

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

बीज प्रक्रिया केन्द्र रिस्टा (मस्तूरी)

किसान बीज सहकारी समिति मर्यादित बिलासपुर



राघवेन्द्र सिंह

कृषक रत्न छ.ग. शासन राष्ट्रपति मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा पुरस्कृत किसान रिस्टा

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

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

पूर्ण चंद्र (कोको)
प्रदेश अध्यक्ष
युवा कांग्रेस (छ.ग.)

अशोक राजवाल
जिला उपाध्यक्ष
युवा कांग्रेस बिलासपुर

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

उमेंद्र कुरें
ब्लाक संगठक सेवादल मस्तूरी एवं प्रदेश सचिव
अनुसूचित जाति कांग्रेस कमेटी (छ.ग.)

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

एस. के. डहरिया
प्राचार्य
एवं समस्त स्टाफ, शासकीय कन्या उच्च मा. शाला मस्तूरी, जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

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

भागवत साहू
समन्वयक राजीव गांधी शिक्षा मिशन विकास खण्ड मस्तूरी
एवं समस्त स्टाफ, राजीव गांधी शिक्षा मिशन स्रोत केन्द्र मस्तूरी, जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

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

श्रीमति उषा देवी भार्गव
सरपंच
रोजगार सहायक, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत विद्याडीह (टांगर), जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी

लक्ष्मी भार्गव
सरपंच प्रतिनिधि

मनोहर यादव
सचिव

श्रीमति सविता भार्गव
उपसरपंच

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

हेतराम डाण्डे
सरपंच

रोहित कुमार कैवत
उपसरपंच

सचिव, उपसरपंच, पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत कोकड़ी, जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी

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

श्यामस्वरूप भीना - सरपंच प्रतिनिधि
ग्राम पंचायत बुढ़ीखार (मल्हार)

पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी
ग्राम पंचायत बुढ़ीखार, जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी

श्रीमति गोमती भीना - सरपंच
ग्राम पंचायत बुढ़ीखार (मल्हार)

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

शोभा रात्रे - सरपंच

रंजित खण्डेकर - सचिव

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

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

श्रीमती सावित्री भागवत साहू
सरपंच

कैलाश पटेल
सचिव

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

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

डॉ. कृष्णामूर्ति बांधा
उपनेता प्रतिपक्ष व विधायक
मस्तूरी

हार्दिका देवडा
विधायक प्रतिनिधि जिला पंचायत बिलासपुर

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

खाम्हन चतुर्वेदी
सरपंच

जीविराखन साहू - सचिव

प्रित चन्द्राकर - उपसरपंच

धर्मेन्द्र चतुर्वेदी - रोजगार सहायक

पंचगण एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत पेण्डी जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी

