fact. Under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, the administrative machinery is implementing government policies with honesty and compassion in the state.

Despite being acknowledged, the achievement in the vaccination campaign is only a part of the achievements of the Chhattisgarh govern-

ment. In the last three years, the state government has not only brought public welfare policies and schemes to the ground in every part of the state with sensitivity, but also faith in the policies of the government.

As a result of this, the tribal dominated area with geographically heterogeneous conditions is continuously increasing on the footsteps of development.

In the then BJP government, the tribals were left on their own terms, but under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, all-round development has been taken care of in the tribal areas. Educational activities were started by



opening schools closed for years in the name of Naxalite activities. As a result of the same, the students of class 10th secured first position in the whole of Chhattisgarh in 2020 and brought laurels to the name of Sukma district. Success has been

achieved in reducing the rate by implementing several schemes in the field of malnutrition. Law and order in tribal areas has been strengthened so much that elite persons traveling by helicopter

Construction of roads and culverts in these areas was like a challenge and today the construction of roads and culverts is being done at an uninterrupted pace.

To connect the tribals of these areas with the main stream and to give the benefits of individual oriented government schemes, camps were organized in sensitive and remote areas where thousands of tribal people got ration cards, Kisan credit cards, health cards. To

promote banking activities in tribal dominated areas and to increase the value of forest produce and to empower the women of these areas, Self-help groups have also been formed so that they are becoming self-reliant by getting self-employment.

Kawasi Lakhma said that the appreciation of the Prime Minister will inspire us. The acceptance of the Prime Minister that earlier, where there was only 40 to 50 percent possibility, the achievement of more than 90 percent speaks in reality of the achievements of the state government and the work being done at the lower level with sensitivity.

Chouksey Engineering College celebrates Nat'l Girl Child Day

**Bilaspur, Jan 24:**

Chouksey Engineering College in coordination with The Wisdom Tree Foundation celebrated National Girl Child Day based on the theme "Nanhi Kali" which had various online events such as poetry competition, poster making, fancy dress and slogan competition whose chief guest Dr. Kavita Babbar (Senior

Consultant, Apollo Hospital)

In this competition 220 kids has participated. The winners of poetry competition are Rashmi Sharma (1st) and Aarna Shrivastava along with Ananya Singh (2nd). Navya Goyal (1st) and Pratishta James (2nd) in poster making. Shanvi Gupta (1st) and Advika Joshi (2nd) in slogan competition. Shivanya Agarwal (1st) and P. V.

Varshini (2nd) in Fancy Dress competition.

Dr. Palak Jaiswal (Director and Founder, The Wisdom Tree Foundation) graced the online event with her blessings to the children. The program was organized by Dr. Shubhlakshmi Tiwari (HoD, Civil & President, Women Grievance Cell) with so much enthusiasm and efforts.

Akbar performs Bhoomi Pujan for stage construction

Raipur, Jan 24: State Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment, Law, Legislative and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mr. Mohammad Akbar performed virtual bhoomipujan for ward no.26 of Kawardha city with the sanctioned amount of Rs. 2 lakh. Akbar inquired one-to-one with the corporators Juthel Sahu, Suraj Kaushik, Gopi Koshik, Deepak Burman, Lalla Sahu and Ward 26 corporator Ashwani Kaushik, inquired about their well being.



Minister Akbar also listened to the problems of the ward residents and also directed the Municipal President to make efforts for concrete solutions to solve the problems of the people of the ward. Ward residents put forth their demand for construction of Anganwadi

forest dwellers to youth and women groups. We are making strenuous efforts towards the welfare of all the society and its social upliftment in the state and in the same way we will continue to work for the progress of the society. In this virtual Bhoomipujan program, Municipal Council President Rishi Sharma, Corporator Election Khan, Bhikham Kosale, Mr. Ashok Singh, Mr. Mohit Maheshwari, Mr. Santosh Yadav, Mr. Sunil Sahu, Mr. Uttam Gop, Mr. Sanjay Lanjhi, Mr. Umang Pandey, Aldermen Mr. Daljit Pahuja, Mr. Kaushal Kaushik, Mr. Hresh, Mrs. Duleswari Bai, CMO Mr. Naresh Verma, Mr. Ashwani Kaushik of Ward No. 26, Mr. Juthel Sahu, Mr. Suraj Kaushik, Mr. Gopi Koshik, Mr. Deepak Burman and Mr. Lalla Sahu were specially present.

Various programmes organized under Amrit Mahotsav

■ Participant will be honored on the occasion of R-Day

Bijapur, Jan 24:

The Amrit Mahotsav of Independence is being celebrated under the aegis of NITI Aayog in the district. The theme of Aspirational District Transformation was inaugurated by Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara on 12th January, and the program has been launched among all the officers in the district. This program has been designed keeping in mind the three principles of NITI Aayog collaboration, convergence and competition and in this, essay, debate and painting competition at school level, debate competition at college level, has been organized. Based on the criteria



of NITI Aayog" identification of the best block and 4 best Gram Panchayat of the district will be adjudged. In which district's ITI Bijapur, ITI Bhairamgarh, ITI Usoor, Government New College Bhairamgarh, Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya Bhairamgarh, Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya Bijapur, Swami

Atmanand Vidyalaya Bhopalpatnam these schools and colleges followed the Covid protocol and organized various activities. Along with this, one block and four gram panchayats are to be identified in the district with better success in health, education and water facilities as per the criteria of NITI Aayog.

The cooperation of community NGOs, college youth, panchayat public representatives, and SHGs is being taken to transform Bijapur through the Aspirational District Program of NITI Aayog. This program of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence was organized at the district level by the policy nodal deputy

collector Dr. Hemendra Bhuariya along with District Education Officer Pramod Thakur.

ADC PL Mr. Manshu Shukla and all the teams of Piramal Foundation along with Mr. Sagar Gajbhiye and Mr. Arun Kumar of Bijapur are providing special support in the district for implementation at block level. This program of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence was organized at the district level by the policy nodal deputy collector Dr. Hemendra Bhuariya along with District Education Officer Pramod Thakur. ADC PL Mr. Manshu Shukla and all the teams of Piramal Foundation along with Mr. Sagar Gajbhiye and Mr. Arun Kumar of Bijapur are providing special support in the district for implementation at block level.

Rs. 58 cr sewerage treatment plant built in Balikonta

**Jagdalpur, Jan 24:**

Indravati River will no longer be polluted by domestic water residuals being used by the residents of Jagdalpur. A sewerage treatment plant has been set up at Balikonta adjoining the city at a cost of about Rs 58 crore, which is to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. District Collector Rajat Bansal also took stock of the preparations being made for the launch of this treatment plant. On this occasion,

Rohit Vyas, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat was also present with him. It is noteworthy that about 18 lakh liters of water used by the citizens of the divisional headquarter Jagdalpur gets mixed in Dalpat Sagar and Indravati River. Due to the bacterial population, turbidity and increased pH value present in this water, this water used to pollute the water of Dalpat Sagar and Indravati River. Three drains of Dalpat Sagar, one nala in Mahadev Ghat,

two nallahs behind the center prison, one nala near intake well and two nallahs near Laxmi Narayan and Mandir Raja cemetery, gets mixed into the river. By connecting these 10 drains water will be brought by pipe to the main pumping station at Balikonta sewerage treatment plant. From the main pumping station, this polluted water will be taken to the primary treatment unit by pump for filtering and it will be divided into four parts in the



four basins of the sequencing batch reactor and this entire process of filtration will take a total of 180 minutes, in which air mixing will be done through air blower for 90 minutes and 30 minutes will be stopped for settlement and 60 minutes will be for mud settlement and another 60 minutes for taking pure water to chlorine tank. After releasing the pure water, the liquid sludge will be brought to the centrifuge machine by pipeline and the centrifuge machine will solidify the liquid

sludge which can be used for agriculture and other purposes and the treated water will be released into the Indravati River. This sewerage treatment plant built under the AMRUT scheme can clean 25 lakh liters of water per day. After purification, releasing this water back into the Indravati River will also get rid of the problem of the decrease in the water level of the river, thereby also solving the problem of water requirement for agricultural purpose.

College and schools open even after Corona surge

Rajim, Jan 24:

To control the corona infection, classes are closed in colleges since last January 14, and online education is going on. The duties of professors in colleges are also being done by roster method; similarly, in neighboring district Raipur district, classes are closed in the school college since last 10 days already, but except the colleges in Gariaband district, all government and private schools from nursery class to higher secondary class 12th are teaching children in classrooms.

The interesting thing is that almost 18 year olds i.e. college kids have been vaccinated for both the doses, so the risk is less. Only children of class 10th and 12th have been vaccinated for the first dose recently, and the studies are going



continues offline. Right now the situation has become very scary in all the places. There is more danger and risk especially for the children from nursery to class IX. All the children are sitting in the rooms by wearing only masks for the prescribed time.

People of the region have opined that when colleges, Anganwadi and school colleges in Raipur district are closed, then why schools in Gariaband district have been given exemption. There are 560 girls in the girl's higher

secondary of the city, which has 8 rooms. In all these rooms, somewhere 35 or 40 children have to be accommodated.

Similarly 700 students are studying in Deviya Sampada High School. More than 600 children are also studying in Ram Vishal Pandey Government Boys Higher Secondary School. There is a similar situation in schools in rural areas. Children are being made to sit together due to less room, keeping aside the mandatory Covid protocol.

PANCHAYAT POLLS

BJP couldn't even win a single seat: Zakir Hussain

Konta, Jan 24: The election of Congress candidates unopposed in the by-election of Panchayat in Konta block makes it clear that the BJP and C.P.I have been completely washed off. Because in the by-election held on January 20, in the Konta block (district) area, the victory of 61 Panch and one Janpad Panchayat member of Nagalgunda Janpad member proves that the victory of 14 Congress councilors out of 15 in the election of Nagar Panchayat Konta and 1 B.J.P. The victory was won and the BJP's swoop was cleared. Zakir Hussain - Spokesperson / General Secretary, District Congress Committee, Sukma said that the BJP. The main reason for which the BJP



failed is that despite ruling for 15 years in the state of Chhattisgarh, the area could not be developed, the public has approved. The way minister Kawasi Lakhma is working for the people of the area, he is providing funds in the bodies and panchayats. As a result, the minister is sending roads in the inner area, proper arrangement of drinking water, opening of closed schools, the village whose ration shop is being sent to the same village.

Four vehicles seized illegally transporting minerals

Jagdalpur, Jan 24:

A mineral inspection team under leadership of Collector Rajat Bansal conducted surprise inspection in Gram Chaparguda, Upanpal, Nagarnar and Jagdaura area and seized 4 Hywa vehicles illegally transporting mineral and filed case of illegal excavation and transportation of mineral against the owners. Mineral in-Charge officer Hemant Cherpa informed that in all these four vehicles sand was illegally being transported and added that four loaded tipper vehicles bearing No CG 17 K 5210; CG 17 KH 4003; CG 18 KN 3638, were seized. It is

transporting rich mineral by these vehicle owners, a case under Mineral Act and all the vehicles were seized and sent to police custody.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

(1) E-Tender Notice No.-WRS-R-06 -BOBRN door Date:17.01.2022

Name of the Work:- Reconditioning of BOBRN Wagon Door assembly. Approximate Tender Value: Rs.50,85,262.08 (Rupees fifty lakhs eight five thousand two hundred sixty two and eight paise only) including GST. Quantity and Contractual Period: As per annexure enclosed for a period of 24 (twenty four) months. Earnest Money (Rs.):1,01,700/- (Rs. One lakh one thousand seven hundred only) Cost of Tender Forms(Rs.): Nil. Tender Closing Date and Time: 18/02/2022 at 12:30 hrs. Bidding Start Date: 04/02/2022 Eligibility criteria-can be seen on website.

Manual tender shall not be accepted. The details of the tender are available on website www.irps.gov.in. Dy.CME/Admin/WRS PRR/WRS /VR/134 S.E.C.R.Raipur

Address : Anant Vihar colony Mowa Raipur C.G. Civil Court Raipur C.G. Mo. 93295-41843

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my party Cavin Homes Limited Branch Azad Chowk G.E.Road Rajesh Kumar Jha Son of Shri Harishankar Jha R/o Shri Krishna Vihar Colony Sector -3 Shivnagar Nagar Raipur C.G. applied for loan as in place of his ownership and possessed diverted land (HOUSE) Kharsa No.324, 384/6 54/4 Area 0.006 Hec means 675 Sq. feet Situated at Gaidiyari P.H. 107/49 R/C Raipur Tehsil and District Raipur C.G.

Above plot was purchased earlier from Laxmi Narayan Dewangan Son of Shri Horlal Dewangan R/o Bagdehpura Shanti Chowk Nayapara Rajim and seller Ghanashyam Son of Shri Jeenuram R/o New Luck Tailors Raipur C.G. Executed between 22-12-2004 described in vide Book No A-1 register No 30434 Page No 75 to 86 document No 2645 but the original sale deed has been lost by Rajesh Kumar Jha was during visited Shivnagar Nagar on date 12-1-2022. Which has been reported to P.S.Khamtrai Raipur C.G. on date 12-1-2022.

On the above land /house if any person Bank, Institution, board, authority, corporation etc has any objection regarding the loan given by my party to Rajesh Kumar Jha then he can submit his written objection within 7 day publication of this notice. The objection and refutation made through the news paper will not be acceptable and objection received after the prescribed time period will be treated as false and illegitimate and will not be binding on my party.

So be noticed

Yours Truly
Vishwadiani Pandey
Advocate

Address : Anant Vihar colony Mowa Raipur C.G. Civil Court Raipur C.G. Mo. 93295-41843

Chola Enter a better life

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

POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column (B) below on dates specified in Column (C) to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column (D) below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column (E) herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column (F) in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column (E) below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column (D) along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 (8) of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrowers/ and Loan Account No.	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Details of Property Possessed	Date of Possession
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Loan Account No. XHOELAI0000939271 Borrower- 1. Sunil Nahar 2. Subhash Chand Nahar 3. Amar Chand Nahar 4. Santosh Bai Nahar, Address of all : H. No. 25 Padmanabhpur, Durg-491001.	16.06.2021	₹ 46,69,671.66/- as on 16.06.2021	Senior MIG-25, CGHB, Padmanabhpur, Durg, Measurement Area- 384.80 Sq.m./ 4140 Sq.ft., situated at Mouza CGHB, Padmanabhpur. Durg. NPN Durg Tah. & Dist. Durg (C.G.) and bounded on the North by: Senior MIG-24, South by: Senior MIG-26, East by: Road, West by: Senior MIG-30.	21.01.2022

Date: 24.01.2022, Place: Durg Authorised Officer/ Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited

BRIEF

Proxies

Lucknow: Ten people, including those impersonating candidates, were arrested for allegedly engaging in acts of examination malpractice during the Uttar Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (UPPET) 2021. Proxy candidate, identified as Amarjeet Verma, was arrested from Saket Girls Inter College examination centre. He was appearing in place of aspirant Vivek Kumar. An electronic device has been recovered from him, Police said.

Assaulted

Jaipur: Some people allegedly stopped a group of Dalits returning from a wedding and assaulted them in Alwar district of Rajasthan. Three persons received minor injuries in the scuffle in Malakheda area. The police said the accused allegedly stopped the Dalits returning from a wedding in a vehicle and attacked them. A case has been registered and the matter is being investigated to ascertain the reason for the attack, the police said.

Arrested

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly molesting a PhD student of Jawaharlal Nehru University inside the campus. The accused was drunk at the time of incident and has been identified as Akshay Dolai, they said. A native of West Bengal, Dolai lived with his wife and children in south Delhi's Munirka and worked at a mobile repairing shop at Bikaji Cama Place. The accused was identified and caught.

Spurned

Gorakhpur: A 23-year-old spurned youth attacked a girl with a knife and cut her finger after she refused to marry him. Following the incident in the Chiluatal police station area of Gorakhpur, angry villagers nabbed the youth and started beating him. The police, however, managed to reach the spot in time and rescue the youth from the angry villagers.

Heroin

Jammu: An alleged drug peddler was arrested with six grams of heroin in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. The accused, Jasbir Singh, was noticed moving in a suspicious manner by a police patrolling party near his village at Chak Drab Khan and was stopped for frisking. Singh was on way to the housing colony and his search led to the recovery of contraband from his possession, he said, adding he was booked under NDPS Act.

Underpass

New Delhi: Commuters are likely to breeze through the busy Ashram crossing in south Delhi from March onwards as the construction of an underpass there will be completed by the end of February. According to the Public Works Department (PWD), which is helming the project, nearly 90 per cent of the work has been completed.

