www. centralchronicle.in



NCC cadets perform during NCC rally, at Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Friday.

Economic Advisor

New Delhi: The government on Friday appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, succeeds K V Subramanian, who demitted office of CEA in December 2021 after the completion of his three-

Aircraft crash

charge on Friday.

vear term. An official

Nageswaran assumed

statement said

Gaya (Bihar): An aircraft of the Indian Army's Officers' Training Academy here, with two trainee pilots on board, crashed on Friday shortly after take off, a senior official said. According to Bangajeet Saha, the **Director of Gaya** International Airport, both pilots were safe. He said the crash took place in fields adjoining a village under Bodh Gaya block, when the pilots tried to make an emergency landing. Villagers noticed the trainer aircraft falling down, rushed to the spot

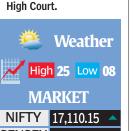
Akhilesh stranded

and pulled the cadets out.

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday alleged that he was stranded in Delhi as his helicopter was not allowed to fly to UP's Muzaffarnagar for an election programme. In a tweet in Hindi, the SP president posted a picture with the helicopter in the background and said no reason was given for it. Later in another tweet, Akhilesh said he is ready to take a flight. "My helicopter is still detained in Delhi without assigning any reason and not being allowed to go to Muzaffarnagar, whereas a top BJP leader has just flown from here.

Poll violence

■ Kolkata: The CBI, which is probing cases of political violence in the aftermath of assembly elections in Bengal, has arrested seven persons in connection with the death of BJP worker Manik Moitra in Sitalkuchi area of Cooch Behar district, agency sources said on Friday. The accused are residents of a village in Cooch Behar, according to the sources. They will be produced before a court in the district, the sources added. The agency had registered the case in August last year, on the orders of Calcutta



SENSEX 57,276.94 **BULLION** GOLD 48,164 SILVER 62,425

Resolution suspending 12 MLAs beyond period Tata rahe mera dil... of remainder of session unconstitutional: SC

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on Friday held that a resolution suspending 12 BJP MLAs from Maharashtra Legislative Assembly beyond the period of the remainder of the session held in July 2021 is unconstitutional and irrational. The apex court delivered its verdict on the pleas filed by the 12 BJP MLAs, who had challenged their one-year suspension from the state assembly for

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Top Congress leaders

on Friday decided to work

closely with like-minded

parties during the upcom-

ing budget session of par-

liament and jointly raise

matters of public impor-

tance, including farmers'

issues and border dispute

meeting of the Congress

Parliamentary Strategy

group chaired by party

The meeting was held

virtually and it was decid-

ed to raise the issues of

farmers' distress, border

dispute with China and re-

lief package for Covid vic-

tims. The party has been

demanding a compensa-

tion package for the fami-

The Congress also decid-

ed to raise the issue of sale

of Air India to Tata group,

lies of Covid victims.

chief Sonia Gandhi.

This was decided at a

with China.

'No place for disorderly conduct in House, members expected to show statesmanship'

New Delhi: Parliament and State Legislative Assembly are regarded as sacred places and there can be no place for disorderly conduct in the House, where members are expected to show statesmanship and not brinkmanship, the Supreme Court said on Friday. The apex court said the happenings in the House are a reflection of the contemporary societal fabric and it has become common to hear that the House could not complete its usual scheduled business and most of the time had been spent in jeering and personal attacks instead of erudite constructive and educative debates.

allegedly misbehaving with the presiding officer In conclusion, we have no hesitation in allowing these writ

besides the downturn in

the Indian economy and

high prices of essential

Congress Parliamentary

Strategy group is chaired

chairperson Sonia Gandhi

and includes Leader of

Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge and

Leader of Congress in Lok

Sabha Adhir Ranjan

Choudhary, senior party

leaders A K Antony, K C

Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, K

Suresh, Jairam Ramesh

and Manickam Tagore.

Party MP Manish Tewari

also attended the meeting.

mThough former prime

Singh is also a member of

the group, he did not at-

tend the meet. The meet-

ing is called before every

parliament session to de-

Congress

Party

Anand

Manmohan

commodities.

Parliamentary

Venugopal,

minister

Budget session: Cong decides

to work with like-minded parties

resolution suspending these members beyond the period of the remainder of the concerned Monsoon session held in July 2021 is

Patna, Jan 28 (PTI):

Normal life in Bihar was

on Friday affected by a

dawn to dusk 'bandh'

called by students' bodies

in protest against anom-

alies in the format of

exams conducted by the

Board and police high

Opposition parties like

the RJD, the Left and the

Congress extended their

support to the bandh, took

active part in many places

and expressed satisfaction

focus of the agitation as it

rules at the Centre besides

shares power in the state,

urged the student commu-

nity to have faith in the

Narendra Modi govern-

ment and be wary of play-

ing into the hands of RJD-

led opposition. The prob-

The BJP, which is in the

Recruitment

against

Railway

handedness

protesting students.

over its "success"

non-est in the eyes of law. nullity, unconstitutional, substantially illegal and irrational, a bench headed by

Bihar Rail Exam agitation:

Bandh hits normal life

said. The impugned resolution is thus declared to be ineffective in law in so far as the period beyond the stated session in which the resolution came to be passed the bench said

The 12 suspended members are Sanjay Kute, Ashish Shelar, Abhimanyu Pawar, Girish Mahajan, Atul Bhatkhalkar, Parag Alavani, Harish Pimpale, Yogesh Sagar, Jay Kumar Rawat, Narayan Kuche, Ram Satpute and Bunty



BSF constable injured in encounter with drug smugglers along Indo-Pak border

Chandigarh, Jan 28 (PTI):

The BSF on Friday foiled a cross-border drug smuggling bid and recovered 58 kg heroin after an exchange of fire with Pakistani smugglers along personnel injured, police said. The incident took under border

change of fire took place between the BSF troops and Pakistani smugglers after the latter tried to push drugs through a pipe in the Indian territory.

said its troops challenged the smugglers after notic-

ment. On being challenged, the smugglers opened fire at the BSF team. The BSF troops fired back in retaliation, the BSF said. During the exchange of fire, head constable Gyan Singh sustained bullet injuries in his hand and head. He was rushed to a hospital where his condition is stable, it

During the search operation, 47 packets of heroin and seven packets of opium were recovered, the BSF said. Besides, a Chinese made Norinco pistol with two magazines, 9 mm Pietro Beretta pistol with one magazine, 74 rounds of AK-47 with four magazines, 44 rounds of 0.3 calibre and 12 rounds of

ing some suspicious move-

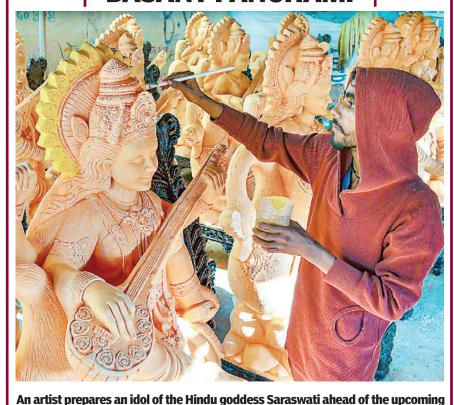
the Indo-Pak border in Punjab's Gurdaspur district that also left a force place at 5:15 am in an area Chandu Wadala. Gurdaspur Senior Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh said the ex-

In a statement, the BSF

9 mm were also seized by

Three get six years in jail for abetting

cide the party's strategy. BASANT PANCHAM



festival of Basant Panchami in Gurugram, Friday'

tion. State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal came out **Minors found** dead with eyes

gouged out

lem for the BJP is that it

faces assembly elections in

Uttar Pradesh where the

agitation has spread and

where happenings in

Bihar have a reverbera-

Patna, Friday.

Jan Adhikar Party workers and supporters burn a tyre

and block a road during Bihar bandh protest over al-

leged erroneous results of Railway Recruitment Boards

Non-Technical Popular Categories (RRB NTPC) exam, in

Pakur: In a horrific incident, two minors were found dead in a field in Jharkhand's Pakur with their eyes gouged out, police said on Friday. The incident occurred at Ambadih village under Amrapara police station area in the district on Thursday night.

"Bodies of a minor girl and boy of a family were found in a field in the village. Their eyes had been gouged out," SP, Pakur, Hrudeep P Janardhanan told PTI. He said the girl is aged around 12 years and the

boy 10 years.
"The police is investigating all angles, including personal enmity. A relative has been detained and is being interrogated in this connection, the SP said. A case has been lodged based on the father's statement. Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Maheshpur, Navneet Anthony Hembram, said the family members have stated that the relative had called the minors to his home on Thursday evening.

Decommissioned will be developed as museum

New Delhi: Decommissioned Indian naval ship (INS) Khukri

was handed over to the Diu administration so that it can be

developed as a full-scale museum, the Indian Navy said on

Friday. The missile corvette was decommissioned on

December 23 last year after 32 years of service. INS Khukri

had the distinction of being part of both — western as well as

eastern fleets - during its service. An elegant but solemn cer-

emony was conducted in Diu on Wednesday to hand over the

decommissioned ship, the Indian Navy's statement noted. Rear

Admiral Ajay Vinay Bhave, Flag Officer Doctrine and Concepts,

handed over the decommissioned ship formally to Praful Patel,

Administrator of the Union Territory of DNHDD (Dadra and

Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu) and Lakshadweep, it noted.

suicide of spiritual leader Bhaiyyu Maharaj Indore, Jan 28 (PTI): A local court on Friday sentenced a woman and two others to six years? rigorous imprisonment for abetting the suicide of

spiritual leader Bhaiyyu

with a Facebook post

claiming that he has per-

sonally spoken to Railway

Vaishnav who has assured

that concerns of the ag-

grieved examinees will be

Ashwini

Minister

Maharaj three years ago. Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Soni convicted Palak Puranik (28), Vinayak Dudhade (45) and Sharad Deshmukh (37) under IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 306 (abetment of suicide) and 384 (extortion). On June 12, 2018, Bhaiyyu Maharaj (50), born Uday Singh Deshmukh, shot himself with his licensed revolver at his bungalow here.

The suicide made headlines as Maharaj was a high-profile spiritual figure and some prominent politicians from Madhya

Maharashtra were among his followers. In his 56page order, Judge Soni said the deposition of prosecution witnesses proved that Puranik, Dudhade and Deshmukh were mounting pressure on Bhaivva Maharai to remarry (Puranik), mentally torturing him and threatening him for money (blackmailing). The judge observed Puranik was an attendant of Bhaiyyu Maharaj, thus their relationship was that of master-servant, but she used to keep her dresses with his clothes in his almirah and share the room. She used to sit by his side in his vehicle and prevailed over him to not marry another woman and longed to enter into wedlock with which shows Puranik was in a position

Bhaiyyu Maharaj by somehow prevailing over him, the order said.

A servant prevails over the will of his master only when he or she is aware of his weakness." the judge observed.

The court ruled out relief to the accused on the basis of the suicide note.

Investigations prove that the accused used to give sleeping pills (sedatives) besides medicines to Bhaiyyu Maharaj.

The court said it cannot be expected that Bhaiyya Maharaj wrote the suicide note in sound mind given the fact he was already under the influence of sleeping pills as well as pressure from the accused. A psychiatrist deposed in the court stating Bhaiyyu Maharaj was taking psychotropic medication along with sleep-

Andaman and Nicobar Command inducts advanced light helicopter MK III



Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III during its induction ceremony at INS Utkrosh, in Port Blair.

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Andaman and Nicobar Command on Friday inducted indigenously developed advanced light helicopter MK III at Indian naval station Utkrosh in Port Blair, the Ministry of Defence said. "The induction marks a continuing increase in the capabilities of the Andaman and Nicobar Command in the past two decades of its raising as India's only joint theatre command,' the ministry said in a statement.

The MK III helicopter is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft, in line with the government's push towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat', it said.

"Till date, over 300 of these aircraft have been delivered by HAL and are being flown by the armed forces," the statement noted. Amongst its variants, the MK III variant is a maritime role variant with state-of-theart sensors and weapons, it mentioned.

The state-of-the-art aircraft has multirole capabilities, including maritime surveillance, support for special forces, medical evacuations besides search and rescue roles, the ministry

DCGI allows Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 trials for Covid's intranasal booster dose

to exert pressure on

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Jan 28 (PTI): India's drug regulator has given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 clinical trial for its intranasal Covid vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously inoculated with SARS-CoV 2 vaccines.

India is yet to approve the use of intranasal COVID-19 vaccine BBV154 developed Hyderabad-based company. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 27 gave the nod to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 randomised multi-centric clinical study to evaluate immunogenecity and safety of its intranasal vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously vaccinated with

COVID-19 vaccines ap-

proved under new drugs



A healthcare worker administers a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a homeless person at a camp for vaccination for Street beggars, pavement dwellers and orphans who dont have an Aadhaar, voter or pan card, in Howrah, Friday.

under New Drugs & Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. According to official sources, the trial would be conducted at five sites, including AIIMS Delhi. In December, Bharat

Biotech had sought permission from DCGI to conduct phase-3 study for its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose to participants previously vaccinated with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Separately, the DCGI on

Thursday also gave permission to the firm to conduct phase-3 clinical trial to compare the immunogenecity and safety of BBV-154 (intranasal) with Covaxin. This trial has been permitted to be conducted at 9 sites. In August, the nasal vac-

cine had received the regulator's nod for conducting phase 2 clinical trials. BBV154 is an intranasal

replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus SARS-CoV-2 vectored vaccine.

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

बीज प्रक्रिया केन्द्र रिस्दा (मस्त्री)

किसान बीज सहकारी समिति मर्यादित बिलासपुर



धान गेहूँ चना, उड़द मुंगफल्ली, मुंग का राज्य के लिए अनुशांशित उन्नत किरम के बीजों के उत्पादक एवं विक्रेता



सरपंच

युवा कांग्रेस (छ.ग.)

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों

को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों

को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

युवा कांग्रेस बिलासपुर

एस. के. डहरिया

वं समस्त स्टॉफ, शासकीय कन्या उच्च मा

शाला मस्त्री, जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

सरपंच प्रतिनिधि



पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत बुविश्वार (मल्हार) ग्राम पंचायत बुविश्वार, जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी



गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं.

एवं समस्त स्टॉफ, राजीव गांधी शिक्षा मिशन स्त्रोत केन्द्र मस्त्री, जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

रोजगार सहायक, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत विद्याडीह (दांगर), जनपढ़ पंचायत मस्त्री

को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..

सरपंच

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं..



सचिव, उपसरपंच, प्रवाण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत कोकड़ी, जनपढ पंचायत मस्तूरी







ग्राम पंचायत बुढ़ीखार (मल्हार)

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं 📑



शोभा रात्रे – सरपंच





सरपंच

जीवराखान साह् - सचिव प्रित चन्द्राकर – उपसरपंच धर्मेन्द्र चतुर्वेदी - रोजगार सहायक

पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत पेण्डी जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी





श्रीमती धनबाई कैवर्त

धनीराम मंडावी मनीराम कैवर्त सचिव

सरपंच प्रतिनिधि उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत कोनी







कोमल चन्द्राकार प्रभारी अधिकारी 🛚 प्रभारी संस्था प्रबंधक

मनोहर लाल यादव

एवं समस्त स्टाफ वृहत्ताकार सेवा सहकारी समिति मर्यादित गतौरा पंजीयन क्रमांक 1294

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं ...

श्रीमती सावित्री भागवत साह्

उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्रा.पं. जयरामनगर, जनपद पंचायत मस्तुरी





कृष्णा यादव



सचिव

उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत खुड़भाठा, जनपढ पंचायत मस्तूरी





श्रीमति किरण संतोष यादव जिला पंचायत सहस्य ऋषि महिलांगे - सचिव श्रीमति राजकुमारी जगत जनपद सदस्य राकेश याढव – उपसरपंच

सरपंच

एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत हरदी गोबरी, जनपद पंचायत मस्त्री

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...



शिव कुमार यादव श्रीमती मुन्नी बाई

प्रभारी संस्था प्रबंधक

एवं समस्त स्टाफ वृहताकार सेवा सहकारी समिति मर्यादित टिकारी पंजीयन क्रमांक 159

गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर क्षेत्र व प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं...

उपनेता प्रतिपक्ष व विधायक

विधायक प्रतिनिधि जिला पंचायत



सरपंच

बलराम राजगिरी सचिव

सरपंच प्रतिनिधि

उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत भिलाई, जनपद पंचायत मस्त्री





सचिव उपसरपंच

उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत भरारी, जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी



प्रभारी अधिकारी प्रमारी संस्था प्रबंधक एवं समस्त स्टाफ वृहत्ताकार सेवा सहकारी समिति मर्यादित जैतपुर पं.क्र. 1175

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

Collectors, SPs to be held responsible for illegal mining: CM

CM issues instructions to take stern action against illegal sand mining

Officials, who fail to take action, to be penalized

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: Chief Bhupesh Baghel has given instructions to take strict action against illegal sand miners. Chief Minister has directed the Collectors and the Superintendents



of Police to curb illegal sand mining in their districts at all cost. Collectors and SPs concerned will be personally responsible for the complaints of illegal sand mining received from their district. If the com-

plaints so received are not addressed and no action is taken to stop illegal sand mining, District officials concerned will be held accountable and strict disciplinary action will be taken against them. Chief Minister has directed the Collector and the SP to personally monitor the situation to stop illegal mining.

Minister Bhupesh Baghel has taken the reports about illegal sand mining and transportation by sand mafias in the state into serious account.

He has directed the top

officials of the Mineral Department to tighten the noose on sand mafias. He has directed the Collector and SP to keep a close watch on the activities of illegal mining and transportation of sand in their district and take strict action to

He said that the state is facing loss in revenue due to illegal sand mining and transportation. Hence, regular inspection should be conducted in the areas from where complaints of illegal mining and transporta-



Citizens taking relief from drop in mercury and cool winds burning bonfire and keep themselves warm.

Two arrested under Arms Act

Raipur: Two persons have been arrested under Arms Act from separate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, identified as Imtiyaz Ali was arrested by Civil Lines police station from Raja Talab locality after he was nabbed terrorising the locals near Ambedkar Chowk The other one, identified as Kamraj Ali, was arrested by Azad Chowk police from near Mahatma Gandhi statue where he was nabbed terrorizing the locals armed with a knife. Both the accused were later booked under Section 25, 27 of Arms Act by respective police stations.

60 nos. of phones worth lakhs recovered

Three inter-state mobile phone lifters arrested. two managed to escape

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: In major strike against phone lifters, Telibandha police along with assistance of Raipur Police cyber cell on Friday arrested a total of 3 lifters including two juveniles and recovered a total of 60 nos. phones from them. Two other lifters however managed to escape. According to police, this fang of inter-state gang was under surveil-

lance sine last few days few days and three of them were detained redhanded from Marine

Police also succeeded in recovering from them a total of 60 phones from their possession. They were immediately taken to the police station where one of them was identified as Raj Nonia and other two being juveniles.

Those who managed to escape have been identified as Prem Nonia and Gautam Kumar and Sahebganj in Jharkhand.

Police in the meantime have registered under Section 379 IPC/41(1)4 CrPC and further investigation is now underway.

Shops in Raipur's Inter-state Bus Terminal to be ready by next month

Mayor Aijaz Dhebar visits Bhathagaon bus stand for inspection, gives instructions

Raipur, Jan 28: Mayor Aijaz Dhebar today visited Inter-State Bus Terminal at Bhatagaon and directly observed the progress of the work of construction shops. Executive Engineer of Raipur Smart City Limited, RMC Zone 6 Zone Commissioner NR Chandrakar, Executive Engineer Badri Chandrakar and Zone 6 Executive Engineer SP

Tripathi and other con-

cerned officials were pres-



Expressing displeasure over the slow pace of the construction of shops, the Mayor asked to expedite it. He gave necessary instructions to the supervisor and contractor who were given contract for the work by Raipur Smart City Limited. The construction work of vending Zone has

Raipur Smart City Limited. It has been proposed to allot 200 carts in the vending zone in a systematic manner as per rules. Instructions have also been given to complete the construction of 100 shops as proposed. During site inspection, the Executive Engineer of

Smart Limited informed that RSCL has taken action to impose a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the contractor for the delay in construction of 100 shops proposed at Inter-State Bus Terminal.

Pandri's shopkeepers will be rehabilitated at the new bus terminal as per rules. The mayor directed the contractor, supervisor to complete the construction of all the proposed 100 shops with best quality and continuous monitoring besides speeding up the work immediately. The Mayor inspected the site of the proposed workshop and gave necessary instructions in this regard to

Unidentified fraud dupes bank customer of Rs 66374

Make online payment

of property tax

Raipur, Jan 28: An unidentified fraud has reportedly duped a bank customer of Rs 66374 on pretext of obtaining details of his SBI Yono app. According to police, complainant is a customer of State Bank of India and also is user of SBI Yono app. Recently he received a message over his phone from number 89260-69864 where in the unidentified fraud enquired him about his YONO app details. Nor suspecting the caller, complainant shared with him the required details which turned out to be major mistake. The fraud immediately siphoned Rs 66374 in two installments using

an offence has since been registered under Section 420 IPC against the holder of the above mentioned phone number and further investigation is now underway.

One arrested under Excise Act

Raipur: Kharora police on Thursday night arrested a man under Excise Act from Sirri locality after he was nabbed carrying 20 bottles of country liquor. Identified as Kuleshwar Dewangan, the accused was immediately taken to the police station where he was booked under Section 34-1 of Excise Act.

Korba west unit bags Best Power Plant Award

Chairman Ankit Anand presented the award

Best revenue management award goes to Kurud division cspdcl

Jan Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Korba (West unit) bagged 'Best power plant' award this year. Korba West extension unit has capacity of 500 MW. The unit got recognition for its best performance in produccategory

.Chhattisgarh State power company Chairman (I.A.S) Ankit Anand honored this prestigious award to Korba west 500 MW extension unit. The award was received by Addl chief engineer A.K. Dutta on behalf of unit team. On the occasion of Distribution Ceremony applauds and recognition was bestowed in form of award in various categories. The func-



tion was held at Dagania Head-office Covid protocol. In group category Transformer failure, Best revenue management and Minimum line loss award was given to CSPDCL EE (O&M) Dongargarh, EE (O&M) Kurud ,EE(O&M) Bhanupratapur division offices respectively. The award were received by Executive Engineers Prakash Chandra. Bholeshwar Prasad, D.R Urvasha of respective of-

In similar way CSPTCL Transmission Best Division award was bagged by EE (EHT-Construction) office Raipur EE Umakant Yadav received this award

occasion Rajesh following N.K.Bijoura, Verma, Harsh Gautam, Minimum Ujjwala Baghel and S.D. Telang along with Executive Director Manoj Khare and chief security officer wing commander A Shriniwas were present in the function. Award func-

> Security and vigilance dept members were also awarded in various category of parade. Chief security guard Gajanand sahu, Personal security guard Krishna Rajput, Panjak Verma and Narottam Nihad were awarded for best turn out. Security Inspector Prabhu Sharan Singh and Band Master Tarachand Ben were also awarded.

> tion was hosted by AGM

(HR) Praduymna Pandey.

Students of IIT Bhilai perform 'Surya Namaskar' As part of 75 crore

Surya Namaskar on Amritmahotsav celebration

Raipur, Jan 28: On the occasion of 73rd Republic Day, IIT Bhilai celebrated Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsay by performing Surya Namaskar at the transit campus of IIT Bhilai, in Sejbahar, Raipur. This grand performance took place following the flag hoisting ceremony, demonstrating the unity and integrity of the entire community.