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

कृष्णा यादव
सरपंच

कैलाश पटेल
सचिव

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

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

श्रीमती मानमति पटेल
सरपंच

बलराम राजगिरी
सचिव

श्यामलाल पटेल
सरपंच प्रतिनिधि

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

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

श्रीमती धनबाई कैवत
सरपंच

मनीराम कैवत
सरपंच प्रतिनिधि

धनीराम मंडावी
सचिव

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

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

दीपक बंजारे
सरपंच

श्रीमति किरण संतोष यादव
जिला पंचायत सदस्य
श्रीमति राजकुमारी जगत जनपद सदस्य

राकेश यादव - उपसरपंच

एवं समस्त ग्रामवासी ग्राम पंचायत हरदी गोबरी, जनपद पंचायत मस्तूरी

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

श्रीमती शिवकुमारी पैकरा
सरपंच

कमल कैवत
उपसरपंच

हृदयसिंह पैकरा
सरपंच प्रतिनिधि

राकेश कुमार गांगीले
सचिव

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

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

एच.एन. पुरेना
प्रभारी अधिकारी

कोमल चन्द्राकर
प्रभारी संस्था प्रबंधक

मनोहर लाल यादव
लेखापाल

आशीष राठी
कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटर

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

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

कुशवाराम जांगड़े
अध्यक्ष

शिव कुमार यादव
श्रीमती मुन्नी बाई उपाध्यक्ष

जनक राम भार्गव
प्रभारी संस्था प्रबंधक

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

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

गानबली धुलहरे
प्रभारी अधिकारी

मनोज पाण्डेय
प्रभारी संस्था प्रबंधक

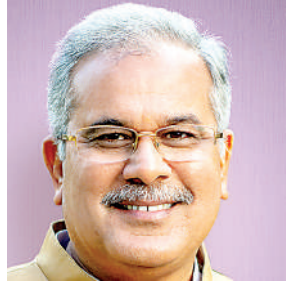
एवं समस्त स्टाफ वृहत्ताकार सेवा सहकारी समिति मर्यादित जैतपुर पं.क्र. 1175

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



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. Chief Minister Bhopesh 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 stop it. 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 transportation of sand are received.

BONFIRE



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 terrorising 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 red-handed from Marine Drive.

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 Bhatagaon 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 of 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 concerned officials were pres-



ent on the occasion. 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

been completed through 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

Raipur Smart City 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 the concerned officials.

Unidentified fraud dupes bank customer of Rs 66374

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 AnyDesk app. The fraud was later complained in Rajendra Nagar police station where

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 cspdc

Raipur, Jan 28: 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 production category. 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 Prize Distribution Ceremony applause and recognition was bestowed in form of award in various categories. The func-



tion was held at Dagania Head-office following Covid protocol. In group category Minimum 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, Bhuleshwar Prasad, D.R Urusha of respective office.

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

On occasion MD N.K.Bijoura, Rajesh Verma, Harsh Gautam, Ujjwala Baghel and S.D. Telang along with Executive Director Manoj Khare and chief security officer wing commander A Shrinivas were present in the function. Award function was hosted by AGM (HR) Pradyumna Pandey.

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.

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 Mahotsav 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 Sports 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-physical fitness and wellbeing.

Make online payment of property tax

Mayor, Municipal Commissioner, Revenue Department President request citizens

Flexes installed in zones and prominent places for awareness

Raipur, 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 of Raipur Municipal Corporation to pay property tax online from their homes. According to them the online payment can be done by visiting mcraipur.in and them registering their 12-digit property unique id in it. Any resident who does



not know property unique id can search it by choosing their ward area. Subsequently they can make online payment by clicking the button of make payment in the website.

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

Raipur, Jan 28: 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 27,290, total tests 1,61,04,654.

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 will be allowed to work till 12 o'clock in the night.

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 in 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 379 IPC against unidentified and further investigation are now underway.

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



Raipur, Jan 28: The drawing-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 instruction 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

Amar Parwani. Additional Commissioner in Raipur Municipal Corporation Arvind Sharma was also present. 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 of the Urban

Administration and Development Department of the State Government and Raipur District 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.

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Governor felicitates police officers, brave children



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 here. The Governor awarded medals to the police officers and employees who did excellent work. Apart from this, the Governor felicitated Master Aman Jyoti Zahire of Korba and Master

Pratap Chandrakar of Dhamtari district with State Gallantry Award. The Governor also felicitated 21 police officers with Police Gallantry Medals. These include Kamlochan Kashyap, Senior Superintendent of Police, Bijapur, Suresh Lakra, Deputy Superintendent of Police, 6 Battalion Raigarh, Sanjay Potam, Sub Inspector, Dantewada, Laxman, Cantonment Inspector, Rajnandgaon, Omkar Singh Dewan, Sub Inspector, Kondagaon, Bijaram Tamo, Head

Constable, Bijapur, Uma Shankar Rathore, Inspector, Raipur, Chetan Lal Belendra, Head Constable, STF Baghera Durg, Manik Lal Koreti, Head Constable, Sukma, Mohan Lal Nishad, Inspector Bijapur, Brij Lal Bhardwaj, Inspector, Bilaspur, Kamlesh 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, STF Baghera.