EC decision on video vans comes with riders

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):



video van events should not cause inconvenience to the people and should not be a hindrance to smooth flow of traffic.

After allowing use of video vans on Saturday, the Commission had issued instructions to its

chief electoral officers on use of such vehicles for campaigning by parties.

"The video van of the political party should be used to propagate its programme and policies to seek votes. Votes or support for of any particular

candidate should not be solicited," the EC letter to the CEOs read.

However, if the video van is used for seeking votes or support for a candidate, then expenditure of video van should be accounted for by such candidate appropriately. "Expenditure observers to closely monitor this," the letter underlined.

The vans can only be operated between 8 AM and 8 PM and these vehicles cannot be used for rallies and road shows.

The parties are barred to display their campaigning material through these vehicles in market areas or crowded places.

'Shiv Sena's Hindutva merely on paper, not beyond speeches'

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):



Devendra Fadnavis

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's comments on Hindutva, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Monday hit back at former ally Shiv Sena, saying its Hindutva is merely on paper and doesn't go beyond speeches.

Fadnavis said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a Ram temple is being built in Ayodhya. Modi also developed the Kashi Vishwanath temple corridor, the former Maharashtra CM said addressing a press confer-

ence. On the other hand, the Sena (which is in power in Maharashtra) could not even rename Aurangabad as Sambhajnagar, and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. But, Allahabad was renamed as Prayagraj (under the BJP govern-

ment in Uttar Pradesh), while the Sena kept merely mincing words, he said.

The Shiv Sena has time and again referred to Aurangabad a city built by Mughal ruler Aurangzeb as Sambhajnagar after second Maratha king Chhatrapati Sambhaji (the son of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj), and Osmanabad as Dharashiv.

The Sena fell out with the BJP after the 2019 Maharashtra polls and tied-up with the NCP and Congress to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state.

Black ribbon protest by nursing staff over pending ex-gratia

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Scores of nursing staff at various state-run hospitals here on Monday wore black ribbons to register their protest over "pending" ex-gratia from the Delhi government, which was announced by it earlier for eight of their colleagues who have died on Covid duty, their federation said.

Nursing staff at the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash (LNJP) Hospital, GTB Hospital, DDU Hospital, and other Delhi government-run facilities took part in the "peaceful protest" to put forth the demands, said Liladhar Ramchandani, Secretary General, Delhi Nurses Federation (DNF).

"It's been a year since the Delhi government had announced that any doctor, nurse, paramedical staff, sanitation worker, and others who die in line of Covid duty, his or her kin will get a compensation of Rs 1 crore, but eight nursing of-

ficers have died due to Covid, but ex-gratia, as announced is still pending," he said.

There was no immediate response from the city government. In a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on January 20, the DNF had said that it was "very sad that even after a lapse of almost a year, the ex-gratia amount has not yet been paid to the nursing officers".

In the letter, it had also listed the names and hospitals they were working at. While four of them were employed at LNJP Hospital, one each was working at DDU Hospital, GB Pant Hospital, GTB Hospital and one with CDMO, Delhi Health Services.

"Our demand is that it should be paid within seven days, otherwise it will force us to go on agitation or non-cooperation movement," the DNF said in the letter.

Weddings solemnised in front of closed TN temple



Tiruvanthipuram Sri Devanathaswamy, Cuddalore.

Cuddalore, Jan 24 (PTI):

Sunday may have witnessed a Covid-induced lockdown in Tamil Nadu but that did not deter over 90 couples from entering wedlock at a revered Vaishnavite shrine near here on January 23 with the roads outside the Tiruvanthipuram Sri Devanathaswamy Temple playing host to the individuals who tied the knot during the ongoing auspicious Tamil month 'Thai'. As many as 91 weddings

were solemnised by priests on roads in front of the popular temple in this northern coastal district on Sunday, temple Executive Officer A Veerabathiran and the priests' association secretary Rathina Sabapathy, told PTI on Monday. The shrine was closed on Sunday as part of the lockdown restrictions.

Places of worship, among others, are closed in the state on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in view of COVID related

curbs and a shutdown was observed on January 23 as well to tackle the virus spread.

On Sunday, a total of 91 marriages were solemnised on roads abutting the temple, as it was an auspicious 'Muhurthanaal'. A total of 110 registrations were made for conducting weddings at the temple in this small town, located about 12 km from the district headquarters. It is a much sought after temple for conducting marriages, mainly from people in and around Cuddalore as well as other parts of the state.

The weddings were held between 4.30 AM and 11 AM on Sunday in adherence to 'muhurtham' (auspicious time), with the early morning fixtures being known as 'Brahma Muhurtham'.

Traditionally, conducting weddings in this shrine, dedicated to Lord Vishnu is considered by people as auspicious.

To alliance call in Goa: TMC

Kolkata, Jan 24 (PTI):



Pavan Varma

The TMC hit out at Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday for attributing the failure to forge an alliance for the Goa assembly polls to "poaching", calling his remark an attempt to give excuses for the main opposition party's "inexplicable and damaging inability" to respond to a mature and courageous call for greater opposition unity.

The TMC leadership also asked the veteran Congress leader to look at his own party's "inability and failure" to keep its flock together.

"Mr Chidambaram is clutching at straws to ex-

plain somehow his party's inexplicable and damaging inability to respond to TMC's mature and courageous call for greater opposition unity. First, he said that there was no concrete response, he is now saying something different after he was coun-

tered. He should stop giving such excuses," TMC national vice-president Pavan Varma told PTI.

Varma was responding to Chidambaram's comment that the TMC's proposal of a pre-poll alliance for the next month's Goa assembly elections was not considered as Congress leaders were "poached" by Mamata Banerjee's party in the state.

Last week, Varma had said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had reached out to Congress president Sonia Gandhi with an offer for an alliance in Goa but failed to elicit a positive response.

Varma said he had also

met Chidambaram in New Delhi on December 24 with an alliance proposal.

Echoing Varma, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said the Congress should stop blaming others if its own leaders lose confidence in their leadership.

"If Congress leaders don't have confidence in their leadership and are deserting the party, then they should first fix their problems before blaming others. At least the leaders in Goa have joined TMC, another anti-BJP platform, instead of joining BJP, unlike what happened in states like Madhya Pradesh," he told PTI.

Legislature party-level partnership between BJP, BPF in Assam

Guwahati, Jan 24 (PTI):

The ruling BJP in Assam has forged a partnership with the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) at the legislature party-level though there is no alliance on the ground, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

Addressing a press conference here, Sarma said the BJP and BPF will have floor coordination in the assembly and work together inside the House.

"The BJP legislature party has admitted BPF legislature party as a partner in the assembly," he said. However, there is no alliance at the "political level" with the BPF, he added. BPF was a member of the first BJP-led government in the state before exiting the ruling coalition ahead of the 2021 assembly elections and contesting the polls as a part of the Congress-led opposi-

tion grand alliance.

"The BPF had fought the assembly elections with Congress and AIUDE, but they later left that alliance. They have been performing an impartial role in the assembly," Sarma said.

"In view of the political atmosphere and to ensure wider consensus for the ruling coalition in the House, BPF will have floor coordination with us," he said.

The chief minister said he has taken consent of the UPPL before making the arrangement with the BPF.

The UPPL and BPF are political rivals in the Bodoland Territorial Region, where the two parties are based.

The BPF has three MLAs, and they will join the 62 legislators of BJP, nine of AGP and seven of UPPL on the treasury benches.

BJP leadership to decide on Karnataka cabinet: Bommai



Basavaraj Bommai

Bengaluru, Jan 24 (PTI):

With pressure mounting on him to expand or rejig his cabinet, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday indicated that he is waiting for the BJP leadership's consent on going ahead with the exercise, and was also trying to bring it to their notice. As his government completes six months in office on January 28, the Chief Minister said, he will hold a press conference and bring out a booklet, listing out the achievements of his administration. "Four (ministerial) berths are vacant,

Bommai brushed it aside alleged 'secret meetings'

so naturally there will be aspirations. There is nothing wrong with it. Party leadership is aware of when and how to do it, I'm also bringing it to leadership's notice. Whenever the leadership calls me for discussion, I will give them all the details," Bommai said in response to a question regarding cabinet expansion on reshuffle.

Speaking to reporters in response to a question on appointments to boards and corporations, he said, it has to be discussed in the party and any action in this regard will be based on what transpires there. "It depends on the party, the party will sit and decide on the basis of which further action will be taken, there is no such proposal regarding appointments for board and corporations before me as the Chief Minister for now.

Family members pitch in for contestants in Punjab

Chandigarh, Jan 24 (PTI):

Fifteen-year-old Aekom Warring maybe too young for politics but not for canvassing and is busy making a connect with voters in her father Amarinder Singh Raja Warring's Gidderbaha Assembly constituency in Punjab.

With folded hands, Aekom Warring goes from house-to-house greeting voters and asking them to elect her father for the development work carried out by him in the last 10 years.

Amarinder Singh Raja Warring is eyeing a third term in a row from Gidderbaha Assembly seat in Punjab's Muktsar district. He was earlier elected from this seat in 2012 and 2017. Family members of several other contestants in the fray for the February 20 Punjab Assembly polls are going door-to-door to garner support for the coming elections. With a ban on big gatherings and rallies by

the Election Commission of India in view of COVID-19, family members of candidates are meeting voters personally to ensure they vote for their contestants.

Aekom Warring exudes confidence that voters of Gidderbaha will vote for her father for the unprecedented development works carried out during the last 10 years and make him victorious again. My father did what he promised to the people of the area, she says while adding that she is getting a very good response from the people. An elderly man in a village even praises Amarinder Singh Raja Warring for ensuring water to his fields when the teenager visits his house. A few days back Aekom Warring inaugurated the poll office of her father in Gidderbaha. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring became the transport minister when Charanjit Singh Channi took over the chief minister last September.

BRIEF

Follow

Cape Town: Khalila Camacho Ali, former wife of legendary world boxing champion Muhammad Ali, has advised Muslim women to follow the principles laid down in Islam for how they should live and work, and not what she called 'Hislam' which is a prejudiced point of view. Ali was speaking at an event hosted by the Spiritual Chords Foundation, a charitable and social welfare organisation with Muslim ethos run in Johannesburg.

Probe

Jerusalem: Israel's Cabinet approved the launch of a state investigation into an affair involving the purchase of submarines and other warships from Germany, a case that has embroiled close confidants of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The graft scandal surrounds a possible conflict of interest and bribery involving a 2 billion purchase of naval vessels from Thyssenkrupp that implicated some of Netanyahu's associates.

Ship

Miami: A cruise ship that was supposed to dock in Miami sailed to the Bahamas instead after a US judge granted an order to seize the vessel as part of a lawsuit over unpaid fuel. Cruise trackers show Crystal Symphony currently docked in the Bahamian island of Bimini. Passengers told news outlets that they'll be taken by ferry to a South Florida port. It was unclear how many passengers were aboard, with claim of 700 people.

Debate

Oslo: A Taliban delegation led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi started three days of talks in Oslo with Western officials and Afghan civil society representatives amid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The closed-door meetings were taking place at a hotel in the snow-capped mountains above Norwegian capital and are first time since the Taliban took over that their representatives have held.

Splits

Tegucigalpa: Honduran President-elect Xiomara Castro faced a growing crisis as dueling sessions of the newly elected Congress elected different sets of leaders, threatening Castro's ability to carry out promised reforms. But a sizable bloc of deputies from her own Liberty and Refoundation party rebelled against her attempt to build a legislative majority by promising leadership of Congress to the allied party of her vice president.

Detains

Dubai: The US Navy announced it seized a boat in the Gulf of Oman carrying fertilizer used to make explosives that was caught last year smuggling weapons to Yemen. The British royal navy said it confiscated 1,041 kilograms of illegal drugs in the same waters.

Crisis in Ukraine is showdown of two world views

● **Sovereignty of Ukraine possible in partnership with Russia**

New York, Jan 24 (AP):

The EU is not following the US in withdrawing its diplomats' families from Ukraine, top European diplomat Josep Borrell says, adding there is no need to "dramatise" the situation while talks with Russia continue. The crisis in Ukraine is hardly going away a showdown of two world views that could upend Europe. It carries echoes of the Cold War and resurrects an idea left over from the 1945 Yalta Conference: that the West should respect a Russian



People speak with a security guard outside the US Embassy in Kyiv on Monday.

sphere of influence in Central and Eastern Europe. Since coming to power in 2000, Russian President Vladimir Putin has worked steadily and systematically to reverse what he views as the humiliating breakup of the Soviet Union 30 years ago. While massing troops along Ukraine's border and

holding war games in Belarus, close to the borders of NATO members Poland and Lithuania, Putin is demanding that Ukraine be permanently barred from exercising its sovereign right to join the Western alliance, and that other NATO actions, such as stationing troops in former Soviet bloc countries, be curtailed. NATO has said the demands are unacceptable and that joining the alliance is a right of any country and does not threaten Russia. Putin's critics argue that what he really fears is not NATO, but the emergence of a democratic, prospering Ukraine that could offer an alternative to Putin's increasingly autocratic rule that Russians might find appealing. Russia's present demands are based on Putin's long sense of grievance and his rejection of Ukraine and Belarus as truly separate, sovereign countries, rather than as part of a much older Russian linguistic and Orthodox motherland that should be joined with, or at least friendly toward, Moscow.

Faculty members oppose inclusion of caste in CSU policy

● **Scheduled Castes is official term for Dalits as per Constitution of India**

Washington, Jan 24 (PTI):

Over 80 faculty members of the prestigious California State University have opposed a recent announcement of the university to include caste in its non-discriminatory policy as a "misguided overreach", saying it will actually cause discrimination by unconsciously singling out Hindu faculty of Indian and South Asian descent.

According to the anti-discrimination policy recently announced by the California State University (CSU), caste-oppressed students will now be able to report anti-Dalit bias, which many students claim is a regular occurrence. According to the Dalit civil rights organisation Equity Labs, Dalit people are those who are at the bottom of India's social caste system, one that is estimated to be



California State University, Los Angeles in US.

thousands of years old, and who face discrimination and violence. They used to be called untouchables in India. Discrimination because of one's caste status has been outlawed in India, but the practice continues, even in South Asian diasporas in the US, it said. In a blistering letter to the CSU Board of Trustees opposing the move to include caste in its non-discriminatory policy, the faculty members have written that the new policy would unfairly target a minority community for policing and disparate treatment. Adding caste as a specific and separate protected category would apply only

to the faculty of Indian and South Asian descent, they said. "The addition of caste is a misguided overreach given the existence of comprehensive policies that already protect against various forms of discrimination" said Praveen Sinha, professor of accountancy at CSU, Long Beach. "We cannot but oppose the unique risk that CSU's move puts on us as they add a category that is only associated with people of Indian descent such as myself and thousands of other faculty and students in the CSU system. It is going to create divisions where they simply do not exist," he added.

Indian-origin NYPD officer hailed hero for shooting gunman

New York, Jan 24 (PTI):

A 27-year-old Indian-origin super rookie NYPD officer is being hailed as a hero after he shot a convicted felon who killed his colleague and seriously injured another while investigating a domestic-violence call in the Harlem neighbourhood of New York City.

Sumit Sulan is still struggling to deal with Friday's deadly ambush and his brain is stuck on the situation, his mother told the New York Post newspaper.

According to the police, 47-year-old crazed career criminal Lawshawn McNeil on Friday ambushed the three policemen — Sulan, Jason Rivera, 22 and Wilbert Mora, 27, who visited the Harlem address to investigate a domestic-violence call. McNeil opened fire and killed Rivera while critically injuring Mora. Officer

Sulan fired back at McNeil and wounded him during the deadly mayhem. Accused McNeil, a convicted felon, is currently hospitalised in a critical condition. Speaking to the Post, the Indian-origin NYPD officer's mother Dalvir Sulan, 60, said that her son is shaken and cannot get what happened out of his head. I'm proud. Everyone says he did good, she said. I feel bad for the other (officer). He died. We really feel bad. We're sorry. We're hurt. The other guy is critical and we're hurt, she said from her Queens home. A law-enforcement source described Sulan as a super rookie, noting that he has been on the job since April and at Harlem's 32nd Precinct for only two months. He did a great job, Sulan's mother said of her son, who emigrated from India about 15 years ago.

Aussie PM loses control of Chinese owned WeChat account

Canberra, Jan 24 (AP):

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has lost control of his Chinese-owned social media platform WeChat account and a lawmaker on Monday accused China's leaders of political interference. Morrison's 76,000 WeChat followers were notified his page had been renamed Australian Chinese new life earlier this month and his photograph had been removed, Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported. The changes were made without the government's knowledge, the report said.