Initiated by the National Yogasana Federation (NYSF), the 75 crore Surya Namaskar Project is being carried out all over India, with the objective of inculcating the practice of Yoga as a key to healthy body and mind among the students and staff members at all organizations and institu-



tions. This aims to be a landmark to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence Day by generating awareness about the efficacy of Yogasanas in psycho-phys-



I'he event was conducted in hybrid mode, i.e., online and offline, and a large participation was seen among the students, faculty and staff members of IIT Bhilai. The event was supervised by Dr. Purnendu Das (Faculty incharge, Sports and Yoga). It was coordinated by the institute's Yoga instructor Mr. Vikas Taywade, Dr. Sumit Tiwari and Ms. Komudi (Sports Secretary). All Covid-19 guidelines and protocols were followed during the

Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, Revenue **Department President request**

AnyDesk app. The fraud was

later complained in Rajendra

Nagar police station where

Flexes installed in zones and prominent places for awareness

citizens

Kaipur, Jan 28: Raipur Mayor Aijaz Dhebar, Municipal Commissioner Prabhat Malik and Revenue Department president Anjani Radheshyam Vibhar have called upon the residents in all 70 wards Municipal Corporation to pay property tax online their homes. According to them the online payment can be done by visiting mcraipur.in and them registering their 12-digit property unique id

Any resident who does



ing their ward area. Subsequently they can make online payment by clicking the button of make payment in the web-

They said that Raipur Municipal Corporation introduced online payment system on the instructions of the urban administration and development department of the state government in the interests of all the tax paying citizens in the city. The RMC has also installed flexes pertaining to online payment of property tax in all the zone offices and prominent places in the city to make people aware of this system.

COVID-19: Ch'garh clocks 4,645 new cases, 19 deaths

Jan Chhattisgarh's COVID-19 count rose to 11,13,095 on Thursday with an addition of 4,645 fresh infections, up from 3,318 recorded a day ago, while the death toll rose to 13,798 after 19 more patients succumbed to the infection in the state, an official said.

The state's average positivity rate was 10.62 per cent on Thursday, he said. The rate indicates the percentage of people who test positive for the virus of those overall who have been tested. The number of recoveries reached 10,72,007 after 275 people were discharged from hospitals, while 6,241 others completed their home isolation during the day, the official said. The state now has 27,290 active cases.

Durg recorded 893 cases followed by Raipur 774, Raigarh 275, Rajnandgaon 233, Dhamtari 224, Kanker 197. Kondagaon 186 and Korba 163, among other districts, he said. With 43,754 swab samples examined during the day, the number of COVID-19 tests in the state went up to 1,61,04,654, the official said. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11,13,095, new cases 4,645, death toll 13,798, recovered 10,72,007, active cases total

Night curfew ends in Raipur

Raipur: The night curfew is now over in Raipur. Issuing an order to this effect Raipur Collector said that all hotels, restaurants, dhabas, bakery shops, food and other food-related establishments/food delivery would be allowed to work till 12 o clock in the

2 bikes lifted Raipur: Unidentified lifters

escaped with two bikes from spate police station areas during last 24-hours. The first one, a Bajaj Pulsar bike CG-LS-2959 from outside a hotel Panchpedinaka Chowk locality where it was parked by owner Nitin Kumar Joshi. The lifting was later complained in Tikrapara police station. The other one, Honda Activa bike CG04-MP-7306 from a finance bank in Tatyapara locality. The lifting was oater complained in Azad Chowk police station. Respective police stations have since registered under Section

IPC against

unidentified and fur-

ther investigation are

now underway.

Drawing-design of smart market shown to traders of Gol Bazar



present.

ing-design of the proposed smart market was shown to the traders of Gol Bazaar at a meeting convened by the Bazar Department of Raipur Municipal Corporation on the instruc-

tion of Mayor Aijaz Dhebar. Architect Manish Pilliwar presented the drawing-design of the proposed Smart Bazar in Gol Bazar in presence of the Mayor Aijaz Dhebar and President of Chhattisgarh Chambers of Commerce and Industries

Administration Raipur

Amar Parwani. Additional Commissioner in Raipur Municipal Corporation Arvind Sharma was also

Urban

Doubts of the traders of Gol Bazar were cleared at the meeting. Gol Bazar will be converted into a smart market in the capital city. However, its original form will be kept intact. Action is being taken to give ownership rights of shops to the traders of Gol Bazar at the earliest, on the instructions



Development Department of the State Government and Administration.

It was informed that one more meeting would be called after fifteen days.

During the meeting, the President of Gol Bazar Traders Association was first asked to hold an internal meeting and talk to the traders over their grievances besides suggesting solutions for their problems. Architect Manish Pilliwar was asked to listen to the grievances of the traders besides telling them about the provisions made in drawing-design.





Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: Republic Day celebrations were celebrated with full enthusiasm in Raipur today. Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey unfurled the flag and took the salute of the parade at the main function organized on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at Police Parade Ground The Governor awarded medals to the police officers and employees who did excellent work. Apart from this, the felicitated Governor Master Aman Jyoti Zahire

Chandrakar of Dhamtari with State Gallantry Award. The Governor also felicitated 21 police officers with Police Gallantry Medals. These include Kamlochan Superintendent of Police, Bijapur, Suresh Lakra, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Battalion Raigarh, Sanjay Potam, Inspector, Dantewada, Laxman, Cantonment Inspector, Rajnandgaon, Omkar Singh Dewan, Inspector, Kondagaon, Bijaram Tamo, Head

Constable, Bijapur, Uma Shankar Inspector, Raipur, Chetan Belendra, Head Constable, STF Baghera Durg, Manik Lal Koreti, Head Constable, Sukma, Mohan Lal Nishad, Inspector Bijapur, Brij Lal Bhardwaj, Inspector, Bilaspur, Kumar Ratre, Assistant Platoon Commander, ATF Baghera, Durg, Somaru Ram Yadav, Constable Sukma, Ashish Singh Rajput, Sub Inspector, Balodabazar and Indra Kumar Shivani, Company Commander,

Governor hoisted the flag at Raj Bhavan on R-Day



Jan Governor Ms. Anusuiya Uikey unfurled the flag on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day at Raj Bhavan. She inspected the parade and took the salute. She was given a guard of honour. On this occasion, Governor extended Republic Day greetings to all the officers and of Raj employees Bhavan. She met the

ees of Raj Bhavan with great affection and distributed toffees and sweets to them. On this occasion, Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Amrit Kumar Khalkho, Deputy Secretary to the Governor Mr. Deepak Agrawal, officers and employees of Bhavan Secretariat and their family members were present.

73rd R-Day flag hoisted at Chamber office

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: State President of Chhattisgarh Chamber of Commerce and Industries Amar Parwani, Secretary Ajay Bhasin, Treasurer Uttam Golchha, Executive President Rajendra Jaggi, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal informed that on the auspicious occasion of 73rd Republic Day, the National Flag was hoisted on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 9.30 a.m. at Commerce & Industries Office, Ch. Devi Lal Vyapar Udyog Bhawan, Bombay Market, Raipur. At the outset of the function, after worshiping, garlanding, gulal and flowers were offered at the portrait of Mother India and Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

The flag was hoisted by the Chamber State President, Amar Parwani. After the flag hoisting, the national anthem and Bharat Mata slogans were

Mandhan, dustrialists gave warm Agarwal, greetings and best wishes on Republic Day. On this occasion, Chamber Patron Bharamal Mathani, State President Amar Parwani, Advisor Amar Gidwani, Deepak Ballewar, Parmanand Jain, Rakesh Ochwani, Working

President Rajendra Jaggi,

General Secretary- Kapil Doshi, Vikas Ahuja, State In-charge IT Cell- Kailash Khemani, Vice President-Jai Nanwani, Pawan Nilesh Mundhra, Jitendra Golcha Jain, Shankar Bajaj and Rakesh (Janak) Wadhwani and others

CM released the price list booklet of medicines, surgical items



Available at Shri **Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store**

5 more new generic medical stores will start in Raipur

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel released the medicine rate list and medical item list of Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store operated Municipal Corporation Raipur at his residence office here this Municipal Corporation,

the Chief Minister that in view of the increasing popularity of Dhanwantri Generic Medical Scheme, which was started with the aim of providing medicines to the people at affordable rates and now with Shri Dhanwantri in Municipal Corporation Raipur area, the expansion of generic medical stores, the scope of discounts on medicines is also being increased. Not only is a large number of service providers coming forward for medical stores, but there has also been inamong them for discountevening. On this occasion, ing the price of medicines. Raipur In Raipur Municipal Corporation area, in the second phase, generic med-

ed at 5 more places respectively near Inter State Bus Stand, Mekahara, Canal Linking Road, Near Old Thana Ayurvedic College with 72% discount. Medicines will be available in the first phase, two shops were opened at Municipal Corporation Raipur, Subhash Stadium and Amlidih route, in which medicines are being given with 62% discount. In the booklet Generic Dhanwantri Medical Store, information has been given in simple language regarding which medicines and goods will be available for the treatment of which disease, including the complete addresses of all generic medical shops operating in Raipur Municipal Corporation area. The type of medicine, name of the medicine, MRP price and the price of the drug after giving discount are displayed in the booklet through chart. Also, along with information related to of search Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store address and through Google Map, names of pharma companies whose medicines and medical goods will be available here have also been listed. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel extended his hearty congratulations and best wishes to the Raipur Corporation on the publication of drug rate list and medical item list of Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store. It is noteworthy that in order to provide medicines at affordable rates to the people, Chhattisgarh Government started Generic Dhanwantri Medical Store in many places of the state including Raipur. The sale of 251 types of generic medicines and 27 surgical products has been made mandatory Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store scheme, run the Urban Administration and Development Department. Apart from this, there is also a provision for the sale of Sanjeevani products, cosmetics products and baby food etc. of the Forest Department.

Jindal Steel Pvt. Ltd. celebrates R-Day

Raipur, Jan 28: JSP Ltd. has started working on Best Place to Work to develop and listen to communication skills among its employees so as to ensure active participation of every individual in the growth of the organization. Our aim is to become an organization of international repute that young engineers and other professionals should feel proud to be associated

You must have definitely understood "Theory of Constraints" and read Extreme Ownership, The One Thing. Any company progresses only when its members continuously increase their knowledge and develop their working style so that the spirit of leadership is inculcated in them. A true leader is the one who is not afraid to take responsibility for the failure, and gets appreciated for the success. We celebrate Republic Day every year on 26th January with great pride and enthusi-



India is the world's fastest growing

economy today: Jindal

the Constitution came into

We are proud that India is the largest democracy in the world today. On this occasion, I bow to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and all the framers Constitution. Republic of India has three organs - the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

But the powers of these three organs are contained We the people of India" because the nation is formed by the people. "We the people of India" run the republic.

We are proud that JSP is playing its vital role in the development of this country with full responsibility. It is our good fortune that Bauji Shri OP Jindalji, an inspiration for all of us and the founder chairman of the company, was a supporter of Swadeshi. He made many machines with his own hands and realized the dream of self-reliant India in the steel and power sector.

Following the path shown by him, JSP is writing a new chapter in the development of the nation under the leadership of our respected Chairman Sir Shri Naveen Jindal.

Shah reading Naveen ji's message, Shri Arvind Tagai said that due to the efforts of respected Chairman Sir, countrymen have got freedom to hoist the tricolor with respect for all the 365 days of the vear. On 23 January 2004, the Supreme Court in its judgment gave the citizens of the country the fundamen-

With the latest technolo-

gv. it will be possible to

come ahead in the compe-

tition in today's era, on

this path Jindal Steel is

moving forward: Nilesh T.

tal right to freely display the national flag with full respect. It was not only our victory but the sentiments of the whole country regarding the tricolor.

Today, through the Flag Foundation, more than 90 giant flag pillars of 100 feet and 207 feet have been installed across the country so that the feeling of patriotism can be infused among the countrymen. The tricolor is the driving force behind the development of JSPL.

We are confident that we will be able to make our dream of self-reliant India

IIT Bhilai celebrates 73rd R-Day with great joy



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: The Institute Technology Bhilai celebrated the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" on the 73rd Republic Day to commemorate the 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The joy for the IIT Bhilai family was doubled as the flag hoisting ceremony was carried out at both the campuses with full patriotic fervour.

The celebration at the permanent campus of IIT (Kutelabhata) Bhilai began with the unfurling of the national flag by Prof. Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Bhilai followed by the National Anthem. The Director.

Prof. Moona, recipient of the prestigious award "Best Electoral Practices Award" by the Minister of Law and Justice of India, expressed his immense pleasure of hosting this memorable event on the land of main campus which is going to be IIT Bhilai's cutting-edge campus soon. He spoke about the institute's achievements, including the awards received by students, staff and faculty members, and highlighted the success of the institute's first convocation ceremony celebrated towards the end of 2021. He also appreciated the quality of the work being carried out by the CPWD and L&T Teams for the buildings' construction, highlighting the GRIHA awards, already

pus project. The celebration at the transit campus of IIT Bhilai in Sejbahar, Raipur was led by Prof. P. D. Srivastava by unfurling the tricolor flag on the institute premises and was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. After the flag hoisting, Prof. P. D. Srivastava addressed the audience with an encouraging speech on the significance of the Republic Day. He said that on this auspicious day, the constitution bestowed upon us certain rights, so it behoves us to carry out our duties with diligence and honesty. As part of the celebrations, students demonstrated the Surya Namaskar yogasana in the vicinity of our national flag, following the Covid-19 protocols. Prof. P. D. Srivastava then felicitated the winners of the fitness marathon "Aarambh", organized by the Sports and

won by the ongoing cam-

Yoga Society. The IIT Bhilai community rejoiced on this beautiful occasion by coming together in solidarity and creating a sense of nationalism by showing gratitude to the founding fathers of the republic India. The event was attended by students, faculty and staff members of the institute and was live streamed on-

Employment Mission in Ch'garh will become a milestone in the devp of youth: Markam

State Congress President, Mohan Markam said that Chhattisgarh Employment Mission will prove to be a milestone in the career development of youth. This shows the commitment of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to provide employment to the youth. After giving employment to five lakh youths in the last three years, a concrete action plan has been started on it with a resolution to create employment opportunities for 15 lakh youth in the coming five years. Markam said that the main objective of the formation of Chhattisgarh was to provide new employment opportunities to the youth of the state. Unfortunately, the priority of the previous Raman government was to empower the youth, not to find employment opportunities for them. There were employment opportunities in the state. Apart from this, a conspiracy was hatched to keep the youth of Chhattisgarh apart. In Raman Raj, the doors of government jobs for the youth were closed. The rights of the local youth were robbed by recruiting through outsourcing and contract method. If sin-

cere efforts have been made a

decade ago by forming organi-

zations like Employment

Mission, today the situation

Raipur, Jan 28: Chhattisgarh



would have been different. Taking lessons from Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should form a National **Employment Mission and find** employment opportunities for 15 crore youth in seven and a half years as promised by the BJP. The Chief Minister also took suggestions regarding employment generation from the directors of higher technical educational institutions located in the state. He also appealed to them to come forward for certification and standardization of products from rural areas of the state. He urged these institutions to cooperate in bringing new startups as well as reputed companies of the country to the state. With the coming of these companies, good opportunities will be created for the highly educated youth in the state itself.

Delegation of SC, ST organization met CM

Raipur, Jan 28: The delegation of All India Confederation Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Chhattisgarh, led by State President Harsh Meshram, met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel at his residence office here this evening. On this occasion, Mr. Chandra Prakash Jangde, Mr. Surendra Kumar Khunte, Mr. Sunil Chauhan, Mr. BL Arya, Mr. Bimbisar and others were present.



Corporator hoist national flag in ward No. 66

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: The ward corporator ward No. 66 Vaman Rao Lakhe ward and Zone President Mannu Vijeta Yadav unfurled the national flag on occasion of R-Day in the ward at different places.

Ward Corporator Mannu Vijeta Yadav extended greetings to citizens of the ward on R-Day and hoisted the national flag at Thakur Anirudh Govt. School, Govt. Naveen Secondary School, Govt Naveen Secondary School Kushalpur, Kho-Kho Para High School, Kushalpur,



Danteshwari Nagar Tiranga Dabripara, Chowk, Adivasi Sewa Samiti, Zone-5 Gouthan.

the main programme, ward corporator and Zone president Mannu Vijeta Yadav, AICC member Pankaj Mishra, ML Sahu, Munna Mishra, Jainaryan Jalkshatri, Manoj Thakur, advocates, ward President Anil Sen, Vinod Yadav, Bharat Thakur Rohit Verma, and others were present.

Tuteja hails works of

Mid-way Resort

Visited Limdarha, Tatamri and Majhingarh

CM honours the one lakhth beneficiary farmer of SSY

Saur Sujala Yojana

- Ch'garh sets another record for effective implementation of schemes, beats major states of the country in terms of installation of solar pumps
- Solar pumps are being installed in farms as well as in Gauthans, pastures and cowsheds under the scheme
- Irrigation facility expanded by 1.20 lakh hectare so far

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: Under Saur Sujala Yojana (SSY), watersupply arrangements for irrigation has been made for more than one lakh farmers of Chhattisgarh. This includes thousands of farmers from naxal-affected and tribal areas. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had felicitated the one-lakhth benefi-



ciary of this scheme-Surendra Nag at the main Rday event held in Jagdalpur.

CREDA had installed the one-lakhth solar pump on the agricultural land of Mr. Nag in Bastar district under Saur Sujala Yojana. Chief Minister underlined the success of the scheme, by presenting the cutout of solar pump to Nag.

CREDA is operating Saur Sujala Yojana to enhance the irrigation capacity and to expand the irrigated farming area in the nonelectrified areas of the state, Solar pumps of three and five horse-power capacity are being installed in the agricultural farms.

Besides, solar pumps are also being installed in Gauthans, pastures and registered cowsheds under the ambitious Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari proeconomy and in raising people's standard of living.

Due to the installation of pumps in the fields through Saur Sujala Yojana, farmers are now able take additional two

pumps in the fields through Saur Sujala Yojana, farmers are now able take additional two crops, besides the crop taken during rainy season. The scheme has also reduced the dependence on conventional electricity for irrigation. More number of solar pumps have been installed in Chhattisgarh as compared to other states of the country.

Due to the successful im-

proved the ground-water-

table in the state. This scheme is helping in

strengthening the rural

plementation of the scheme in the state and the ever-increasing demand for solar pumps, Central Government has made a provision for the installation of solar irrigation pumps under Pradhan THE ROLL OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 28: The Director Industry Department Anil Tuteja along with Collector Pushpendra Kumar Meena and Collector Narayanpur Rituraj Raghuvanshi conducted tour jointly of Tatamari and Majhingarh.

They took information from officers about efforts being made to develop Tatamari and Manjhingarh as tourism centre. After this they reached Limdarha Midway Resort and took stock of Restaurant being constructed in Limdarha Mid-

Resort,

Cottages and landscaping

work near commercial

complex.

Trio hailed the best of the designs and beauty of the construction work

in the restaurant and asked to maintain quality in all the construction works. During this they also took a detour of the lake and hailed the natural beauty that surrounds it.

They also saw the 3-D design of Mid-way Resort and sitting arrangements in Cottage. On this occasion DFO TS Thakur, RES SDO Sachin Mishra and other officers and employees were present.

73rd R-Day celebrated with fervour



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 28: The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour in district headquarters of Kondagaon at stadium in Vikas Nagar of city. The Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Shouri unfurled the nation-

the parade on R-Day.

After the flag hoisting,
Shouri released feet of
white Piegons as symbol of
peace and colourful bal-

loons in the air He recited

Primary School, in ward

No. 20 of Pendri and here

Shakila Begum unfurled

the national flag. Apart

from this flag hoisting was

also done at Adivasi Samudayik Bhavan and

chairing the programme,

Meghdas Vaishnav in-

formed that the Republic

Day which is being cele-

brated all over the country

is gift of Baba Saheb

Ambedkar, as it was

Ambedkar who performed

major role in preparing the

draft of the Indian constitu-

tion, on this occasion the

guests garlanded photo of

Mahatma Gandhi, 'Bharat

Mata' and performed

prayers, informs Meghdas

Vaishnav in a press release.

ward corporator

al flag and took salute of

the CM's Bhupesh Baghel message to the public. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary also felicitated the officers and employees and corona warriors for their remarkable works. In view of corona pandemic, no parade or cultural programme of school students was organised and despite all this the R-Day was celebrated amidst great enthusiasm. On this occasion officers and employees from various government departments were present in

Collector directs to pass on benefits of schemes to people Inspects Gram Kulhadighat make arrangements fo proper pricing of bamboo

Nearly one lakh 20 hectares

of agricultural land is

being irrigated by the solar

pumps installed, under the

scheme, across the state. As

a result, carbon emissions

have reduced by six lakh 55

thousand tons in the last

Installation of solar

pumps has not only in-

creased the agricultural

five years.

Kulhadighat and villages of Kamar tribe

Central Chronicle News

Gariyaband, Jan 28: The newly elected Collector Namrata Gandhi conducted surprise inspection of Mainpur area and visited the naxal infested area and adopted village of former PM late Rajiv Gandhi Gram Kulahadighat and took stock of actual situation and held talks with villagers. On this occasion SP Gariyaband JR Thakur, District Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav and Collector were also present.

Under the government's 'Narwa, Ghurwa, Gharwa, Bari' Scheme of the state



government, she conducted inspection of vermi-compost and other works by Women Self-Help Group (WSGH) in the Gouthan. Here the Collector by holding 'Janchaupal' gave patient hearing to grievances of the villagers. The people from backward Kamar tribe informed her about the massive loss to their houses and farms in hailstorm and strong winds few days back and urged for due compensa-

tion. Collector directed SDM to prepare cases paying visit to damage sites. She also visited Gram Tarajhar, Kurvapani, Matal, Bhaludiggi and inquired about drinking water, school building, ration and other basic amenities with Sarpanch Dhamotin Sori and former sarpanch Bansingh Sori. At the village dependent upon Panchayat, she directed to provide hawller mill to villagers and

make arrangements for proper pricing of bamboo products and utensils made by villagers. SP JR Thakur assured the villagers that soon a mobile tower will be installed, so that the mobile telecommunication can be established and villagers will be freed of this problem. The Collector also gave instructions to carry out repair works in Girl's Ashram of tribals. Further she conducted inspection of hospital, Anganbadi centre, school and tribal girl's ashram. Seeing worsening condition of Girl's Ashram, Collector directed the Asst. Commissioner BK Sukdeve to immediately carry out repair works. She also inquired to students about GK question and others related to the district and on getting right answer she boosted

Petrol tanker turned turtle

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Jan 28: A petrol/diesel tanker turned turtle near Ghotia chowk at Jhalmala in Balod district hq's and with petrol/diesel spreading on the road, it caused panic among those passing from

It was just for a short while that the road was blocked and immediately after this the local administration became active and lifted the tanker with help of crane and no incident took place. No casualties were reported. It is learnt that this petrol/diesel tanker was coming from Raipur bearing No. CG 24 F 4688 and carrying around 18000 lts of petroldiesel and was to be unloaded at Bhatia petrol pump. With no sparks on falling of this tanker,

R-Day celebrated in Govt. Primary School, Pendri Rajnandgaon, Jan 28: R-Day was celebrated with

Felicitates 35 journalists of Pandaria block

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Jan 28: CG Pichara Varg Aayog member Mahesh Chandravanshi felicitated the journalists of Pandaria on occasion of R-Day and said that he is honoured to be present to felicitate the journalists of fourth pillar of democracy, who maintains balance in the society through their works and services.