Governor hoisted the flag at Raj Bhavan on R-Day



Raipur, Jan 28: 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, the Governor extended Republic Day greetings to all the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan. She met the

children of the employees 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 Raj 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, General 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 worshipping, garlanding, gular 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 chanted and all the office



bearers, traders and industrialists gave warm 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, Vikram Singhdeo, Ram

Mandhan, Manmohan Agarwal, Executive General Secretary- Kapil Doshi, Vikas Ahuja, State In-charge IT Cell- Kailash Khemani, Vice President- Jai Nanwani, Pawan Wadhwa, Secretary - Nilesh Mundhra, Jitendra Golcha Jain, Shankar Bajaj and Rakesh (Janak) Wadhvani and others were present.

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 under Municipal Corporation Raipur at his residence office here this evening. On this occasion, Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Aijaz Dhebar informed

the Chief Minister that in view of the increasing popularity of Shri 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 increased competition among them for discounting the price of medicines. In Raipur Municipal Corporation area, in the second phase, generic med-

ical shops are being started at 5 more places respectively near Inter State Bus Stand, Mekahara, Canal Linking Road, Near Old Basti Thana and Ayurvedic College with 72% discount. Medicines will be available in the first phase, two shops were opened at Municipal Corporation Raipur, Subhash Stadium and Amliidh route, in which medicines are being given with 62% discount. In the booklet of Shri Dhanwantri Generic 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 search of Shree Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store address and

medical store helpline 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 Municipal 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 has started Shree Dhanwantri Generic 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 under the Shri Dhanwantri Generic Medical Store scheme, run by 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.

India is the world's fastest growing economy today: Jindal

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 with.

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 enthusiasm because on this day



the Constitution came into force.

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 of the Constitution. The Republic of India has three organs - the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.

But the powers of these three organs are contained in "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.

With the latest technology, it will be possible to come ahead in the competition in today's era, on this path Jindal Steel is moving forward: Nilesh T. 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 year.

On 23 January 2004, the Supreme Court in its judgment gave the citizens of the country the fundamental 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 come true.

IIT Bhilai celebrates 73rd R-Day with great joy



Central Chronicle News

Raipur, Jan 28: The Indian Institute of 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.

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

won by the ongoing campus 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 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 online.

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

Raipur, Jan 28: Chhattisgarh 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 sincere efforts have been made a decade ago by forming organizations like Employment Mission, today the situation



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 of 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 Dabripara, Tiranga Chowk, Adivasi Sewa Samiti, Zone-5 Gouthan. In 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.

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.

Wounded

Moscow: Fighting between the border guards services of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan has wounded at least six people.

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.

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.

Mistaken

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-to-air missile defence system, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US



Ned Price

sanctions. India has asserted 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.

The US was urging all countries to avoid major new transactions for Russian weapon systems, Price said, amidst escalating tensions between Washington and Moscow over Ukraine. The Biden ad-

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, he said.

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 announced 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 at-home 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 hospitals with advanced



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 weeks.

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 medical conditions, con-

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 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 probe.

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 male.

Initially, we had identi-



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



Jagdish Patel and Vaishaliben with their children Vihangi 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 scene.

With what we know so far of their activities in Canada, along with the

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.

The announcement 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 chief of military intelli-

gence who had been persistently criticized by Rwanda. That move appears to have placated Rwanda.

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 between the two countries.

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

also ordered its citizens not to travel to Uganda, claiming that Rwandan citizens were not safe 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 between Rwanda and Uganda raised fears of possible armed conflict as Kagame and Museveni made threatening remarks at public events. After 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

Congo when they backed rival rebel groups. Many parts of eastern Congo remain 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 genocide.