Morrison's office declined to comment on the report. Joint Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Chair James Paterson



Scott Morrison

said WeChat has not replied to an Australian government request that the prime minister's account be restored.

Paterson accused the Chinese Communist Party of censoring the prime minister with Australia's elections due by May. Paterson, who is a member of Morrison's conservative Liberal Party, called on all lawmakers to boycott the platform, which is owned by Chinese technology giant Tencent. What the Chinese government has done by shutting down an Australian account is foreign interference in an election year, Paterson said.

Paterson said it was concerning that 1.2 million Chinese Australians

who use the platform couldn't access news from the prime minister, but could still see criticisms of the government made by opposition leader Anthony Albanese. Fergus Ryan, an Australian Strategic Policy Institute Chinese social media expert, tweeted that Morrison was one of at least a dozen Australian politicians who use WeChat accounts now registered to a Chinese citizen. Liberal Party lawmaker and former diplo-

mat Dave Sharma said the interference was likely sanctioned by the Chinese government.

Sharma said Morrison used WeChat to connect with Australia's Chinese diaspora. But ultimately social media are controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

More likely than not it was state-sanctioned and it shows the attitude towards free speech and freedom of expression that comes out of Beijing, Sharma said.

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No. S&C/13/15/NIT/2022/03 Date: 25.01.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

Tender forms (Technical Bid & Price Bid) can be downloaded from FCI website www.fci.gov.in and www.gem.gov.in between 10:00 hrs on 25.01.2022 to 16:00 hrs on 14.02.2022 and can be submitted through GeM portal up to 14.02.2022 by 16:00 hrs. Technical bid of the tenders shall be opened online on 14.02.2022, at 16:30 hrs onwards at FCI, Regional Office, Kapa, Raipur in presence of the Bidders who wish to be present.

Note:-

- Details Terms & Condition is available in FCI website (www.fci.gov.in) and GeM portal website (www.gem.gov.in).
- Bidders who wish to participate in the present NIT, it is requested to get registered in the GeM portal.
- A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 02.02.2022 at, FCI, RO, Raipur at 03:30 PM.

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

ANNIVERSARY OF COUP



Men carry a washing machine on a motorcycle during a march marking the anniversary of the coup that overthrew dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez in 1958, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Sri Lanka hopeful of obtaining further Indian aid

Colombo, Jan 24 (PTI):

The Sri Lankan government has said that there is a possibility of it obtaining a further USD 1.5 billion in aid from India, weeks after New Delhi announced a billion-dollar assistance package and a balance of payment support to the island nation which is facing a severe foreign exchange crisis.

Foreign Minister GL Peiris told reporters in the central town of Kandy that further Indian assistance was forthcoming. (Finance minister) Basil Rajapaksa, as a result of his talks held in (New) Delhi with madam (India's Finance Minister) Nirmala Sitharaman and foreign minister Dr S Jaishankar, was able to obtain a relief package.

Similarly, there is a possibility of us obtaining a further 1.5 billion dollars, Peiris said.

He also said that the



GL Peiris

option of approaching the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was still on the table. The doors are still open, we are a member of that organisation (IMF), Peiris said, adding that the government, however, would be wary of tough conditions being imposed.

The minister claimed that despite the foreign exchange crisis, Sri Lanka has not hit the rock bottom yet.

The government is rejecting the option of going for an economic bailout package from the

IMF. The Cabinet is also divided on the issue of approaching the US-based global financial institution. Earlier this month, India announced a USD 400 million currency swap facility to improve Sri Lanka's gross reserves and deferred the Asian Currency Union settlement of USD 515 million which the local analysts said stopped the bleeding of reserves.

New Delhi also announced a billion-dollar assistance package in addition to other balance of payment support for the island nation.

The billion-dollar loan credit facility is to be used to avert a food crisis while allowing for the import of items and medicines. Additionally, there will be USD 500 million for importing fuel from India.

Sri Lanka is currently facing a severe foreign exchange crisis with falling reserves.

The country is grap-

pling 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.

The state fuel entity has stopped oil supplies as the electricity board has large unpaid bills. The only refinery was recently shut as it was unable to pay dollars for crude imports.

The Sri Lankan government is also in talks with China to overcome the current financial crisis.

During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Colombo earlier this month, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa requested Beijing's assistance in mitigating his country's deepening forex crisis and spiralling external debt, saying it will help Colombo to the best of its capacity.

South Korea to expand testing, shorten quarantine for omicron

Seoul, Jan 24 (AP):

South Korea will expand rapid testing and shorten quarantines as it reshapes its pandemic response to deal with a faster-than-expected surge in coronavirus infections driven by the highly contagious omicron variant. The plans were announced as the country reported 7,513 new cases of infection on Monday, the third straight day exceeding 7,000 and nearing a one-day high of 7,848 reported

in December, when a devastating delta-driven spread spiked hospitalisations and deaths.

Omicron has now replaced delta as South Korea's most dominant variant after accounting for more than 50% of the infections reported last week, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency.

Some experts say the country could be seeing daily jumps of over 10,000 later this week.

Transmissions could further accelerate over the Lunar New Year's holiday break from this weekend through Tuesday, a period when millions of people usually travel around the country to meet relatives.

Starting Wednesday, the quarantine for people who test positive after being fully vaccinated will be reduced from the current 10 days to seven days, KDCA Commissioner Jeong Eun-kyeong said during a briefing.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खंड, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

:: ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::

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

सिस्टम क्रमांक	निविदा क्र. दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख)	घरोहर राशि
91123	233 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम डिंडोल	72.78	55000
91131	234 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम घोरामार	68.59	52000.00
91136	235 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम मंडराय (स्कूलपारा, नवाडीह, डिपरापारा)	26.96	21000
91151	236 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम मनपहरी में	117.75	88500.00
91153	237 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड कोटा के ग्राम धुमा (साहूदेवरी, झोंकापारा, चिहड़ापारा, महागाईपारा) में	88.96	67000.00
91154	238 / 21.01.2022	बिलासपुर जिले के विकासखण्ड तखतपुर के ग्राम सकरी में	68.76	52000.00

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छ.ग. शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 28.01.2022 सुबह 10.30 बजे से उपलब्ध है तथा दिनांक 14.02.2022 समय 17.30 तक बीड डाले जा सकते हैं एवं अन्य विवरण कार्यालयीन समय पर लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खंड बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में देखे जा सकते हैं।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी खंड
बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

G-670961



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Avoiding disaster

The proportion of Covid deaths in active cases during the current surge is significantly lower, helped by large-scale vaccination coverage, than the previous second wave, the ICMR said underlining the role of vaccines in protecting against severe illness and deaths due to COVID-19. Comparing key indices during the second and third COVID-19 surge, officials said an average of 380 deaths (7-day moving average) were recorded on January 20 when the total active caseload stood at 19.2 lakh with 72 percent adults fully vaccinated, as compared to average of 3,059 deaths on April 30 when active cases stood at 31.7 lakh with merely 2 percent adults fully vaccinated. Do not sit back thinking the Omicron COVID-19 variant is milder and the virus will hunt for the "unvaccinated, the old and immunodeficient". Vaccination has spared India of unnecessary deaths, but herd immunity has not been achieved till over 90 percent of all population, not just adults get vaccinated. Mass vaccination only way to avoid disaster. One must not wait for herd immunity to set in as that process will take time and a lot of people may die, Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had pointed out. The variants that have risen to prominence have done so because they contain advantageous mutations for the coronavirus. We are essentially witnessing Darwinian evolution, survival of the fittest in real time. Variants with beneficial mutations, such as those providing escape from antibodies or shorter incubation periods, are rapidly displacing their less fit predecessors. The most important thing to remember about virus evolution is that natural selection favours variants that spread better than other variants. The great news is that more pathogenic or dangerous variants are less likely to spread well. This is because individuals who feel particularly sick tend to naturally self-isolate, reducing the virus's chance to transmit. Also, good news is that, because infection with one variant provides partial immunity to others, omicron's rapid spread has brought on delta's swift decline. At this point it is expected that all new variants that spread widely so-called variants of concern will continue to be highly transmissible. As millions more people test positive for COVID-19 amid the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the World Health Organization (WHO) cautioned that it was "wishful thinking" to believe that the latest variant of concern would be the last to emerge in the pandemic, or work as one that could take the world to a significant level of protection against the virus. The virus is evolving and we are giving it plenty of opportunity to circulate and the more the virus circulates, the more opportunity it has to change. So unfortunately, it will not be the last variant you hear us discuss. It will not be the last variant of concern. One of the weakest components of India's pandemic response has been science communication. Indian policymakers need to learn from the past and deal with the current situation with timely and transparent communication and information shared through trusted sources. For citizens, even though the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is low, it is very important to keep following appropriate behaviours and specially avoid large gatherings.

US defence posture

US has deployed aircraft carrier groups in Indo-Pacific despite tensions around Ukraine. China's air force flew 39 warplanes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone, the largest daily number since October last year. Sometime back, US President Joe Biden had released a Global Posture Review (GPR) to ensure the footprint of American service members worldwide is correctly sized and supports the strategy. The Pentagon says that the review will help it "best allocate military forces in pursuit of our national interests" and it has sought to focus efforts on moving away from the Middle East and focusing on countering China. India can leverage this posture for containing China. The review calls for improving US military infrastructure in Guam and Australia and focusing more on QUAD and AUKUS agreements. Major details on other potential moves have not been made public, as the report has mostly been classified. The GPR calls for additional cooperation with allies and partners across the region to advance initiatives that contribute to regional stability and deter potential military aggression from China and threats from North Korea. As China continues to modernize, it is critical that the US military adapt its posture to enhance survivability and improve deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region. There are steps the Department of Defence can take now to achieve some quick wins. These include properly resourcing the long-awaited infrastructure upgrades to existing bases and facilities in the Indo-Pacific in the next budget. Such improvements are needed to implement the operational concepts developed to counter China, many of which are predicated on distribution and dispersal. The Pentagon should also leverage its revised deployment process to curb deployments to the Middle East, particularly for heavy ground forces that may be of greater value in Europe, to recoup readiness and end a ceaseless deployment cycle. Moreover, in a distinct break with Trump-era approaches, Washington must build on its ongoing consultations with allies and partners to make the necessary long-term changes to posture. Engaging these partners quickly and honestly will help manage expectations, a missing component of the review. The release of the National Defence Strategy will provide an opportunity to get the Department of Defence and US allies and partners singing from the same hymn sheet to make sizable posture changes. In theory, the strategy will clarify the priority threats and missions and reinforce China as the main challenge. Within the department, the strategy provides a mechanism to plan, program, and resource base improvements, future facilities, new capabilities, and force deployments. Additionally, the public messaging of these priorities will communicate the rationale behind desired posture adjustments to allies and partners. This is deeply important since the Defence Department cannot simply wave a magic wand to quickly reposition forces around the globe. US needs cooperation from countries like India to achieve its defence objectives.

SYMBOLISING FUNCTIONING REPUBLIC

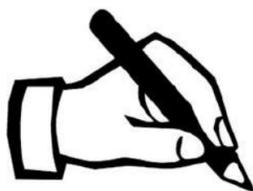


Artist Baljinder Singh displays model of 'Election Stamp' made with 18400 toothpicks on the eve of the National Voters' Day in Amritsar, Punjab. It symbolises constitutional functioning in the republic.

Season of defections in political parties



DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The New Year 2022 added another season to the existing winter, summer and that season is the 'season of political defections'. The announcement of election schedule saw a plethora of defections from one party to another party though only the defections in crucial state of Uttar Pradesh and specifically from BJP to other parties are highlighted in the media. There is no state and no political party which are not experiencing defections. The spread of defection is comparable to the highly infectious Omicron. Like the unpredictable virus the defective bug is also infesting any one across the political spectrum. There is no prior warning but all of a sudden the leaders are found out 'positive' for defection.

The change of heart regarding the political party or philosophy which was rare, prior to the emergence of Indira Gandhi on the political scene, has picked up the momentum and now in 2022 assembly election time the pace of defections. Not that the defections has not happened in 2021. What is happening in Uttar Pradesh is an extension of what has happened in Bengal last year. But the pace of defections peaked despite knowing that defections into BJP from TMC has not helped BJP to dethrone Mamata Banerjee. Neither was

those earlier defections are ideologically oriented nor the current defections. It is not ideology which is prompting the defections but the personal agenda which is the overriding factor in defections. Money and power are the only criterion for joining the new party in any defection and none including the defectors can't deny that.

All those prominent defectors like Swami Prasad Mourya and Dara Singh Chouhan from UP are the past masters of defection. These whether cocks of political atmosphere are early detectors of the blowing of the political wind direction and like migrant birds which use the seasonal winds these leaders also migrate to the winning party. Earlier in 2017 they saw victory wind towards BJP and shifted from BSP to the BJP. Now they thought the wind is blowing towards SP and they spread their wings to fly in that direction. More or less at the same time two MLAs one sitting MLA from Congress, Naresh Saini a former MLA from SP defected to BJP. Any politician is capable of defending his action on any issue so for these seasoned MLAs explaining the reasons for their defections is quite easy. After being in ministry for almost 5 years both Mourya and Chouhan has found defective treatment of BC and SCs by the

BJP under Yogi Adityanadh and resigned from the power and party. No leader can be denied his freedom to change the party or shift his ideology. The current crop of defectors are enjoying that constitutionally given freedom. Even the anti-defection Law prohibits the defection while holding the post that to if done alone but condones the mass defections. So even legally speaking the current defectors can't be consider as doing the unholy act, since there is no party which has not encouraged defections. Earlier observers used to see the BJP and Communist parties as ideologically oriented and are different from other parties. But over the years BJP has dropped its proclamation of 'party with a difference' and started behaving like any other party. With the recent defections of some CPM leaders to Congress and leaders joining the CPM in Kerala the ideological party tag was self-robbed.

We heard a lot from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Aravind Kejriwal on the value based politics. He abhorred political corruption and promised value based politics. He captured Delhi twice on the slogan of different kind of politics from established BJP and Congress. Now in his ambition of expanding his influence into other states what the AAP chief is doing to depend on the defectors. In Goa out of the first list of ten AAP candidates at least 4 are defectors from BJP and may be there defectors from other parties in the next list. So what is the message the parties are giving to the voter? In the elections the party labels may change but the candidates remain the same. It is going to happen in all the states as the assurance of the ticket is the prime condition for defections besides hidden benefits offered

to the defectors. For the parties the ultimate goal is power and are least worried about the means. What the present BJP is doing was what the Congress did when Indira Gandhi was at the helm. The winning party in Haryana then went straight to Indira Gandhi and joined her part to remain in power and retain position. Such was the power of Indira that that it was very difficult for any non-Congress party to remain in power even after getting the people's mandate. Now it is BJP's turn to take the chance for forming the government even though its majority is in doubt. It happened in Karnataka in 2018 and then in Maharashtra in 2019. Even its Goa government formation in 2017 was based the strength of defections it engineered.

Now in early 2022 the BJP is facing the effect of desertions from its own camp in UP. No doubt that it is gaining some defectors from other parties both in UP and Uttarakhand but the perception is that SP is the exhibiting the surge in attracting the defectors. It is difficult to expect ethics from the defectors. Once made up his mind to shift the allegiance the defector will easily find faults in the party in which he was and virtues in the party which is offering him better feature. The current defectors in UP had the past history of changing parties. Some of the defectors are proudly claiming that whichever party to which they defected gained power in elections and they are confident of extension of that in 2022.

With defections the parties may gain, the leaders may get the benefits for changing the sides but ultimately the voter is the loser.

(Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inspiration

The captor of three people at US state of Texas has been said to be supporter of 'Tableeghi jamat' and inspired by its ideology. Calling 'Tableeghi Jamat' a gateway to terrorism Saudi Arab has imposed the ban on it. The step excited the speculation that other countries too might follow the suit against this organization came into being 100 years ago in India. However, the past of the organization is full of amazing instances of its followers and leaders' fanciful behaviours demonstrated in the fads. During that period even there grew a sizeable number of the people inside the country who were crazy after the videos flooding from the Pakistan. The videos were based on the jokes on corona meant to undermine the gravity of lockdown. And one Pakistan-based clergy of Tableeghi mindset, meanwhile, gained much limelight through his rabidly funny statement, which he made in full public gathering, country's head being present there. He held that it is due to receding clothes and increasing immodesty among the women and falsehood, deceit and dishonesty among the people at large that caused the disease, and not corona virus at all! It is, however, said that later the corona infested the same clergy. Meanwhile, a cabinet minister of Pakistan unleashed the sensation through his tweet that the corona was spread by none other than Tableeghi jamaties. And it was when the head of Tableeghi jamat of Faisalabad subsequently died of corona that the Imran's government grew alert. To trace the rest of tableegies the government had to go to the extent of deputing the country's spy organization, ISI. Obviously the action should have been taken against the jamaties long back. But, taking them for 'non-conformists', the way the hatred and violence against Shias, Ahmadiyas, Hajras Muslims have begun to be rationalized religiously, the open minded section of the Muslim community seem to have learnt that now time has come to act against this tendency.