Speaking further he said that the work of journalists is very challenging and it is by presenting stories and facts in black and white that they bring justice to needy and to those who are exploited and he



hailed the same. On this occasion Mahesh Chandravanshi felicitated 35 journalists from Pandaria block headquarters.

On occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on Jan 30, Chandravashi informed that mask distribution to around 10 thousand farmers will be started under Rajiv Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yoojana in all the paddy purchase centres (PPCs) and he urged all journalists to be present at the rest house for this programme.

The programme was also addressed by Radhelal Bhaskar former DCC district president; Paras Bangani Janpad member; journalist

Nirmal Saluia, Gurnam Singh Chabda, Ramkumar Tandon: Padamraj Tandon, journalist Satish Patre and it was conducted by Sanju Tiwari. On this occasion Paras Sharma, Pradeep Rajak, Babla Rajak, Dinesh Tiwari, Bharthari Singh, Arvind Tiwari, Kalu Saluja, Mahadev Soni, Shyam Tandon, PD Manikpuri, Imran Khan, Narendra Tiwari, Himanshu Thakur, Kesari Nandan Tiwari, DCC spokesman Gautam Sharma, BCC former President Thakur, corporator Bhaskar.

Khovaram Bhaskar, Chandrbhan Tandon, Amita Padwar, Mochan Chandravanshi, Jitendra Chandravashi, Kanhaiya Yadav, former sarpanch; BCC Kunda former President Uttar

Case filed against three under illicit sale of liquor



Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 28: Under the strict action by the police to put a check on illicit sale of liquor by the police, the Dongargarh police has filed case against three involved in such practices and this includes Alim Khan (30) S/o Chote Khan R/o Kashmiripara; Teekam Verma (35), S/o Bharat Verma, Belgaon; Ishwari Ram (35), S/o Ghuru Ram R/o Patthar Tola. The police raided their places and seized illicit liquor in large quantity. As per information in this regard, the police based upon tip from an informer raided the residences of above three persons and seized illicit liquor. A case under section 34(1) of Excise Act has been filed against all three. In the above action head constable Rohit Padoti, Ajit Toppo and Laxmi Thakur played important role.

Chhindnar bridge to make transportation easier for internal areas: Baghel

CM dedicates bridge and unveils devep works worth Rs 251 cr for Dantewada district

Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today dedicated the newlybuilt bridge over Indravati river at Chhindnar in Dantewada district to the public. This 712 metre long and 8.40 metre wide bridge has been constructed at a cost of Rs 47 crores. With the construction of this bridge, even the raging Indravati River will not be hinder the way of the villagers in Chhindnar. Before this bridge was constructed, rainfall would bring the lives of villagers and the traffic movement in the area to a complete standstill. This bridge would provide the facility of all-weather traffic movement to the villagers. In a program organized at Chhindnar, Chief Minister has unveiled the gift of 814 development works worth about Rs 251 crore for Dantewada district. On this occasion. Minister of Industries and in-charge of the district, Mr. Kawasi Lakhma, MLA Mrs. Devti Karma, Mr. Vikram Mandavi, MP Mr. Deepak Baij, many public representatives and a large number of villagers were pres-

ent.
Construction of this bridge on Indravati River

has expedited the development of villages, made it easier to provide basic facilities in the interior areas and has brought positive change in the lives of people. This bridge has also paced up the development of Naxal affected villages of Cherpal, Tumrigunda, Pahurnar, Kaurgaon and other villages across the river Indravati and has improved the accessibility to basic facilities here, bringing about visible positive transformation in the lives of peo-

It is worth mentioning that earlier when Indravati river would get flooded during the rainy season, the



villagers had to face major inconvenience, even to get their basic needs met. But now this bridge has solved their various problems,

velopment of basic facilities in the neighborvillages. Gram Marigunda Panchayat, 100 percent of the households have electrified been through installation of 18 transformers at 18 crossings at a cost of Rs 2 crore, benefiting 410 beneficiaries. amount of Rs. 3 crore 91 lakh has been sanctioned to electrify the houses of all the villages situated across the river Indravati. Subsequently, electrification work

with the expedited de-

Pahurnar village has been completed. Electrification is also going on in full swing in Cherpal village. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, the work of supplying water to every household in the interior villages through tap connections has also accelerated. This bridge has also helped District Administration in expediting the work of organizing camps in villages and benefitting maximum number of people under government schemes.

In the villages near

In the villages hear Indravati river, labor cards have been issued to 632 beneficiaries, and now they are availing benefits of various government schemes. Health services have also become more accessible. Now 108 Sanjeevani Express and 102 Mahtari Express are commuting in the village as per the requirement. Under Dr. Khubchand Baghel

Ayushman Yojana, about 2829 people have been provided Ayushman cards and 45 disable people have been issued disability certificates. People are being vaccinated to prevent COVID-19 infection. This bridge has not only brought a positive change in the lives of the people, but has also brough government and administration closer to public.

A total of 1656 people have started getting the benefit of ration cards in the gram panchayats located across the river Indravati. Construction of bridge over Indravati has accelerated the overall development of the surrounding villages and has improved the lives of villagers as well.

NAME CHANGE

The general public is informed that I was known and known by the name of Jyoti Kumari father Shri Ashok Kumar resident of Ruabandha, Bhilai district Durg (Chhattisgarh), the same name is also recorded in all my educational certificates. That my marriage is to Shri Ramayanshi, H-15, P.H.E. The colony is endowed with social customs with Panchsheel Nagar Raipur.

I undertake this affidavit that at present I am Jyoti Suryawanshi husband Shri R a m a y a n K u m a r Suryawanshi, Address-H-15 P.H.E. Colony, Panchsheel Nagar, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) is known and called and in future I should be known and recognized by this name.

Ishwardas Jangde Advocate,

Bar Room No. 108
District and Sessions Court, Raipur.(C.G.

BRIEF

Robbery

■ Mumbai: Two persons have been arrested for allegedly robbing a merchant navy officer when he was on his way to his residence in suburban Bandra after meeting a friend. According to the Bandra police official, the arrested accused have been iden tified as Anil Garud (30) and Akshay Ghodake (27). On the day of the incident, which took place recently, the victim was on his way to home when he got into an argument with the

Pledge

■ Jaipur: After the Rajasthan transport department made it mandatory for driving license applicants to declare their willingness for organ donation or otherwise, over 3.14 lakh candidates have taken the pledge. This figure is probably the highest in the entire country, Transport and Road Safety Commissioner Mahendra Soni said. He said due to the nonavailability of organs in India, more than five lakh people die prematurely every

Held

year.

■ Chennai: A 30 yearold man, suspected to be a Bangladeshi with a Look Out Circular (LOC) pending against him was held at the airport here. The man, hailing from Surat in Gujarat, was an Indian passport holder and was at the airport here to board a Sharjah-bound flight. When he came for departure clearance, of ficials found that the LOC has been issued against him by the FRRO Mumbai, suspecting that he might be a Bangladeshi.

Quackery

Thane: A case has been registered against a retired peon of a primary health centre (PHC) in Thane district for practicing as a medial doctor without qualification and causing the death of four patients. No arrest has been made yet as the accused fled after a case under IPC sections 304 (causing death by negligence) and 420 (cheating) was registered.

Nabbed

■ Gurugram: Two alleged quacks were nabbed here for carrying out illegal termination of pregnancy in Badshahpur and Fazilpur in guise of running medical stores. The Drug Controller sealed both the medical stores. According to deputy civil surgeon Pradeer Kumar, a tip off was received at Civil Surgeon Virendra Yadav's office regarding two men selling abortion kits.

Assaulted

■ Pune: Three persons have been arrested and two minors detained for allegedly beating up a 20-yearold man and forcing him to eat biscuits thrown on the ground in Pimpri-Chinchwad in Pune district. A video of a person purportedly assaulting the victim with a belt and later others joining him in the attack and then forcing him to eat biscuits thrown on the ground went

BJP faces rebellion in four seats of Goa



Utpal Parrikar with supporters.

Panaji, Jan 28 (PTI):

The ruling BJP has managed to contain dissent in most areas in the run up to the Goa Assembly polls scheduled for February 14, but four seats, including the prestigious Panaji constituency, continue to be a cause for worry.

Utpal Panaji, Parrikar, the son of former chief minister and BJP's tallest leader from Goa so far late Manohar Parrikar, is up as an Independent against the ruling party's Atanasio Monserratte, who had quit the Congress in 2019.

Utpal has claimed his heart continues to be with the BJP but he was contesting to ensure a "wrong person", possibly a reference to the serious cases registered against Monserratte in the past, does not get elected from a seat his father represented for several terms. In Mandrem, former

Laxmikant Parsekar, who was the BJP's manifesto committee head. has quit the party and is contesting Independent against Dayanand Sopte, who had beaten him as a Congressman in 2017.

Marks of 7,800 Maha TET candidates manipulated

Marks changed in exchange of money

Pune, Jan 28 (PTI):

Investigation into the alleged malpractices in the results Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET)-2020 Maharashtra has re-

vealed that the marks of as many as 7,800 candidates were allegedly manipulated and changed in exchange of money, a top police official said on Friday. A report has been prepared in this connection and it will be submitted to the state government, Pune Police Commissioner Amitabh Gupta said.

"During the investiga tion of the alleged scam, the names of 7,800 candidates came to light,



Amitabh Gupta

whose marks were manipulated. We have prepared a list of all these people and it will be given to the state government." he said.

"The marks of these candidates were allegedly tampered with in exchange of money," he said. Tukaram Supe, Commissioner (now suspended) Maharashtra State Council of Examinations (MSCE) was among those

with the alleged tampering of the TET-2020 re-

Police have also arrested Pritesh Deshmukh, director of GA Software. the firm which was responsible for conducting the exam, and Abhishek Sawrikar, a consultant with the education department.

Gupta said more people are expected to be arrested in the case.

inspector Police Kumar Ghadge of Cyber police station said that so far 12 people, including Sawrikar and Deshmukh, have been arrested in the case and over Rs 4 crore in cash. gold ornaments and other documents related to the fixed deposits have been recovered in the

Naqvi takes swipe at Ansari for remarks on cultural nationalism

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

In an apparent swipe at former vice president Hamid Ansari, senior BJP leader and Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Friday that the "Bharat bashing brigade is engaged in a competition of "lynching" of the country's culture, commitment and Constitution.

At a virtual panel discussion organised by the Indian American Muslim Council on Wednesday, Ansari had said there has been emergence of trends and practices that dispute the well-established principle of civic nationalism and interpose a new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism.

And it wants to distinguish citizens on the basis of their faith, give vent to intolerance, he had said, drawing sharp comments from BJP leaders.

Speaking to reporters, Naqvi said, "Some people are becoming a part of



Mukhtar Abbas Nagyi

anti-India conspiracy of Pakistan sponsored organisations. These organisations are conspiring to create confusion over India's culture and inclusivity".

These people are becoming a partner in Pakistan's propaganda to defame India, he said.

Naqvi said that the country feels that some people and organisations have taken supari (contract) to tarnish India's culture, nationalism and its ethos of unity in diver-

"The mindset of Modibashing is now changed to Bharat-bashing", he al-

Campus Student's Council

Sharing detail about

several works undertaken

by him in his constituency,

Goldy told PTI in an inter-

in 2005-06.



Congress Dhuri candidate banks on development projects

Goldy contests against Bhagwant Mann

Dhuri, Jan 28 (PTI):

Congress candidate and sitting legislator Dalvir Singh Goldy from Punjab's Dhuri seat has challenged the AAP's chief ministerial face Bhagwant Mann for an open debate on the issue of development works, claiming the comedian has nothing to show to the people. Goldy is locked in a

high-stake electoral battle with Mann, who is the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) CM face and candidate from Dhuri. Shiromani Akali Dal has fielded former Sangrur legislator Parkash Chand



Congress candidate Dalvir Singh Goldy (R) during election campaign in Dhuri.

sembly constituencies of Sangrur Parliamentary seat. Mann is a two-time MP from Sangrur. With the AAP's CM candidate Mann being nominated from Dhuri, this assembly seat has shot into limelight.

The 40-year-old Goldy is banking upon several development projects car- of the Panjab University

ried out in Dhuri constituency in the last five

We have done a lot of development work in the constituency and have been serving people of this area for five years, says Goldy who had remained active in student politics and was president

view that volleyball grounds were set up in 57 villages while 32 km-long

roads were developed and re-carpeted, fire brigade at district level, mini fire brigade system at village level were set up and new sewerage system was laid. Asked as to how he sees Mann as an opponent from Dhuri, Goldy says, I see

him as a comedian not a serious politician. Mann is just singing paeans to the Arvind

Kejriwal's government to fool people during his speeches, says Goldy.

The AAP had declared comedian-turned-politician Mann as its chief

SP workers' resolve to don red caps godsend for poll merch sellers

Lucknow, Jan 28 (PTI):

Weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's red cap is red alert jibe, Samajwadi Party workers are buying the cap in hordes in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh to drive home their point that the headgear is a symbol of change and revolution

And the SP's resolve to prove a point has come as blessing for those selling election paraphernalia as they are witnessing a huge jump in the sales of red caps, a compensation of sorts for the losses they have suffered due to the ban on election rallies due to Covid. Led by party



Samajwadi Party workers wear red caps.

chief Akhilesh Yadav, SP leaders and workers are registering a silent protest against the prime minister's statement by flaunting their red caps, according to senior leaders.

"Today, every leader and worker of SP is campaigning in villages and streets of the state while wearing Adityanath had said every a red cap," SP national spokesperson and MLC Sunil Singh Sajan told PTI.

After PM Modi and CM Adityanath's statement that red, the colour of socialism, is a 'red alert for UP' and 'goons with red caps', party leaders and workers are putting on red caps to bring back socialism in the state and change the current government, he added.

Addressing a rally in Gorakhpur in December last year, Modi had targeted the SP, saying those in red caps were a red alert and sign of danger for the

In February last year. child sees those wearing red caps as "goons". He had also said the House should not be taken lightly as a "drama company" with some members sporting caps in red, some blue, some yellow or even green.

Raju Shukla of Sheela Enterprises, a wholesaler of election material here said, due to the Election Commission's ban on physical rallies and roadshows to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the sale of banners, posters and other campaign merchandise is low except for the red caps which are selling in huge numbers.

Five ex-civic chiefs of KDMC among 18 booked in illegal property case

Thane, Jan 28 (PTI):

Police have registered a case against five former municipal commissioners of the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) in Maharashtra's Thane district along with 13 others for allegedly allowing development of a property in contravention of rules, an official said on Friday.

The case was filed at Bazarpeth police station in Kalyan division based on the directions given on January 18 by a local court, he said.

The court in Kalyan had said that prima facie, a case is made out against the 18 persons on a com-

plaint lodged by a former independent corporator of the KDMC - Arun Geeth.

The order was passed by the judicial magistrate first class (JMFC) Sonali Sashikant Raul. In his complaint sub-

mitted to the court, the former corporator alleged that the civic officials and the town planners of the KDMC and other staff had connived with the developer and allowed the development of the property in contravention of rules starting January 2004. The property developer was made undue favour in granting the floor space index (FSI) and he indulged in several irregu-

The construction of the 23-storey high-rise is completely against the regulations, the complaint said.

Geeth alleged that he had approached the local police with the complaint, but they did not give any heed, and hence he had to knock on the court's

doors. The case was registered against developer Harakchand Jain, architect Anil Nirgude, five former KDMC municipal commissioners - Govind Rathod, Ramnath Sonawane, S S Bhise, E Ravinderan and Govind Bodke - and 11 other civic employees, the official at Bazarpeth police station

HC will hear acting Maha DGP plea for permanent appointment

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Bombay High Court on Friday said it will have to hear senior IPS officer and current acting Director General of Police (DGP) of Maharashtra, Sanjay Pandey before passing an order on a petition seeking permanent appointment of an officer to the post.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice MS Karnik said that while earlier this week it had closed the matter for judgment noting that there was no need to hear Pandey, it has later come to the court's notice that there are some direct allegations against the IPS officer in the petition.

While dictating our judgment in the case, we came across a few para-



against Sanjay Pandey. In view of this, we deem it appropriate and necessary to implead Sanjay Pandey as a party respondent in the petition. We will hear him first and then pass our judgment, the court said. The court recalled its January 25 order reserving the matter for judg-

ernment and the UPSC shall also file affidavits if they wish to, the bench said, posting the matter for further hearing.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by a city-based advocate Datta Mane seeking directions to the state government to make a permanent appointment to the post of the Director General of Police (DGP).

Mane's counsel Abhinav Chandrachud had argued that as per a judgment passed by the Supreme Court, the post of the state's top police officer could not be an acting one and that an officer with the minimum tenure requirements as per the 2006 ruling must be appointed.

The petition sought that the state government must appoint a DGP as per the recommendation made by the selection committee of the UPSC in November 2021. Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, appearing for the state government, had told the court that Pandey, currently the senior most IPS officer in the state, had been appointed as the acting DGP last year after the then DGP Subodh Jaiswal vacated the post midterm

following his transfer to

the CBI. In the November 1

meeting of the UPSC selec-

tion committee, of which the state's then Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte was a party, the names of IPS officers Hemant Nagrale, Rajnish Seth and K Venkatesham were recommended for the post of Maharashtra DGP.

Kunte signed off on the three names at the time, but on November 8, he wrote to the UPSC saying that it had erred in not recommending the current DGP Pandey's name and that it would reconsider the same. The court had earlier this week noted that Kunte's conduct was not proper and not based on any legal principles.

The bench had noted that it did not behove Kunte to have not raised a grievance or pointed out the error committed, if any, by the committee before signing off on the

three names.

Four accused savagely attacked man with iron rods

Faridabad, Jan 28 (PTI):

Four goons savagely attacked a man with iron rods over personal enmity in Huda market near Kheripul in the district here, police said. A video clip capturing the attack has also surfaced.

The victim identified as Tausim alias Vaseem, resident of village Mawai under Kheripul police station, is being treated in a private hospital while one attacker has been nabbed and efforts are on to nab the others, the police said.

An FIR has been registered at old Faridabad police station. Arrested accused Sahil revealed two other accused as Nikki and Arjun.

SHO of Faridabad old police station.

Police said the incident was the outcome of a personal rivalry between the victim and the accused. The victim was stopped by

the accused in Huda mar-

ket around 9:20 pm on

Thursday and assaulted.

The disturbing video clip, accessed by the PTI, showed the four accused assaulting the victim with iron rods. The victim could be seen lying on the road and writhing in pain as the accused unleashed a series of severe blows with the iron rod to break his legs. The nearby people gathered there and caught one of the fleeing attacker as the police was informed. The police reached on the spot and took the accused identified

We are conducting raids and the other accused will be arrested soon, said inas Sahil, resident of Kheri spector Dinesh Kumar, Pul, in its custody.

The bench on Friday diviral on social media. graphs in the petition rected Pandey to file his afwhere there are certain difidavit in response to the

OPENING JUDICIAL YEAR

WORLD

BRIEF

Sinks

■ Tunis: At least six people trying to migrate from Africa to Europe died and an estimated 30 were missing in the

Mediterranean Sea after their boat sank off the coast of Tunisia. Naval forces retrieved the bodies, rescued 34 survivors and are searching for the people listed as missing, TAP news agency quoted the Defense Ministry as saying. The boat had left from neighbouring Libya and sank 44 kilometers off Zarzis, TAP said.

Wounded

Moscow: Fighting between the border guards services of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan has wounded at least six people. The conflict reportedly began near the Kyrgyz city of Batken after Tajik border guards closed a road that leads to sizable towns in Kyrgyzstan's west. Kyrgyz authorities say the Tajik guards have fired with mortars and grenade-launchers. serpentine Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan

border is often a tense area with clashes.

Leave

Copenhagen: Denmark will pull its small military force out of northern Mali after the West African country's transitional government said no permission had been given for them to deploy there. The government in Bamako, under coup leader Col Assimi Goita, told Denmark to withdraw its 90-person contingent, which arrived in Mali just a week earlier for a one year deployment under a European counterter-

rorism operation time-

Hack

■ **Dubai:** Channels of Iran's state television broadcast images showing the leaders of an exiled dissident group and a graphic demanding the country's supreme leader be killed, an incident that state TV later described as a hack. For several seconds, graphics flashed on screen showing the leaders of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq and the name of a social media account, which claimed to be a group of hackers who broadcast the message.

Mistaken

NIT.

G-67195/1

91427

Coconut Creek: A South Florida cook says he lived a nightmare recently when police mistook him for a fugitive with the same name, similar looks and almost the same birthday.

Selling S-400 to India spotlights Russia's destabilising role: US

Washington, Jan 28 (PTI):

Russia selling the S-400 air defence missile system to India shines a spotlight on the "destabilising role' that Moscow is playing in the region and potentially beyond as well, the United States has said.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 surface-toair missile defence system, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US



ed that its decisions are based on its national interest to protect its national security. Well in many ways. this doesn't change the concerns that we have with the S-400 system. I think it shines a spotlight on the destabilising role that Russia is playing not only in the region but potentially beyond as well, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference. The US was urging all

countries to avoid major new transactions for Russian weapon systems, Price said, amidst escalating tensions Washington and Moscow

ministration has not yet clarified whether it will impose sanctions on India under the provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for procuring the S-400 missile systems. When it comes to CAATSA sanctions, you've heard me say before, we haven't made a determination with regard to this transaction, but it's something we continue to discuss with the government of India given the risk of sanctions for this particular transaction under CAATSA,



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro (R) fisting pumps with president of Supreme Tribunal of Justice Maikel Moreno (L) during opening ceremony of judicial year at Supreme Court in Caracas.

South Korea plans to add small hospitals as COVID cases surge

Seoul, Jan 28 (AP):

South Korea plans next month to add hundreds of small neighbourhood hospitals and clinics to treat the thousands more people expected to get COVID-19 during a developing omicron surge Health officials an-

nounced the plans Friday as South Korea's daily cases reached a new high for a fourth straight day. The 16,096 new infections were double the number reported Monday. Experts say an omicron-driven surge could continue for five to eight weeks and push daily cases to over 100,000.

Officials have scrambled to reshape the country's pandemic response, including increasing athome treatments, reducing quarantine periods and expanding the use of rapid testing kits while mostly saving lab tests for high-risk groups.

The country's medical response to COVID-19 had mainly depended on big



A medical worker guides people as they wait for their **COVID-19 test at testing site in Seoul, South Korea, Friday.**

equipment and more beds. Officials are now trying to mobilise smaller hospitals and clinics to diagnose and monitor possibly tens of thousands of people with mild or moderate cases who would be treated at home in coming

Health Minister Kwon Deok-cheol said it has become inevitable for the country to expand outpatient treatment and concentrate crucial medical resources to high-risk groups, including people in their 60s and older or those with pre-existing

sidering the speed of infections driven by omicron.

Lee Ki-il, the deputy health minister, said officials are closely consulting with doctors' groups while aiming to designate around 1,000 small hospitals and clinics for COVID-19 treatment by early February.

The facilities will be required to reserve separate spaces or treatment hours of people suspected of COVID-19, while the doctors will conduct or arrange tests, prescribe Pfizer's Paxlovid antiviral pills and monitor patients medical conditions, con- at home through phone.