Australia pledges \$704 million to save Great Barrier Reef

Canberra, Jan 28 (AP): The Australian government on Friday pledged to spend another 1 billion Australian dollars (704 million) over nine years on improving the health of the Great Barrier Reef after stalling a UNESCO decision on downgrading the natural wonder's World Heritage status.

Critics argue the investment 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

Authority, which manages the world's largest coral reef ecosystem, in efforts to reduce threats from the crown-of-thorns starfish and to prevent illegal fishing.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK. Tender Notice No. WRS-R-09-Wagon Stripping Date: 21.01.2022. Name of the work: Stripping of wagon & its components along with transportation within the premises of Wagon Repair Shop, Raipur.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION BAIKUNTHPUR, DISTT. KORIIYA (C.G.) e-Procurement Tender Notice. 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 14.02.2022 (17.30 hours IST).

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग खण्ड गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही जिला - गौरेला-पेण्ड्रा-मरवाही (छ.ग.) Email id eegpm-phe@cg.gov.in ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना. ऑनलाईन निविदाएं प्रपत्र - ए में प्रतिशत दर अनुबंध हेतु नीचे उल्लेखित कार्यों के लिये जिला जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा एकीकृत पंजीयन व्यवस्था में सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम विलासपुर (छ.ग.) ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट द्वितीय निविदा सूचना. निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) द्वितीय निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:- 1. NIT क्र. 91427. कार्य का विवरण: Supply of Skilled/Non Skilled Labour for Zone 08 Koni Nagar Municipal Corporation Bilaspur (CG). अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में): 26.66. निविदा दाखल करने की अंतिम तिथि: 11-02-2022.



Shilpa excited about uncovering hidden talent across India

Actress 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



Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit 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 around 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, ever-gorgeous Madhuri Dixit Nene! Produced by 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

National 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 and Shrivani 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 scenic waterfalls.



iting the Tiratgarh falls and the Bastar Palace. Shrivani Goswami aka Prasuti from Baal Shiv adds, "I was born in the Raipur city of Chhattisgarh, and 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 Ghatranai waterfalls during monsoons."

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 in 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-

iting the island for the 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-

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'

Sony Entertainment Television 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.

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor's lineup for 2022 looks quite diverse and interesting. He will not only be seen showcasing his muscles in the entertainer 'Ek Villain 2' but will also flaunt his acting mettle in 'Kutty' and 'The Ladykiller'. The 36-year-old actor is happy that he is in a position to explore both spectrums of Hindi films. He said: "The fact that I can now, on one hand, have hardcore films like 'Ek Villain 2' and, on the other, also have projects like 'The Ladykiller' and 'Kutty' means that filmmakers and producers believe that I can straddle both spectrums of films today." This is what I'm cherishing the most because, for the longest time, I wanted to explore the diverse spectrum of genres and finally I'm getting the opportunity to do so."

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."

Arjun Kapoor: I can straddle both spectrums of films today



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 relax!

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

It is a day where you are likely to be busy in tempering frayed relationships or 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.

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. Ganeshi's advice is that you should keep a cool mind and be sympathetic towards people.

Taurus: Apr 21 - May 21

Ganesha sees you devoting the day in taking care of your personal affairs and relationships. 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 misunderstanding, if any.

Gemini: May 22 - June 21

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

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.

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 your bosses, and a lackadaisical support from your colleagues.

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, says Ganesha.

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.

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.