Rajesh Pathak, via email

Big earner

Horticulture can be a big earner for the northeastern region of the country but due to lack of finance and facilities it is far from snatching that 'fruit basket of the country title' from Himachal. Northeast grows all sorts of fruits like apples, pineapples, bananas, oranges, litchis, kiwis, strawberries, plums but Northeast has not achieved a stage where it can export fruits to other parts of the country and for that matter to abroad too. It grows fruits only enough to feed its population. Our prime minister in a press meet a few years back said that Northeast can be the next fruit basket of the country but has not done enough on that front. Only according GI tags to fruits will not suffice. I would like to urge the prime minister of the country to invest in horticulture in the northeast, it would be an investment which would bear sweet fruits for ages.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur



WHAT THEY TWEET!



Aditya Raj@AdityaRajKaul
Mcleodganj somehow has been the best. I have returned to the place 6/7 times. It's so peaceful and love the Tibetans in exile. Tourists mainly from Delhi/Punjab etc. sadly litter the place. But then also Ladakh, Pahalgam, Manali, Kasauli, Sattal among others.

D.Muthukrishnan@dmuthuk
In 2019, you @nsitharaman promised to revisit the then hike in individual tax rates when India celebrate 75th year of independence. Please consider capping tax rate for individuals at 30%. Dividends need to be taxed at a low rate. Indexation is required for capital gains.



SP Kalantri@spkalantri
Most of us find it really hard to understand the research published in prestigious journals. The sentences are long and convoluted; and the language, jargon-heavy. Isn't it too much for GPs to read, understand, and apply the clinical trial results to the individual patients?

Vinod Kumar@vkjha62
Caste & communal politics both perpetuate inequity. Value of people is axiomatic & it does not come from gilding of Bhakti. No society with ideal conscience has or will or should accept it. Whatever is wrongly settled must be resettled. Both are morally repugnant.



Brig RS Pathania@rspathania
It's good to be back home after a week even if it was in heavenly Virajpet.



Michael Appleton@michelapleton
The World Test Championship final was played by two countries with a good number of IPL players. Those two sides also beat England in home series this last English summer. Is England unique in its Test team being contaminated by the IPL?

Harsh Goenka@hngoenka
Krishna made a beautiful flute of the bamboo. Gopis were jealous and asked the flute 'Why does the Lord treasure you so much?' Bamboo answered 'I have surrendered myself totally to Him. He does what and when he wants with me.' So trust Him completely. You will enjoy the music!

BRIEF

Electric vehicles



New Delhi: ReadyAssist on Monday said it plans to invest around Rs 60 crore in one year to augment electric vehicles infrastructure in the country. CEO Vimal Singh said biggest consumer barrier when it comes to opting for an EV is range anxiety and performance.

Critical

New Delhi: Ather Energy on Monday said subsidies and tax rebates under the FAME II policy are extremely important to push for faster adoption of electric vehicles. The company, which markets two scooters - Ather 450X and the Ather 450 Plus - also sought the inclusion of electric vehicle (EV) startups under the PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) scheme.

Partners



Mumbai: Zyp Electric has collaborated with online EV components and spare parts provider Mechanifyspares for maintenance and repair of its EVs. CEO Akash Gupta said there's a massive gap in last mile EV challenges like maintenance or repairs.

Draft

New Delhi: Dreamfolks Services Ltd has filed preliminary prospectus with capital markets regulator Sebi to mop-up funds through an initial share-sale. The initial public offer (IPO) is entirely an offer-for-sale of up to 21,814,200 equity shares by promoters - Liberatha Peter Kallat, Dinesh Nagpal and Mukesh Yadav, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP).

Raises



New Delhi: Ola Electric on Monday said it has raised about Rs 1,490.5 crore valuing the electric vehicle maker at USD 5 billion. CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said I thank the investors and look forward to partnering with them to take EV revolution from India to the world.

Plans

New Delhi: Tata Technologies on Monday said it will hire over 3,000 innovators over the next 12 months under its expanded talent acquisition programme.

Electronics production in India to reach USD 300 bn by 2026

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Electronics production in the country is expected to reach USD 300 billion by 2026, industry body ICEA said in a report on Monday.

The National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019 had set a target of achieving a turnover of USD 400 billion by 2025.

However, the industry will be unable to achieve the target set by NPE 2019, due to the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the sector, the report said, adding that "the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it unforeseen and unprecedented challenges."

"The NPE 2019 targets for electronics production in 2025-26 at USD 300 billion appears to be more realistic considering the disruption on account of COVID-19 in the past 18 months which has been aggravated with the new variants of the COVID-19 virus such as Omicron," the report said.

The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo while sharing the details of the report said that the reduced target still



Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajeev Chandrashekar releasing Volume-2 of Vision Document for electronics manufacturing and exports in New Delhi on Monday.

Will not interfere in mobile manufacturing

New Delhi: Communications and IT Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw on Monday said the telecom department will not interfere in matters related to mobile phone manufacturing.

Create skilling programme

New Delhi: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on Monday suggested the electronics industry to come together and create a skilling programme for the sector to deal with the shortage of skilled manpower.

aims for a 400 per cent increase from the current level, which will require significant and persistent policy initiatives and efforts to

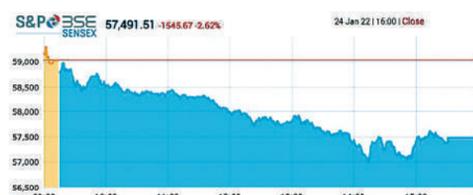
create a conducive electronics manufacturing ecosystem. He said that the government should not make any changes in the tax tariff

without consultation with the industry. Mohindroo said that there is a need to encourage domestic champions. The report estimates demand for electronic products in India may stand at approximately USD 180 billion by 2025-26.

"If India is able to achieve the manufacturing target of USD 300 billion for electronics, the domestic market demand may be met in full by such manufacturing. This necessitates that USD 120 billion worth of electronic products would be required to be exported to the global market," the report said.

Sensex nosedives 1,546 pts, Nifty tanks below 17,200

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):



Equity benchmark Sensex on Monday crashed about 1,546 points to sink below the 58,000-level due to across-the-board selloff tracking sluggish global markets.

Besides, persistent foreign capital outflows continued to affect the market sentiment, traders said.

Benchmark indices started the session on a weaker note and the selling intensified during afternoon trade, with almost all sectoral indices ending in the red. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 1,545.87 points or 2.62 per cent

lower at 57,491.51. Similarly, the NSE Nifty slumped 468.05 points or 2.66 per cent to 17,149.10.

All Sensex components ended in the red.

Bajaj Finance was the top loser, shedding around 6 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Reliance Industries

and HCL Tech.

"Indian markets opened negative following mixed Asian market peers as investors look ahead to US Fed meeting and rising geopolitical uncertainty. During the afternoon session, they further sold off as indices fell well below psychologically crucial levels.

Rupee falls 19 paise at 74.62 against USD, gold jumps Rs 255

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):

The rupee on Monday slumped by 19 paise to 74.62 (provisional) against the US dollar at close due to high crude oil prices, forex outflows and heavy losses in domestic equities amid growing geo-political worries.

Forex traders said the strength of the American

currency in the overseas market and weak appetite for riskier assets also dragged down the local unit.

Moreover, market participants are now eyeing the US Fed's January 25-26 meeting for further cues.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 74.43 against the greenback and

witnessed an intra-day high of 74.42 and a low of 74.69 during the session.

The rupee finally settled at 74.62, down 19 paise or 0.26 per cent over its previous close of 74.43.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.12 per cent up at 95.75.

NaBFID to start lending from April-June qtr

To support infra financing up to Rs 1 lakh cr in FY-23

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

The newly-incorporated National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) is preparing to commence business in the April-June quarter and is targeting a financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh crore in its first year of operations.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the 2021-22 Union Budget announced that the government would set up a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to catalyse investment in the fund-starved infrastructure sector. Later, Parliament enacted the National Bank for



Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021 for establishment of the Rs 20,000 crore NaBFID as a DFI. During the April-June quarter, the processing of loans would commence, sources said, adding the institution is targeting loan assistance of a whopping Rs 1 lakh crore in the next financial year.

In addition, the potential bridge financing for the monetisation programme is being looked into, the sources said. This is going to give a massive push to infrastructure projects,

which are part of National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), they added.

Creation of such a huge organisation, right from Budget announcement to the passage of Bill and appointment of board members in less than 10 months, is itself a feat, the sources said, adding that the alacrity with which the legislation was brought in the second leg of the Budget session indicates that ground work was done much in advance.

The DFI has been set up with a view to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing in India, including development of the bonds and derivatives markets necessary for infrastructure financing and to carry on the business of financing infrastructure.

Exporters seek support measures in Budget to boost shipments

Consider extending income tax concessions

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Exporters have demanded support measures, including enhanced allocations for RoDTEP scheme, high import duty on plastic finished goods, setting up of an Indian shipping line and reinstating exemption for duty free import of critical inputs for leather products, in the forthcoming Budget to promote growth of the country's outbound shipments.

They have also suggested fiscal incentives to ad-



dress logistics challenges, and reduction of income tax on partnerships and LLP's to support MSME players.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said that there is a need to encourage large Indian entities to build an Indian shipping line of global repute as it would help reduce dependence on foreign shipping lines. It said that the export

sector is facing major issues due to rising freight cost and its dependence on global shipping companies.

"Overseas marketing is a big challenge for exporters, more so for MSMEs, as it entails a very high cost. We need to bring the Double Tax Deduction Scheme for Internationalizations to allow exporters to deduct against their taxable income... A ceiling of USD 5 lakh may be put under the scheme so that the investment and tax deduction are limited," FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai said.

Mumbai-based exporter and Chairman

Technocraft Industries Sharda Kumar Saraf said that Reimbursement of Duties & Taxes on Export production (RoDTEP) is one of the most important tools to support export marketing, but its present budget of about Rs 40,000 crore, is inadequate.

"We hope the finance minister will take cognizance of this fact and provide a suitable budget for RoDTEP" Saraf said.

Plastics Export Promotion Council of India (Plexconcil) Chairman Arvind Goenka suggested that the import duty on plastic finished goods should be at least 5 per cent higher than polymer raw materials.

India requires 18 GW hydro capacity addition to meet obligation

Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Around 18 GW hydro capacity addition is required to meet the hydro purchase obligation (HPO) norms by 2030 in the country, according to rating agency Icr.

To further the growth of hydro energy segment, the Centre has outlined policy measures over the last two-year period to promote the investments in the segment through notification of HPO norms, long term trajectory for HPOs as well as tariff rationalization measures.

Based on the notified hydro purchase obligation norms & trajectory available till 2030, incremental



hydro power capacity requirement is estimated to remain significant i.e. at about 18 GW, which corresponds to about 39 per cent increase over the existing installed hydro power capacity in the country," said Girishkumar Kadam,

Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate ratings, Icr.

The HPO norms have been subsequently notified by SERCs (state electricity regulatory commission) in few states only, in line with policy targets as of now, he

noted. Hence, he stated that timeliness as well as consistency in the notification of HPO norms by SERCs in other states as well as subsequent implementation of the same by the obligated entities too remain a key monitorable.

According to an Icr statement, the hydro energy segment faces many other challenges like elongated construction schedule, significant resettlement, rehabilitation and land acquisition issues, delays in clearances and geological/topological risks which have led to significant time and cost overrun for hydro projects.

Cotton spinners likely to report double-digit growth in revenues

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):

Indian cotton spinners are likely to report double-digit revenue growth and all-time high profits in 2021-22, mainly driven by high demand and realisations, according to a report.

While the growth is primarily being led by all-time high realisations, which have sustained for much of the year, volumes are also estimated to be better than the pre-COVID levels, the report said.

Besides recovery in domestic order, robust growth in export demand has also supported volumes, it added.

Large and mid-scale



spinning companies are expected to report robust double-digit growth in revenues and all-time high profits in FY22, with 400-600 bps improvement in operating margins, Icr Ratings said in the report.

Companies, which had higher stocks of lower-cost cotton from the previous season, benefitted more in terms of profitability in H1 FY22.

This apart, the inclusion of all cotton yarn exports under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme from January 2021 onwards (as notified in August 2021) has also supported margins as well as price competitiveness of domestic spinners in the international markets, Icr Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Sector Ratings, Jayanta Roy said.

Meanwhile, the report stated that the slight decline in December 2021 aside, cotton yarn prices remained on a rising trend in the current fiscal, touching all-time highs in recent months.

Demand for health insurance products picks up pace

Mumbai, Jan 24:

With Covid-19 cases across the country rising rapidly once again, demand for health insurance products has spiked. Insurers are seeing an uptick in inquiries for such products and underwriting more premiums in the segment.

Already, health insurance was growing at a rapid pace since the onset of the pandemic as awareness around risk had heightened among consumers. But the country recorded more than 600,000 Covid-19 cases in the past week, which is almost a sixfold rise than the previous week. Amit Chhabra, business head - health Policybazaar.com, said, "We have seen a robust increase in

demand for health insurance products in the past few days as Covid cases have spiked across the country. Leads for health products have gone up by 30 per cent, and daily premiums are up 45 per cent. The demand for health products is steeper than what we have seen so far."

"There is an organic demand for policies, which give early Covid coverage. Consumers are also looking for policies that cover consumables or opting for riders. Even renewal persistence for health insurance has gone up by almost 3 per cent," he said. But the peculiar difference this time is that consumers are looking for more holistic health products rather than the normal Medicaclaim policies.

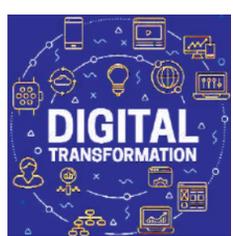
Indian Digital Infra needs investment of up to USD 23 bn by 2025

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Digital infrastructure sector needs investment of up to USD 23 billion by 2025, to support the growing demand of digital services and rising online traffic, says a report.

The EY joint report released recently in collaboration with Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) shared data projection for investment required in physical digital infrastructure vital for connecting people online by 2025.

"Whether it is health tech, edutech, consumer



tech India is leading the way. We will see USD 200 billion e-commerce market, USD 12 billion edutech market," EY emerging markets TMT leader Prashant Singhal said.

Singhal further added that "India is innovating on

digital. For this revolution to happen, we need to have digital infrastructure in place. Tower companies are transforming themselves to digital infrastructure companies. This would require an investment of almost USD 20 billion over the next 3-5 years." According to the EY-DIPA joint report, as many as 330 million people will be using 5G and sectors like e-commerce, education, healthcare will grow their presence online.

EY estimates investments in the range of USD 17-23 billion will be required in the segment by 2025.

Zed Black, Help Us Green sign MoU to launch 'Nature Flower' incense sticks

New Delhi, Jan 24:

Flowers are an integral part of divine rituals in India, be it at a temple, a gurdwara or a mosque and almost all the flowers are thrown out as waste in rivers. The rivers play an important role in India and are the lifeline of Indian Culture. There is a constant need to clean the rivers and to give the flowers used in rituals a new lease of life. Mysore Deep Perfumery House (MDPH) with its flagship brand Zed Black, which is amongst the top 3 brands

of agarbatti manufacturers in the country, has inked a deal with HelpUsGreen, the pioneer in flower recycling technology to launch "Nature Flower" fragrant incense sticks made from recycled flowers. From floral waste to fragrant sticks, the Zed Black Nature Flower Incense Sticks are launched in four natural fragrances, Sandal, Mogra, Kasturi, Rose across the country. The joint project aims to impact the lives of over 1000 indigenous women workforce.



Keerthy Suresh's 'Good Luck Sakhi' trailer unveiled

The makers of National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh's rom-com entertainer, 'Good Luck Sakhi', on Monday released the film's theatrical trailer. The woman-centric, sports film that has been directed by Nagesh Kukunoor, is scheduled to hit screens on January 28. Aadhi Pinisetty plays the male lead in the film, which will have Jagapathi Babu essaying a crucial role. The trailer begins with Jagapathi Babu saying that he would be training shooters who will make the country proud. Keerthy Suresh is then shown as 'Bad Luck' Sakhi as everyone in her village believes she brings bad luck to them. Aadhi recommends her name to Jagapathi Babu, despite the villagers opposing the move, saying that shooting is not meant for women. She initially fails, but then Jagapathi Babu motivates her. The trailer looks impressive with inspiring content. 'Good Luck Sakhi' is a multi-lingual film made simultaneously in Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. Popular producer Dil Raju is presenting the film while Sudheer Chandra Padiri is producing it for Worth A Shot Motion Arts.