Probe on how Indian family travelled to Canada-US border

Toronto, Jan 28 (PTI):

Days after a family of four Indians from Gujarat was found dead near the Canada-US border, Canadian authorities are investigating how they travelled to the border after arriving in Toronto and is asking people to think about what they went through and share any information they may have to help with the

Jagdish Baldevbhai Patel, 39, Vaishaliben Jagdishkumar Patel, 37, Vihangi Jagdishkumar Patel, 11 and Dharmik Jagdishkumar Patel, 3, all from the same family and Indian nationals, were found frozen to death near Emerson, Manitoba, approximately 12 metres from the Canada/US border on January 19 by Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Earlier, authorities had said that the family included an adult male, adult female, teen male and infant. But it is now revealed the victims included a young girl and not a teen

Initially, we had identi-



and Dharmik (in lap) who were found frozen to death near the Canada-US border.

fied one of the victims as a male teen. We apologise for that error but please understand that the frozen state in which the bodies were found and the clothing worn by the family made the initial identification difficult. It is also why the process to confirm the names took an extended period of time, Chief Superintendent Rob Hill, Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations for the Manitoba Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Hill said that the Patel family arrived in Toronto on January 12, 2022, their first point of entry into Canada. From Toronto, the family made their way to Manitoba and eventually to Emerson around January 18, a day before they tragically died near the border due to exposure to extreme weather conditions.

Hill said there was no abandoned vehicle located on the Canadian side of the border, clearly indicating that someone drove the family to the border and then left the

With what we know so far of their activities in arrest that occurred in the United States, we believe this to be a case of human smuggling, he said, adding that officers with Canada's Major Crime Services and Federal Policing are looking at every aspect of their journey, including their travel from Toronto on January 12 to Emerson around January 18. This is an extended peri-

od of time for a family who is unfamiliar with Canada to be travelling across the country. A part of the investigation is determining whether this travel was facilitated in some way by an individual or individu-

It is our belief that people had interactions with the Patel family during their stay in Canada. This can include hotel, gas station or restaurant employees, Hill said.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS No.:2021/C/Chg./STBA/II/R,

(1) Name of Work: Appointment of

Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBAs) at Bhilai Nagar, Dadhapara and Lakholi "NSG-6" category stations, over Raipur Division on South East Central Railway for issuing computerized unreserved tickets through computerized unreserved ticketing system (UTS) from interested parties, for a period of Three Years. (2) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,000/-. (3) Cost Five Hundred Ninety only) per Application Forms: From 10.00 01.02.2022 to 01.03, 2022 on all office working days. (5) Last Date and Time for Submission of Application: up to 15.00 hours on 02.03.2022. (6) Opening

Application Box: At 15.30 hours

Application are to be drop their

of 02.03.2022.

sealed cover addressed to Sr.

Manager(Commercial)

Divisional Railway

Rwanda to reopen its Uganda border, ending tense standoff

Kampala, Jan 28 (AP):

Rwandan authorities said early Friday they would reopen the border with Uganda, ending nearly three years of a standoff that appeared to hurt both countries' economies and raised fears of armed hostilities.

announcement The came after a period of quiet diplomacy during which Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni dispatched envoys including his son, Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, to negotiate with his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame.

Kainerugaba, who commands Uganda's infantry forces, was in Rwanda on Saturday. Earlier this week Museveni made key changes to his security apparatus, removing the

26.66

tween the two countries." chief of military intelli-कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) 🏾 ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा सूचना विनांक 27/01/2022 नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जोन क्र.08 अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों नेम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-अनुमानित निविदा डाउनलोड

सबमिट करने की अंतिम तिथि

11-02-2022

kwanaa.

Rwanda first closed the busy border crossing at Gatuna in February 2019. Subsequent talks mediated by Angola and Congo appeared to fail to resolve the dispute, compelling Uganda to negotiate privately with Rwanda.

Rwanda's government says the border will officially reopen Monday. Its statement said it remained committed to the efforts to resolve pending issues and believes the announcement will contribute positively to the speedy normalization of relations be-

The development will bring cheers in both Rwanda and Uganda after years of suffering for businesses that lost markets and other opportunities. Uganda, denied a major market for its exports, appeared to lose more at the height of what it called an effective trade embargo.

Rwanda's government

sistently criticized by not to travel to Uganda, Rwanda. That move apclaiming that Rwandan across the border. It also accused Ugandan authorities of backing rebels opposed to Kagame and demanded the expulsion from Uganda of the business interests of a Rwandan tycoon who is critical of Kagame, But Ugandan officials made a counter-charge accusing Rwandan state agents of operating unlawfully in Uganda, including in the

alleged abductions of

Rwandan citizens wanted

back home. Tensions Rwanda and Uganda raised fears of possible armed conflict as Kagame and Museveni threatening remarks at public events. Museveni warned that those who try to destabilise our country do not know our capacity, Kagame countered that nobody anywhere can bring me to my knees.

In the 1990s the armies of Uganda and Rwanda went to war in eastern

gence who had been per- also ordered its citizens. Congo when they backed rival rebel groups. Many parts of eastern Congo repears to have placated citizens were not safe main lawless, with armed groups still operating there. Some analysts have been concerned any tensions between Uganda and Rwanda could lead to a proxy conflict in eastern

Congo. Kagame and Museveni, authoritarian leaders who have ruled their countries for many years, have increasingly disagreed in recent years as Kagame, once an intelligence lieutenant for Museveni, asserts his authority at home and in the region.

Kagame, who grew up as a refugee in Uganda, was a Ugandan army major before he led Uganda-backed rebels who took power in Rwanda at the end of the 1994 geno-

Australia pledges \$704 million to save Great Barrier Reef Canberra, Jan 28 (AP): The Authority, which manages

Australian government on years on improving the health to prevent illegal fishing. of the Great Barrier Reef after stalling a UNESCO decision on downgrading the natural wonder's World Heritage status.

Critics argue the invest-

ment is a bid to improve the ruling conservative coalition's green credentials ahead of looming elections while doing nothing to change the greatest threat to the coral: rising ocean temperatures. Of the funding, AU 580 million will go toward working with land managers along Australia's northeast coast to remediate erosion, improve land conditions and reduce nutrient and pesticide runoff. Another AU 253 million will support the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

the world's largest coral reef Friday pledged to spend ecosystem, in efforts to another 1 billion Australian reduce threats from the dollars (704 million) over nine crown-of-thorns starfish and

> **E-TENDER NOTICE FOR** MISCELLANEOUS WORK

Tender Notice No. WRS-R-09-Wagon Stripping Date: 21.01.2022 Name of the work: Stripping of vagon & its components along with ransportation within the premises of Wagon Repair Shop, Approximate Tender Value: ₹ 39,91,800/- (Rupees thirty nine akhs ninety one thousand eight Quantity and Contractual Period: As per annexure enclosed for a period of 24 (twenty four) months. Earnest Money (Rs.): 79,800/-Cost of Tender Forms (Rs.): NIL Tender Closing Date & Time: 21.2.2022 at 11:30 hrs. Bidding Start Date: 07.02.2022, Eligibility criteria: Can be seen on website. Manual tender shall not be accepted. n website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dv. CMF (Admin)/WRS PR/R/WRS/AN/138 S.E.C. R., Raipur South East Central Railway, Raipur in the Application box kept in the box kept for this purpose in the office of DRM Office Complex, South East Central Railway, Near Wailtair Level Crossing Gate, RVH Colony, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) up to 15.00 hours on 02.03.2022. Railway reserves its rights to either cancel the tender or rejects any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. For details of eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, South East Central Railway, Raipur or refer download application document which is available on our website: www.secr indianrailways.gov.in.

South East Central Railway @@secrail | | FSouth East Central Railway @@secrail

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION BAIKUNTHPUR, DISTT. KORIYA (C.G.) eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st Call)

SYSTEM TENDER NO. 91097 / NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 10 /SAC/2021-22 DATED: 21.01.2022 Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

14.02.2022 (17.30 hours IST).

Name of Work CONSTRUCTION OF 1 KM, C.C. CHANEEL IN MAIN CANAL 1.5 KM C.C. CHANNEL IN MINOR CANAL 2KM FIELD C.C. CHANNEL & Rs. 125.6 CONSTRUCTION OF 02 NO. V.R.B. IN REMODLING WORK OF LAKHS KUSHMAHA TANK SCHEME (With Maintenance up to 10 Years from he date of completion)

The details can be viewed & downloaded online directely from he Govt. of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in from dated 31.01.2022 at 17.31 hours (IST) onwards.

Note: All eligible/interested contractors /bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the ntegrated e-Procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under centralized contractor/ supplier registration in (S.K. Dubey)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION **BIKUNTHPUR KOREA (C.G.)** For, Chief Enginee Hasdeo Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt

जिला - गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.) Email id eegpm-phe@cg.gov.in

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता

लोक स्वास्थ्य यात्रिकी विभाग स्वण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही

ऑनलाईन निविदाएँ प्रपत्र – ए में प्रतिशत दर अनुबंध हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित कार्यों हे लिये जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्य का विवरण – जिला गौरेला पेण्डा मरवाही के विकास खण्ड गौरेला ग्राम जोगीसार (अमरईयापारा) में जल जीवन मिशन के अंतर्गत मिनि नल जल योजन

 .	निविदा सूचना क्र.	सिस्टम	ग्राम का नाम	विकासखण्ड	अनुमानित लागत			
	/दिनांक	क्रमांक			(रू.लाख में)			
1	9 / 25.01.2022	91386	जोगीसार	गौरेला	111.36			
			(अमरईयापारा)					

बिड सबिमशन की अंतिम तिथि — 02.03.2022

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें धरोहर राशि विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई—प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल https;//eproc.cgstate.gov.in में दिनांक 18.01.2022 से देखे जा सकते हैं।

> कार्यपालन अभियंता लो.स्वा.यां.खण्ड गौरेला–पेण्ड्रा–मरवाही जिला गौरेला—पेण्ड्रा—मरवाही

दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाईट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in रं डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। जोन आयुक्त, जोन कार्यालय क्र.08 Green City, Clean City, Dream City. न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्ते, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा

Supply of Skilled/Non Skilled Labo

for Zone 08 Koni Nagar Municipa

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, (वि./यां.) मंडल, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना

Portal: http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

नि.आ.स. दिनांक 25.01.2022 तथा डाउनलोड की अंतिम तिथि 06.02.2022

The state of the s								
ऑनलाईन निविदा द्वितीय आमंत्रण								
क्र.		ऑनलाईन टेण्डर नंबर		लागत (लाख में)				
1	40	91512	Electrical pole/transformer LT & HT line Shifting work under PWD B./R. Division Ambikapur, Distt. Surguja (C.G.)	200.00				
निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त								

अधीक्षण अभियंता लो.नि.वि., (वि./यां.) मण्डल, बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works: NIT No./ Name of Work System amount of Tender No contract CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

BUILDING AT RAMNAGAR RAIPUR (C.G.) i/c

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)

Tender Notice

(2nd Call)

ELECTRIFICATION WORK. Last date of tender Download Date up to 11.02.2022 Time 17:30 PM Note: - All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the Procurement portal [https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in] in order to download the tende

> Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1

Raipur (C.G.)

117.17

Lakh

Ambikapur, Sarguja (C.G.)

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, RAIPUR, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

N T R A L

Chronicle

Established 1974 Volume 47 No. 116

Sabotage of infrastructure

A portion of railway tracks in Jharkhand's Giridih district was damaged due to a blast that was triggered by suspected members of banned CPI (Maoist). The banned outfit had called for a 24-hour bandh in Jharkhand to protest against the arrest of its top leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, by the Jharkhand Police. Jharkhand remains among the three poorest states along with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh according to Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This attack is worrying not just from point of view of internal security but external security as well. Both the Congress led UPA government previously and now BJP led NDA government acknowledge about red terror, but need to see the link with external enemies. During situation of national crisis, enemies of India can effectively use Maoists (also called Naxals locally), to sabotage critical infrastructure in India. Attack on railway infrastructure is sabotage operation. Jharkhand will have to emulate other states with special task force and corresponding policies in rural governance and agriculture to diminish influence of Maoists. The country's first township dedicated to surrendered Maoists and the victims of Maoist violence is taking shape in Dantewada district. The township will also have a livelihood college where residents will be given training in around 20 different trades, including motorcycle repair work, processing of minor forest produce, and modern farming. This township will be roll model across India to counter ideology of Maoists. Ever since the Maoist menace started, none of the states have managed to tackle the Maoists in a way the Andhra Pradesh Police have done. The Andhra model has been the most successful. They built an effective force called the 'Greyhound' to take the

To support them an extremely robust Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) was built in which trained locals were recruited. They would provide vital information, identify top Maoist leaders, and their location. Working on this information the Greyhound commandos would attack the area and eliminate the Maoist leaders and their team-members. This strategy has been so successful that within a span of two decades, the Andhra Pradesh Police eradicated the entire Maoist menace from their state and it is now a Maoist-free state. So much so, that there has been not a single Maoist-related incident or violence reported in the state in the past 15 years. It is not just policing strategy to be working against Maoists but social integration and agriculture too. Many states including Chhattisgarh and Odisha have successfully diminished influence of Maoists in villagers by agriculture policy measures with infrastructure development. In Odisha, the area in Malkangiri district containing 151 villages in 9 gram panchayats were a major cause of concern for the state police as the Maoists commanders of the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee operate there. Sandwiched between the Balimela reservoir on one side and daunting hills on the other side for almost four decades, the area was out of bound for the government till 2018 when the government built a bridge ending decades of isolation for the 37000-odd people of the area. While the long-pending bridge has become a reality, the promised infrastructure in the interior parts of the region as well the economic development was realised. The farmers in remote

Cash transactions reforms

anks have been permitted to charge Rs 21 instead of Rs 20 on each transaction after the monthly free ATM (Automated Teller Machine) withdrawal limit since beginning of this year. However, bank customers will continue to avail 5 free ATM withdrawal limit from their own bank ATM and 3 free ATM withdrawal limit other bank ATM. Now the rates are set to be hiked by Rs 1 per extra transaction each month. Some startups in India are deploying white label ATM machines. The ATMs which are set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are known as White Label ATMs (WLAs). The finance ministry and Reserve Bank of India shall implement separate set of reforms for cash transactions in India, rather than insist on cashless policy alone and ATM is key tool to achieve this objective. ATMs came to India somewhere in the 1980s through the branches of foreign banks and were the most coveted and awe-inspiring technology marvels of that period. Thanks to the National Financial Switch (NFS) set up in 2004 by IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology), interoperability between ATMs of various banks became a reality. The NFS network was transferred to NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) in 2010 and since then, the number of ATMs connected to NFS has grown to more than 251,000. While India has 650,000 villages, there is one ATM for 10 vil-

This is a big hurdle for financial inclusion. After a temporary blip during demonetisation, the cash economy has continued to thrive in the country. While digital transactions have shown a sudden increase, ATM transactions are also growing in line with a similar growth. ATMs in India have changed from being an exclusive device for premium customers in urban areas, to being the agents of social change, supporting financial inclusion across towns and remote villages of India. Mass banking could not have been possible in this country without ATMs providing the much-needed cash dispensation points for millions of customers. Banks have effectively used ATMs to provide basic banking services to customers at any time of the day and in a cost-effective manner. ATMs on wheels have driven down to large societies to enable residents to withdraw cash during the lockdown. In the USA, one sights an ATM after a long search whereas in Indian urban centres they have become as commonplace. That is because while in the US a card is used more for swiping at merchant establishments and for making online payments, in India it is the reverse more for withdrawals at the ubiquitous ATMs and less for digital payments. Can government in India also move in this direction, remains to be seen.

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

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

POSING WITH 'SNOWMAN'



Members of the jury of the 29th edition of the 'Gerardmer Fantastic Film Festival' pose with a 'snowman' ice sculpture at Gerardmer in eastern France.

Challenge of conducting elections be in COVID-19 era



he first elections post-onset of the COVID-19 pandemic were held for the Bihar Legislative Assembly in the months of November and December 2020. The Election Commission had patted its back and congratulated itself on the successful completion of those elections. Following that, the country bore witness to the election fiasco in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly which was carried out in 8 phases from March to April 2021. Then began the country's challenging battle against the second wave of COVID-19. Recently, the Election Commission also announced the schedule for the Legislative Assembly elections of five states, namely Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, and Uttarakhand. As a result of these elections, the country will receive around 690 new MLAs and about 20 new Rajya Sabha members. This entire process of these assembly elections w steadily over two months.

During this period, around 18 and a half crore voters will exercise their franchise to vote. Overall, this assembly election will be held on a massive scale. Although there was an apprehension that the election process might be postponed due to the third wave of the ongoing and seemingly never-ending pandemic, after taking a thorough review of the situation, the Election Commission has concluded that the elections will be conducted discreetly. Anyway, postponing elections is not that easy either.

As soon as the code of conduct came into force, the administration in various districts intensified the work of removing posters and hoardings up to the assembly constituency level. Now, it will be a challenge for political parties to reach out to every voter amid the COVID-19 transition. In the Panchavat. the Municipal Corporation, and the Vidhan Sabha elections, the candidates have been going door-to-door. Now, it would not be right to expect the same in these elections. As the global pandemic doesn't seem to be drawing to an end, the approach and procedure of the elections are subject to change. The elections will have to be conducted in such a manner that the outcome of the pandemic on the public is negliaible. However, the responsibility to ensure that the elections are conducted safely does not solely lie on the **Election Commission. For this, the** leaders of political parties, the volunteers, and all the workers will also have to remain vigilant.

Voters will also have to make sacrifices to vote for the consummation of the festival of democracy. It is common knowledge that subsequent to the announcement of the election schedule, the model code of conduct has also come into force. In the midst of peaking fear and terror of the third wave of the pandemic, relief can be drawn from two facts. First, in the states where elections are going to be held, the majority of voters have at least one dose of the COVID-19 vac-

cine, although the pace of vaccination has been slow in Punjab. That was not the case when elections were held in Bihar or West Bengal. Everyone knows that the only way to avoid being infected by the virus is to get vaccinated on time. That, along with wearing a mask and following the norms of social distancing can help keep the virus at bay. The second thing is, in these elections, all the political parties will have to reach out to their voters through the virtual approach. They will lay more emphasis on virtual rallies only. In this manner, all unnecessary gatherings can be avoided. The Bharatiya Janata Party is powerful and active on various social media platforms. They have scores of followers on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, with their numbers only hinting at an upward trend. It also has a wide network of WhatsApp groups. In such a situation, it can efficiently organize meetings in virtual mode as per its needs. Other parties also understand the importance of social media. A budget of Rs 40 lakhs has been capped for contesting the elections. In such a situation, the candidates of different parties will have to work very carefully. Because in this age of technology, it is not a difficult task for the Election Commission to keep track of every penny spent.

Although all political parties are deliberating about keeping distance from tainted leaders, every party requires a candidate. The Bharatiya Janata Party is undertaking all possible efforts to conquer all the four other states, including Uttar Pradesh. It is also working hard for the accomplishment of its goal. Currently, it is soaring ahead in the race against all other parties. The BJP has snatched almost all the significant points from the hands of the opposition. Apart from the election announcements of various parties, in totality, the BJP is making strides in almost all the spheres affecting life. Whether it be solving regional problems, turning different castes or classes in their

favor, or capitalizing on religious sentiments. All prominent leaders of the party are currently working in the field. The influence of the Samajwadi Party is limited only to Uttar Pradesh. Congress is fighting to hold onto the rank of the number four party in Uttar Pradesh. There is no respectable place left for it in such a unique state of the nation. However, the Gandhi family claims to be from Uttar Pradesh. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) visible in Punjab and Uttarakhand is nowhere to be found in Uttar Pradesh. So, it is pretty evident that India's largest party, BJP, will try to form its government in all five states.

However, various parties will pose obstacles and challenge it, especially the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and Congress and AAP in Uttarakhand and Punjab. In the upcoming assembly elections, the whole country will have to keep an eye on the situation in Punjab. There the conditions continue to remain unfavorable. Anti-national elements are openly making their move under the guise of the farmers' movement. There is a Congress-led government there, which is prone to a breakdown and clash within the party. Anti-BJP forces are also active. The new Director-General of Police and **Election Commission of Punjab will** need to ensure fair elections in these regions. Puniab is one of the borderstates of the country and cannot be left unchecked. Recently in Punjab, the convoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was stopped in its tracks as a part of a conspiracy. The whole country witnessed it. It is the united desire of the nation that the voters reject such anti-national forces during the Punjab Assembly elections. India also hopes that the consequences of the Coronavirus should not come to the fore during the elections of these five states. Due to the widespread COVID-19 vaccination drive, we hope that the country will celebrate its democratic festival properly.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Victim crowd

We remember what the pupil of Jamia Millia Islamia University did in December 2019. Buses were set on fire, stones were pelted on the police forces and slogans were raised and the law was taken in hand in the name of CAA protest. That scenario angered our many patriotic people for mixing religion in a political protest rally. The same group organized a seminar titled 'State Repression, Witch-Hunting & Resistance' at Delhi Press Club with an attendance of around 70-80 people. A few selected people were invited to speak on and one of them was Akhtarista Ansari, ex-student of JMI. In her speech, she said anti-CAA protests were simultaneously held in other universities but the voice of Jamia Millia Islamia University was suppressed because Muslims study there, but notably she hid the fact that the Jamia mob burnt buses, pelted stones and caused damage to public properties. Also, the crowd turned into the religious crowd, which did not happen in other universities. These people always play the victim card once they are caught in the fault line. In the same seminar and the same speaker hailed Sharjeel Imam (the person who wanted to cut off the Northeast from India) as a hero and described him as one who showed the way of success to farmers' protest. Interestingly, Hiren Gohain too had echoed similar lines when Sharjeel Iman was arrested under UAPA. In the same seminar, another anti-national Umar Khalid was praised and compared to Great Man Mahatma Gandhi. It has become a habit of a section on the group to air anti-India statements and when they are arrested, they cry atrocities. Unless and until these people are dealt with an iron fist, they will keep breeding more such elements.

Julie, via email

Iron Man's legacy

Famously known as the Iron Man of India, Sardar Patel is remembered and credited for his political wisdom and efforts to integrate the princely states into the Union of India. He persuaded the princes of 565 states by proposing favourable terms for the merger including the creation of privy purses for the rulers' descendants and encouraged them to act out of patriotism. In 1917, Patel's course of life changed after he was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. He strictly adhered to Gandhi's satyagraha to further India's fight and struggle against the British Raj. Patel was the leading candidate for the 1945-46 presidency of the Indian intervened and supported the election of Jawaharlal Nehru. As president of the Congress, Nehru was invited by the British viceroy to form the interim government. Thus, in the normal course of events, Patel would have been the first Prime Minister of India. Nevertheless, his enduring fame still rests on his achievement of the peaceful integration of the princely Indian states and the political unification of India.

Ranganathan, via email

WHAT THEY TWEET!



Kunal Shah@kunalb11

Where apps are like web series. Where one character is introduced at a time and has a connection with previous characters. Many companies that are trying to become super apps from the word go are becoming like a buffet at a rich wedding where you don't understand 90% of dishes.

Rahul Mathur@Rahul

10 minute grocery delivery is overrated for most bachelors in India especially since Swiggy can get you a proper cooked meal in < 25 minutes in metro cites. The combination of food delivery + meal-in-a-box cloud kitchens is incredibly powerful (and, some folks can't cook).



Vivek Prasad@ Mallufideintent

Beating Retreat should not become a light and sound show. If a light and sound show is what we want,let's atleast stop calling it Beating Retreat. The Govt's spin doctors can start some nonsense about how "Retreat" is anathema to brave new India or something and just rename it.

Pravin Sawhney @PravinSawhney

India in difficult situation:
While Russia is firm - no
NATO expansion & no
admitting Ukraine in NATO
it will not go to war over
Ukraine. But, Russia &
China ties will strengthen
further. So, in likely war of
China & India - Russia may
not help us with spares!
#TheLastWar.