Sagittarius: Nov 23 - Dec 31

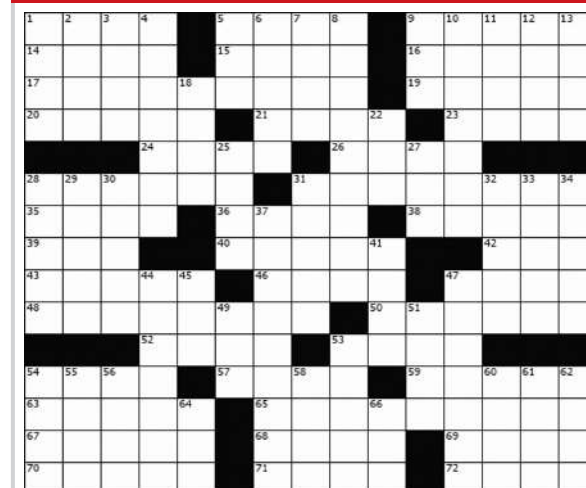
It is very likely that you will pay enough attention to your family members today. Take time out to validate the efforts of others and show consideration when and where required. At work, people will admire your honesty. Romance is in the air in the evening, says Ganesha.

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 delightfully delighted. At work, finding answers to intriguing questions will consume most of your time.

CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

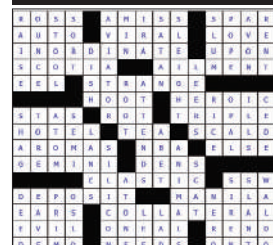
- Gumbo ingredient
- Merge
- Ring
- Inheritor
- Understood! (2 wds.)
- Moderately warm
- Enlarged
- Limber
- Different
- Related

DOWN

- Fighter pilots
- Breezy
- Refrigerate
- Music system
- Most ahead of time
- File labels
- Dispatched
- Dirt
- Squeak by
- Piggy bank user
- Spanish waterway
- Stanza
- Dayton's locale
- Clark _____ (Superman)
- Wealthy
- In _____ (late with payment)
- "Mamma _____!"
- Writing assignment
- Scallion's kin
- Devoted
- _____ moment's notice (2 wds.)
- Decorative clothing
- Long story
- Cleopatra's river
- Summer coolers
- Ohio lake
- Also not
- Singer Diana _____
- Madrid cheer
- Comic _____ Martin

- Carbonated beverage
- Negatives
- Completeness
- Rough
- Lady's title
- Gave temporarily
- Lie low
- Craving
- Roman gown
- Upright
- Intricate
- Holy _____ Empire
- Richard _____ of "Chicago"
- Copied
- Scornful sound
- Fellow
- Limping
- Captured
- _____ & Roeper
- Ambassador
- Baseball blunder
- Pipkins
- Not these
- Holiday hunter's prize (2 wds.)
- Track event
- Motorcycle adjunct
- Period in history
- Not artificial
- Aussie bird
- Informed of
- Memorize
- Towel pronoun
- Remove wrinkles
- Audition tape
- Merriment
- California valley
- Detail
- Give in
- Explosive initials
- Wager

SOLUTION 198



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

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Prime Minister 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-



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

panies free from this and also help those who are not in the NCC in getting rid of this.

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.

The young population

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 responsibilities in the army.

can also play a big role in "vocal for local" to help India become self-reliant, the prime minister said, adding that more demand for local products will boost production and subsequently employment.

"I am proud that I was once a NCC cadet like you once upon a time...While fulfilling my current responsibilities to the coun-

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 ADR.

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.

Congress will retain power in Punjab with overwhelming majority: Pilot

Chandigarh, Jan 28 (PTI):

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 Khara.

Pilot said senior leader Rahul Gandhi has already

said the party will go with 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

Congress which raised 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



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

ACTIVISTS PROTEST

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-

bours. Patron-in-chief of the 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 discussed 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 pilgrims," he said.

TOURISTS PARAGLIDING



Tourists do paragliding as weather clears after snowfall at the snow-covered Solangnala 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 that 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 17-year-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 the godman Shankeshwar Dhakne and his disciple Sapan Dhanke, arrested for allegedly raping the minor girl.

The two accused lived in a temple at Badnapur

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 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

and cannot shut its eyes.

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 Joe 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 sta-

tions. 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 Europe.

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 day.

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 obligation.

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 said Thursday that Germany would not allow a newly constructed pipeline 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 Europe.

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CENTRAL Chronicle

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 Maoists head-on.

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 villages 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 villages became connected.