Meet the coolest Dadi of Indian Television

Sony SAB's new offering Sab Satrangi is all set to showcase the life and adventures of the Maurya family. Veteran artist Joyoshree Arora will be seen in a pivotal role as the Dadi who runs her family in the most unconventional and quirky ways that are sure to be loved by the viewers. Joyoshree Arora gives insights into her character and spilled the beans about what would make this Dadi a trendsetter on Indian television. Talking about her character, Joyoshree Arora said, "My character on the show has had a challenging life. However, I can very proudly tell that Baby Maurya is the Boss Dadi and is here to break every stereotype that's attached to her age. She is a woman of substance and celebrates every moment. She is optimistic and firmly believes - what you sow is what you reap. She is a modern grandma and way ahead of her time. Baby Maurya is truly bindass. Her character adds great value to the show as she is equally fun and admirable to everyone. And who wouldn't want to have a Dadi like our Baby Maurya?"

Talking about her equation with her Satrangi family, she said, "I share a unique bond with each member of my Satrangi family. To begin with is Manu (Mohit Kumar). He is extremely loving and doting towards his grandmother, I feel for any dadi to have a grandchild like Manu would be wonderful." Sharing about what resonates with her, she said, "I see quite a bit of myself in Baby Maurya. I love her positivity and share her zeal for life. A very bold and high-spirited lady, my character is not your typical dadi. What makes her so interesting is that she shares a rich back story, and despite all her struggles, she has emerged victorious. I am really excited to step into the shoes of Baby Maurya and see where this journey takes me as an artist." Get ready to watch Joyoshree Arora as Baby Maurya on Sony SAB's Sab Satrangi, coming soon!



Dushyant shares his experience playing a 'Basuri'

Dushyant Wagh is currently seen portraying the role of a prominent character named Madhusudan in Sony Entertainment Television's Mere Sai: Shradha Aur Saburi. In one of the previous episodes, Madhusudan is seen playing a soulful tune on a Basuri and motivates Gayatri (Tasheen Shah) to start writing her poetries under Sai Baba's blessings. Speaking about his experience and excitement for playing the basuri, Dushyant Wagh says, "Playing a basuri for is equal to meditation. I am very happy portraying my role as Madhusudan as it allows me to learn and experience many things. For the sequence, I did try my hand at playing the Basuri and to an extent picked up some tunes. It was a very enjoyable experience." He ends by saying, "I am very glad that this role offers me such wonderful opportunities and I hope the viewers enjoy the episodes." In the upcoming track, the



viewers will get to see a glimpse of Sai Baba in Madhusudan. On the other hand, Madhusudan will also be seen preparing for a public declamation by Gayatri after she continues to receive her education. Watch Mere Sai: Shradha Aur Saburi at 7:00 PM every Monday to Friday on Sony Entertainment Television.

Anushka, Virat break silence as daughter Vamika's pics go viral



Celebrity power couple Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli have come out with a statement after their toddler daughter Vamika was photographed at a cricket stadium and the pictures going viral on social media. Anushka said that she was caught off guard and did not know that the camera was on her and Vamika. The actress-producer took to her Instagram, where she shared the statement, saying: "Hi guys! We realise that our daughter's images were captured at the stadium yesterday and widely shared thereafter. We want to inform everyone that we were caught off guard and didn't know that the camera was on us. Our stance and request on the matter stays the same. We would really appreciate it if Vamika's images are not clicked/published for reasons we have explained earlier." Virat shared the same note on his social media. Anushka and Virat have made multiple requests of not publishing pictures of Vamika to seek privacy for their child. The couple got married in a hush-hush affair in 2017. They welcomed their daughter Vamika in January 2021.

Rashmika Mandanna, who was recently seen on the big screen saying the role of Srivalli in the multi-lingual superhit, 'Pushpa: The Rise', unveiled the teaser of 'Bhamakalapa' on Sunday.

The delicious home-cooked thriller, directed by Abhimanyu Tadimeti, will premiere on the Telugu OTT platform aha on February 11. Filmmaker Bharat Kamma, known for "Dear Comrade", is the showrunner. "It felt so funny the moment I saw the teaser," Rasmika said. "There's a lot of interesting ideas. It's a sweet story but shot in a very funny, interesting way. I wish Priyamani garu, who's playing the role of Anupama, loads of love." The teaser is set amid an old apartment, revolving around a homemaker, Anupama, who runs a YouTube cookery channel and is also notorious for being a gossip and poking her nose into the matters of other families. She even says it's great fun to know what's going on in other people's lives. In the middle of a rainy night, the focus shifts to a cold-blooded murder in the apartment. There's a lot of mystery surrounding the crime scene, with a few characters expressing their worry about something. From goons to guns and chases, it's apparent that an anxious Anupama is in some trouble and is a key link to the murder. Composer Justin Prabhakaran (known for scoring the music of "Radhe Shyam" and "Dear Comrade") has done it again; Deepak Kumar has cranked the camera and Viplav is in charge of the edits.



Rashmika Mandanna unveils teaser of Priyamani's next film

HOROSCOPE TUESDAY JANUARY 25

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18 Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesha expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.	Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20 A day filled with socialising awaits you, says Ganesha. You will likely make contact with near and dear ones you haven't met in a while. New associations and friendships could also occur. It is a pleasant and joyous day, so make the most of it.	Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 20 Today is the day of romance. Therefore, there will be an atmosphere of romance all around you. You will have sweet memories of college days and the attraction you felt for opposite sex people during those days. Someone will definitely come in your life and you will feel special feelings for him.	Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21 This day, your heart is likely to rule your head. You will be driven by your moods feelings and sentiments. Most of the decisions will be based on your emotions, instead of your reason and experience. Ganesha urges you not to allow your emotionality to enter your professional activities. On no account should you be hasty or impulsive.
Gemini: May 22 - June 21 You will meet someone special who is here to stay for good, predicts Ganesha. Your kind and considerate nature will benefit others. You need to understand that it's okay to spend a little on comforts and entertainment. Be ready for a busy, yet cheerful, day ahead.	Cancer: June 22 - July 22 Those around you have always thought that there is something different about you, but could never put their finger on what exactly it was. You always knew. You are better than them, and today is the day to make them realise that. How? The best course of action is to do your job in the best possible manner.	Leo: July 23 - Aug 23 One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesha. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesha foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening.	Virgo: Aug 24 - Sept 22 A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of o' jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesha advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.
Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 23 There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesha expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.	Scorpio: Oct 24 - Nov 22 The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesha. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesha.	Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31 You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesha. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.	Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 20 It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesha. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

CROSSWORD

197

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
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ACROSS

- Beside
- Supervisor
- Whole bunch
- Less green
- Apiece
- Knight's assistant
- Fat
- "Hello!" and "Hi!"
- Felt
- Most tidy
- Overhead trains
- Professions
- Beliefs
- "M*A*S*H" locale
- Color changer
- Wind direction (abbr.)
- Strong metal
- Ramble
- Drinking tube
- Angel's headwear
- Flawless
- 2nd amendment lobby

DOWN

- Got out of bed
- Defame
- Seals
- Scottish loch
- Athens' country
- Ask for alms
- Boat paddle
- Panoramas
- Transparent
- Roasting stick
- Alley
- Omelet items
- Actress Mae
- Duties
- Copenhagen natives
- Pause
- Everlasting
- Tire pattern
- Different one
- Not phony
- Slithery swimmers
- Burn reliever
- Trickle
- Jedi master
- Level
- Preinct
- Didn't exist
- Dens
- Basement
- Revered
- Witherspoon of "Just Like Heaven"
- Prom
- Furry swimmer
- Nuzzles
- Highest point
- Swimming spot
- Influence
- Initial bet
- Office reminder
- Self
- Plains

SOLUTION 196

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
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Smriti Mandhana named ICC women's Cricketer of the Year

Dubai, Jan 24 (PTI):

India's swashbuckling opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for the second time for her stellar run of form across all formats in 2021.

Mandhana, who also made it to the ICC T20 women's Team of the Year, pipped fellow nominees Tammy Beaumont of England, Lizelle Lee of South Africa and Gaby Lewis of Ireland for the top award -- the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, the ICC said in a statement.

The Southpaw had won the award in 2018 as well when she was also named the women's ODI Cricketer of the Year, making her only the second women's player to win the highest individual distinction in the overall category.

The Indian T20 vice captain is only the second India woman player to bag an ICC award after veteran fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, who was named the ICC Player of the Year



in 2007. Despite India enduring a difficult 2021, Mandhana's stock continued to rise this year.

In the limited-overs se-

ries against South Africa where India won just two of the eight matches at home, Mandhana played a major role in both of the

wins. She made 80 not out as India chased down 158 in the second ODI that helped them level the series and scored 48 not out in the win in the final T20I.

The 25-year-old played a sublime innings of 78 in the first innings of the one-off Test against England that ended in a draw. She played an important knock of 49 in India's only win in the ODI series.

Her 15-ball 29 and fifty in the T20I series went in vain though as India fell short in both the matches and lost the series 2-1.

The Southpaw was in good touch in the series against Australia, starting with the ODI series where she scored 86 in the second ODI.

She compiled a brilliant century in the only Test (the first of her career), and was awarded the Player of the Match. She scored her second T20I fifty of the year in the final T20I, though India fell short and lost the series 2-0. Mandhana made India's first-ever pink-ball Test even more memorable by smashing her maiden century in the longest format.

When you play for India, you have to perform: Dravid



Cape Town, Jan 24 (PTI):

He is all for stability and security but India head coach Rahul Dravid says players will also have to deliver "really big performances" to justify the long rope given to them as he reflected on all that went wrong during a dismal tour of South Africa. India lost the Test series 1-2 and were hammered 0-3 in the ODIs, outplayed by a team in transition which is also battling several off-field issues, including an ongoing inquiry into alleged racial discrimination. Dravid did not take names but when he spoke about demanding performances in lieu of security and extended run given to some middle-order batters, he obviously meant Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant. "We certainly want to give them that consistency and we want to give them that security," he said in a reassuring tone in the press conference after the third ODI, which India stunningly lost by four runs on Sunday.

Collins beats Mertens, returns to Australian Open quarters

Melbourne, Jan 24 (API):

Danielle Collins is back in the Australian Open quarterfinals after a 4-6, 6-4 comeback win over No. 19-seeded Elise Mertens in a match lasting almost three hours Monday in temperatures in the low 30s Celsius (90s Fahrenheit) on Rod Laver Arena. It was the first time Collins has rallied from a set down to win back-to-back matches at a Grand Slam tournament. The 28-year-old American also dropped the first set in her third-round win over Clara Tauson. The No. 27 seed was a semifinalist at the 2019 Australian Open, which remains her best run at a major.

A win over either two-time major winner Simona Halep or French veteran Alize Cornet in the next round would get Collins back into the last four. Today it was really physically tough for me, Collins said. "I played a long match the other day 2 1/2 hours and then I played doubles, so I spent about five hours on court."

I had to make a lot of technical adjustments to make myself comfortable moving around, especially serving," Collins was ag-



gressive with her ground strokes, hitting 45 winners and making 41 errors against Mertens. She converted five of her 18 break-point chances and clinched the victory when Mertens, a semifinalist in Australia in 2018, served a double-fault. In fourth-round men's matches later Monday, U.S.

Open champion Daniil Medvedev was playing Maxime Cressy, fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas was scheduled to play No. 20 Taylor Fritz and 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic was against ninth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Medvedev into Australian Open quarterfinals

U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev has advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals with a 6-2, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (4), 7-5 win over Maxime Cressy. The No. 2-ranked Medvedev is trying to be the first man in the Open era to win his second major singles title in the next Grand Slam event. He's now potentially three wins from winning back-to-back major titles. Medvedev was a runner-up in Australia last year but avenged that with a win over Novak Djokovic in the U.S. Open final. Djokovic isn't defending his Australian Open title after being deported on the eve of the year's first major for failing to meet the country's strict COVID-19 vaccination rules. Medvedev had to struggle against the No. 70-ranked Cressy in a match lasting 3 1/2 hours.

Babar named ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year

Dubai, Jan 24 (PTI):

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was on Monday named ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year following his exploits in 2021 when he scored 405 runs in six games at an average of 67.50.

The 27-year-old was the second-highest run-scorer with 228 runs and was the Player of the Match in both of Pakistan's wins in the 2-1 series victory against South Africa.

The architect of Pakistan's chase of 274 in the first ODI, Babar made a century and laid the foundation with an 82-ball 94 in the final ODI where the visitors posted 320 batting first.

He was the lone warrior for Pakistan when they were swept by England 3-0. He accumulated 177 runs in three games but found no support as none of the other batters managed to score more than 100 in the



series. Babar's best performance this year came in a losing cause in the final ODI against England.

Walking in to bat early in the innings, Babar strung a 92-run stand with Imam-ul-Haq to bail Pakistan out of trouble. He was cautious in his approach initially, bringing up his half-century in 72 balls. He made up for it by bringing up the next fifty runs in just 32 balls it was his second ODI century of the year.

Marais Erasmus Umpire of the Year

South Africa umpire Marais Erasmus was named the Umpire of the Year for the third time after receiving the honour in 2016 and 2017.

The 57-year-old officiated in the just concluded series between hosts South Africa and India.

On top of the T20 World Cup final, Erasmus oversaw 20 international fixtures across the three formats in 2021.

Messi back as PSG routs Reims; Gouiri delivers for Nice

Paris, Jan 24 (API):

Amine Gouiri scored with a Panenka penalty kick and delivered an assist for Nice to beat Metz 2-0 and return to second place in the French league behind runaway leader Paris Saint-Germain, which welcomed back Lionel Messi as it routed Reims 4-0.

PSG got off to a slow start at the Parcedes Princes Stadium but ended up in control with goals from Marco Verratti, Sergio Ramos and Danilo Pereira after Reims crumbled and collapsed in the second half.

PSG has an 11-point lead over Nice, which extended its winning run to five league matches.

Messi, recovered from a COVID-19 infection, played his first game of the year after coming on as a substitute in the second half in Paris.

Apart from a couple of chances from Pereira and Kylian Mbappe, who was fit again after suffering from a minor muscle prob-



Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi controls the ball during the French L1 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Reims at the Parc des Princes stadium.

lem, the hosts were largely frustrated throughout the first half by a Reims side that played well but lacked efficiency to convert its chances.

PSG finally took the lead just before the interval after a shot from Mauro Icardi was blocked and the ball bounced into Verratti's path. The Italy

midfielder did not think twice and unleashed a left-footed effort into the back of the net.

Mauricio Pochettino's players took complete control in the second half.

Ramos made it 2-0, scoring from the rebound from close range after Reims cleared a header on the line. It was Ramos's first league goal for PSG.

Verratti then thought he had completed a rare double in the 66th from a corner kick quickly taken by Mbappe. Angel Di Maria crossed the ball inside the box for Verratti, whose shot took a double deflection and finished in the top corner. It was unclear whether the goal will be finally awarded to Verratti as the league first said it was an own-goal from Wout Faes.

Pereira added more luster to the win with 15 minutes left from Mbappe's assist. PSG players wore special commemorative shirts with their names written in Mandarin to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

OUTSTANDING GOURI

In Metz, the 21-year-old Gouiri started the match in place of striker Andy Delort who was ruled out shortly before kickoff due to illness and delivered an outstanding performance. Metz goalkeeper Marc-Aurele Caillard kept the hosts afloat in the first half as Gouiri tested him several times. The French forward finally found a breakthrough in the 58th minute with a clever lofted ball over the defense for Khephren Thuram, who broke the deadlock from close range. Gouiri, a France U21 international, thought he had doubled Nice's lead in the 76th but his effort from Evann Guessand's assist was ruled out for offside. Nice was awarded a soft penalty with five minutes left after slight contact between Guessand and Vincent Pajot. Gouiri tried the audacious chipped kick and beat Caillard for his 10th goal this season, although the goalkeeper got a hand to the ball but could not stop it from crossing the line.

England climb off the canvas to level series in thriller

Bridgetown, Jan 24 (API):

West Indies went down fighting after smashing England for 28 in the final over and losing the second Twenty20 international by just one run to leave the five-match series level at 1-1.

England, which followed up its 4-0 Ashes defeat with a nine-wicket loss to West Indies on Saturday, appeared on course for an easy victory.

After losing the toss, England scored 171-8, including 45 for opener Jason Roy off 31 balls, before reducing West Indies to 78-7 after 13 overs.