Hardik Pandya@hvpandya

Startups ruined SMS completely with ridiculous amount of spam first. Now I see many of them giving automated IVR calls to remind you to use their app. How is this normal and acceptable?

Sanjay Dutt@thesanjaydutt

In my sense, long-term investors can start investing and pick their stocks today. Many are at attractive prices. Each has to find his own high conviction ideas. I am looking at financials, manufacturing bets, media stocks, and non-ferrous metals.

Retreat. The Govt's Ukraine. But

Joydeep Ganguly@joydeepg9 Rural Bengal is full of rivers n lush green.



CENTRAL CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

BRIEF

CSO



New Delhi: Kia India on Friday said it has appointed MyungSik Sohn as Chief Sales Officer (CSO) with immediate effect. In his new role, Sohn will oversee the planning and execution of sales strategies aimed and collaborate with Kia India's current leader-

Raises

New Delhi: Industrial B2B e-commerce platform Moglix on Friday said it has raised USD 250 million (about Rs 1,876.5 crore) led by Tiger Global and Alpha Wave Global with Hong Kong-based Ward Ferry coming onboard as a new investor. The series F funding round valued the company at USD 2.6 billion, a statement said.

Funding

Mumbai: New-age content platform Social Swag, which is a collective brainchild of Akshay Kumar, Rana Daggubati Collective Artists and Mahesh Bhupathi, on Friday said it has raised USD 3.5 million in a pre-Series-A funding round. The round has been led by IMEF and Unicorn India Ventures, which has made its maiden announcement in a content creator economy specialist platform as influencer commerce platform for India.

Exporting

New Delhi: Automaker Nissan on Friday said its compact SUV Magnite is now being exported to 15 global markets in total, following incredibly successful first year on sale. The model, produced at company´s Chennaibased manufacturing plant, was launched in December 2020 and has since gone on to achieve 78,000 cumulative customer bookings in India alone, with further 6,344 shipped overseas as expertise of Indian

Centre

manufacturing.

■ New Delhi: HCL Technologies on Friday said it has opened an Innovation Centre focused on Engineering and R&D services in Edmonton, Alberta. Bringing together an ecosystem of partners from academia, government institutions, startups and technology providers, HCL Technologies' Innovation Centre will serve as hub for HCL Engineering teams to co-innovate with customers and solve complex business problems for

Sets

■ New Delhi: Vedant Fashions Ltd, which owns ethnic wear brand Manyavar, on Friday fixed a price band of Rs 824-866 a share for its Rs 3,149crore initial public offering (IPO). The initial share-sale will open on February 4 and conclude on February 8.

clients globally.

Budget should boost consumption with tax breaks, cutting fuel taxes

The forthcoming budget needs to delay fiscal consolidation, instead should focus more on supporting the pandemic batteredeconomy and boost consumption demand by offering income tax soaps and cutting fuel taxes, says a report. In a pre-budget report,

India Ratings said it expects the new budget to consolidate and strengthen the plan set out in the last budget, rather than trying out new things by continue with the revenue and capital expenditure pattern of FY'22 to provide stability and consolidation to the past/ongoing efforts, and to focus on boosting demand by generating employment opportunities in areas/sectors that have been impacted more by the pandemic.

The report therefore expects the finance minister to delay fiscal consolidation and make it to be a gradual and calibrated process, thus ensuring the necessary fiscal support that the economy needs is

available till the recovery

acquires its own momen-

Calling for tax reliefs to households to boost demand as the purchasing power of households was badly hit since the pandemic, the report said this could be done through some income tax reliefs

and lowering taxes on oil

products as higher fuel

prices has been driving up inflation.

After the two supplementary demands for grants this fiscal the revenue expenditure is expected to be Rs 3 lakh crore higher than the budgeted amount, but the noninterest and non-subsidy components of revenue expenditure, which impact the direct demand in the economy, is likely to be Rs 13,100 crore lower than the budgeted.

Since recovery is still uneven and weak, the government will have to mand in the economy is not benefiting from the increased Rs 3 lakh crore spending by ensuring that active government support is still available to the needy sectors of the econo-

The agency expects the size of the revenue expenditure in FY23 to be larger than the revised estimate of FY22, not only in nominal but also in real terms.

Government capex is showing a rising trend increasing to 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22, up from 2.2 per cent in FY21 and 1.6 per cent in FY20. However, given the high gestation period and cost overrun of large infrastructure projects, the agency expects the FY23 budget to accord priority to capex spending on rural infrastructure and/or infrastructure where the gestation time is short and projects are employment intensive.

Sensex succumbs to late sell-off, ends 77 pts lower

The BSE gauge Sensex dived nearly 900 points from the day's peak to finish Friday's highly volatile session 77 points lower at 57,200, triggered by a late sell-off mainly in banking and auto shares.

Starting off on a high note, the 30-share index soared to trade briefly above the key 58,000-level in afternoon trade, before plunging to a low of 57,119.28. After fighting bouts of volatility towards the fag-end of the session, the index finally closed 76.71 points or 0.13 per cent lower at 57,200.23.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty too swung between gains and losses before ending 8.20 points or 0.05 per cent down at 17,101.95.

The Sensex was pulled lower mainly by Maruti, Mahindra, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and SBI which suffered losses to S&P@BSE 57,200.23-76.71-0.13%

the tune of 3 per cent. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "After the decent opening post weak closing, domestic bourses again staged a auick sell-off, tracking

Policy tightening by the US Fed and rising geopolitical tensions in Ukraine coloured global sentiments. The broad market ended

weak European trend.

mixed considering IT, realty and mid and smallcaps rebounded after continuous heavy-selling this week, he added. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses saw

mixed trading pattern, as barring Japan and Korea all logged losses. In early trading, London's FTSE 100 lost 0.3 per cent to 7,531.13 and the DAX in Frankfurt fell 1.4 per cent to 15,311.15. The CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.7 per cent to 6,975.01. In Asia, the Shanghai Composite Index lost 1 per cent to 3,361.44 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong shed 1.1 per cent to 23,550.08.

The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo surged 2.1 per cent to 26,717.34, recovering most of its losses from the previous day's 2.5 per cent

Nasscom to host 30th edition of NTLF from Feb 16-18

New Delhi. Jan 28 (PTI):

industry Nasscom on Friday said it will host the 30th edition of its flagship Nasscom Technology Leadership Forum (NTLF) from February 16-18, 2022.

Themed 'Shaping the Techade: The New Now', NTLF 2022 will delve deeper into three focus areas the new wave of growth and the changing transformation of every business as a tech business: leading in the new and reimagining models to maximise the impact of tech; and the role of future technologies in shaping a better future, a statement said.

The disruptions caused by the pandemic in the past two years have made digital transformation a buzz word giving rise to a New Normal'.

Nasscom said while technology innovation has a role to play in every aspect of life, it is time for leaders to rethink their strategies to shape a better future to build a more sustainable future and keep the innovation engine running. As we re-imagine the

digital next, human-tech partnership has played a transformational role in shaping India's journey towards a techade of growth and opportunities. According to Nasscom and McKinsey research, enterprise tech spending will be at 5 per cent of revenues by 2025," Nasscom President Debjani Ghosh

RBI 'behind the curve' approach has served India well

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

Addressing criticism of the RBI being "behind the curve" by continuing with the accommodative stance longer than other countries, Deputy Governor Michael Patra on Friday said "the approach has served us well". India is placed "much

better" to deal with future waves of the pandemic as compared to being affected the worst in the first after the nationwide lockdown. he said, expressing concerns on inflation being elevated due to crude prices. It can be noted that the

RBI has been critiqued in some quarters for being 'behind the curve' by holding on to its GDP growthenhancing accommoda-



tive stance, even as the pressures on its core objective of inflation become evident and at a time when many of its peers have shifted to rate tightening. Those making such calls have been suggesting that the central bank shift its policy stance to neutral.

"Yes, there has been criticism that RBI has fallen

behind the curve but only time will tell whether or not India got it right. So far, the approach has served us well and has helped in charting a course for ourselves into the future with a difference to the rest of the world, Patra said, deliverthe 18th C D Deshmukh Memorial Lecture organised by Council for Development.

Patra said the slew of over 100 measures taken by the central bank since the onset of the pandemic, which included conventional ones like rate cuts and also unconventional ones, have contributed significantly in engineering a turnaround in the Indian

Rupee rises 5 paise at 75.04 against USD, gold declines Rs 423 American currency, up 5

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

The rupee snapped its three-day losing streak to close 5 paise higher at 75.04 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid expectation of better dollar inflows from upcoming IPOs.

However, the rebound in the rupee was restricted amid weakness in domestic equities, analysts said.

Forex traders said geopolitical tensions, elevated crude oil prices and hawkish US Fed stance also weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 75.12 a dollar and witnessed an intraday high of 74.88 and a low of 75.13. The domestic unit finally settled at 75.04 (provisional) against the paise over its last close of Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures

the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, rose 0.11 per cent to 97.35. "The Indian rupee man-

aged to stabilise after sharp sell-off in the last three days and retraced from one-month low on expectation of better dollar inflows from upcoming IPOs and position downsizing ahead of the Union Budget," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

However, stronger dollar index, elevated energy price and higher bond yields could push local currency lower in the coming days, Parmar added.

India's gold demand skyrockets to 797.3 tons in 2021

Gold recycled in India declined by 21%

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

India's gold consumption surged to 797.3 tonnes in 2021, on the back of recovery in consumer sentiments and pent-up demand post COVID-19-related disruptions and the bullish trend is set to continue this year as well, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

WGC in its Gold Demand Trends 2021 Report said India's total gold demand jumped to 797.3 tonnes in 2021, registering a massive 78.6 per cent jump from 446.4 tonnes during 2020.

'The year 2021 revalidated the strength of conventional wisdom about gold and holds several lessons in revival that will shape policy thinking for years to come," WGC



Regional CEO, India, Somasundaram PR told PTI. Somasundaram further said "India's gold demand recovered by 79 per cent to 797.3 tonnes chiefly a result of an exceptional fourth quarter demand of 343 tonnes that surpassed even our most optimistic expectation articulated in the third quarter and turned out to be the best quarter in our

recorded data series" Going forward, he said, this year COVID-19 and its future variants will remain a factor to watch as will price movements in gold, given global concerns on inflation, interest rate and geo-political developments.

"The spurt in demand that is, in part, a result of pent-up demand in the fourth quarter is less likely to be repeated this year, though the revival will continue to set a new normal above pre-pandemic

The next few vears starting with 2022 will be years to watch for the effect of policy reforms, technology and industry collaboration to let gold evolve into a more transparent mainstream asset class," he stated.

For the full year in 2022, Somasundaram said if the current scenario continues without any further major disruptions then the total gold demand is likely to be around 800-850 tonnes.

The report further noted that jewellery demand during 2021 was up by 93 per cent at 610.9 tonnes, compared to 315.9

Tangible profits make biz successful amid high valuation of cos1

Mumbai. Jan 28 (PTI):

Stressing that successful businesses are the ones which deliver tangible orofits, billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla on Friday said "trusty old concepts' like gross margins and cash flows will matter eventually even while valuations jump.
The Chairman of the

USD 44-billion Aditya Birla Group also said that ultimately unit economics will have to matter.

His comments come against the backdrop of high valuations being enjoyed by businesses amid a liquidity glut wherein firms like Zomato and Paytm have successfully raised money from the public despite not reporting profits. Fund raising by companies at high valu-

SBI's Formosa Bond issuance reflects India's acceptability

Irst international fund raising platform



Kumar Mangalam Birla

ations had led many to point out the lack of profits while those supporting the valuations are of the view that that it is the future potential which these businesses possess that should make someone overlook the conventional way of looking at a business. Drawing from the diversified group's businesses, Birla said in the long run, sustainable and suc-

cessful businesses are those that generate tangible profits, prosperity, livelihoods quarter after quarter. "Valuation and business iongevity will au tomatically follow".

'Ultimately, my own view is that at some stage unit economics will have to matter. And trusty old concepts like cash flows and gross margins will guide behaviour and actions," he said.

In his New Year message to employees, Birla acknowledged a shift in business where enterprises have come to creating a need for consumers which never existed rather than delivering goods and services helping one meet a need, and cited the example of a 10-minute delivery app to support his observa-

PNB looking to further dilute its stake in UTI Mutual Fund

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Friday said it is looking to further monetise its stake in UTI Mutual Fund as part of its non-core asset sale plan to shore up its capital base.

The bank has categorised non-core assets into two heads — real estate and investment assets.

'We have sold 3 per cent stake in UTI AMC, where we have earned an amount of about Rs 180 crore in October 2020...we had investment of 18 per cent in UTI AMC which we have brought down to 15 per cent. There is still scope to monetise that," S S Mallikarjuna Rao said at a virtual media briefing. PNB is one of the sponsors

tual fund company. Besides PNB, State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Bank of Baroda and USbased T Rowe Price are other sponsors. The bank also intends to

of the country's oldest mu-

divest its stake in Canara **HSBC OBC Life Insurance** Co Ltd, an associate of the bank, within the regulatory guidelines to monetise it, he said. The city-headquartered

bank had acquired a stake in the life insurer post amalgamation of the erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) into itself last fiscal year. The erstwhile OBC held 23 per cent stake in the life insurer, which by virtue of amalgamation has come to

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

The State Bank of India's recent fundraising of USD 300 million through issuance of Formosa Bonds is a testimony of the confidence reposed by the overseas investors in the country's growth growth story, its Chairman Dinesh Khara said on Friday.

The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan. "This first successful is-

suance of Formosa Bond by any Indian commercial bank, is a testimony of the confidence reposed by the overseas investors into India's growth story and also in SBI, in particular.

next step of being a developed country," Khara said at the listing ceremony of the Formosa Bonds on India INX. He said the issuance is a step further in the direction of the globalization of the world, when a bank could raise money

for those markets which have remained untapped for several years.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara and India INX Chairman Ashishkumar Chauhan

during the listing ceremony of SBIs USD 300 Million Formosa bonds on India INX, at BSE in Mumbai, Friday.

"It very clearly reflects how far India has reached in terms of the acceptability with all the international investors," Khara said. The lender had said

that a wide range of investors such as supranational agencies, assets managers, private bankers and financial institutions have invested in the issue.

On the back of strong demand, the price guidance was revised from

T+130 bps area to T+100

State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Khara on Friday said the National Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or bad bank and India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) are ready to commence operations and a total of 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially. Khara said the transfer

of 38 accounts will happen in a phased manner, and in the phase one 15 accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year. "In the phase one, about 15 accounts aggregating to Rs 50,000 crore are expected to be transferred to the NARCL

"This is a reflection of India's March towards the CENTRAL CHRONICLE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022



Shilpa excited about uncovering hidden talent across India

ctress Shilpa Shetty, who is currently seen judging 'India's Got Talent', is happy about uncovering hidden talent across the country with the help of the reality show. Speaking about the premiere weekend, Shilpa said: "I am excited about uncovering the plethora of hidden talent that India's nooks and crannies have in store for us." She added: "It's heartening to also see that the audience is enjoying this season of 'India's Got Talent'. Kirronji, Badshah, Manoj and I are having a great time shooting for the show." This is the fourth time that Shilpa is seen judging a reality show. Previously, she has judged shows like 'Zara Nachke Dikha', 'Nach Baliye' and 'Super Dancer'. 'India's Got Talent' Season 9 airs on Sony TV. On the film front, Shilpa, who is currently seen as a judge on 'India's Got Talent', will be seen in the film 'Nikamma'. Directed by Sabbir Khan, the film also stars Abhimanyu Dassani and Shirley Setia.

Madhuri's debut Netflix series 'The Fame Game' to release on Feb 25



Nene is all set to make her digital debut with the Netflix series 'The Fame Game', which is slated to release on February 25. 'The Fame Game' also stars Sanjay Kapoor, Manav Kaul, Lakshvir Saran and Suhasini Muley, Muskkaan Jaferi. The story revolves Bollywood icon Anamika Anand. who has it all but is her life perfect or a perfectly crafted facade. 'The Fame Game', formerly known as Finding Anamika, will take us into the world of superstar Anamika played by the evergreen, evergorgeous Madhuri Dixit Nene! Produced bv Dharmatic Entertainment, the series marks her streaming debut. 'The Fame Game' brings together Sri Rao as the showrunner and writer and Bejoy Nambiar and Karishma Kohli as directors

&TV artists on tour to Chh'garh

N ational Tourism
Day is celebrated every year on 25th January to promote and encourage tourism. This National Tourism Day, &TV artists Himani Shivpuri aka Katori Amma from Happu ki Ultan Paltan Shravani Goswami aka Prasuti from Baal Shiv share their favourite destinations and must-visit places in Chhattisgarh. Known for its Kailash Kutumsar Caves, the place is filled with historical monuments and sce-

nic waterfalls. Himani Shivpuri aka Katori Amma from Happu ki Ultan Paltan shares, "Chhattisgarh is a state that has something in store for tourists across the world. One of my most favourite places Chhattisgarh is Makdu Dweep, a small island located in the Bilaspur district. The island is filled with temples and surrounded by greenery. I remember vis-



seven-day meal in the month of Paosh Purnima with my family in childhood. It is wonderful to be there during the fair and every individual should experience it at least once in a lifetime. Bastar is another one of my favourite places. It has the most exquisite collection of handicrafts, and my house is full of them. When in Bastar I love vis-

Shravani Goswami aka Prasuti from Baal Shiv adds, "I was born in the Raipur Chhattisgarh, though we moved from there soon after that, the connection I feel with the place is special. I often visit my relatives in the place and have explored the city quite a bit. I love how the place has evolved as a smart city but has still preserved its art & craft so beautifully. The Bamboo craft by the local artisans is my absolute favourite and I always make it a point to buy from them whenever I visit. If you are ever in Raipur, make sure to visit the Naya Raipur Central Park during sunset and Ghatarani waterfalls during monsoons.

and the Bastar Palace.

Tune in to watch Baal Shiv at 8:00 PM and Happu Ki Ultan Paltan at 10:00 PM, airing every Monday to Friday only on &TV.

Vijayendra to play the lead character in 'Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye'

S ony E Television Entertainment upcoming show 'Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye' will see popular actor Vijayendra Kumeria don the character of Armaan Oberoi. Set against the backdrop of 'Mayanagari' - Mumbai, the show charts the journey of a couple - Saumya Verma, an ambitious & struggling TV writer, and Armaan Oberoi, a charming and successful TV producer. On the surface, their relationship seems perfect. For Saumya, her marriage with Armaan feels that of equals. with her husband supporting her ambitions but he has a deceitful side to him that no one knows of. Will Saumya realise she's being manipulated by Armaan? Talking about his character

Vijayendra Kumeria shares, "I am very excited to be a part of Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye. During the narration. I was intrigued with Armaan's character and knew right then that I had to be a part of this show. There are a lot of shades to my character and I am thoroughly preparing for it. While viewers will see me essay a very charming, ambitious and admirable personality, Armaan as a character is manipulative and has the ability to turn things in his favour and as he wants them to be. It's interesting to portray a character like Armaan and I am hoping that the audience is as excited as I am."

To see the story unfold, be sure to tune in to Mose Chhal Kiye Jaaye coming soon only on Sony Entertainment Television soon.



Arjun reveals that he wanted to prove to filmmakers that he can deliver a solid performance if given an opportunity and it came in the form of 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar'. He said: "I think what has bolstered the confidence of master storytellers is my performance in 'Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar' because I went out of my comfort zone and delivered. I wanted to prove to everyone that people can punt on me to do off-centre entertainers. Arjun added: "I will forever be indebted to this project for opening new doors for me and helping me find projects in which I can try and showcase my journey and progress as an actor.



HOROSCOPE SATURDAY JANUARY 29

Aquarius: Jan 21 - Feb 18

Excellence is the buzzword today! But that implies only to your work and not to the results. Nothing earth-shattering is on the cards, so slog away. Kids may howl or your spouse may yell in the evening, but you will simply pull your feet up and

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

There are indications that you will pay special attention to your food habits an interview or start a new job later in the day. At work, you will get both encourage-ment and inspiration from seniors. Avoid confrontations with others as current planetary positions make you vulnerable to an emotional outburst.

Libra: Sept 23 – Oct 23

The day brings with it the gift of passion, and all its various nuances. On the career front, you may take steps today that will establish your identity in office. Later in the day, there are also chances of you having differences with your business associates. But your alert mind shall enable you to have an edge over your rival's plans, says Ganesha.

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

It is a day where you are likely to be busy indulging in tempestuous secretive affairs. Either way, the expenses incurred on the same will return to haunt you at the end of the day, says Ganesha.

Cancer: June 22 – July 22

You will take unusual interest in places of historical significance and destinations not frequented by many, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you will be the centre of attention in a group discussion. You will show your excellent trouble-shooting skills while executing all your plans, hopes Ganesha

Scorpio: Oct 24 – Nov 22

There is a strong prospect that you will be buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle, foresees Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may finalise deals regarding your dream house. In the evening, you are likely to buy a household item to please your life partner, expects Ganesha.

Aries: Mar 21 – Apr 20

Ganesha feels that your mood swings can become a hindrance in your progress. If your work will not be completed then you will feel disappointed. Ganeshji's advice is that you should keep a cool mind and be sympathetic towards people.

Leo: July 23 – Aug 23

No matter what you do, on some days, you just can't save the world, even if you were superman. Remember that, since it looks very likely that today you shall be bringing upon yourself the displeasure of vo bosses, and a lackadaisical support from

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 21

It is very likely that you will pay enough attention to your family members today. Take time out to validate the efforts of others and show consideration when and where required. At workplace, people will admire your honesty. Romance is in the air in the evening,

Taurus: Apr 21 – May 21

Ganesha sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relation-ships. You are likely to review the state of affairs, and identify problems and persons who need more time and attention. This naturally implies that you will be spending a lot of time with your friends and family members, sorting differences and misunder

Virgo: Aug 24 – Sept 22

The day promises to be full of surprises and twists and turns, each of which you will handle with maturity. If anyone makes the mistake of taking you for granted, they will repent for their poor judgement as you are not one to be pushed around. Determination to find solutions to prolonged and unsettled issues will yield results before the day ends,

Capricorn: Dec 22 – Jan 20

Get ready for a thrilling day ahead, says Ganesha. A lot of unexpected events may bring in happiness, and you may suddenly find yourself deliriously delighted. At work, finding answers to intriguing guestions will

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Gumbo ingredient

5. Merge 9. Ring

14. Inheritor

15. Understood! (2 wds.) 16. Moderately warm

17. Enlarged 19. Limber

21. Related

20. Different

23. Fighter pilots 24. Breezy

26. Refrigerate

28. Music system

31. Most ahead of time

35. File labels 36. Dispatched

38. Dirt

43. Stanza

39. Squeak by

40. Piggy bank user

42. Spanish waterway

18. Ohio lake

7. Scallion's kin 8. Devoted 10. Decorative clothing 11. Long story 12. Cleopatra's river

46. Carbonated beverage

47. Negatives 48. Completene

52. Lady's title

53. Gave temporarily

50. Rough

54. Lie low

57. Craving

63. Upright

65. Intricate

68. Richard

69. Copied

71. Fellow

72. Limping

DOWN

22. Also not

28. Comic

25. Singer Diana

27. Madrid cheer

70. Scornful sound

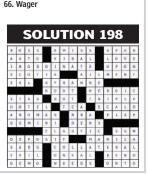
2. Clark ____ (Superman)
3. Wealthy 1. Dayton's locale

6. Writing assignment

4. In ____ (late with payment)
5. "Mamma ____!"

_ moment's notice (2 wds.) 13. Summer coolers

__ of "Chicago"



199

29. Captured

33. Pigpens

34. Not these

41. Track event

49. Aussie bird

51. Informed of

54. Towel pronoun

56. Audition tape

60. California valley

64. Explosive initials

58. Merriment

62. Give in

55. Remove wrinkles

44. Motorcycle adjunct

45. Period in history

30. ____ & Roeper 31. Ambassador

32. Baseball blunde

37. Holiday hunter's prize (2 wds.)

win over

Medvedev to meet Nadal in Australian Open final

Daniil Medvedev reeled off the last five games to beat Stefanos Tsitispas 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in a heated Australian Open semifinal and continue his bid for back-to-back major titles.

second-seeded The Medvedev will play Rafael Nadal in the final on Sunday as he continues his bid to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the next major tourna-

Nadal is bidding for a men's-record 21st Grand Slam singles title after beating Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3. Nadal shares the men's record at 20 major titles with Roger Djokovic.