Cash transactions reforms

Banks 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 from 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 villages.

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: editor@centralchronicle@gmail.com

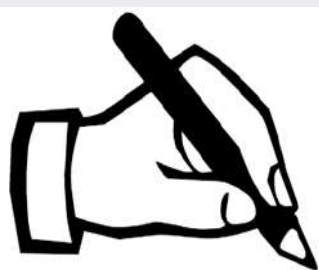
The letters can be edited or rewritten for clarity of thoughts.

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

**RK SINHA**

The 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 will unfold 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 Panchayat, 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 negligible. 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-

ine, 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. Punjab is one of the border-states 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 Imam 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 National Congress, but Gandhi 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**

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

**Vivek Prasad@Mallufideintent**

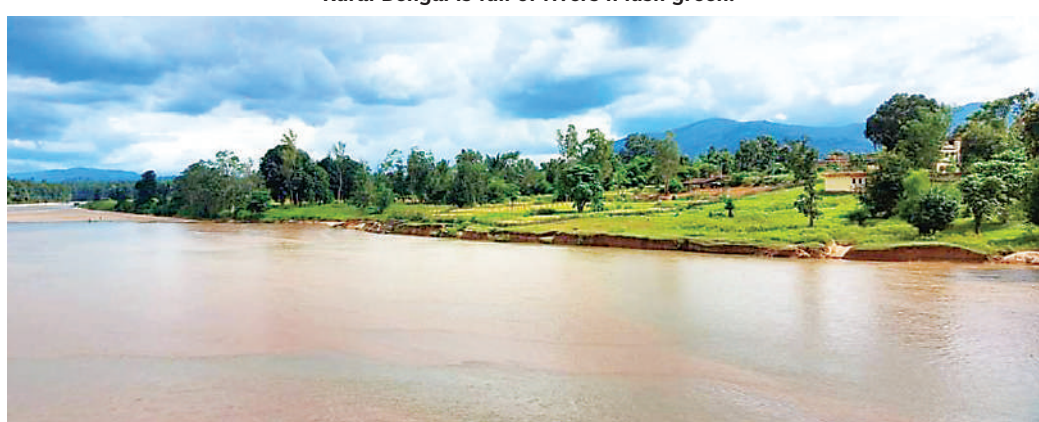
Beating Retreat should not become a light and sound show. If a light and sound show is what we want, let's at least stop calling it Beating Retreat. The Govt's spin doctors can start some nonsense about how "Retreat" is anathema to brave new India or something and just rename it.

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.

**Joydeep Ganguly@joydeep99**

Rural Bengal is full of rivers n lush green.

**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.

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

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI):

Prime Minister 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-



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

panies free from this and also help those who are not in the NCC in getting rid of this.

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.

The young population

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 responsibilities in the army.

can also play a big role in "vocal for local" to help India become self-reliant, the prime minister said, adding that more demand for local products will boost production and subsequently employment.

"I am proud that I was once a NCC cadet like you once upon a time...While fulfilling my current responsibilities to the coun-

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 ADR.

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.

Congress will retain power in Punjab with overwhelming majority: Pilot

Chandigarh, Jan 28 (PTI):

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 Khara.

Pilot said senior leader Rahul Gandhi has already

said the party will go with 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

Congress which raised 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



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

ACTIVISTS PROTEST

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-

bours. Patron-in-chief of the 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 discussed 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 pilgrims," he said.

TOURISTS PARAGLIDING



Tourists do paragliding as weather clears after snowfall at the snow-covered Solangnala 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 that 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 17-year-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 the godman Shankeshwar Dhakne and his disciple Sapan Dhanke, arrested for allegedly raping the minor girl.

The two accused lived in a temple at Badnapur

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 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

and cannot shut its eyes.

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 Joe 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 sta-

tions. 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 Europe.

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 day.

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 obligation.

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 said Thursday that Germany would not allow a newly constructed pipeline 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 Europe.

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