At 111-8, West Indies still needed 60 runs off the last three overs to match England's total before letting rip to finish agonizingly short on 170-8.

West Indies' No. 10, Akeal Hosein, hit Saqib Mahmood for three straight sixes off the last three balls of the game, finishing on 44 not out off 16 balls with three fours and four sixes. Allrounder Romario Shepherd was also 44 not out in 28 deliveries, with one four and five sixes.



Akeal Hosein of West Indies hits 6 during the 2nd T20I between West Indies and England at Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.

shared an unbroken 72-run stand from just 29 balls.

The equation came down to 30 from the last over and, while England

ensured its total could not be overhauled without a no-ball or wide before the climax, Hosein closed the show in style with his trio of sixes.

India's Tour of SA: Big dent to KL Rahul's long-term captaincy ambitions, few careers near finishing line

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

A stand-in captain, who seemed stunningly short of ideas, few seniors at the business end of their careers and a dated approach in white-ball cricket -- India's woes during the tour of South Africa were many, turning what started memorably into an eminently forgettable outing.

The signs were ominous even before they departed with now former Test skipper Virat Kohli's much publicised acrimony with top BCCI officials.

The entire episode didn't leave the team in good stead and once there it all went haywire after the opening Test win. Stand-in ODI captain KL Rahul was then left to do a lot with too little at his disposal against an opposition, which had gained invaluable confidence. In the end, it turned out to be a nightmare with dark clouds hovering over the future of this Indian team and no sign of 'VIBGYOR' in the Rainbow Nation.

Virat Kohli and his problems

Kohli might not admit but the former captain is going through the toughest phase as a cricketer after

having given up captaincy in two out of three formats and being sacked in another. But Because he is Kohli and in a different class, he managed a fine 79 in the last third Test, where he looked the best. He also got two half centuries in ODIs with minimum fuss where he looked more like an accumulator rather than an enforcer that one associates with 'King Kohli'. The meltdown at Cape Town with his misdirected anger at broadcasters for a DRS gone wrong also tarnished his reputation and letting the game drift away with mindless antics wasn't his finest hour when it came to judging his temperament.

KL Rahul bungled his lines

But if one is very blunt, KL Rahul perhaps blew his chance towards being a long-term option across formats once Kohli relinquished Test captaincy after losing the Test series. "Did KL Rahul by any stretch look like a captain to you?" a senior BCCI official counter-questioned PTI when asked if he would be considered for the Test captaincy factoring in Rohit Sharma's track record of injuries.

HOLDERS India stunned 0-2 by Japan in Asia Cup women's hockey



Muscat, Jan 24 (PTI):

Defending champions India were stunned 0-2 by reigning Asian Games gold-medallists Japan in their second Pool A match of the Women's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Sunday.

Japan scored through Naga Yuri (2nd minute) and Saki Tanaka (42nd minute) to stun the Indians.

A slow start from the Indians cost them dearly as Japan took the lead against the run of play in the second minute through Nagai Yuri. Yuri took full advantage

of a sleepy Indian defence to slap home from top of the circle after taking hold of a loose ball.

The Indians woke up after conceding the unexpected goal and controlled the proceedings of the first quarter from there on. They attacked in numbers and in the process, secured two penalty corners in the first 15 minutes but wasted both.

Japan kept a tight defensive structure as the Indians, despite creating numerous chances, failed to find the back of the net.

Japan earned their first penalty corner in the second quarter but the

Indians defended well. Japan eventually went into the half time break leading 1-0.

The Indians continued to dominate the proceedings after the change of ends but failed to create any real scoring opportunity.

Japan surprised India in the 42nd minute when Tanakana doubled the lead.

Trailing by two goals, the Indians came out attacking and in the process secured two quick penalty corners but wasted both as Japan secured their second consecutive win in the tournament.

'Good that Adityanth didn't contest from Ayodhya'

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 24 (PTI):

The chief priest of the Ram temple here on Monday said it is good that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath is not contesting the state Assembly polls from this seat as he would have faced a lot of opposition.

When asked why he suggested that Adityanath should not to contest from Ayodhya, Acharya Satyendra Das said he advised this "after asking Ram Lalla (Lord Ram)".

Das said he suggested that Adityanath should contest from Gorakhpur as people whose houses and shops were demolished here due to infrastructure projects in the wake of the construction of the temple were opposing him. "It's good that



Acharya Satyendra Das

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is not contesting from here. I had suggested it earlier and advised that it will be better that he contest from any seat of Gorakhpur," said Das, who is the chief priest of the makeshift

Ram Lalla temple, which is being replaced by a grand temple. "I speak after asking Ram Lalla. I spoke with Ram Lalla's inspiration," he said. The seers here are divided in their opinion and those whose houses and shops

were demolished are against him, the 84-year-old priest said. "All are saying that it's his work. This opposition is there. I said he better go there (Gorakhpur)," the priest said. "He would have won from here but could have faced problems," he added.

There was a strong buzz in political circles that Adityanath would enter the fray from Ayodhya but the BJP leadership decided to field him from the Gorakhpur (Urban) Assembly segment.

About the election mood in Ayodhya, Das said it is not yet clear as all parties have not declared their candidates.

The priest, however, said the ruling BJP will not let go the Ram temple issue and it will remain on their agenda.

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL



Assam Police special women force Veerangana personnel during the full dress rehearsals for the Republic Day parade 2022, in Guwahati, Monday.

HC TO MAHA

'Compensation the right of COVID-19 victims' kin, don't delay it'

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Monday said ex-gratia compensation for the kin of COVID-19 victims was a matter of right and they must not be deprived of it.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik directed the Maharashtra government to take instructions on why claims for compensation filed through post or physically were being denied or delayed.

It was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a local organisation, Prameya Welfare Foundation, seeking

among other things, a direction to the state government to not insist that citizens apply for such compensation online only, and give compensation to those who are applying physically or by post.

The petitioner's counsel Sumedha Rao told HC many of those submitting claims were slum dwellers or poor people who were not adept at filing and annexing documents online.

The BMC counsel told HC the civic body had, so far, received 34,000 applications seeking compensation, of which 16,884 applications had been forwarded to the disaster management department

for approval and payment. The rest had some issues such as incomplete addresses, missing information etc, while those applications that had come from areas outside BMC jurisdiction were being forwarded to relevant authorities.

Rao, however, told HC the applicants were not being given reasons for rejection of their applications nor were they being informed of the status of their applications.

"These are poor people who find the online system difficult since they have to upload so many annexures. They have applied through post, physically but have got no re-

sponse, no reasons," Rao said.

The state's counsel Poornima Kantharia, however, told HC the government had already paid compensation to several claimants who had applied through its online portal, which was created so that one could make a claim for compensation online and the money could be transferred directly into their bank accounts.

The HC then asked the state government why it was insisting on online applications, and reminded it that the Supreme Court had recently directed all state and Central authorities to reach out to

the kin of COVID-19 victims and pay ex gratia compensation.

"The spirit of the SC order is that the state must reach kin of those who died of COVID-19. Why must you be so technical that they have to apply online only? The web portal is for the state government's convenience. Getting compensation is their (the kin of victims) right. Why must they be deprived? Reach out to them," the HC bench said.

After granting time to Kantharia to get instructions from the state, the HC posted the matter to Thursday for further hearing.

Sadar Bazar traders urges LG to lift weekend curfew

Shun odd-even rule for opening of shops

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Traders of the Sadar Bazar market on Monday submitted a memorandum to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and urged him to lift weekend curfew and stop odd-even arrangement for opening of shops in markets across the city.

Traders said that the number of COVID-19 cases have considerably come down in the national capital so the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), which is headed by the L-G, should relax restrictions for traders. In the memorandum given to the L-G, Federation of

Sadar Bazar Traders Associations, Vice Chairman, Paramjit Singh Pamma, said that in last two years several restrictions including lockdowns were imposed in city markets which had adversely impacted the business.

Due to weekend curfew and odd-even rule for shops, the business in Delhi is going down. People are heading to other NCR towns due to which traders of the city are facing losses, he said.

Traders of Sadar Bazar Market also threatened to stage protest against odd-even arrangement for markets and weekend curfew if their demand is not met in 2-3 days. The authorities should pay attention to our plight, allow markets to function. We are ready to follow all COVID-19 guide-

lines strictly but please allow us to open on all days. If no relaxation is given then we will start protest, Pamma said. He added that due to odd-even rule and weekend curfew, shops are opening only for 8-10 days in a month in markets.

How will we survive if our businesses do not last. We cannot pay rent, school fees, bank EMIs due to poor business because of odd-even rule and weekend curfew. We urge you to lift these restrictions and allow full time opening of shops, Pamma said in the memorandum. The L-G office has on Friday rejected the Delhi government's proposal to lift the weekend curfew and end the odd-even scheme for opening of shops in view of the improving COVID-19 situation.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Students hold a 1000 ft long painting made to create awareness about voting, on the eve of National Voters Day, in Moradabad, Monday.

Sinha sniffs 'dictatorship' in BJP's 'double engine' talks

Panaji, Jan 24 (PTI):

Trinamool Congress (TMC) vice-president Yashwant Sinha on Monday dubbed the BJP's oft-repeated phrase double engine governments' as a way to promote "dictatorship". The former Union minister assured that pre-poll promises made by the TMC in Goa would be implemented if the Mamata Banerjee-led party comes to power in the coastal state after the February 14 assembly polls.

Talking to reporters here, the bureaucrat-turned-politician said, Sometimes in 'double engine governments,' it is possible that one engine goes in one direction, and the other in another direction. On a serious note, I want to mention that if the central government of the BJP is trying to emphasize on wanting to run double engine govern-



Yashwant Sinha

ments then all they want is to run a dictatorship, Sinha said. He said insisting on 'double engine' means the BJP does not want any other party to come to power in states and form government.

Today, they are talking about double engines with respect to state governments, tomorrow they will talk about triple engine with respect to panchayats. How will this work?, he questioned. As part its double engine' campaign

narrative, BJP leaders appeal to voters to select the same party (BJP or the alliance led by it, NDA) in poll-bound states as the one ruling at the Centre to ensure better development of their states.

Sinha said the TMC's pre-poll assurances in Goa are doable and the party will implement them when voted to power.

The TMC has forged an alliance with Goa's oldest regional party MGP for the assembly polls. It is my

personal assurance that the pre-poll promises made by the TMC in Goa would be implemented, he said. Three welfare schemes announced by the TMC - targeted at different sections of the society, including women and youth - will be implemented as soon as the party forms a government in Goa, Sinha said.

The former Union finance minister said these schemes - Griha Laxmi, Yuva Shakti and Mhaje Ghar, Maalki Hakk (My Home, My Right) - can be funded with government money and implemented with proper fiscal management.

Sinha said these welfare schemes together will cost the government around Rs 3,300 crore annually and they can be implemented without imposing any additional tax on people or borrowing funds from the market.

BORDER DISPUTE

'Nagaland, Assam ready for out-of-court settlement'

Guwahati, Jan 24 (PTI):

The governments of Nagaland and Assam are ready for an out-of-court settlement of the long-pending inter-state boundary dispute between the two northeastern neighbours, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said here on Monday. Rio said that Nagaland and Assam delegations are likely to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February to discuss and formulate how to go about the settlement. The Nagaland Assembly's select committee to examine the border issue held an hour-and-a-half closed-door meeting, a day after Rio, his deputy Y Patton

and NPF legislature party leader T R Zeilang met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Guwahati on Sunday.

"We had gone to Guwahati and had fruitful discussions on the border issue with Sarma. Nagaland and Assam had jointly taken up the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 23, 2020. "Both the state governments are in favour of an out-of-court settlement, and maybe our teams will meet Shah in the first part of February to discuss and formulate how to go about it," Rio told reporters here. The issue of royalty on petroleum and natural gas along the Assam-Nagaland



CM Neiphiu Rio

border was also discussed. "If we resolve the border dispute and the issue of

royalty, it will be good for both sides as we are going to remain neighbours," Rio

said. Asked about the delay in getting the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) report on the killing of 14 civilians by security forces in Mon district, the chief minister said that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has completed the probe and is awaiting the forensic report.

"Without the CFSL report, the findings will be incomplete, and there will be no evidence or scientific proof to proceed further," Rio said. Asked whether Nagaland will get a forensic laboratory, the chief minister said that he will take up the matter with Shah. On Konyak Union and Eastern Nagaland

Peoples' Organisation giving a call to boycott Republic Day celebrations in protest against the killings, Rio said that they are asking the government only to hoist the Tricolour in public offices.

"They can say whatever they want in a democracy but the government will also do whatever it deems necessary," he said. On demands for carving out more districts since the creation of Tseminyu, Nuiland and Chumukedima districts on December 18 last year, Rio said that the state government believes in tribal unity and has decided not to divide any existing tribal district.

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75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



आप सभी प्रदेशवासियों को
गणतंत्र दिवस की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



श्री मिथिलेश स्वर्णकार
अध्यक्ष, क्रेडा



1
सौर सुजला योजनांतर्गत
लाख



सोलर सिंचाई पंप की
सफलता पूर्वक स्थापना

विनीत:

छत्तीसगढ़ सोलर बिज़नेस वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन
रायपुर (छ.ग.)

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| संरक्षक
• कँवलजीत सिंह खुराना
• राजेश अग्रवाल | अध्यक्ष
जयकिशन बजाज | उपाध्यक्ष
• वसीम अहमद
• अमित खत्री | महासचिव
विवेक आडिल | कोषाध्यक्ष
हरिनारायण गुप्ता |
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छत्तीसगढ़ शासन के सौर सुजला योजना से पंप लगावो, अपन बंजर जमीन खेत ला उपजाऊं बनावो...

'State Govt policies are being implemented in total'

Konta, Jan 24:

State's minister Kawasi Lakhma, during the virtual meeting of the aspirational district by the Prime Minister said, the achievement of vaccination among the Naxalite activities in Sukma and said that the Prime Minister's appreciation confirms this fact. Under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, the administrative machinery is implementing government policies with honesty and compassion in the state.

Despite being acknowledged, the achievement in the vaccination campaign is only a part of the achievements of the Chhattisgarh govern-

ment. In the last three years, the state government has not only brought public welfare policies and schemes to the ground in every part of the state with sensitivity, but also faith in the policies of the government.

As a result of this, the tribal dominated area with geographically heterogeneous conditions is continuously increasing on the footsteps of development.

In the then BJP government, the tribals were left on their own terms, but under the leadership of Bhupesh Baghel, all-round development has been taken care of in the tribal areas. Educational activities were started by



opening schools closed for years in the name of Naxalite activities. As a result of the same, the students of class 10th secured first position in the whole of Chhattisgarh in 2020 and brought laurels to the name of Sukma district. Success has been

achieved in reducing the rate by implementing several schemes in the field of malnutrition. Law and order in tribal areas has been strengthened so much that elite persons traveling by helicopter

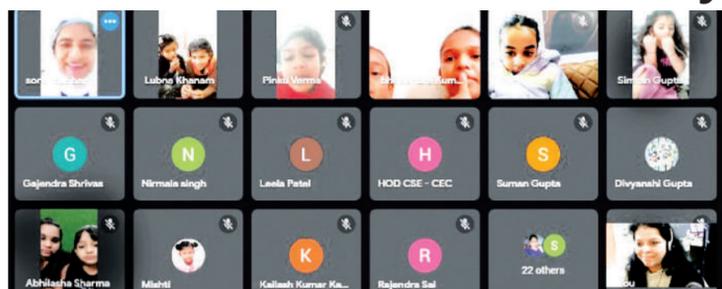
Construction of roads and culverts in these areas was like a challenge and today the construction of roads and culverts is being done at an uninterrupted pace.

To connect the tribals of these areas with the main stream and to give the benefits of individual oriented government schemes, camps were organized in sensitive and remote areas where thousands of tribal people got ration cards, Kisan credit cards, health cards. To

promote banking activities in tribal dominated areas and to increase the value of forest produce and to empower the women of these areas, Self-help groups have also been formed so that they are becoming self-reliant by getting self-employment.

Kawasi Lakhma said that the appreciation of the Prime Minister will inspire us. The acceptance of the Prime Minister that earlier, where there was only 40 to 50 percent possibility, the achievement of more than 90 percent speaks in reality of the achievements of the state government and the work being done at the lower level with sensitivity.

Chouksey Engineering College celebrates Nat'l Girl Child Day



Bilaspur, Jan 24:

Chouksey Engineering College in coordination with The Wisdom Tree Foundation celebrated National Girl Child Day based on the theme "Nanhi Kali" which had various online events such as poetry competition, poster making, fancy dress and slogan competition whose chief guest Dr. Kavita Babbar (Senior

Consultant, Apollo Hospital)

In this competition 220 kids has participated. The winners of poetry competition are Rashmi Sharma (1st) and Aarna Shrivastava along with Ananya Singh (2nd). Navya Goyal (1st) and Pratishtha James (2nd) in poster making. Shanvi Gupta (1st) and Advika Joshi (2nd) in slogan competition. Shivanya Agarwal (1st) and P. V.