Medvedev had to save a match point and rally from two sets down in the quarterfinals

Wednesday and had another emotional match against Tsitsipas two days later. He velled at the chair umpire after dropping serve in the second set and



be cautioned for receiving coaching from his father in the crowd. Medvedev lost the set, took a fiveminute break and returned with more composure. He converted a crucial service break late in the third set and he won the last five games to wrap it up. Medevedev also beat Tsitsipas in the semifinals at Melbourne Park last year before losing to

Nadal's Berrettini, under a closed roof at Rod Laver Arena because of heavy local rain, was his 500th on hard courts at tour level. He's only won the title at the Australian Open only

Rafael Nadal is now

within one victory of a

record 21st Grand Slam

singles title. He won a title

at a tune-up tournament

and now has won six

matches at the first Grand

Slam tournament of the

One more and he'll

break record of 20 majors

he shared with Roger

Djokovic. He'll also be-

Novak

Federer and

For me, it's all about the Australian Open more than anything else, he said in his on-court TV interview. I have been a little unlucky (here) in my career with some injuries. I played some amazing finals with good chances. I feel very lucky that I won once. I never though about

another chance in 2022.

once, in 2009. Adding a sec-

ond was his only focus

after yet another semifinal

Nadal broke the seventh-seeded Berrettini's opening service games in the first two sets and, after dropping the third, rallied to finish off in just under three hours. That in itself was a relief after his long five-set win over Denis Shapovalov two days earli-

U-19 WC: India eye revenge against Bangladesh

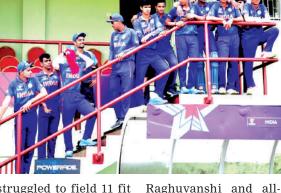
Osbourn, Jan 28 (PTI):

COVID-hit India will be bolstered by the return of key players when the record four-time champimeet holders Bangladesh in the third quarterfinal of the U-19 Ĉricket World Cup here on Saturday.

Most of the half a dozen India players, who were affected by the dreaded virus, have recovered and are set to feature in the crucial clash.

Six players, including skipper Yash Dhull, had gone into isolation ahead of India's second league fixture against Ireland, dealing a big blow to the record four time champions. Five of them tested positive in the RTPCR tests and also ended up missing the last league game against Uganda.

However, the depth in the squad ensured India won both those games comfortably and qualified for the quarterfinals as group toppers. Nishant Sindhu led the side in Dhull's absence as India



struggled to field 11 fit players on the park in the game against Ireland.

"Most of the players have recovered and should be fit enough to play tomorrow," a BCCI official told PTI. Skipper Dhull, his deputy Shaik Rasheed, Sidharth Yadav, Aaradhya Yadav and Manav Parakh had returned positive RTPCR tests before the Ireland game. Both Dhull and Rasheed are important batters for the team and had looked in good touch against South Africa in their tournament opener. Angkrish

rounder Raj Bawa's confidence must be sky high after they scored match winning tons against Uganda. Left-arm spinner Vicky

Ostwal has been India's stand out bowler in the tournament with seven wickets. Another left-arm spin-

ner Sindhu has been tidy with the ball, taking four wickets at an economy rate of 2.76 runs per over. The Bangladesh batters will also not have an easy time negotiating the extra pace of Rajvardhan Hangargekar. The game

2020 when Bangladesh stunned favourites to win their maiden title. Current Bangladesh Rakibul Hasan was part of that memorable final. **Squads**

India: Yash Dhull (c), Harnoor Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Shaik Nishant Sindhu, Siddarth Yadav, Aneeshwar Gautam, Manav Parakh, Kaushal Rajvardhan Tambe, Hangargekar, Vicky Ostwal, Garv Sangwan, Dinesh Bana, Aaradhya Yaday, Raj Bawa, Vasu Vats, Ravi Kumar.

Bangladesh: Rakibul Hasan (c), Abdullah Al Mamun, Ariful Islam, Md Fahim, Mahfijul Islam, Ripon Mondol, Naimur Rohman, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Prantik Nawrose Nabil, Aich Mollah, Ashiqur Zaman, Iftakher Hossain Ifti, Meherob, Musfik Hasan, Tahjibul Islam.

Match starts 6.30 IST.

IPL Auction: Dhoni lands in Chennai



Mahendra Singh Dhoni was spotted in Chennai a fortnight ahead of the Indian Premier League auction. The Chennai Super Kings captain is expected to join the franchise at the auction table during the bidding war which will take place

on February 12 and 13. Dhoni has played a key role for CSK not just as skipper, but also helped the management in picking players at the auction table for years. CSK have retained four players including Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeia, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Moeen Ali.

Jadeja was retained for Rs 16 crore while Dhoni took home Rs 12 crore. Ali was retained for Rs 8 crore while Gaikwad bagged Rs

CSK will have Rs 58 crore as they head into the auction, looking to pick a well-balanced squad in the lead up to their IPL title

Indian cricket in good hands under Rohit Sharma's captaincy: Sammy

Former West Indies captain Darren Sammy feels Indian cricket is in "good hands" under Rohit Sharma's leadership as he bracketed the senior India batter alongside the legendary MS Dhoni in their ability to get the best out of their teammates. A five-time IPL winning captain, a fit-again Rohit will take charge as full time India white ball captain in the upcoming three ODI and three T20Is series against the West Indies beginning in Ahmedabad on February 6.



Kohli as the ODI skipper fol-

after the BCCI removed Virat the Board, "Kohli has been exceptional with his performlowing his war of words with ances on the field. I don't think

Sammy told PTI on the sidelines of Legends League Cricket here.

"Rohit has been an excellent (with Mumbai Indians), a good motivational leader. I've watched him captaining Mumbai in the IPL. He's among the captains who have won like MS Dhoni, (Gautam) Gambhir...

"All these guys can manage to get performances from their teammates. These captains normally get results and win trophies. I'm not worried about Indian cricket. It's in good hand," the 38-year-old added.



global powerhouse London, Jan 28 (PTI):

Pietersen receives PM Modi's Republic Day letter, calls India

Among the "friends of India" who received a letter of appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 73rd Republic day of the country, former England cricket captain Kevin Pietersen on Friday thanked him for the gesture and said the nation of over a billion is a global "powerhouse"

Sharing the letter on Twitter, Pietersen said he was thankful to the Prime Minister for acknowledging his "affection towards India". South African great Jonty Rhodes and West Indies swashbuckler Chris Gayle had also received similar letters from the PM.

"Dear, Mr @narendramodi, Thanks for the incredibly kind words in your letter to me. Ever since stepping foot in India in 2003, I've grown more in love with your country on every visit.

"I was recently asked, what do you most like swer was easy - THE PEOPLE," he posted. "Happy Republic Day to all Indians for a couple

days ago. A proud country & a powerhouse globally! I look forward to meeting vou in person soon, to thank you for how India is a global leader in protecting its wildlife!" he added.

The PM called Pietersen a friend of India and said, "While your exploits on the cricketing field are still fresh in the memories of all of us, your connect with India and Indians is truly remarkable.

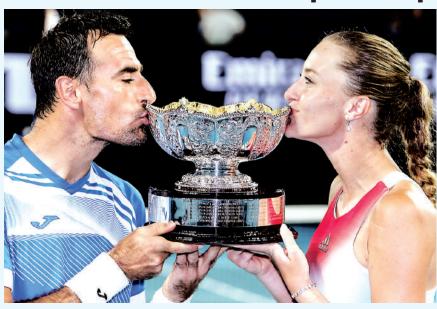
Indian cricket will be spineless if Ranji trophy is ignored: Ravi Shastri New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI): scheduled to start on January retary Jay Shah issued a state-

Shastri on Friday said that Indian cricket would become "spineless" if the Ranji Trophy is ignored, his comment coming just before the BCCI announced that the marquee domestic event will be held in two phases starting next month. The Ranji Trophy was

poned indefinitely by the BCCI due to the third wave of the pandemic. "The Ranji Trophy is the backbone of Indian cricket. The moment you start ignoring it our cricket will be SPINELESS!," Shastri tweeted. Just about a hour after Shastri's comment, BCCI sec-

Former head coach Ravi 13 this year but was post- ment, confirming the phased "The Board has decided to conduct the Ranji Trophy this season in two phases. In the first phase, we plan to complete all matches of the league stage while the knockouts will be held in June," Shah said in a statement.

Mladenovic, Dodic win mixed doubles championship



Melbourne, Jan 28 (AP):

Kristina Mladenovic of France and Ivan Dodig of Croatia have defeated Australian players Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler 6-3, 6-4 to win the mixed doubles

championship. Mladenovic also won the mixed doubles title

at the Australian Open in 2014 with Daniel Nestor and has two women's doubles titles in 2018 and 2020 in Australia among her five major women's doubles

Dodig has three other Grand Slam mixed doubles titles and two in men's doubles, including last year's Australian Open title with Filip Pol ek. Next up on Rod Laver Arena is the first men's singles semifinal between Rafael Nadal and Matteo Berrettini. \

Nadal is looking to continue his quest for a record 21st Grand Slam singles title if he can advance to Sunday's final.

Afghanistan defeat Sri Lanka, set up semifinal clash with England in U-19 WC

Coolidge. Jan 28 (PTI):

Afghanistan sneaked into the Under-19 World Cup semifinals after edging out Sri Lanka by four runs, courtesy a sensational fightback, here.

The odds were heavily stacked against them when they posted just 134 on the board after Sri Lanka asked them to take strike Afghanistan produced a superb performance with the ball to bowl the island nation out for 130 in 46

A composed stay at the crease from Sri Lanka skipper Dunith Wellalage (34 off 61) looked like would pull his team over the line, but it was not meant to be.

Afghanistan will now face England in the first Super League semifinal on February 1.

Put to bat, Afghanistan Nangeyalia openers Kharote and Bilal Sayedi looked solid for the opening 10 overs before Traveen Mathew struck with a wicked delivery



that removed Sayedi. the scoreboard, but fel-Kharote departed in the very next over and when skipper Suliman Safi was trapped LBW after making just one, Afghanistan

Ijaz Ahmadzai lost his wicket without troubling

were reeling.

low middle-order batter Abdul Hadi was able to steady the ship with a

crucial 37-run knock. Vinjua Ranpul then helped clear-out the tail for Sri Lanka, ending with a five-wicket haul at the expense of just ten runs. The Sri Lankan reply

was shaky from the start. Opener Sadisha Rajapaksa went for a duck in the opening over, and his replacement Shevon Daniel went for just 2 after he was clean bowled by Bilal Sami.

After 13 overs, they were in a worse position than Afghanistan were during their innings. Noor Ahmed then produced a cracking delivery to remove Ranuda Somarathne and put Sri Lanka in real trouble.

Their dreams of lifting a first U-19 World Cup trophy were fading fast. However, the eighth wicket partnership between captain Wellalage and Raveen de Silva looked like it might save the day, taking Sri Lanka from 43 runs for seven to 112.

Kharote took the crucial wicket of the skipper, who played cheaply, before Naveed claimed the wicket of de Silva to set-up a nerve jangling finish.

Sri Lanka got to with in five runs of victory, but their fourth run-out the innings cost Mathew the final wicket and gave Afghanistan a dramatic victory.

'No one can stop nation whose youth works with spirit of nation first'

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the strength of India's young population in fields ranging from start-ups to sports, and said no one can stop a nation whose youth works with the spirit of "nation first". Speaking at the National Cadet Corps PM Rally at Cariappa ground here, Modi said efforts are being made to strengthen the organisation with a high level review committee formed in this regard.

Over one lakh new NCC cadets have been added in border areas in the last two years, he said while pitching for induction of more girls in the organisation. He noted that women are getting more and more responsibilities in the armed forces.

The prime minister also highlighted the menace of drug abuse and asked NCC members to work to keep themselves and their cam-

BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847 cr in 2019-20: ADR

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI): The BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847.78 crore in financial year 2019-20, the highest among all political parties, followed by the BSP at Rs 698.33 crore and the Congress at Rs 588.16 crore, according to poll reforms advocacy group

The Association for Democratic Reforms prepared its report based on its analysis of assets and liabilities of national and regional parties in 2019-20.

According to the analysis, the total assets declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties during the financial year amounted to Rs 6,988.57 crore and Rs 2,129.38 crore, respectively



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with cadets during Prime Ministers NCC rally, at Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Friday.

puses free from this and can also play a big role in also help those who are 'vocal for local" to help not in the NCC in getting India become self-reliant. the prime minister said. rid of this. Noting that in an era of adding that more demand possibilities relating to for local products will

> sequently employment. "I am proud that I was also a NCC cadet like you once upon a time...While fulfilling my current re-

boost production and sub-

try, I get immense strength from the training that I got in NCC and the things I learned there," Modi mentioned. Modi said he has just got his NCC Alumni card and he has come at the rally not just as a prime minister but also as a former cadet. "The government is taking many steps to join the country's education system with NCC," he said. Under the new National

Education Policy, the country's 90 universities have started offering NCC as an elective subject to their students, he noted. "I am seeing so many girl cadets here. This is a sign of how our country is changing," he said "Country needs your contribution and there are ample opportunities for that," he told the girl cadets. He said now the daughters of the country are taking admission in Sainik Schools and women are getting major respon-



Activists of Maulana Azad Vichar Manch protest at Azad Maidan condemning the film Why I Killed Gandhi, in

Congress will retain power in Punjab with overwhelming majority: Pilot

digital technology and in-

formation sector there are

also dangers of misinfor-

mation, he said NCC mem-

bers can run awareness

campaign for this.

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Friday exuded confidence that his party will put up a stupendous performance in the February 20 assembly polls in Punjab and retain power with an overwhelming majority.

'We will again form the government in Punjab with an overwhelming majority," the senior leader from Rajasthan told a news conference here which he addressed along with Congress spokesperson Pawan

Pilot said senior leader Rahul Gandhi has already said the party will go with Congress which raised a chief minister face in Punjab polls and the decision will be taken after consulting party workers.

Regarding the polls in other states, Pilot said, "I have full confidence that we will form government in Goa, Uttarakhand, and Punjab". Pilot said he was campaigning in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and accused the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party of failing to play the role opposition.

"For five years, neither the Samajwadi Party nor BSP played the role of opposition. Be it Lakhimpur Kheri, Unnao, Hathras, or Dalit issues, it was the these issues, he said. In Uttar Pradesh, the ruling BJP is feeling jittery, Pilot alleged.

"A dozen of their MLAs and some ministers have deserted the party," he said while accusing the BJP of playing divisive politics. People have seen through these games and the saffron party can no longer fool the voters, he said.

He said the BJP-led central government talks about doubling the farmers' income, but that has not happened yet.

Farmers from various parts of the country agitated against the three farm laws for more than

one year and so many of them died during the prolonged stir, he said.

"Will the families of those farmers not question the government," he

Pilot said Congress is the only party which together with its allies can defeat the BJP at the national level.

Referring to last year's bypolls in various assembly and parliament constituencies of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka wherein the BJP suffered a setback, Pilot said the results were a verdict against the "antipeople" policies of the BJP-led dispensation.

India on expanding list of shrines for visits

'Have positive approach, willing to engage with Pak'

bours. Patron-in-chief of the

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

India on Friday said there is an interest on both the Indian and Pakistani sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel under the 1974 protocol for visits to religious places, asserting that it has a positive approach on the matter and is willing to engage with Islamabad on it.

The assertion comes days after a prominent Hindu lawmaker from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling party urged India to issue visas to a delegation of pilgrims to visit the country as part of his faith tourism initiative between the two neigh-

Pakistan Hindu Council and member of the National Assembly Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has said he would lead a delegation of Pakistani pilgrims to India on January 29 on a special chartered flight of the Pakistan Airlines International (PIA).

Asked about India's stand on the issue and if approvals had been given, Ministry of **External Affairs Spokesperson** Arindam Bagchi said, "As you are aware, under the 1974 Protocol between India and Pakistan, visits to religious shrines are being facilitated regularly. There is an interest on both sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel." It naturally needs to be dis-

cussed under the protocol, he said. "Let me underline that India has a positive approach on this matter and is willing to engage the Pakistani side. You are also aware that currently restrictions are in place on movement and gatherings in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation normalises, we expect that this time can be utilised to hold discussions under the bilateral Protocol," Bagchi said. "It is our hope to facilitate early exchange of visits to all shrines of interest to pil-

TOURISTS PARAGLIDING

Tourists do paragliding as weather clears after snowfall at the snow-covered Solanganala plains of Manali, Friday.

'Girl not property to be donated'

HC observes in case of man giving away daughter to godman

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

A girl is not a property tnat can be given in donation, the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court observed. while taking strong objection to a case wherein a man had given his 17vear-old daughter in "daan" to a self-styled godman.

A single bench of Justice Vibha Kankanwadi made the observation earlier this month while hearing a bail application filed by godman Shankeshwar Dhakne and his disciple Sopan Dhanke, arrested for allegedly raping the minor

The two accused lived

in Jalna district along with the girl and her father. The girl on August 2021 filed FIR against the duo for allegedly raping her, following which they were arrested.

Justice Kankanwadi in her order took note of the prosecution's case that in 2018, a document styled as "danpatra" on a stamp paper of Rs 100 was executed between the girl's father and the Dhakne.

It is stated that the father of the girl has given his daughter on donation (daan) to the baba and it is stated that the said 'kanyadan' has been made in the presence of god. When the girl as per her own statement is minor, then why the father, who is in all respect guardian, to the girl, give

the girl as Daan? the court and cannot shut its eyes. said in its order.

A girl is not a property, which can be given in donation. Justice Kankanwadi said, adding that this was a disturbing fact.

was concerned about the future of the minor girl

This was a fit case where directions needed to be given to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Jalna district to hold inquiry on an expeditious basis and find out



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Russia says it won't start a war as Ukraine tensions mount

Moscow, Jan 28 (AP):

Russia's top diplomat said Friday that Moscow will not start a war in Ukraine but warned that it wouldn't allow the West to trample on its security interests, amid fears it is planning to invade its neighbour. U.S. President Biden warned Ukraine's leader a day earlier that there is a distinct possibility that Russia could take military action against the former Soviet state in February.

There won't be a war as far as it depends on the Russian Federation, we don't want a war, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a live interview with Russian radio stations. But we won't let our interests be rudely trampled on and ignored.

Tensions have soared in recent weeks, and the United States and its NATO allies warily eyed a buildup of more than 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine, worrying that Moscow was preparing to attack. Russia has repeatedly denied having any such plans, but has demanded that NATO promise Ukraine will never be allowed to join and that the alliance roll back deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern

The U.S. and NATO formally rejected those demands this week, though Washington outlined areas where discussions are possible, offering hope that there could be a way to avoid war. Russia's official response

to those proposals will come from President Vladimir Putin, but the Kremlin has said there was little ground for optimism. Lavrov echoed noted that grim note Friday. While they say they won't change their positions, we won't change ours, he said. I don't see any room for compromise here.

Putin opened the weekly meeting of his Security Council on Friday, saying only that it would address foreign policy issues. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Russian leader may

also discuss his reaction to the U.S. rejection with French President Emmanuel Macron during their video call the same

Lavrov noted that the U.S. suggested the two sides could talk about limits on the deployment of intermediate-range missiles, restrictions on military drills and rules to prevent accidents between warships and aircraft. He said that Russia proposed discussing those issues years ago but Washington and its allies never took them up on it until now.

While he described the U.S. offers as reasonable, he emphasized that Russia's main concerns are to stop both NATO's ex-

pansion and the deployment of the alliance weapons near Russia's borders. He noted that international agreements say that the security of one nation must not come at the expense of others' and that he would send letters to ask his Western counterparts to address that obli-It will be hard for them

to wiggle out from answering why they aren't fulfilling the obligations sealed by their leaders not to strengthen their security at the expense of others, he said. As tensions build, Washington warned Moscow of devastating sanctions if it invades Ukraine, including penalties targeting top Russian

officials and key economic sectors. Several senior U.S. officials also Thursday that Germany would not allow a newly constructed which is meant to bring gas directly from Russia to begin operations if Russia invades Ukraine.

Asked about possible sanctions, Lavrov said that Moscow had warned Washington that their introduction would amount to a complete severing of ties. While Moscow and the West are mulling their next steps, NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in the Baltic Sea region, and the U.S. ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert for potential deployment to

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MLAs

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Supreme Court on

from

Friday held that a resolu-

tion suspending 12 BJP

Maharashtra Legislative

Assembly beyond the peri-

od of the remainder of the

session held in July 2021 is

unconstitutional and irra-

tional. The apex court de-

livered its verdict on the

pleas filed by the 12 BJP

MLAs, who had challenged

their one-year suspension

from the state assembly for

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Top Congress leaders

on Friday decided to work

closely with like-minded

parties during the upcom-

ing budget session of par-

liament and jointly raise

matters of public impor-

tance, including farmers'

issues and border dispute

meeting of the Congress

Parliamentary Strategy

group chaired by party

The meeting was held

virtually and it was decid-

ed to raise the issues of

farmers' distress, border

dispute with China and re-

lief package for Covid vic-

tims. The party has been

demanding a compensa-

tion package for the fami-

The Congress also decid-

ed to raise the issue of sale

of Air India to Tata group,

lies of Covid victims.

chief Sonia Gandhi.

This was decided at a

with China.

Budget session: Cong decides

to work with like-minded parties

allegedly misbehaving with

the presiding officer In con-

clusion, we have no hesita-

tion in allowing these writ

besides the downturn in

the Indian economy and

high prices of essential

Congress Parliamentary

Strategy group is chaired

chairperson Sonia Gandhi

and includes Leader of

Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Mallikarjun Kharge and

Leader of Congress in Lok

Sabha Adhir Ranjan

Choudhary, senior party

leaders A K Antony, K C

Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, K

Suresh, Jairam Ramesh

and Manickam Tagore.

Party MP Manish Tewari

also attended the meeting.

mThough former prime

Singh is also a member of

the group, he did not at-

tend the meet. The meet-

ing is called before every

parliament session to de-

cide the party's strategy.

BASANT PANCHAM

Congress

Party

Anand

Manmohan

commodities.

Parliamentary

Venugopal,

minister

'No place for disorderly conduct in House,

members expected to show statesmanship'

New Delhi: Parliament and State Legislative Assembly are regarded as sacred places and there can

be no place for disorderly conduct in the House, where members are expected to show statesman-

ship and not brinkmanship, the Supreme Court said on Friday. The apex court said the happenings

in the House are a reflection of the contemporary societal fabric and it has become common to

hear that the House could not complete its usual scheduled business and most of the time had

been spent in jeering and personal attacks instead of erudite constructive and educative debates.

resolution suspending

these members beyond the

period of the remainder of

the concerned Monsoon

session held in July 2021 is

Patna, Jan 28 (PTI):

Normal life in Bihar was

on Friday affected by a

dawn to dusk 'bandh'

called by students' bodies

in protest against anom-

alies in the format of

exams conducted by the

Board and police high

Opposition parties like

the RJD, the Left and the

Congress extended their

support to the bandh, took

active part in many places

and expressed satisfaction

focus of the agitation as it

rules at the Centre besides

shares power in the state,

urged the student commu-

nity to have faith in the

Narendra Modi govern-

ment and be wary of play-

ing into the hands of RJD-

led opposition. The prob-

The BJP, which is in the

Recruitment

against

Railway

handedness

protesting students.

over its "success"

Resolution suspending 12 MLAs beyond period Tata rahe mera dil...

non-est in the eyes of law.

nullity, unconstitutional,

substantially illegal and ir-

rational, a bench headed by

Bihar Rail Exam agitation:

Bandh hits normal life

Patna, Friday.

lem for the BJP is that it

faces assembly elections in

Uttar Pradesh where the

agitation has spread and

where happenings in

Bihar have a reverbera-

tion. State BJP president

Sanjay Jaiswal came out

Pakur: In a horrific incident,

two minors were found dead in

a field in Jharkhand's Pakur

with their eyes gouged out,

police said on Friday. The inci-

dent occurred at Ambadih vil-

lage under Amrapara police

station area in the district on

"Bodies of a minor girl and

boy of a family were found in a

field in the village. Their eyes

had been gouged out," SP,

Pakur, Hrudeep P Janardhanan

told PTI. He said the girl is aged around 12 years and the

boy 10 years.
"The police is investigating

all angles, including personal

enmity. A relative has been

detained and is being interro-

gated in this connection, the

SP said. A case has been

lodged based on the father's

statement. Sub-Divisional

Police Officer, Maheshpur,

Navneet Anthony Hembram,

said the family members have

stated that the relative had

called the minors to his home

Thursday night.

Jan Adhikar Party workers and supporters burn a tyre

and block a road during Bihar bandh protest over al-

leged erroneous results of Railway Recruitment Boards

Non-Technical Popular Categories (RRB NTPC) exam, in

www. centralchronicle.in



NCC cadets perform during NCC rally, at Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Friday.

Economic Advisor

New Delhi: The government on Friday appointed economist V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Nageswaran, an academic and former executive with Credit Suisse Group AG and Julius Baer Group, succeeds K V Subramanian, who demitted office of CEA in

December 2021 after the completion of his threevear term. An official statement said Nageswaran assumed charge on Friday.

Aircraft crash

Gaya (Bihar): An aircraft of the Indian Army's Officers' Training Academy here, with two trainee pilots on board, crashed on Friday shortly after take off, a senior official said. According to Bangajeet Saha, the **Director of Gaya** International Airport, both pilots were safe. He said the crash took place in fields adjoining a village under Bodh Gaya block, when the pilots tried to make an emergency landing. Villagers noticed the trainer aircraft falling down, rushed to the spot and pulled the cadets out.

Akhilesh stranded

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday alleged that he was stranded in Delhi as his helicopter was not allowed to fly to UP's Muzaffarnagar for an election programme. In a tweet in Hindi, the SP president posted a picture with the helicopter in the background and said no reason was given for it. Later in another tweet, Akhilesh said he is ready to take a flight. "My helicopter is still detained in Delhi without assigning any reason and not being allowed to go to Muzaffarnagar, whereas a top BJP leader has just flown from here.

Poll violence

■ Kolkata: The CBI, which is probing cases of political violence in the aftermath of assembly elections in Bengal, has arrested seven persons in connection with the death of BJP worker Manik Moitra in Sitalkuchi area of Cooch Behar district, agency sources said on Friday. The accused are residents of a village in Cooch Behar, according to the sources. They will be produced before a court in the district, the sources added. The agency had registered the case in August last year, on the orders of Calcutta



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An artist prepares an idol of the Hindu goddess Saraswati ahead of the upcoming festival of Basant Panchami in Gurugram, Friday'

Nicobar Command on Friday inducted indigenously developed advanced light helicopter MK III at Indian naval station Utkrosh in Port Blair, the Ministry of Defence said. "The induction marks a continuing increase in the capajoint theatre command,'

is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and represents a tremendous leap towards self-re-

was handed over to the Diu administration so that it can be developed as a full-scale museum, the Indian Navy said on Friday. The missile corvette was decommissioned on December 23 last year after 32 years of service. INS Khukri had the distinction of being part of both — western as well as eastern fleets - during its service. An elegant but solemn ceremony was conducted in Diu on Wednesday to hand over the decommissioned ship, the Indian Navy's statement noted. Rear Admiral Ajay Vinay Bhave, Flag Officer Doctrine and Concepts, handed over the decommissioned ship formally to Praful Patel, Administrator of the Union Territory of DNHDD (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu) and Lakshadweep, it noted.

Decommissioned will be developed as museum

New Delhi: Decommissioned Indian naval ship (INS) Khukri

liance in the field of military aircraft, in line

these aircraft have been delivered by HAL and are being flown by the armed forces," the statement noted. Amongst its ant is a maritime role variant with state-of-theart sensors and weapons,

craft has multirole capaitime surveillance, supmedical evacuations bethe ministry

of remainder of session unconstitutional: SC said. The impugned resolution is thus declared to be ineffective in law in so far as the period beyond the stated session in which the resolution came to be

The 12 suspended members are Sanjay Kute, Ashish Shelar, Abhimanyu Pawar, Girish Mahajan, Atul Bhatkhalkar, Parag Alavani, Harish Pimpale, Yogesh Sagar, Jay Kumar Rawat, Narayan Kuche, Ram Satpute and Bunty

passed the bench said



BSF constable injured in encounter with drug smugglers along Indo-Pak border

Chandigarh, Jan 28 (PTI):

The BSF on Friday foiled a cross-border drug smuggling bid and recovered 58 kg heroin after an exchange of fire with Pakistani smugglers along the Indo-Pak border in Punjab's Gurdaspur district that also left a force personnel injured, police said. The incident took place at 5:15 am in an area under border Chandu Wadala.

Gurdaspur Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh said the exchange of fire took place between the BSF troops and Pakistani smugglers after the latter tried to push drugs through a pipe in the Indian territory.

In a statement, the BSF the smugglers after noticing some suspicious movement. On being challenged, the smugglers opened fire at the BSF team. The BSF troops fired back in retaliation, the BSF said. During the exchange of fire, head constable Gyan Singh sustained bullet injuries in his hand and head. He was rushed to a hospital where his condition is stable, it

Senior

said its troops challenged

During the search operation, 47 packets of heroin and seven packets of opium were recovered, the BSF said. Besides, a Chinese made Norinco pistol with two magazines, 9 mm Pietro Beretta pistol with one magazine, 74 rounds of AK-47 with four magazines, 44 rounds of 0.3 calibre and 12 rounds of 9 mm were also seized by

Minors found Three get six years in jail for abetting dead with eyes suicide of spiritual leader Bhaiyyu Maharaj gouged out

Ashwini

Indore, Jan 28 (PTI):

with a Facebook post

claiming that he has per-

sonally spoken to Railway

Vaishnav who has assured

that concerns of the ag-

grieved examinees will be

Minister

A local court on Friday sentenced a woman and two others to six years? rigorous imprisonment for abetting the suicide of spiritual leader Bhaiyyu Maharaj three years ago.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmendra Soni convicted Palak Puranik (28), Vinayak Dudhade (45) and Sharad Deshmukh (37) under IPC sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy), 306 (abetment of suicide) and 384 (extortion). On June 12, 2018, Bhaiyyu Maharaj (50), born Uday Singh Deshmukh, shot himself with his licensed revolver at his bungalow here.

The suicide made headlines as Maharaj was a high-profile spiritual figure and some prominent politicians from Madhya

Maharashtra were among his followers. In his 56page order, Judge Soni said the deposition of prosecution witnesses proved that Puranik, Dudhade and Deshmukh were mounting pressure on Bhaivva Maharai to remarry (Puranik), mentally torturing him and threatening him for money (blackmailing). The judge observed Puranik was an attendant of Bhaiyyu Maharaj, thus their relationship was that of master-servant, but she used to keep her dresses with his clothes in his almirah and share the room. She used to sit by his side in his vehicle and prevailed over him to not marry another woman and longed to enter into wedlock with which shows Puranik was in a position to exert pressure on

Bhaiyyu Maharaj by somehow prevailing over him, the order said.

A servant prevails over the will of his master only when he or she is aware of his weakness." the judge observed. The court ruled out re-

lief to the accused on the basis of the suicide note.

Investigations prove that the accused used to give sleeping pills (sedatives) besides medicines to Bhaiyyu Maharaj.

The court said it cannot be expected that Bhaiyya Maharaj wrote the suicide note in sound mind given the fact he was already under the influence of sleeping pills as well as pressure from the accused. A psychiatrist deposed in the court stating Bhaiyyu Maharaj was taking psychotropic medication along with sleep-

DCGI allows Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 trials for Covid's intranasal booster dose

New Delhi/Hyderabad, Jan 28 (PTI): India's drug regulator has given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 clinical trial for its intranasal Covid vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously inoculated with SARS-CoV 2 vaccines.

India is yet to approve the use of intranasal COVID-19 vaccine BBV154 developed Hyderabad-based company. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on January 27 gave the nod to Bharat Biotech to conduct phase-3 randomised multi-centric clinical study to evaluate immunogenecity and safety of its intranasal vaccine as booster dose on participants who have been previously vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines ap-

proved under new drugs



A healthcare worker administers a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a homeless person at a camp for vaccination for Street beggars, pavement dwellers and orphans who dont have an Aadhaar, voter or pan card, in Howrah, Friday.

under New Drugs & Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. According to official sources, the trial would be conducted at five sites, including AIIMS Delhi.

In December, Bharat Biotech had sought permission from DCGI to conduct phase-3 study for its intranasal COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose to participants previously vaccinated with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. Separately, the DCGI on

Thursday also gave permission to the firm to conduct phase-3 clinical trial to compare the immunogenecity and safety of BBV-154 (intranasal) with Covaxin. This trial has been permitted to be conducted at 9 sites. In August, the nasal vac-

cine had received the regulator's nod for conducting phase 2 clinical trials. BBV154 is an intranasal

replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus SARS-CoV-2 vectored vaccine.

on Thursday evening. Andaman and Nicobar Command inducts advanced light helicopter MK III



Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III during its induction ceremony at INS Utkrosh, in Port Blair.

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

The Andaman and

bilities of the Andaman and Nicobar Command in the past two decades of its raising as India's only the ministry said in a statement.

The MK III helicopter

with the government's push towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat', it said.

"Till date, over 300 of variants, the MK III variit mentioned. The state-of-the-art air-

bilities, including marport for special forces, sides search and rescue roles,

CM honours the one lakhth beneficiary farmer of SSY

Saur Sujala Yojana

- Ch'garh sets another record for effective implementation of schemes, beats major states of the country in terms of installation of solar pumps
- Solar pumps are being installed in farms as well as in Gauthans, pastures and cowsheds under the scheme
- Irrigation facility expanded by 1.20 lakh hectare so far

Central Chronicle News

Rainur, Jan 28: Under Saur Suiala Yojana (SSY), watersupply arrangements for irrigation has been made for more than one lakh farmers of Chhattisgarh. This includes thousands of farmers from naxal-affected and tribal areas. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had felici-



ciary of this scheme-Surendra Nag at the main Rday event held in Jagdalpur.

CREDA had installed the one-lakhth solar pump on the agricultural land of Mr. Nag in Bastar district under Saur Sujala Yojana. Chief Minister underlined the success of the scheme, by presenting the cutout of solar pump to Nag.

CREDA is operating Saur Sujala Yojana to enhance

the irrigation capacity and to expand the irrigated farming area in the nonelectrified areas of the state, Solar pumps of three and five horse-power capacity are being installed in the agricultural farms.

Besides, solar pumps are also being installed in Gauthans, pastures and registered cowsheds under ambitious Narva, Garva, Ghurva, Bari protable in the state. This scheme is helping in strengthening the rural economy and in raising people's standard of living. Due to the installation of pumps in the fields

proved the ground-water-

through Saur Sujala Yojana, farmers are now able take additional two crops, besides the crop taken during rainy season. The scheme has also reduced the dependence on conventional electricity for irrigation. More number of solar pumps have been installed in Chhattisgarh as compared to other states of the country Due to the successful im-

plementation of the scheme in the state and the ever-increasing demand for solar Central pumps. Government has made a provision for the installation of solar irrigation pumps under Pradhan

Tuteja hails works of **Mid-way Resort**

Visited Limdarha, Tatamri and Majhingarh



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 28: The Director Industry Department Anil Tuteia along with Collector Pushpendra Kumar Collector Meena and Narayanpur Rituraj Raghuvanshi conducted tour jointly of Tatamari and Majhingarh.

They took information from officers about efforts

Tatamari Manjhingarh as tourism centre. After this they reached Limdarha Midway Resort and took stock of Restaurant being constructed in Limdarha Midbeauty that surrounds it.

complex. Trio hailed the best of the designs and beauty of the construction work

Resort,

Cottages and landscaping

work near commercial

in the restaurant and asked to maintain quality in all the construction works. During this they also took a detour of the lake and hailed the natural

They also saw the 3-D de sign of Mid-way Resort and sitting arrangements in Cottage. On this occasion DFO TS Thakur. RES SDO Sachin Mishra and other officers and employ

73rd R-Day celebrated with fervour



Central Chronicle News

Kondagaon, Jan 28: The 73rd Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour in district headquarters of Kondagaon at stadium in Vikas Nagar of city. Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Shouri unfurled the nation-

the parade on R-Day. After the flag hoisting, Shouri released feet of white Piegons as symbol of peace and colourful bal-

loons in the air He recited

al flag and took salute of

the CM's Bhupesh Baghel message to the public. On this occasion Parliamentary Secretary also felicitated the officers and employees and corona warriors for their remarkable works. In view of corona pandemic, no parade or cultural proall this the R-Day was celevarious government de-

Collector directs to pass on benefits of schemes to people **Inspects Gram** Kulhadighat

and villages of

Kamar tribe

Central Chronicle News

Gariyaband, Jan 28: The newly elected Collector Namrata Gandhi conducted surprise inspection of Mainpur area and visited the naxal infested area and adopted village of former PM late Rajiv Gandhi Gram Kulahadighat and took stock of actual situation and held talks with villagers. On this occasion SP Gariyaband JR Thakur, District Panchayat CEO Roktima Yadav and Collector were also present.

Under the government's 'Narwa, Ghurwa, Gharwa,



government, she conducted inspection of vermi-compost and other works by Women Self-Help Group (WSGH) in the Gouthan. Here the Collector by holding 'Janchaupal' gave patient hearing to grievances of the villagers. The people from backward Kamar tribe informed her about the massive loss to their houses and farms in hailstorm and strong winds few days back and urged for due compensa-

Nearly one lakh 20 hectares

of agricultural land is

being irrigated by the solar

pumps installed, under the

scheme, across the state. As

a result, carbon emissions

have reduced by six lakh 55

thousand tons in the last

Installation of solar

pumps has not only in-

creased the agricultural

five years.

tion. Collector directed SDM to prepare cases paying visit to damage sites. She also vis-Gram Tarajhar, Kurvapani, Bhaludiggi and inquired about drinking water, school building, ration and other amenities Sarpanch Dhamotin Sori and former sarpanch Bansingh Sori. At the village dependent upon Panchayat, she directed to provide hawller mill to villagers and

make arrangements for proper pricing of bamboo products and utensils made by villagers. SP JR Thakur assured the villagers that soon a mobile tower will be installed, so that the mobile telecommunication can be established and villagers will be freed of this problem. The Collector also gave instructions to carry out repair works in Girl's Ashram of tribals. Further she conducted inspection of hospital, Anganbadi centre, school and tribal girl's ashram. Seeing worsening condition of Girl's Ashram, Collector directed the Asst. Commissioner BK Sukdeve to immediately carry out repair works. She also inquired to students about GK question and others related to the district and on getting right answer she boosted



Petrol tanker turned turtle

Central Chronicle News

Balod, Jan 28: A petrol/ diesel tanker turned turtle near Ghotia chowk at Jhalmala in Balod district hg's and with petrol/ diesel spreading on the road, it caused panic among those passing from

It was just for a short while that the road was blocked and immediately

istration became active and lifted the tanker with help of crane and no incident took place. No casualties were reported. It is learnt that this petrol/ diesel tanker was coming from Raipur bearing No. CG 24 F 4688 and carrying around 18000 lts of petroldiesel and was to be unloaded at Bhatia petrol pump. With no sparks on falling of this tanker, avoided a major incident

R-Day celebrated in Govt. Primary School, Pendri

Rajnandgaon, Jan 28: Rgreat fervour in Govt Primary School, in ward No. 20 of Pendri and here ward corporator Shakila Begum unfurled the national flag. Apart from this flag hoisting was also done at Adivasi Samudayik Bhavan and chairing the programme, Meghdas Vaishnav informed that the Republic Day which is being celebrated all over the country is gift of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, as it was Ambedkar who performed major role in preparing the draft of the Indian constitution, on this occasion the guests garlanded photo of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Bharat Mata' and performed prayers, informs Meghdas Vaishnav in a press release.

gramme of school students was organised and despite brated amidst great enthusiasm. On this occasion officers and employees from partments were present in

Journalists through news bring justice to needy: Chandravashi

Felicitates 35 journalists of Pandaria block

Central Chronicle News

Pandaria, Jan 28: CG Pichara Varg Aayog member Mahesh Chandravanshi felicitated the journalists of Pandaria on occasion of R-Day and said that he is honoured to be present to felicitate the journalists of fourth pillar of democracy, who maintains balance in the society through their works

Speaking further he said that the work of journalists is very challenging and it is by presenting stories and facts in black and white that they bring justice to needy and to those who are exploited and



he hailed the same. On this occasion Mahesh Chandravanshi felicitated 35 journalists from Pandaria block headquarters.

On occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on Jan 30, Chandravashi informed that mask distribution to around 10 thousand farmers will be started under Rajiv

Gandhi Kissan Nyay Yoojana in all the paddy purchase centres (PPCs) and he urged all journalists to be present at the rest house for this programme.

The programme was also addressed by Radhelal Bhaskar former DCC district president; Paras Bangani Janpad member; journalist

Nirmal Saluia, Gurnam Singh Chabda, Ramkumar Tandon: Padamraj Tandon, journalist Satish Patre and it was conducted by Sanju Tiwari. On this occasion Paras Sharma, Pradeep Rajak, Babla Rajak, Dinesh Tiwari, Bharthari Singh, Arvind Tiwari, Kalu Saluja, Mahadev Soni, Shyam Tandon, PD Manikpuri, Imran Narendra Tiwari, Khan, Himanshu Thakur, Kesari Tiwari, Nandan DCC spokesman Gautam Sharma, BCC former President RK Thakur, corporator Khovaram Bhaskar, Chandrbhan Tandon, Amita Padwar, Mochan Chandravanshi, Jitendra Chandravashi, Kanhaiya Yadav, former sarpanch; BCC Kunda former President Uttar

Case filed against three under illicit sale of liquor

Central Chronicle News

Dongargarh, Jan 28: the police to put a check on illicit sale of liquor by the police, the Dongargarh police has filed case against three involved in such practices and this includes Alim Khan (30) S/o Chote Khan R/o Kashmiripara; Teekam Verma (35), S/o Bharat Verma, Belgaon; Ishwari Ram (35), S/o Ghuru Ram R/o Patthar Tola. The police raided their places and seized illicit liquor in large quantity. As per information in this regard, the police based upon tip from an informer raided the resi-



dences of above three persons and seized illicit liquor. A case under section 34(1) of Excise Act has been filed against all

three. In the above action head constable Rohit Padoti, Ajit Toppo and Laxmi Thakur played im-

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया **BO**

Bank of India kosmanda Branch, Branch Address: Village Kosmanda, Near Bus Stand, Main Road, Champa District Jangir Champa (C.G.),

Borrower / Guaranton

1. Shri Bholanath Pal S/o Shri

2. Smt Namita Pal W/o Shri

W/o Shri Jagdish Prasad

Bhashn Chanda Pal &

2. Smt

Tel No: +91 6260507170 [rule-8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Bank of India, Kosmanda Branch under the Securitization and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being plus applicable Interest plus other Expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Kosmanda Branch. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

	by - Se On the
Jagdish Prasad	All tha
vani S/o Shri Manik	Flat No
Kesharwani &	No. 13
. Namita Kesharwani	Janiair

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Shop/HN/ Flat No./ Plot No. in Survey No./City or Town Survey No Khasra No. 1822/4, P.H. No. 04, Near-Manjhali Talab, Ward No.19, Tehsil-Champa, RNM Champa, District Jaigir Champa, Chhattisgarh, Admeasuring 1417 Sq.ft., belonging to Smt ta Pal W/o Shri Bholanath Pal. Bounded by: On the North ller's Plot, On the South by:-Land of Shri Radhakrishna, East by:- Talab, On the West by - Road

t part and parcel of the property consisting of Shop/HN o./ Plot No. in Survey No./City or Town Survey No Khasra 170/1, P H No. 26 RNM Jaijaipur Tehsil Jaijaipur District Champa State Chhattisgarh Admeasuring 3488 Sq Ft, belonging to Shri Jagdish Prasad Kesharwani and Smt. Namita Kesharwani wo Shri Jagdish Prasad Kesharwani Bounded by: On the North by- Land Of Ramprasad, On the South by-PWD Road (Hasaud-Birra Road), On the East by - Land Of Ramprasac Demand Notice Date: 27.10.2021 Rs.5.49.598.84/-(Rupee Five Lacs Fourty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Ninty Eight and Eighty Four Paise Only) + interest & other expenses, Possession

Demand Notice Date.

Amount & Possession Date

Demand Notice Date:

28.10.2021 Rs.6,51,379.44/-

(Rupee Six Lacs Fifty One

Thousand Three Hundred

and Forty Four Paise Only)

+ interest & other expense

Possession Date: 25.01.2022

Seventy Nine

On the West by: Land Of Ram Narayan Date : 29.01.2022 Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER / CHIEF MANAGER BANK OF INDIA

CM attends swearing-in ceremony of Bastar Chamber of Commerce

Central Chronicle News

Jagdalpur, Jan 28: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel attended the swearing-in ceremony of Bastar Chamber of Commerce Industries Jagdalpur on Tuesday. While congratulating all the newly elected office bearers at the swearingin ceremony held in the building of the institution located near Samund Chowk, he expressed hope for their continuous contribution in the development of Bastar.

On this occasion Industries Minister and Minister in charge of Bastar district, Kawasi Lakhma, President of Tribal Bastar Area



Lakheshwar Baghel, Lok Sabha MP, Deepak Baij, Parliamentary Secretary Rekhchand Jain Chairman of Fishermen Welfare Board, MR Nishad, Chitrakot MLA Rajman Benzam, Mayor

Jagdalpur, Mrs. Safira Municipal Sahu, Corporation, Speaker Mrs. Kavita Sahu along with office bearers and members of Bastar Chamber of Commerce and Industries were

नाम परिवर्तन

सर्वसाधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि मैं पुराना नाम ASHAYA SHRIVASTAVA पिता SHRI SANJAY KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA अपने पुराने नाम को बदलकर नया नाम ASHAY SHRIVASTAVA पिता SHRI SANJAY KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA निवासी वार्ड नं 4,विद्या नगर पेंड्रारोड छत्तीसगढ़, Card पिन 495117,रख लिया हूं अतः अब मुझे भविष्य में समस्त शासकीय अर्द्ध शासकीय व अन्य दस्तावेजों में नया नाम ASHAY SHRIVASTAVA पिता SHRI SANJAY KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA के नाम से जाना

पहचाना जाए शपथ कर्ता आशय श्रीवास्तव विद्यानगर वार्ड क्रमांक 4 पेंड्रा रोड जिला जी, पी,एम

Chandrakar and others.