Varshini (2nd) in Fancy Dress competition.

Dr. Palak Jaiswal (Director and Founder, The Wisdom Tree Foundation) graced the online event with her blessings to the children. The program was organized by Dr. Shubhlakshmi Tiwari (HoD, Civil & President, Women Grievance Cell) with so much enthusiasm and efforts.

Akbar performs Bhoomi Pujan for stage construction

Raipur, Jan 24: State Forest, Transport, Housing, Environment, Law, Legislative and Climate Change Minister and Kawardha MLA Mr. Mohammad Akbar performed virtual bhoomipujan for ward no.26 of Kawardha city with the sanctioned amount of Rs. 2 lakh. Akbar inquired one-to-one with the corporators Juthel Sahu, Suraj Kaushik, Gopi Koshik, Deepak Burman, Lalla Sahu and Ward 26 corporator Ashwani Kaushik, inquired about their well being.

Minister Akbar also listened to the problems of the ward residents and also directed the Municipal President to make efforts for concrete solutions to solve the problems of the people of the ward. Ward residents put forth their demand for construction of Anganwadi



buildings in Ward No. 25 and 26, on which Minister Akbar assured to build Anganwadi building soon. Addressing the gathering, Akbar said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Chhattisgarh Government is making tireless efforts in the direction of social upliftment and interests of all sections. He said that the Government of Chhattisgarh is trying to give benefits by making schemes and programs for the economic upliftment of the villages, poor, farmers,

forest dwellers to youth and women groups. We are making strenuous efforts towards the welfare of all the society and its social upliftment in the state and in the same way we will continue to work for the progress of the society. In this virtual Bhoomipujan program, Municipal Council President Rishi Sharma, Corporator Election Khan, Bhikham Kosale, Mr. Ashok Singh, Mr. Mohit Maheshwari, Mr. Santosh Yadav, Mr. Sunil Sahu, Mr. Uttam Gop, Mr. Sanjay Lanjhi, Mr. Umang Pandey, Aldermen Mr. Daljit Pahuja, Mr. Kaushal Kaushik, Mr. Hresh, Mrs. Duleswari Bai, CMO Mr. Naresh Verma, Mr. Ashwani Kaushik of Ward No. 26, Mr. Juthel Sahu, Mr. Suraj Kaushik, Mr. Gopi Koshik, Mr. Deepak Burman and Mr. Lalla Sahu were specially present.

Various programmes organized under Amrit Mahotsav

■ Participant will be honored on the occasion of R-Day

Bijapur, Jan 24:

The Amrit Mahotsav of Independence is being celebrated under the aegis of NITI Aayog in the district. The theme of Aspirational District Transformation was inaugurated by Collector Rajendra Kumar Katara on 12th January, and the program has been launched among all the officers in the district. This program has been designed keeping in mind the three principles of NITI Aayog collaboration, convergence and competition and in this, essay, debate and painting competition at school level, debate competition at college level, has been organized. Based on the criteria



of NITI Aayog" identification of the best block and 4 best Gram Panchayat of the district will be adjusted. In which district's ITI Bijapur, ITI Bhairamgarh, ITI Usoor, Government New College Bhairamgarh, Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya Bhairamgarh, Swami Atmanand Vidyalaya Bijapur,

Atmanand Vidyalaya Bhopalpatnam these schools and colleges followed the Covid protocol and organized various activities. Along with this, one block and four gram panchayats are to be identified in the district with better success in health, education and water facilities as per the criteria of NITI Aayog.

The cooperation of community NGOs, college youth, panchayat public representatives, and SHGs is being taken to transform Bijapur through the Aspirational District Program of NITI Aayog. This program of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence was organized at the district level by the policy nodal deputy collector Dr. Hemendra Bhuariya along with District Education Officer Pramod Thakur. ADC PL Mr. Manshu Shukla and all the teams of Piramal Foundation along with Mr. Sagar Gajbhiye and Mr. Arun Kumar of Bijapur are providing special support in the district for implementation at block level. This program of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence was organized at the district level by the policy nodal deputy collector Dr. Hemendra Bhuariya along with District Education Officer Pramod Thakur. ADC PL Mr. Manshu Shukla and all the teams of Piramal Foundation along with Mr. Sagar Gajbhiye and Mr. Arun Kumar of Bijapur are providing special support in the district for implementation at block level.

Rs. 58 cr sewerage treatment plant built in Balikonta



Jagdalpur, Jan 24:

Indravati River will no longer be polluted by domestic water residuals being used by the residents of Jagdalpur. A sewerage treatment plant has been set up at Balikonta adjoining the city at a cost of about Rs 58 crore, which is to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. District Collector Rajat Bansal also took stock of the preparations being made for the launch of this treatment plant. On this occasion,

Rohit Vyas, Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Panchayat was also present with him. It is noteworthy that about 18 lakh liters of water used by the citizens of the divisional headquarter Jagdalpur gets mixed in Dalpat Sagar and Indravati River. Due to the bacterial population, turbidity and increased pH value present in this water, this water used to pollute the water of Dalpat Sagar and Indravati River. Three drains of Dalpat Sagar, one nala in Mahadev Ghat,

two nallahs behind the center prison, one nala near intake well and two nallahs near Laxmi Narayan and Mandir Raja cemetery, gets mixed into the river. By connecting these 10 drains water will be brought by pipe to the main pumping station at Balikonta sewerage treatment plant. From the main pumping station, this polluted water will be taken to the primary treatment unit by pump for filtering and it will be divided into four parts in the

four basins of the sequencing batch reactor and this entire process of filtration will take a total of 180 minutes, in which air mixing will be done through air blower for 90 minutes and 30 minutes will be stopped for settlement and 60 minutes will be for mud settlement and another 60 minutes for taking pure water to chlorine tank. After releasing the pure water, the liquid sludge will be brought to the centrifuge machine by pipeline and the centrifuge machine will solidify the liquid

sludge which can be used for agriculture and other purposes and the treated water will be released into the Indravati River. This sewerage treatment plant built under the AMRUT scheme can clean 25 lakh liters of water per day. After purification, releasing this water back into the Indravati River will also get rid of the problem of the decrease in the water level of the river, thereby also solving the problem of water requirement for agricultural purpose.

College and schools open even after Corona surge

Rajim, Jan 24: To control the corona infection, classes are closed in colleges since last January 14, and online education is going on. The duties of professors in colleges are also being done by roster method; similarly, in neighboring district Raipur district, classes are closed in the school college since last 10 days already, but except the colleges in Gariaband district, all government and private schools from nursery class to higher secondary class 12th are teaching children in classrooms.

The interesting thing is that almost 18 year olds i.e. college kids have been vaccinated for both the doses, so the risk is less. Only children of class 10th and 12th have been vaccinated for the first dose recently, and the studies are going



continues offline. Right now the situation has become very scary in all the places. There is more danger and risk especially for the children from nursery to class IX. All the children are sitting in the rooms by wearing only masks for the prescribed time. People of the region have opined that when colleges, Anganwadi and school colleges in Raipur district are closed, then why schools in Gariaband district have been given exemption. There are 560 girls in the girl's higher

secondary of the city, which has 8 rooms. In all these rooms, somewhere 35 or 40 children have to be accommodated. Similarly 700 students are studying in Deviya Sampada High School. More than 600 children are also studying in Ram Vishal Pandey Government Boys Higher Secondary School. There is a similar situation in schools in rural areas. Children are being made to sit together due to less room, keeping aside the mandatory Covid protocol.

PANCHAYAT POLLS

BJP couldn't even win a single seat: Zakir Hussain

Konta, Jan 24: The election of Congress candidates unopposed in the by-election of Panchayat in Konta block makes it clear that the BJP and C.P.I have been completely washed off. Because in the by-election held on January 20, in the Konta block (district) area, the victory of 61 Panchs and one Janpad Panchayat member of Nagalgunda Janpad member proves that the victory of 14 Congress councilors out of 15 in the election of Nagar Panchayat Konta and 1 B.J.P. The victory was won and the BJP's swoop was cleared. Zakir Hussain - Spokesperson / General Secretary, District Congress Committee, Sukma said that the BJP. The main reason for which the BJP



failed is that despite ruling for 15 years in the state of Chhattisgarh, the area could not be developed, the development which is happening in the area since 2019 till date. The public has approved. The way minister Kawasi Lakhma is working for the people of the area, he is providing funds in the bodies and panchayats. As a result, work is being done in the area, the minister is sending roads in the inner area, proper arrangement of drinking water, opening of closed schools, the village whose ration shop is being sent to the same village.

'River Bank Tree Plantation' prog increasing green cover

■ On the banks of 28 rivers in Ch'garh, turning them aesthetically pleasing
■ 11 lakh saplings planted on the banks of 28 rivers so far

Raipur, Jan 24:

Nearly 11 lakh saplings have been planted on the banks of 28 different rivers under the "River Bank Tree Plantation" programme during the last rainy season in Chhattisgarh. As a result, 978.785 hectares of river bank area will get a facelift with increased green cover adorned with beautiful fruit bearing and flowering plants, turning the river banks aesthetically pleasing. According to the intention of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the work of plantation on river banks was done under the guidance of Forest and Climate Change Minister Mr. Mohammad Akbar by the department. The plantation has been done under



River Bank Plantation Programme, CAMPA, MN-REGA and DMF fund. Rivers under this programme include Indravati River, Shabari River, Chakka Bukka River, Mahanadi, Pairi River, Kelo River, Ib River, Jonk River, Hasdeo River, Tandula River, Narangi River, Bhanwardih River, Atem River, Rihand River, Semarkhad River, Bhupka

River and Mahanadi River. Apart from this, plantation work has also been done on the banks of Sendur River, Baran River, Moran River, Surya River, Kanhar River, Bhausun River, Patel River, Ubhay River, Banas River, Odari River and Doodh River. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force Rakesh Chaturvedi in-

Four vehicles seized illegally transporting minerals

Jagdalpur, Jan 24: A mineral inspection team under leadership of Collector Rajat Bansal conducted surprise inspection in Gram Chaparguda, Upanpal, Nagarnar and Jagdaur area and seized 4 Hywa vehicles illegally transporting mineral and filed case of illegal excavation and transportation of mineral against the owners. Mineral in-Charge officer Hemant Cherpa informed that in all these four vehicles sand was illegally being transported and added that four loaded tipper vehicles bearing NO CG 17 K 5210; CG 17 KH 4003; CG 18 KN 3638, were seized. It is transporting rich mineral by these vehicle owners, a case un under Mineral Act and all the vehicles were seized and sent to police custody.



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Avoiding disaster

The proportion of Covid deaths in active cases during the current surge is significantly lower, helped by large-scale vaccination coverage, than the previous second wave, the ICMR said underlining the role of vaccines in protecting against severe illness and deaths due to COVID-19. Comparing key indices during the second and third COVID-19 surge, officials said an average of 380 deaths (7-day moving average) were recorded on January 20 when the total active caseload stood at 19.2 lakh with 72 percent adults fully vaccinated, as compared to average of 3,059 deaths on April 30 when active cases stood at 31.7 lakh with merely 2 percent adults fully vaccinated. Do not sit back thinking the Omicron COVID-19 variant is milder and the virus will hunt for the "unvaccinated, the old and immunodeficient". Vaccination has spared India of unnecessary deaths, but herd immunity has not been achieved till over 90 percent of all population, not just adults get vaccinated. Mass vaccination only way to avoid disaster. One must not wait for herd immunity to set in as that process will take time and a lot of people may die, Dr Raman Gangakhedkar, former head of epidemiology and communicable diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had pointed out. The variants that have risen to prominence have done so because they contain advantageous mutations for the coronavirus. We are essentially witnessing Darwinian evolution, survival of the fittest in real time. Variants with beneficial mutations, such as those providing escape from antibodies or shorter incubation periods, are rapidly displacing their less fit predecessors. The most important thing to remember about virus evolution is that natural selection favours variants that spread better than other variants. The great news is that more pathogenic or dangerous variants are less likely to spread well. This is because individuals who feel particularly sick tend to naturally self-isolate, reducing the virus's chance to transmit. Also, good news is that, because infection with one variant provides partial immunity to others, omicron's rapid spread has brought on delta's swift decline. At this point it is expected that all new variants that spread widely so-called variants of concern will continue to be highly transmissible. As millions more people test positive for COVID-19 amid the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, the World Health Organization (WHO) cautioned that it was "wishful thinking" to believe that the latest variant of concern would be the last to emerge in the pandemic, or work as one that could take the world to a significant level of protection against the virus. The virus is evolving and we are giving it plenty of opportunity to circulate and the more the virus circulates, the more opportunity it has to change. So unfortunately, it will not be the last variant you hear us discuss. It will not be the last variant of concern. One of the weakest components of India's pandemic response has been science communication. Indian policymakers need to learn from the past and deal with the current situation with timely and transparent communication and information shared through trusted sources. For citizens, even though the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is low, it is very important to keep following appropriate behaviours and specially avoid large gatherings.

US defence posture

US has deployed aircraft carrier groups in Indo-Pacific despite tensions around Ukraine. China's air force flew 39 warplanes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone, the largest daily number since October last year. Sometime back, US President Joe Biden had released a Global Posture Review (GPR) to ensure the footprint of American service members worldwide is correctly sized and supports the strategy. The Pentagon says that the review will help it "best allocate military forces in pursuit of our national interests" and it has sought to focus efforts on moving away from the Middle East and focusing on countering China. India can leverage this posture for containing China. The review calls for improving US military infrastructure in Guam and Australia and focusing more on QUAD and AUKUS agreements. Major details on other potential moves have not been made public, as the report has mostly been classified. The GPR calls for additional cooperation with allies and partners across the region to advance initiatives that contribute to regional stability and deter potential military aggression from China and threats from North Korea. As China continues to modernize, it is critical that the US military adapt its posture to enhance survivability and improve deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region. There are steps the Department of Defence can take now to achieve some quick wins. These include properly resourcing the long-awaited infrastructure upgrades to existing bases and facilities in the Indo-Pacific in the next budget. Such improvements are needed to implement the operational concepts developed to counter China, many of which are predicated on distribution and dispersal. The Pentagon should also leverage its revised deployment process to curb deployments to the Middle East, particularly for heavy ground forces that may be of greater value in Europe, to recoup readiness and end a ceaseless deployment cycle. Moreover, in a distinct break with Trump-era approaches, Washington must build on its ongoing consultations with allies and partners to make the necessary long-term changes to posture. Engaging these partners quickly and honestly will help manage expectations, a missing component of the review. The release of the National Defence Strategy will provide an opportunity to get the Department of Defence and US allies and partners singing from the same hymn sheet to make sizable posture changes. In theory, the strategy will clarify the priority threats and missions and reinforce China as the main challenge. Within the department, the strategy provides a mechanism to plan, program, and resource base improvements, future facilities, new capabilities, and force deployments. Additionally, the public messaging of these priorities will communicate the rationale behind desired posture adjustments to allies and partners. This is deeply important since the Defence Department cannot simply wave a magic wand to quickly reposition forces around the globe. US needs cooperation from countries like India to achieve its defence objectives.

SYMBOLISING FUNCTIONING REPUBLIC

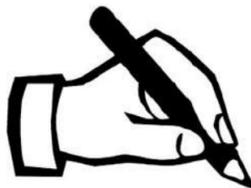


Artist Baljinder Singh displays model of 'Election Stamp' made with 18400 toothpicks on the eve of the National Voters' Day in Amritsar, Punjab. It symbolises constitutional functioning in the republic.

Season of defections in political parties



DR DUGGARAJU SRINIVASA RAO



The New Year 2022 added another season to the existing winter, summer and that season is the 'season of political defections'. The announcement of election schedule saw a plethora of defections from one party to another party though only the defections in crucial state of Uttar Pradesh and specifically from BJP to other parties are highlighted in the media. There is no state and no political party which are not experiencing defections. The spread of defection is comparable to the highly infectious Omicron. Like the unpredictable virus the defective bug is also infesting any one across the political spectrum. There is no prior warning but all of a sudden the leaders are found out 'positive' for defection. The change of heart regarding the political party or philosophy which was rare, prior to the emergence of Indira Gandhi on the political scene, has picked up the momentum and now in 2022 assembly election time the pace of defections. Not that the defections has not happened in 2021. What is happening in Uttar Pradesh is an extension of what has happened in Bengal last year. But the pace of defections peaked despite knowing that defections into BJP from TMC has not helped BJP to dethrone Mamata Banerjee. Neither was

those earlier defections are ideologically oriented nor the current defections. It is not ideology which is prompting the defections but the personal agenda which is the overriding factor in defections. Money and power are the only criterion for joining the new party in any defection and none including the defectors can't deny that. All those prominent defectors like Swami Prasad Mourya and Dara Singh Chouhan from UP are the past masters of defection. These whether cocks of political atmosphere are early detectors of the blowing of the political wind direction and like migrant birds which use the seasonal winds these leaders also migrate to the winning party. Earlier in 2017 they saw victory wind towards BJP and shifted from BSP to the BJP. Now they thought the wind is blowing towards SP and they spread their wings to fly in that direction. More or less at the same time two MLAs one sitting MLA from Congress, Naresh Saini a former MLA from SP defected to BJP. Any politician is capable of defending his action on any issue so for these seasoned MLAs explaining the reasons for their defections is quite easy. After being in ministry for almost 5 years both Mourya and Chouhan has found defective treatment of BC and SCs by the

BJP under Yogi Adityanadh and resigned from the power and party. No leader can be denied his freedom to change the party or shift his ideology. The current crop of defectors are enjoying that constitutionally given freedom. Even the anti-defection Law prohibits the defection while holding the post that to if done alone but condones the mass defections. So even legally speaking the current defectors can't be consider as doing the unholy act, since there is no party which has not encouraged defections. Earlier observers used to see the BJP and Communist parties as ideologically oriented and are different from other parties. But over the years BJP has dropped its proclamation of 'party with a difference' and started behaving like any other party. With the recent defections of some CPM leaders to Congress and leaders joining the CPM in Kerala the ideological party tag was self-robbed. We heard a lot from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Aravind Kejriwal on the value based politics. He abhorred political corruption and promised value based politics. He captured Delhi twice on the slogan of different kind of politics from established BJP and Congress. Now in his ambition of expanding his influence into other states what the AAP chief is doing to depend on the defectors. In Goa out of the first list of ten AAP candidates at least 4 are defectors from BJP and may be there defectors from other parties in the next list. So what is the message the parties are giving to the voter? In the elections the party labels may change but the candidates remain the same. It is going to happen in all the states as the assurance of the ticket is the prime condition for defections besides hidden benefits offered

to the defectors. For the parties the ultimate goal is power and are least worried about the means. What the present BJP is doing was what the Congress did when Indira Gandhi was at the helm. The winning party in Haryana then went straight to Indira Gandhi and joined her part to remain in power and retain position. Such was the power of Indira that that it was very difficult for any non-Congress party to remain in power even after getting the people's mandate. Now it is BJP's turn to take the chance for forming the government even though its majority is in doubt. It happened in Karnataka in 2018 and then in Maharashtra in 2019. Even its Goa government formation in 2017 was based the strength of defections it engineered. Now in early 2022 the BJP is facing the effect of desertions from its own camp in UP. No doubt that it is gaining some defectors from other parties both in UP and Uttarakhand but the perception is that SP is the exhibiting the surge in attracting the defectors. It is difficult to expect ethics from the defectors. Once made up his mind to shift the allegiance the defector will easily find faults in the party in which he was and virtues in the party which is offering him better feature. The current defectors in UP had the past history of changing parties. Some of the defectors are proudly claiming that whichever party to which they defected gained power in elections and they are confident of extension of that in 2022. With defections the parties may gain, the leaders may get the benefits for changing the sides but ultimately the voter is the loser. (Dr Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao is political analyst and columnist based in Vijayawada.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inspiration

The captor of three people at US state of Texas has been said to be supporter of 'Tableeghi jamat' and inspired by its ideology. Calling 'Tableeghi Jamat' a gateway to terrorism Saudi Arab has imposed the ban on it. The step excited the speculation that other countries too might follow the suit against this organization came into being 100 years ago in India. However, the past of the organization is full of amazing instances of its followers and leaders' fanciful behaviours demonstrated in the fads. During that period even there grew a sizeable number of the people inside the country who were crazy after the videos flooding from the Pakistan. The videos were based on the jokes on corona meant to undermine the gravity of lockdown. And one Pakistan-based clergy of Tableeghi mindset, meanwhile, gained much limelight through his rabidly funny statement, which he made in full public gathering, country's head being present there. He held that it is due to receding clothes and increasing immodesty among the women and falsehood, deceit and dishonesty among the people at large that caused the disease, and not corona virus at all! It is, however, said that later the corona infested the same clergy. Meanwhile, a cabinet minister of Pakistan unleashed the sensation through his tweet that the corona was spread by none other than Tableeghi jamat. And it was when the head of Tableeghi jamat of Faisalabad subsequently died of corona that the Imran's government grew alert. To trace the rest of tableegies the government had to go to the extent of deputing the country's spy organization, ISI. Obviously the action should have been taken against the jamaties long back. But, taking them for 'non-conformists', the way the hatred and violence against Shias, Ahmadias, Hajras Muslims have begun to be rationalized religiously, the open minded section of the Muslim community seem to have learnt that now time has come to act against this tendency.

Rajesh Pathak, via email

Big earner

Horticulture can be a big earner for the northeastern region of the country but due to lack of finance and facilities it is far from snatching that 'fruit basket of the country title' from Himachal. Northeast grows all sorts of fruits like apples, pineapples, bananas, oranges, litchis, kiwis, strawberries, plums but Northeast has not achieved a stage where it can export fruits to other parts of the country and for that matter to abroad too. It grows fruits only enough to feed its population. Our prime minister in a press meet a few years back said that Northeast can be the next fruit basket of the country but has not done enough on that front. Only according GI tags to fruits will not suffice. I would like to urge the prime minister of the country to invest in horticulture in the northeast, it would be an investment which would bear sweet fruits for ages.

Noopur Baruah, Tezpur



WHAT THEY TWEET!



SP Kalantri @spkalantri
Most of us find it really hard to understand the research published in prestigious journals. The sentences are long and convoluted; and the language, jargon-heavy. Isn't it too much for GPs to read, understand, and apply the clinical trial results to the individual patients?

Vinod Kumar @vkjha62
Caste & communal politics both perpetuate inequity. Value of people is axiomatic & it does not come from gilding of Bhakti. No society with ideal conscience has or will or should accept it. Whatever is wrongly settled must be resettled. Both are morally repugnant.



Brig RS Pathania@rspathania
It's good to be back home after a week even if it was in heavenly Virajpet.



Aditya Raj@AdityaRajKaul
Mcleodganj somehow has been the best. I have returned to the place 6/7 times. It's so peaceful and love the Tibetans in exile. Tourists mainly from Delhi/Punjab etc. sadly litter the place. But then also Ladakh, Pahalgam, Manali, Kasauli, Sattal among others.

D.Muthukrishnan@dmuthuk
In 2019, you @nsitharaman promised to revisit the then hike in individual tax rates when India celebrate 75th year of independence. Please consider capping tax rate for individuals at 30%. Dividends need to be taxed at a low rate. Indexation is required for capital gains.



Michael Appleton@michelapleton
The World Test Championship final was played by two countries with a good number of IPL players. Those two sides also beat England in home series this last English summer. Is England unique in its Test team being contaminated by the IPL?

Harsh Goenka@hngoenka
Krishna made a beautiful flute of the bamboo. Gopis were jealous and asked the flute 'Why does the Lord treasure you so much?' Bamboo answered 'I have surrendered myself totally to Him. He does what and when he wants with me.' So trust Him completely. You will enjoy the music!

'Good that Adityanth didn't contest from Ayodhya'

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 24 (PTI):

The chief priest of the Ram temple here on Monday said it is good that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath is not contesting the state Assembly polls from this seat as he would have faced a lot of opposition.

When asked why he suggested that Adityanath should not to contest from Ayodhya, Acharya Satyendra Das said he advised this "after asking Ram Lalla (Lord Ram)".

Das said he suggested that Adityanath should contest from Gorakhpur as people whose houses and shops were demolished here due to infrastructure projects in the wake of the construction of the temple were opposing him. "It's good that



Acharya Satyendra Das

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is not contesting from here. I had suggested it earlier and advised that it will be better that he contest from any seat of Gorakhpur," said Das, who is the chief priest of the makeshift

Ram Lalla temple, which is being replaced by a grand temple. "I speak after asking Ram Lalla. I spoke with Ram Lalla's inspiration," he said. The seers here are divided in their opinion and those whose houses and shops

were demolished are against him, the 84-year-old priest said. "All are saying that it's his work. This opposition is there. I said he better go there (Gorakhpur)," the priest said. "He would have won from here but could have faced problems," he added.

There was a strong buzz in political circles that Adityanath would enter the fray from Ayodhya but the BJP leadership decided to field him from the Gorakhpur (Urban) Assembly segment.

About the election mood in Ayodhya, Das said it is not yet clear as all parties have not declared their candidates.

The priest, however, said the ruling BJP will not let go the Ram temple issue and it will remain on their agenda.

FULL DRESS REHEARSAL



Assam Police special women force Veerangana personnel during the full dress rehearsals for the Republic Day parade 2022, in Guwahati, Monday.

HC TO MAHA

'Compensation the right of COVID-19 victims' kin, don't delay it'

Mumbai, Jan 24 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Monday said ex-gratia compensation for the kin of COVID-19 victims was a matter of right and they must not be deprived of it.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik directed the Maharashtra government to take instructions on why claims for compensation filed through post or physically were being denied or delayed.

It was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by a local organisation, Prameya Welfare Foundation, seeking

among other things, a direction to the state government to not insist that citizens apply for such compensation online only, and give compensation to those who are applying physically or by post.

The petitioner's counsel Sumedha Rao told HC many of those submitting claims were slum dwellers or poor people who were not adept at filing and annexing documents online.

The BMC counsel told HC the civic body had, so far, received 34,000 applications seeking compensation, of which 16,884 applications had been forwarded to the disaster management department

for approval and payment. The rest had some issues such as incomplete addresses, missing information etc, while those applications that had come from areas outside BMC jurisdiction were being forwarded to relevant authorities.

Rao, however, told HC the applicants were not being given reasons for rejection of their applications nor were they being informed of the status of their applications.

"These are poor people who find the online system difficult since they have to upload so many annexures. They have applied through post, physically but have got no re-

sponse, no reasons," Rao said.

The state's counsel Poornima Kantharia, however, told HC the government had already paid compensation to several claimants who had applied through its online portal, which was created so that one could make a claim for compensation online and the money could be transferred directly into their bank accounts.

The HC then asked the state government why it was insisting on online applications, and reminded it that the Supreme Court had recently directed all state and Central authorities to reach out to

the kin of COVID-19 victims and pay ex gratia compensation.

"The spirit of the SC order is that the state must reach kin of those who died of COVID-19. Why must you be so technical that they have to apply online only? The web portal is for the state government's convenience. Getting compensation is their (the kin of victims) right. Why must they be deprived? Reach out to them," the HC bench said.

After granting time to Kantharia to get instructions from the state, the HC posted the matter to Thursday for further hearing.

Sadar Bazar traders urges LG to lift weekend curfew

Shun odd-even rule for opening of shops

New Delhi, Jan 24 (PTI):

Traders of the Sadar Bazar market on Monday submitted a memorandum to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and urged him to lift weekend curfew and stop odd-even arrangement for opening of shops in markets across the city.

Traders said that the number of COVID-19 cases have considerably come down in the national capital so the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), which is headed by the L-G, should relax restrictions for traders. In the memorandum given to the L-G, Federation of

Sadar Bazar Traders Associations, Vice Chairman, Paramjit Singh Pamma, said that in last two years several restrictions including lockdowns were imposed in city markets which had adversely impacted the business.

Due to weekend curfew and odd-even rule for shops, the business in Delhi is going down. People are heading to other NCR towns due to which traders of the city are facing losses, he said.

Traders of Sadar Bazar Market also threatened to stage protest against odd-even arrangement for markets and weekend curfew if their demand is not met in 2-3 days. The authorities should pay attention to our plight, allow markets to function. We are ready to follow all COVID-19 guide-

lines strictly but please allow us to open on all days. If no relaxation is given then we will start protest, Pamma said. He added that due to odd-even rule and weekend curfew, shops are opening only for 8-10 days in a month in markets.

How will we survive if our businesses do not last. We cannot pay rent, school fees, bank EMIs due to poor business because of odd-even rule and weekend curfew. We urge you to lift these restrictions and allow full time opening of shops, Pamma said in the memorandum. The L-G office has on Friday rejected the Delhi government's proposal to lift the weekend curfew and end the odd-even scheme for opening of shops in view of the improving COVID-19 situation.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Students hold a 1000 ft long painting made to create awareness about voting, on the eve of National Voters Day, in Moradabad, Monday.

Sinha sniffs 'dictatorship' in BJP's 'double engine' talks

Panaji, Jan 24 (PTI):

Trinamool Congress (TMC) vice-president Yashwant Sinha on Monday dubbed the BJP's oft-repeated phrase double engine governments' as a way to promote "dictatorship". The former Union minister assured that pre-poll promises made by the TMC in Goa would be implemented if the Mamata Banerjee-led party comes to power in the coastal state after the February 14 assembly polls.

Talking to reporters here, the bureaucrat-turned-politician said, Sometimes in 'double engine governments,' it is possible that one engine goes in one direction, and the other in another direction. On a serious note, I want to mention that if the central government of the BJP is trying to emphasize on wanting to run double engine govern-



Yashwant Sinha

ments then all they want is to run a dictatorship, Sinha said. He said insisting on 'double engine' means the BJP does not want any other party to come to power in states and form government.

Today, they are talking about double engines with respect to state governments, tomorrow they will talk about triple engine with respect to panchayats. How will this work?, he questioned. As part its double engine' campaign

narrative, BJP leaders appeal to voters to select the same party (BJP or the alliance led by it, NDA) in poll-bound states as the one ruling at the Centre to ensure better development of their states.

Sinha said the TMC's pre-poll assurances in Goa are doable and the party will implement them when voted to power.

The TMC has forged an alliance with Goa's oldest regional party MGP for the assembly polls. It is my

personal assurance that the pre-poll promises made by the TMC in Goa would be implemented, he said. Three welfare schemes announced by the TMC - targeted at different sections of the society, including women and youth - will be implemented as soon as the party forms a government in Goa, Sinha said.

The former Union finance minister said these schemes - Griha Laxmi, Yuva Shakti and Mhaje Ghar, Maalki Hakk (My Home, My right) - can be funded with government money and implemented with proper fiscal management.

Sinha said these welfare schemes together will cost the government around Rs 3,300 crore annually and they can be implemented without imposing any additional tax on people or borrowing funds from the market.

BORDER DISPUTE

'Nagaland, Assam ready for out-of-court settlement'

Guwahati, Jan 24 (PTI):

The governments of Nagaland and Assam are ready for an out-of-court settlement of the long-pending inter-state boundary dispute between the two northeastern neighbours, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio said here on Monday. Rio said that Nagaland and Assam delegations are likely to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah in February to discuss and formulate how to go about the settlement. The Nagaland Assembly's select committee to examine the border issue held an hour-and-a-half closed-door meeting, a day after Rio, his deputy Y Patton

and NPF legislature party leader T R Zeilang met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at Guwahati on Sunday.

"We had gone to Guwahati and had fruitful discussions on the border issue with Sarma. Nagaland and Assam had jointly taken up the matter with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on December 23, 2020. "Both the state governments are in favour of an out-of-court settlement, and maybe our teams will meet Shah in the first part of February to discuss and formulate how to go about it," Rio told reporters here. The issue of royalty on petroleum and natural gas along the Assam-Nagaland



CM Neiphiu Rio

border was also discussed. "If we resolve the border dispute and the issue of

royalty, it will be good for both sides as we are going to remain neighbours," Rio

said. Asked about the delay in getting the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) report on the killing of 14 civilians by security forces in Mon district, the chief minister said that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has completed the probe and is awaiting the forensic report.

"Without the CFSL report, the findings will be incomplete, and there will be no evidence or scientific proof to proceed further," Rio said. Asked whether Nagaland will get a forensic laboratory, the chief minister said that he will take up the matter with Shah. On Konyak Union and Eastern Nagaland

Peoples' Organisation giving a call to boycott Republic Day celebrations in protest against the killings, Rio said that they are asking the government only to hoist the Tricolour in public offices.

"They can say whatever they want in a democracy but the government will also do whatever it deems necessary," he said. On demands for carving out more districts since the creation of Tsemnyu, Nuiland and Chumukedima districts on December 18 last year, Rio said that the state government believes in tribal unity and has decided not to divide any existing tribal district.

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