This is to inform Denise Culloden, Date of Birth: 28th July 1964 is the Wife of Mr. Clinton Culloden Richard Aadhar Card Number 2709 4348 1403, Pan Number: ASVPC6317P am a resident of Ward no 38, Old power House Hemunagar, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh India Pin Code: 495001.

Denise Culloden Mobile Number 9669386223

CENTRAL CHRONICLE, BILASPUR, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

Since 1974 Volume 9 No. 298

Sabotage of infrastructure

A portion of railway tracks in Jharkhand's Giridih district was damaged due to a blast that was triggered by suspected members of banned CPI (Maoist). The banned outfit had called for a 24-hour bandh in Jharkhand to protest against the arrest of its top leader Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da, who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head, by the Jharkhand Police. Jharkhand remains among the three poorest states along with Bihar and Uttar Pradesh according to Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This attack is worrying not just from point of view of internal security but external security as well. Both the Congress led UPA government previously and now BJP led NDA government acknowledge about red terror, but need to see the link with external enemies. During situation of national crisis, enemies of India can effectively use Maoists (also called Naxals locally), to sabotage critical infrastructure in India. Attack on railway infrastructure is sabotage operation. Jharkhand will have to emulate other states with special task force and corresponding policies in rural governance and agriculture to diminish influence of Maoists. The country's first township dedicated to surrendered Maoists and the victims of Maoist violence is taking shape in Dantewada district. The township will also have a livelihood college where residents will be given training in around 20 different trades, including motorcycle repair work, processing of minor forest produce, and modern farming. This township will be roll model across India to counter ideology of Maoists. Ever since the Maoist menace started, none of the states have managed to tackle the Maoists in a way the Andhra Pradesh Police have done. The Andhra model has been the most successful. They built an effective force called the 'Greyhound' to take the

To support them an extremely robust Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) was built in which trained locals were recruited. They would provide vital information, identify top Maoist leaders, and their location. Working on this information the Greyhound commandos would attack the area and eliminate the Maoist leaders and their team-members. This strategy has been so successful that within a span of two decades, the Andhra Pradesh Police eradicated the entire Maoist menace from their state and it is now a Maoist-free state. So much so, that there has been not a single Maoist-related incident or violence reported in the state in the past 15 years. It is not just policing strategy to be working against Maoists but social integration and agriculture too. Many states including Chhattisgarh and Odisha have successfully diminished influence of Maoists in villagers by agriculture policy measures with infrastructure development. In Odisha, the area in Malkangiri district containing 151 villages in 9 gram panchayats were a major cause of concern for the state police as the Maoists commanders of the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee operate there. Sandwiched between the Balimela reservoir on one side and daunting hills on the other side for almost four decades, the area was out of bound for the government till 2018 when the government built a bridge ending decades of isolation for the 37000-odd people of the area. While the long-pending bridge has become a reality, the promised infrastructure in the interior parts of the region as well the economic development was realised. The farmers in remote

Cash transactions reforms

anks have been permitted to charge Rs 21 instead of Rs 20 on each transaction after the monthly free ATM (Automated Teller Machine) withdrawal limit since beginning of this year. However, bank customers will continue to avail 5 free ATM withdrawal limit from their own bank ATM and 3 free ATM withdrawal limit other bank ATM. Now the rates are set to be hiked by Rs 1 per extra transaction each month. Some startups in India are deploying white label ATM machines. The ATMs which are set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are known as White Label ATMs (WLAs). The finance ministry and Reserve Bank of India shall implement separate set of reforms for cash transactions in India, rather than insist on cashless policy alone and ATM is key tool to achieve this objective. ATMs came to India somewhere in the 1980s through the branches of foreign banks and were the most coveted and awe-inspiring technology marvels of that period. Thanks to the National Financial Switch (NFS) set up in 2004 by IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology), interoperability between ATMs of various banks became a reality. The NFS network was transferred to NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) in 2010 and since then, the number of ATMs connected to NFS has grown to more than 251,000. While India has 650,000 villages, there is one ATM for 10 vil-

This is a big hurdle for financial inclusion. After a temporary blip during demonetisation, the cash economy has continued to thrive in the country. While digital transactions have shown a sudden increase, ATM transactions are also growing in line with a similar growth. ATMs in India have changed from being an exclusive device for premium customers in urban areas, to being the agents of social change, supporting financial inclusion across towns and remote villages of India. Mass banking could not have been possible in this country without ATMs providing the much-needed cash dispensation points for millions of customers. Banks have effectively used ATMs to provide basic banking services to customers at any time of the day and in a cost-effective manner. ATMs on wheels have driven down to large societies to enable residents to withdraw cash during the lockdown. In the USA, one sights an ATM after a long search whereas in Indian urban centres they have become as commonplace. That is because while in the US a card is used more for swiping at merchant establishments and for making online payments, in India it is the reverse more for withdrawals at the ubiquitous ATMs and less for digital payments. Can government in India also move in this direction, remains to be seen.

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

POSING WITH 'SNOWMAN'



Members of the jury of the 29th edition of the 'Gerardmer Fantastic Film Festival' pose with a 'snowman' ice sculpture at Gerardmer in eastern France.

Challenge of conducting elections be in COVID-19 era



he first elections post-onset of the COVID-19 pandemic were held for the Bihar Legislative Assembly in the months of November and December 2020. The Election Commission had patted its back and congratulated itself on the successful completion of those elections. Following that, the country bore witness to the election fiasco in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly which was carried out in 8 phases from March to April 2021. Then began the country's challenging battle against the second wave of COVID-19. Recently, the Election Commission also announced the schedule for the Legislative Assembly elections of five states, namely Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur, and Uttarakhand. As a result of these elections, the country will receive around 690 new MLAs and about 20 new Rajya Sabha members. This entire process of these assembly elections w steadily over two months.

During this period, around 18 and a half crore voters will exercise their franchise to vote. Overall, this assembly election will be held on a massive scale. Although there was an apprehension that the election process might be postponed due to the third wave of the ongoing and seemingly never-ending pandemic, after taking a thorough review of the situation, the Election Commission has concluded that the elections will be conducted discreetly. Anyway, postponing elections is not that easy either. As soon as the code of conduct came into force, the administration in various districts intensified the work of removing posters and hoardings up to the assembly constituency level. Now, it will be a challenge for political parties to reach out to every voter amid the COVID-19 transition. In the Panchavat. the Municipal Corporation, and the Vidhan Sabha elections, the candidates have been going door-to-door. Now, it would not be right to expect the same in these elections. As the global pandemic doesn't seem to be drawing to an end, the approach and procedure of the elections are subject to change. The elections will have to be conducted in such a manner that the outcome of the pandemic on the public is negliaible. However, the responsibility to ensure that the elections are conducted safely does not solely lie on the **Election Commission. For this, the** leaders of political parties, the volunteers, and all the workers will also have to remain vigilant.

Voters will also have to make sacrifices to vote for the consummation of the festival of democracy. It is common knowledge that subsequent to the announcement of the election schedule, the model code of conduct has also come into force. In the midst of peaking fear and terror of the third wave of the pandemic, relief can be drawn from two facts. First, in the states where elections are going to be held, the majority of voters have at least one dose of the COVID-19 vac-

cine, although the pace of vaccination has been slow in Punjab. That was not the case when elections were held in Bihar or West Bengal. Everyone knows that the only way to avoid being infected by the virus is to get vaccinated on time. That, along with wearing a mask and following the norms of social distancing can help keep the virus at bay. The second thing is, in these elections, all the political parties will have to reach out to their voters through the virtual approach. They will lay more emphasis on virtual rallies only. In this manner, all unnecessary gatherings can be avoided. The Bharatiya Janata Party is powerful and active on various social media platforms. They have scores of followers on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, with their numbers only hinting at an upward trend. It also has a wide network of WhatsApp groups. In such a situation, it can efficiently organize meetings in virtual mode as per its needs. Other parties also understand the importance of social media. A budget of Rs 40 lakhs has been capped for contesting the elections. In such a situation, the candidates of different parties will have to work very carefully. Because in this age of technology, it is not a difficult task for the Election Commission to keep track of every penny spent.

Although all political parties are deliberating about keeping distance from tainted leaders, every party requires a candidate. The Bharatiya Janata Party is undertaking all possible efforts to conquer all the four other states, including Uttar Pradesh. It is also working hard for the accomplishment of its goal. Currently, it is soaring ahead in the race against all other parties. The BJP has snatched almost all the significant points from the hands of the opposition. Apart from the election announcements of various parties, in totality, the BJP is making strides in almost all the spheres affecting life. Whether it be solving regional problems, turning different castes or classes in their

favor, or capitalizing on religious sentiments. All prominent leaders of the party are currently working in the field. The influence of the Samajwadi Party is limited only to Uttar Pradesh. Congress is fighting to hold onto the rank of the number four party in Uttar Pradesh. There is no respectable place left for it in such a unique state of the nation. However, the Gandhi family claims to be from Uttar Pradesh. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) visible in Punjab and Uttarakhand is nowhere to be found in Uttar Pradesh. So, it is pretty evident that India's largest party, BJP, will try to form its government in all five states.

However, various parties will pose obstacles and challenge it, especially the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and Congress and AAP in Uttarakhand and Punjab. In the upcoming assembly elections, the whole country will have to keep an eye on the situation in Punjab. There the conditions continue to remain unfavorable. Anti-national elements are openly making their move under the guise of the farmers' movement. There is a Congress-led government there, which is prone to a breakdown and clash within the party. Anti-BJP forces are also active. The new Director-General of Police and **Election Commission of Punjab will** need to ensure fair elections in these regions. Puniab is one of the borderstates of the country and cannot be left unchecked. Recently in Punjab, the convoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was stopped in its tracks as a part of a conspiracy. The whole country witnessed it. It is the united desire of the nation that the voters reject such anti-national forces during the Punjab Assembly elections. India also hopes that the consequences of the Coronavirus should not come to the fore during the elections of these five states. Due to the widespread COVID-19 vaccination drive, we hope that the country will celebrate its democratic festival properly.

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

Victim crowd

We remember what the pupil of Jamia Millia Islamia University did in December 2019. Buses were set on fire, stones were pelted on the police forces and slogans were raised and the law was taken in hand in the name of CAA protest. That scenario angered our many patriotic people for mixing religion in a political protest rally. The same group organized a seminar titled 'State Repression, Witch-Hunting & Resistance' at Delhi Press Club with an attendance of around 70-80 people. A few selected people were invited to speak on and one of them was Akhtarista Ansari, ex-student of JMI. In her speech, she said anti-CAA protests were simultaneously held in other universities but the voice of Jamia Millia Islamia University was suppressed because Muslims study there, but notably she hid the fact that the Jamia mob burnt buses, pelted stones and caused damage to public properties. Also, the crowd turned into the religious crowd, which did not happen in other universities. These people always play the victim card once they are caught in the fault line. In the same seminar and the same speaker hailed Sharjeel Imam (the person who wanted to cut off the Northeast from India) as a hero and described him as one who showed the way of success to farmers' protest. Interestingly, Hiren Gohain too had echoed similar lines when Sharjeel Iman was arrested under UAPA. In the same seminar, another anti-national Umar Khalid was praised and compared to Great Man Mahatma Gandhi. It has become a habit of a section on the group to air anti-India statements and when they are arrested, they cry atrocities. Unless and until these people are dealt with an iron fist, they will keep breeding more such elements.

Julie, via email

Iron Man's legacy

Famously known as the Iron Man of India, Sardar Patel is remembered and credited for his political wisdom and efforts to integrate the princely states into the Union of India. He persuaded the princes of 565 states by proposing favourable terms for the merger including the creation of privy purses for the rulers' descendants and encouraged them to act out of patriotism. In 1917, Patel's course of life changed after he was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. He strictly adhered to Gandhi's satyagraha to further India's fight and struggle against the British Raj. Patel was the leading candidate for the 1945–46 presidency of the Indian intervened and supported the election of Jawaharlal Nehru. As president of the Congress, Nehru was invited by the British viceroy to form the interim government. Thus, in the normal course of events, Patel would have been the first Prime Minister of India. Nevertheless, his enduring fame still rests on his achievement of the peaceful integration of the princely Indian states and the

political unification of India. Ranganathan, via email



Kunal Shah@kunalb11

Super apps are like web series. Where one character is introduced at a time and has a connection with previous characters. Many companies that are trying to become super apps from the word go are becoming like a buffet at a rich wedding where you don't understand 90% of dishes.

Rahul Mathur@Rahul

10 minute grocery delivery is overrated for most bachelors in India especially since Swiggy can get you a proper cooked meal in < 25 minutes in metro cites. The combination of food delivery + meal-in-a-box cloud kitchens is incredibly powerful (and, some folks can't cook)



Vivek Prasad@

Beating Retreat should not become a light and sound show is what we want, let's atleast stop calling it Beating Retreat. The Govt's spin doctors can start some nonsense about Retreat" is anathema to brave new India or something and just rename it.

Pravin Sawhney @PravinSawhnev

India in difficult situation: While Russia is firm - no NATO expansion & no admitting Ukraine in NATO - it will not go to war over Ukraine. But, Russia & China ties will strengthen further. So, in likely war of China & India - Russia may not help us with spares! #TheLastWar.





Hardik Pandya@hvpandya

Startups ruined SMS completely with ridiculous amount of spam first. Now I see many of them giving automated IVR calls to remind you to use their app. How is this normal and acceptable?

Sanjay Dutt@thesanjaydutt

In my sense, long-term investors can start investing and pick their stocks today. Many are at attractive prices. Each has to find his own high conviction ideas. I am looking at financials, manufacturing bets, media stocks, and non-ferrous metals.



CENTRAL CHRONICLE, BILASPUR, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

'No one can stop nation whose youth works with spirit of nation first'

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the strength of India's young population in fields ranging from start-ups to sports, and said no one can stop a nation whose youth works with the spirit of "nation first". Speaking at the National Cadet Corps PM Rally at Cariappa ground here, Modi said efforts are being made to strengthen the organisation with a high level review committee formed in this regard.

Over one lakh new NCC cadets have been added in border areas in the last two years, he said while pitching for induction of more girls in the organisation. He noted that women are getting more and more responsibilities in the armed forces.

The prime minister also highlighted the menace of drug abuse and asked NCC members to work to keep themselves and their cam-

BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847 cr in 2019-20: ADR

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI): The BJP declared assets worth Rs 4,847.78 crore in financial year 2019-20, the highest among all political parties, followed by the BSP at Rs 698.33 crore and the Congress at Rs 588.16 crore, according to poll reforms advocacy group

The Association for Democratic Reforms prepared its report based on its analysis of assets and liabilities of national and regional parties in 2019-20.

According to the analysis, the total assets declared by the seven national and 44 regional parties during the financial year amounted to Rs 6,988.57 crore and Rs 2,129.38 crore, respectively



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with cadets during Prime Ministers NCC rally, at Cariappa Parade Ground in New Delhi, Friday.

puses free from this and can also play a big role in also help those who are 'vocal for local" to help not in the NCC in getting India become self-reliant. the prime minister said. rid of this. adding that more demand

Noting that in an era of possibilities relating to digital technology and information sector there are also dangers of misinformation, he said NCC members can run awareness campaign for this.

try, I get immense strength from the training that I got in NCC and the things I learned there," Modi mentioned. Modi said he has just got his NCC Alumni card and he has come at the rally not just as a prime minister but also as a former cadet. "The government is taking many steps to join the country's education system with NCC," he said. Under the new National

Education Policy, the country's 90 universities have started offering NCC as an elective subject to their students, he noted. "I am seeing so many girl cadets here. This is a sign of how our country is changing," he said "Country needs your contribution and there are ample opportunities for that," he told the girl cadets. He said now the daughters of the country are taking admission in Sainik Schools and women are getting major respon-



Activists of Maulana Azad Vichar Manch protest at Azad Maidan condemning the film Why I Killed Gandhi, in

Congress will retain power in Punjab with overwhelming majority: Pilot

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Friday exuded confidence that his party will put up a stupendous performance in the February 20 assembly polls in Punjab and retain power with an overwhelming majority.

'We will again form the government in Punjab with an overwhelming majority," the senior leader from Rajasthan told a news conference here which he addressed along with Congress spokesperson Pawan

Pilot said senior leader Rahul Gandhi has already said the party will go with Congress which raised a chief minister face in Punjab polls and the decision will be taken after consulting party workers.

for local products will

boost production and sub-

also a NCC cadet like you

once upon a time...While

fulfilling my current re-

"I am proud that I was

sequently employment.

Regarding the polls in other states, Pilot said, "I have full confidence that we will form government in Goa, Uttarakhand, and Punjab". Pilot said he was campaigning in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and accused the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party of failing to play the role opposition.

"For five years, neither the Samajwadi Party nor BSP played the role of opposition. Be it Lakhimpur Kheri, Unnao, Hathras, or Dalit issues, it was the these issues, he said. In Uttar Pradesh, the ruling BJP is feeling jittery, Pilot alleged.

"A dozen of their MLAs and some ministers have deserted the party," he said while accusing the BJP of playing divisive politics. People have seen through these games and the saffron party can no longer fool the voters, he said.

He said the BJP-led central government talks about doubling the farmers' income, but that has not happened yet.

Farmers from various parts of the country agitated against the three farm laws for more than

one year and so many of them died during the prolonged stir, he said.

"Will the families of those farmers not question the government," he

Pilot said Congress is the only party which together with its allies can defeat the BJP at the national level.

Referring to last year's bypolls in various assembly and parliament constituencies of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka wherein the BJP suffered a setback, Pilot said the results were a verdict against the "antipeople" policies of the BJP-led dispensation.

India on expanding list of shrines for visits

'Have positive approach, willing to engage with Pak'

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

India on Friday said there is an interest on both the Indian and Pakistani sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel under the 1974 protocol for visits to religious places, asserting that it has a positive approach on the matter and is willing to engage with Islamabad on it.

The assertion comes days after a prominent Hindu lawmaker from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's ruling party urged India to issue visas to a delegation of pilgrims to visit the country as part of his faith tourism initiative between the two neigh-

Pakistan Hindu Council and member of the National Assembly Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani has said he would lead a delegation of Pakistani pilgrims to India on January 29 on a special chartered flight of the Pakistan Airlines International (PIA).

bours. Patron-in-chief of the

Asked about India's stand on the issue and if approvals had been given, Ministry of **External Affairs Spokesperson** Arindam Bagchi said, "As you are aware, under the 1974 Protocol between India and Pakistan, visits to religious shrines are being facilitated regularly. There is an interest on both sides to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel." It naturally needs to be dis-

cussed under the protocol, he said. "Let me underline that India has a positive approach on this matter and is willing to engage the Pakistani side. You are also aware that currently restrictions are in place on movement and gatherings in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation normalises, we expect that this time can be utilised to hold discussions under the bilateral Protocol," Bagchi said. "It is our hope to facilitate early exchange of visits to all shrines of interest to pil-

TOURISTS PARAGLIDING

Tourists do paragliding as weather clears after snowfall at the snow-covered Solanganala plains of Manali, Friday.

'Girl not property to be donated'

HC observes in case of man giving away daughter to godman

Mumbai, Jan 28 (PTI):

A girl is not a property tnat can be given in donation, the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court observed. while taking strong objection to a case wherein a man had given his 17vear-old daughter in "daan" to a self-styled godman.

Justice Vibha Kankanwadi made the observation earlier this month while hearing a bail application filed by godman Shankeshwar Dhakne and his disciple Sopan Dhanke, arrested for allegedly raping the minor

A single bench of

The two accused lived

in Jalna district along with the girl and her father. The girl on August 2021 filed FIR against the duo for allegedly raping her, following which they were arrested.

Justice Kankanwadi in her order took note of the prosecution's case that in 2018, a document styled as "danpatra" on a stamp paper of Rs 100 was executed between the girl's father and the Dhakne.

It is stated that the father of the girl has given his daughter on donation (daan) to the baba and it is stated that the said 'kanyadan' has been made in the presence of god. When the girl as per her own statement is minor, then why the father, who is in all respect guardian, to the girl, give

the girl as Daan? the court and cannot shut its eyes. said in its order.

A girl is not a property, which can be given in donation. Justice Kankanwadi said, adding that this was a disturbing fact.

The court noted that it was concerned about the future of the minor girl

This was a fit case where directions needed to be given to the Child Welfare Committee

(CWC) of Jalna district to hold inquiry on an expeditious basis and find out if the girl was fit to be declared as a child in need of care and protection.

Russia says it won't start a war as Ukraine tensions mount

Moscow, Jan 28 (AP):

Russia's top diplomat said Friday that Moscow will not start a war in Ukraine but warned that it wouldn't allow the West to trample on its security interests, amid fears it is planning to invade its neighbour. U.S. President Biden warned Ukraine's leader a day earlier that there is a distinct possibility that Russia could take military action against the former Soviet state in February.

There won't be a war as far as it depends on the Russian Federation, we don't want a war, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a live interview with Russian radio stations. But we won't let our interests be rudely trampled on and ignored.

Tensions have soared in recent weeks, and the United States and its NATO allies warily eyed a buildup of more than 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine, worrying that Moscow was preparing to attack. Russia has repeatedly denied having any such plans, but has demanded that NATO promise Ukraine will never be allowed to join and that the alliance roll back deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern

The U.S. and NATO formally rejected those demands this week, though Washington outlined areas where discussions are possible, offering hope that there could be a way to avoid war.

Russia's official response to those proposals will come from President Vladimir Putin, but the Kremlin has said there was little ground for optimism. Lavrov echoed noted that grim note Friday. While they say they won't change their positions, we won't change ours, he said. I don't see any room for compromise here.

Putin opened the weekly meeting of his Security Council on Friday, saying only that it would address foreign policy issues. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Russian leader may

also discuss his reaction to the U.S. rejection with French President Emmanuel Macron during their video call the same

Lavrov noted that the U.S. suggested the two sides could talk about limits on the deployment of intermediate-range missiles, restrictions on military drills and rules to prevent accidents between warships and aircraft. He said that Russia proposed discussing those issues years ago but Washington and its allies never took them up on it until now.

While he described the U.S. offers as reasonable, he emphasized that Russia's main concerns are to stop both NATO's ex-

pansion and the deployment of the alliance weapons near Russia's borders. He noted that international agreements say that the security of one nation must not come at the expense of others' and that he would send letters to ask his Western counterparts to address that obli-It will be hard for them

to wiggle out from answering why they aren't fulfilling the obligations sealed by their leaders not to strengthen their security at the expense of others, he said. As tensions build, Washington warned Moscow of devastating sanctions if it invades Ukraine, including penalties targeting top Russian

officials and key economic sectors. Several senior U.S. officials also Thursday that Germany would not allow a newly constructed which is meant to bring gas directly from Russia to begin operations if Russia invades Ukraine.

Asked about possible sanctions, Lavrov said that Moscow had warned Washington that their introduction would amount to a complete severing of ties. While Moscow and the West are mulling their next steps, NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in the Baltic Sea region, and the U.S. ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert for potential deployment to



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